



MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Supervisors Martinez, Capriolo Celebrate Launch of New Friends Group Supporting Jackson & Manitoba Parks

MILWAUKEE – Friends of Jackson and Manitoba Parks ([FoJMParks](#)), a new nonprofit dedicated to enhancing inclusive, accessible, and sustainable public spaces in Jackson and Manitoba Parks, officially launched yesterday. Through volunteerism, fundraising, and community-driven programming, the group aims to strengthen two of Milwaukee County’s parks. J. Haselhoefer is the coordinator and co-founder of the new Friends of Jackson and Manitoba Parks group; if you would like to become a friend, please contact her at fojmparks@gmail.com.

The launch comes at a pivotal moment, as Milwaukee County Parks faces a significant funding deficit and more than \$500 million in deferred maintenance. Friends groups play a critical role in improving park amenities, elevating community voices, and supporting long-term stewardship. Supervisor Sky Z. Capriolo, whose district includes Manitoba Park, praised the grassroots effort:

“I love it when people in our community band together to celebrate what makes the area special and advocate for the best use of our amazing resources. I can’t wait to work with this group on projects that will make a true difference to the quality of life in the neighborhoods surrounding these parks,” said Supervisor Sky.

Supervisor Juan Miguel Martinez, whose district includes Jackson Park, also commended the group’s vision to establish new opportunities for connection and sustainability within the park:

“Having a place where neighbors can come together, connect, and get the services they need would really bring people closer and help keep the park going strong for years to come. Our parks are part of our everyday lives here on the South Side, and we’ve got to make sure they stay open, welcoming, and well taken care of,” said Supervisor Juan Miguel Martinez.

FoJMParks has already submitted several project proposals to Milwaukee County Parks, including the development of a community center in Jackson Park and enhancements to both park landscapes. Recent improvements, such as newly reopened sports courts and MMSD-supported naturalization work, underscore the importance of community-park partnerships.

Community members are invited to attend the group’s first meeting on Tuesday, January 6, at 5:30 p.m. in the Zablocki Library conference room. Residents can also connect via [Facebook](#) or reach out directly to learn how to get involved.

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