

2020 Annual Report

HABITAT RESTORATION

- **Completed Trinity Creek project** with channel bed stabilization, winter seeding, wetland plugs, invasive species management and native tree plantings
- **Invasive Species management** on 250 acres of land in active restoration
- Completed new **MNP sign and native showcase garden** (Countyline + Wauwatosa Rd.)
- **Planning/design for taking 40 acres of land out of agriculture and engineering new wetlands** as part of a 3-year project that will result in a new 5-8 acre wetland system
- **Planted 3,000 native tree seedlings**
- **Planted over 200 ball and burlap trees** expanding Harvey's Woods, stabilizing new Trinity Creek restoration and expanding Johnson's Woods
- **Completed Emu Prairie project** removal of Emu barn/concrete/debris, native tree and shrub planting, spring prescribed prairie burn, and native prairie seeding
- **Hand collected and processed prairie seed** for reseeding
- **3 prescribed prairie burns** including first growing season burn
- **Led 3 Volunteer Group restoration workdays** with COVID safety measures: Concordia University and Rogers Behavioral Health

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- **MNP's Environmental Education made the most dramatic shift due to COVID-19**
 - Despite COVID-19's call for isolation, MNP safely reached:
 - **4,104 in-person** contacts
 - **18,187** contacts via social media posts
 - **16,589** contacts via 12 e-newsletters
 - **Total Educational Contacts** for 2020: **38,890**
- **Created Digital and Virtual Environmental Education program**
 - Led first **virtual MPS First Nations summer camp**
 - **Created Kids Craft Corner:** videos with nature facts, craft demonstrations and coordinated Storytime videos to support early childhood education
 - **Produced 58 educational videos** including 3 videos specific to Water Passport Program, 10 videos for First Nations camp, 16 Kids Craft Corner/Storytime, Migrating Monarchs, MNP Bird Profiles: Tree Swallows, 3 videos for MNP Bug Wall Tours, Tree planting Demonstration, Spring Invasives Removal, Habitat Hike: Exploring 5 Ecosystems at MNP specific for Concordia University Students, Controlled Prairie Burning, Tour of the MNP Farm, Maple Sugaring, 4 videos for Annual Appeal/Giving Tuesday fundraising, and many more day-in-the-life videos with MNP staff and wildlife!

- **Environmental Education and Community Outreach on Social Media:** Staff took social media engagement to the next level in 2020 with highly detailed educational posts, video and specific campaigns including: Bugs, Birds, Blooms, 12 Days of Conservation, Celebrating MNP's 20th anniversary with 20 days highlighting MNP's mobile app. Points and history. MNP's social media audience and engagement grew significantly!
- **Curated small educational kiosk at PPEC** stocked with tree cookies, trail activity worksheets, coloring pages, stickers, maps, brochures, and other MNP info. Kiosk was refreshed and updated weekly. This was a popular stop for families in 2020
- **Led Field Days:** maple syruping, monarch tagging, lichen hike, presentation of Trinity Creek project to Urban Ecology Center staff, Girl Scout troop and Bader Hillel Academy
- **Internships for college and high school students:** Many organizations had to cancel their internship opportunities due to COVID-19. MNP was able to help 6 students fulfill their internship requirements so their credits would not be delayed. (High School and College level)
- **Conference Presentations:** DNR Invasive Species Workshop (Tilia), Natural Area Association (land restoration), Wisconsin Wetland Association (land restoration)



RESEARCH & MONITORING

- **Continued wetland amphibian monitoring** with our best year to date for salamander abundance!
- **Led a Citizen Science field day** with 30 individuals participating in a Monarch tagging event
- **Collected acoustical recording data** pertaining to birds, frogs and bats that will be used to gauge absence/presence of species compared to restoration activities
- **The Bluebird Club** helped monitor 56 bluebird houses. We had our best year yet with 71 fledgling bluebirds (a 270% increase from last year!)
- **Increased Dragonfly surveying** to track absence/presence of species which help gauge wetland success
- **Collaborated with local universities to conduct research projects.** Marquette University conducted research on cold tolerant rice as a crop for Wisconsin farmers, and as a project site for suburban winter bird surveys. UW-Milwaukee conducted a survey with visitors using the trails. Wisconsin Lutheran College conducted research on wetland soil characteristics using MNP's restored wetlands

AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE

- **Installed 2 greenhouses** for MNP use (growing native plant plugs and partnership with Germantown High School Students) and to extend growing season for Fondy Food Center farmers
- **Planted buffer strips** along Swan Road, along new bee yard path and a **Restoration Agriculture demonstration plot with edible native shrubs and trees.**
- **Installation of new stone drive** for better access to Fondy Foods farm plots

RECREATION

- **Successful pre-COVID Winter Frolic** with over **1700** guests!
- **Designed and led a safe, successful Halloween event:** A Habitat Haunting with over **200** (socially distanced and masked) guests.
- **Designed/built natural play space** which has become a hotspot for families with young children
- **Trail maintenance**

FACILITY/OPERATIONS

- Installation of **key safety items**
 - **Two new interior doors** in Pieper Power Education Center
 - **Safety bollards** installed outside the front doors
 - Four new **solar powered parking lot lights** in PPEC and Swan Road parking lots
- Purchase of **new tractor** for land restoration use
- **Sealcoating, crack sealing and striping** of the Pieper Power Education Center parking lot.

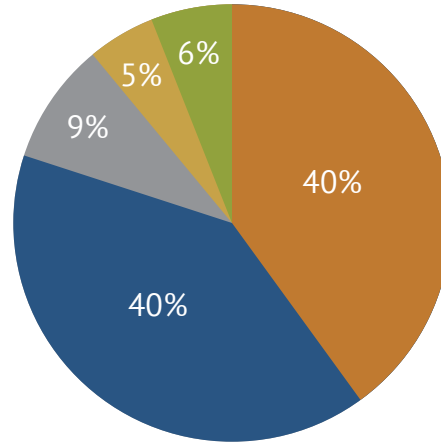
DEVELOPMENT

- **Honored and Celebrated MNP Founder, Christine Nuernberg**
 - Formally re-named Painted Pond - **Christine's Painted Pond**
 - Created a **comprehensive book of photographs** recording the 20-year history of MNP and celebrating the legacy of Christine
 - **Created Painted Pond Fund** to build MNP endowment funds
 - \$13M Goal to secure MNP operations in perpetuity
 - \$3,861,000 pledged and raised
 - Remaining goal: \$9,139,000



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

MNP Inc's unaudited financial statement for fiscal year 2020 reports \$725,207 in expenses and \$736,372 in revenue. MNP, Inc. carries out a comprehensive fundraising program to finance its operations and capital projects. MNP, Inc. also raises funds for its endowment fund housed at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and R.W. Baird & Co. The endowment fund and a designated donor's endowment fund together total \$2,891,064 not including 2020 pledges currently in process.



Expenses
\$725,207

- Education
- Restoration
- Fundraising
- Buildings
- Administration

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

C. Frederick Guilfuss II, *Board Chairman*
Foley & Lardner, Partner

David Scritsmier, *Board Vice Chairman*
Pieper Electric Inc. Construction
Branch, Manager

Kevin Shafer, *Board Treasurer*
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage
District, Executive Director

Sigrid Dynek, *Board Secretary*
Kohl's Corporation, VP and
General Counsel, Retired

James Bell, *Board Member*
R.W. Baird & Co.
Managing Director, Retired

Clayton Frazer, *Board Member*
Eco-Resource Consulting Inc.,
Partner

Elizabeth Hellman, *Board Member*
WEC Energy Group,
Environmental Engineer

J. Bary Morgan, *Board Member*
Robert W. Baird, Managing Director

Nathan Otero, *Board Member*
U.S. Bank, Private Banking
Relationship Manager

Lee Szymborski, *Board Member*
GovHR USA, Consultant



STAFF

Kristin Gies, Executive Director
Cory Gritzmacher, Director of Restoration and Operations
Mary Osmundsen, Director of Development

Nick Gall, Restoration and Research Ecologist
Amanda Neimon, Education and Restoration Ecologist
Jamie Schiesel, Education and Research Ecologist
Tilia, Conservation Canine

Volunteers assist with restoration, monitoring, invasive species management, prairie seed processing, events and field trips.