



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

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

For Immediate Release

Grand Opening of Wehr Nature Center's Accessible Amphitheater to be Celebrated at Cider Sunday

Milwaukee, WI (Sept. 24, 2015) – Wehr Nature Center's newly reconstructed amphitheater will be featured in a grand-opening celebration, Oct. 4 at 1:15 p.m., during Cider Sunday. Wehr is located at 9701 W. College Ave., in Whitnall Park.

Regraded and resurfaced, the amphitheater now offers better access to people using wheelchairs. A steeply sloped asphalt path to the amphitheater has been replaced by a more gently sloped path of permeable pavers, and a patio at the top center of the amphitheater offers people in wheelchairs the best seats in the house. In addition, the amphitheater's old, rotted wood benches have been replaced with benches made of a recycled plastic composite.

Permeable pavers were also used to create a level path connecting the amphitheater to the accessible boardwalk.

Permeable pavers are used to manage storm-water runoff and reduce water pollution. The pavers allow surface infiltration that decreases the flow rate of runoff and reduces the amount of solids suspended in the water. These attributes will help to improve water quality in nearby Mallard Lake and Root River.

Funds for the project were raised by Friends of Wehr as part of its Accessibility Project. Inspired by the well-received Accessible Viewing Deck donated by the Todd Wehr Foundation, the Friends continues to raise funds to improve access to the Nature Center and its natural areas for visitors with limited mobility. Personalized pavers and amphitheater benches are available for sponsorship.

The Cider Sunday event runs from 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Freshly-made apple cider, apple treats, live music, and guided hikes through the woods and prairie are highlights

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ADDRESS
9480 Watertown Plank Road
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-3560

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

EMAIL
parks@milwcnty.com

WEBSITE
countyparks.com

Admission includes a variety of family-friendly activities. Using a hand-crank cider press and sampling the results, learning how apple butter is made over an open fire and taste-testing the final product, hiking the multi-hued woods, and listening to the music of the Bluegrass All Stars and the Thistledown Thunders are all included in the \$3 admission. Some make-and-take fall crafts are included with admission, and others have a small materials fee.

An assortment of apples will be available for sampling and for purchase. Patterson Orchards & Farm Market of New Berlin will be selling selections from their 33 varieties of locally-grown apples. The distance from orchard to market is under four miles.

In addition to sweet apple crepes and chocolate-apple brownies, lunch-menu items will be available for purchase to keep families fueled for the afternoon.

Friends of Wehr presents the annual fundraising event the first Sunday in October. An old-fashioned cake walk, a cross between a raffle and musical chairs, yields homemade cakes to the winners. General proceeds support the programs of the Nature Center. This year a fall-themed silent auction and raffle will support the purchase of new benches for the amphitheater.

Parking for the event is \$3 per car.

For more information, call Wehr Nature Center at (414) 425-8550.

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