

Spring 2022

Scenic Views

A newsletter from the Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy

For the Love of the Land

MALC Partners with MMSD to Permanently Protect Ryan Creek Prairie in Franklin

By Perry Rossa

In late September, MALC took ownership of the 50-acre Ryan Creek Prairie near 116th street and Loomis Road in Franklin. Covered with bluestem, Indian grass and a variety of native prairie wildflowers, the prairie is also home to grassland birds, waterbirds, amphibians and heritage oaks and is especially important as the cornerstone of a new partnership between MALC and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD).

In 2009, as part of MMSD's Greenseams® flood management program, the land was purchased with funds from the WDNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and restored with the assistance of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Former corn and soybean

sense of the vast, pre-settlement vision of an undulating landscape, combed

by westerly winds and marked by spreading, grand-mother oaks. It's just one segment of a much larger landscape-scale preserve encompassing the Ryan Creek watershed, Dumke Lake and DNR lands west of



Ryan Creek Prairie

fields were seeded in 2014 with a complex of tallgrass prairie species. Open oak and marsh habitats were enhanced and a successful management burn was conducted by MMSD in 2019. Following restoration, in a cooperative arrangement between the two organizations, MALC owns the land while MMSD holds a conservation easement and continues to support site management.

Steve McCarthy, former director of the MMSD Greenseams® Program commented, "This restored grassland is valuable for providing an experience of seeing and learning from a prairie in an urban setting, especially for giving a

116th street that MMSD has been very pleased to be a part of."

Benefitting particularly from the restoration are the grassland-nesting birds like Eastern Meadowlark and Bobolink, while Ryan Creek, a tributary of Root River, flowing east from the prairie along the southern border, is now enhanced by increased water capture and minimal soil erosion due to the deep-rooted prairie plants. The land is open to the public for posted recreational uses, with access from 116th Street, marked by a gate and signage. Come visit Ryan Creek Prairie during the City Nature Challenge event on May 1st. See back page for details.

Our Mission

To preserve and protect valuable land and water resources for the benefit of the public, as well as for the wildlife dependent on these resources, in order to maintain quality of life, biological diversity, and natural scenic beauty for future generations.

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Give While You Shop!

With so many of us shopping online, there's a new way to give to MALC by using Smile Amazon! Just go to smile.amazon.com, search for Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy and set it as your organization of choice when shopping at Smile Amazon. For every purchase you make, Amazon will donate a percentage of their receipts to MALC, without any cost to you! Deposits are made monthly to the MALC bank account and are used to help maintain the places we save.

Dear MALC Supporters,

There's a wonderful collection of essays and poems contributed to the book, *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, And Solutions for the Climate Crisis*, and I'd like to share two poignant excerpts:

#MeToo said Mother Earth

- Alex Lieberman (age twelve), climate strike sign *

... I do not believe we will solar panel or vote our way out of this crisis without also radically reframing our connection with our Mother

- Tara Houska (Zhaabowerkwe, Couchiching First Nation)
"Sacred Resistance"*

As we do our part to reframe our connection to Mother Earth, let me introduce two of the newest members of our team - **Dan Love** and **Ann Kaminski**.

Linda: Tell us a little about yourself and what prompted you to reach out to MALC.

Dan: In college, I studied environmental science and had dreams of fighting wildfires or working in wetland restoration or brownfield redevelopment, but currently I work in IT. I reached out to MALC to help have an impact in the community and get back to my roots working to help conserve and maintain the natural areas that are so valuable to our local community.

Ann: I'm a wife, mother, fisher, avid hiker and lover of everything outdoors. My husband and I bought our little slice of heaven located in the Southwest corner of Franklin. I was prompted to reach out to MALC after getting involved with several developments going on in Franklin and seeing firsthand how easy it is to see agriculture, parkland and conservancy disappear.

Linda: What activities have you participated in so far and what has been your experience?

Dan: Attending monthly board meetings, doing

Facebook posts, participating in stewardship events and the Ryan Creek Prairie Ribbon Cutting - I experienced the comradery at MALC volunteer work events and satisfaction in what the group has achieved.

Ann: I participated in buckthorn removal at Ryan Creek Prairie. Upon arrival, I was greeted with several smiles and power tools! I left with a better understanding of how to remove and control the growth of buckthorn. I have also learned a lot by helping with some MALC administrative duties.

Linda: What makes you passionate about this work and what is your advice to readers who share a passion for nature?

Dan: It's knowing the positive impact I am having on the environment and community. Also, the board members have been so welcoming and dedicated to this work. Come join one of our events. You won't regret it! And if you're lucky, Linda will bring some of her delicious baked goods!

Ann: I absolutely love the outdoors and took advantage of it my entire life. I now realize that it takes groups like MALC to make this possible. My advice would be to please get involved any way possible, whether it be keeping an eye on what your local municipality is doing or getting out there to cut some buckthorn down.

MALC is a growing organization, and we have a range of exciting volunteer opportunities. To find out more, contact us at malc@mkeconservancy.org or (414) 377-3851.

With warmest regards,

Linda Frank



Linda Frank
MALC President



Ann Kaminski



Dan Love

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Milwaukee River Greenway:

A Wealth of Nature in the Heart of the City

Imagine ... Walking along a soft pedestrian trail that winds eight river miles right into downtown Milwaukee. Cool water bubbles over rocks through nearly 900 acres of protected natural lands and parks, a river valley sheltered by forested bluffs, a refuge for wildlife—all within the heart of the city.

There's no need to imagine. Welcome to the Milwaukee River Greenway, a unique treasure waiting for you to explore. **The Milwaukee River Greenway: A Wealth of Nature in the Heart of the City**, published by River Revitalization Foundation (RRF), takes you there in stories and photographs. Travel down

Continued on back page

Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy 2021 Consolidated Financial Report

The annual Financial Report helps to demonstrate our achievements to our supporters. It has been an exciting and successful year for MALC. Our new partnership with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) allowed us to double our land holdings for conservation, as well as to place stronger permanent protection over 97 acres by granting conservation easements to MMSD. In addition to these land transactions, we continued to perform land management duties through contractors and volunteers. Your generous donations of time and money are critical to the further progress toward our mission to preserve and protect valu-

able land and water resources in Milwaukee County.

Beginning Net Assets	\$1,225,107
OPERATING INCOME	
• Direct Public Support	\$1,510
• Investment Income	\$49
• Other Revenue	\$37,853
• Conservation Land	\$508,000
TOTAL	\$547,412
OPERATING EXPENSES	
• Land Management	\$14,206
• Administrative	\$2,179
• Other Expenses	\$27
TOTAL	\$16,412
Ending Net Assets	\$1,756,107

PROPERTY NAME	MUNICIPALITY	LAND INTEREST	DETAILS	ACREAGE
Ryan Creek Prairie	Franklin	Fee Ownership	Contributed to MALC by MMSD	50
Ryan Creek Prairie, Carity Prairie & Fitzsimmons Woods	Franklin	Conservation Easements	Granted to MMSD by MALC	97

MALC Thanks Our 2019 Supporters & Contributors

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___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$200 ___ Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Mail this form with your check to: **For additional information:**

Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy
P.O. Box 320304
Franklin, Wisconsin 53132

email: MALC@mkeconservancy.org
www.mkeconservancy.org
Phone: 414-377-3851

MALC accepts donations online. See the donation page of our website at: mkeconservancy.org



Print your name as you would like it to appear in our newsletter acknowledging our supporters. If you choose to be listed as anonymous, place the letter "A" after your name.

Contributions will be applied to land acquisition, stewardship, and operating expenses to help carry out our mission. MALC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.



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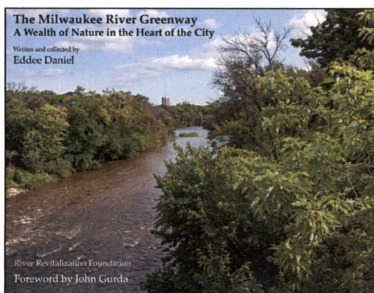


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Continued from page 2 the river with the many contributors and listen to their voices as they extol its virtues, lament its travails, honor its resilience, and express gratitude for the hope it engenders.

Author and editor Eddee Daniel, a Milwaukee area writer and photographer, served as Artist in Residence for RRF in 2020-21. The book's 230 pages include a foreword by historian John Gurda, stories by a variety of Community Voices, and glorious full-color photos that illustrate the beauty of this special place.

The book can be purchased from Eddee, Boswell Books, or online at BookBaby.com. Eddee is also available to give public presentations: eddee@eddeedaniel.com. More information available at awealthofnature.org.



Join the City Nature Challenge with MALC at **Ryan Creek Prairie on Sunday, May 1st, at 1:00 pm**. Not comfortable with using the iNaturalist app? Not a problem. Reporting your sightings is optional. You are welcome to simply learn and explore with us. If you do want to report your sightings but prefer paper, we will supply the forms. The prairie is a beautifully restored open landscape with no trails. Explore carefully to minimize disturbance.



Participating is easy!

1. Download the iNaturalist app & make an account.
2. Take photos of WLC plants & animals.
3. Upload your observations to share with the naturalist community.
4. Learn more as your finds get identified!

MORE INFO: Email us at malc@mkeconservancy.org for the registration link or call (414) 377-3851. Registration for this free event is required.