



CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
JOHN DARGLE, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Contact: Jeff Baudry  
(414) 257-4575  
[Jeffrey.Baudry@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Baudry@milwaukeecountywi.gov)

For Immediate Release:

## **Big 2015 for Grant Park Projects Planned for the Oak Leaf Trail, Beach and More**

Milwaukee, WI (Jan. 12, 2015) – 2015 promises to be a great year for Grant Park.

Several significant projects, including big improvements to the beach area, a visit from the Traveling Beer Garden and money to repave a two-mile stretch of the Oak Leaf Trail, will greatly improve Grant Park, the county's second largest park with 381 acres.

"Across Milwaukee County we are improving parks and public spaces. From fixing up the long-neglected Oak Leaf Trail in the South Shore to my Urban Parks initiative that has improved parks in the central city, I am committed to continuing to make a difference," County Executive Chris Abele said.

"The South Shore is rapidly being recognized as the new best place to live, work and play, and projects like these are more examples of the rejuvenation this area is seeing," said Milwaukee County Supervisor Patricia Jursik, who also pushed for the added investment in the park. "This area known for hard-working families is already one of the best stretches of lakefront parkland in the entire county."

South Milwaukee Mayor Erik Brooks welcomed the improvements at Grant Park.

"2015 is going to be a big year for Grant Park, and that's a big deal for South Milwaukee," he said. "Grant Park is such a terrific attraction for our city, such an important part of the fabric of South Milwaukee. It's exciting to see these major investments for its future."

The 2015 investments in Grant Park include:

- Repaving the Oak Leaf Trail through the park. This portion of the trail is the oldest in the county. Funding for the trail project was included in County Executive Abele's 2015 budget and supported by the County Board and Supervisor Jursik.
- Significant enhancements to Grant Park Beach, including the creation of a rain garden between the beach parking lot and the mouth of Oak Creek, more beach volleyball leagues and an exciting new beach concessionaire. More details on the beach activities will be announced in coming months.



ADDRESS  
9480 Watertown Plank Road  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-3560

PHONE/FAX  
ph: **414 / 257 PARK** (7275)  
fax: 414 / 257 6466

EMAIL  
[parks@milwcnty.com](mailto:parks@milwcnty.com)

WEBSITE  
[countyparks.com](http://countyparks.com)

- A visit from the famous Milwaukee County Traveling Beer Garden in June. Milwaukee County has added Grant Park as one of the stops for the popular mobile beer garden, with dates to be announced in coming weeks.
- Grant Park has also seen more than 1,000 trees planted in the past two years, as the County continues to combat emerald ash borer in the park. Another 9,619 native plants and an acre of prairie grass were also planted, through a Fund for Lake Michigan grant.

“From its 18-hole golf course to its beautiful beach to its historic 7 Bridges walking trails and high-quality natural areas, Grant Park is already filled with terrific amenities,” said Don Lawson, chairperson of Friends of Grant Park, a significant partner in efforts to beautify and maintain the park. “The investments being made in 2015 will only make the park and the community that much better.”

Since taking office in 2011, County Executive Abele has increased parkland across the County by nearly 150 acres and significantly increased parks earned revenue, which provides more operating support. At the same time, County Executive Abele is also focusing on tackling long-ignored deferred maintenance issues at parks countywide. In the 2015 Budget alone, he added more than \$19 million in repairs and maintenance in the Parks, Cultural and Recreation Budget.

###