



June 15, 2017

Board of Park, Recreation and Cultural Services
c/o Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
City Hall Annex, Room 127
800 Center Street
Racine, WI 53403

Dear Board:

The Root River Council is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and sustainable redevelopment of the Root River in the City of Racine. We seek the involvement of the surrounding community through outreach and collaboration, and coordinate with other local nonprofits to enhance public awareness of the natural jewel in our backyard. You may be aware of the Council through the signage we have sponsored in the city parks and parkways along the river, and the clean-ups we have sponsored in parks along the river, especially Clayton Park.

The Council's premier event each year is the Root River Festival. It is modeled after the Chautauquas of the prior century. It is an open-air event featuring educational programming, entertainment, recreation, food and drink. It is open to the public and designed to be family friendly.

I am writing to request the use of Lincoln Park for this year's festival on Sunday, August 27th. Lincoln Park is, for us, a perfect location. It will allow us to partner with the Department of Natural Resources, which is willing to open the Steelhead facility for tours that day, and the Root River Educational Center (REC), which will sponsor canoe and kayak paddling on the upper river, and United Way, which will open its offices for public use of its restrooms.

We ask for use of the complete park, including the park pavilion. We request permission to erect a large tent, 10'x30'. We request the use of the department's mobile stage for presentations by environmental and community organizations and for acoustic and lightly amplified music. We request permission to erect event-related signage on parkland; and we request permission for food and beverage vendors to have trucks, tents and tables on the grounds. In addition, environmental and educational organizations will have displays – usually under pop-up tents – at the festival.

And we ask that you, as custodian of so much land next to the river, consider co-sponsorship of the festival with us. I especially encourage you to consider a display for PRCS information at the event.

We do not charge admission. We recover some of our cost through the food and beverage sales and donations.

Last year the festival was held at the Riverbend Nature Center and it was a success. However, the Root River Council board and members strongly desire to return the festival to the City of Racine, where it started and where the public can walk, bike, and paddle to the festival, not just drive. Until last year, our festivals were held in Island Park.

I have submitted a park permit application and supporting documentation. Please let me know if you need additional information or have any questions. I can be reached at 262-994-1182 or by email at stonebarn2326@gmail.com.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian O'Connell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Brian O'Connell, Treasurer

Root River Council
P.O. Box 1374
Racine, WI 53401