



Root River Council

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Owner, FWC Architects, Inc

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Realtor – Shorewest Realtors

Chris Flynn
Owner, DP Wigley

Reva Holmes
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Initiative Network

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Rep. Cory Mason
(Assembly District 62),
and Board Member,
River Alliance of
Wisconsin

Monte Osterman
BID Board Director
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Marble
Racine County Board
Supervisor

John Skalbeck
Chair- Geosciences Dept. -
University of
Wisconsin-Parkside

Melissa Warner
Coordinator Weed Out!
Racine, and Vice Chair,
Southeast Gateway
Group Sierra Club

Marybeth Zuhlke
Community Volunteer

.....committed to the revitalization and redevelopment of the Root River to create a sense of place,
promote economic growth, improve water quality,
and increase public access and interaction in the City of Racine.....

Ben Lehner
Chair- Root River Council
1328 Michigan Blvd.
Racine, WI 53402

April 18, 2011

Donnie Snow
Director- City of Racine PRCS
800 Center Street, Room 127
Racine, WI 53403

Mr. Snow,

Since 2006, the Root River Council (RRC) has been partnering with area non-profits, businesses, civic groups, and government agencies to revitalize the Root River in Racine. The activities undertaken all aim to improve water quality, promote economic growth, increase public access to the Root River, and create a sense of place.

In partnership with the Racine County Heritage Museum, the Root River Council aims to revive a long forgotten Racine tradition: the Chautauqua. The Chautauqua's were popular in the turn of the last century, with the Racine Chautauqua (c. 1903-1928) held at 'Kinzie Heights' current site of McKinley Middle School. The RRC aims to reintroduce Racine to this cultural festival in September 2011.

The RRC would like to propose hosting this weekend festival (9-23-11 to 9-25-11) at Island Park with one day of activities along Horlick Park Drive south of the W 6th Street Bridge. This festival would require one large tent 30X60', and several smaller tents. In true celebration of Racine past and present heritage, on Saturday Sept 24, the RRC would also like to host a horse show complete with horse rides for the public.

I have attached a proposed festival schedule, but would like to share some more information with you and members of the Parks Board at your earliest convenience to ensure enough time for planning. I think the Root River Chautauqua Festival will be a widely celebrated event and look forward to discussing this in further detail.

Sincerely,

Ben Lehner

Chair- Root River Council

Attached: Root River Chautauqua Festival Schedule (proposed)
2011 Park Rental Documents

11-4357

Root River Festival and Chautauqua

Sept 22 – Sept 25 2011

Sponsored by the Root River Council, the Racine Heritage Museum and...

Location: Island Park and Horlick Park Drive Racine, WI

Dates: Thursday Sept 22 (AM tent set-up),
Friday Sept 23,
Saturday Sept 24 (limited access to Park and Drive)
Sunday Sept 25 (PM tent take-down)

The **Root River Chautauqua Festival** is a family-oriented all ages cultural festival consisting of outdoor activities, and variety shows. This festival aims to celebrate the cultures that have called the Root River Watershed 'home'. This will unite existing groups and organizations for a weekend-long urban park Festival! Free access, picnics encouraged, no alcohol, optional food vendors.

❖ **Chautauqua - held in a large tent or "Big Top"**

➤ Thursday-Saturday

▪ Presentations and panel discussions:

Literature/Poetry

History

Politics

Theology/philosophy

Live theater/music

Science

Movie night (optional)

❖ **Arenas / Outdoor Activities**

➤ **Horse show - Saturday (11am-5pm) - Island Park**

- ◆ Public access Horse-back riding
- ◆ Professional Horse competition/dancing horses/ barrel race
- ◆ Clown show

➤ **Cultural Presentations - Friday (pm), Saturday, Sunday (am) - Island Park**

- ◆ Traditional Dance, art, and music (Native American, Oaxaca, etc...)
- ◆ Great Lakes Inter-tribal Council – UW-Parkside sponsored Pow-wow (encampment-proposed)
- ◆ French Fur traders/Civil War reenactment (encampment proposed)
- ◆ Joshua Glover freedom march reenactment

➤ **Classic Car Show - Saturday (11am-5pm) - Horlick Park Drive**

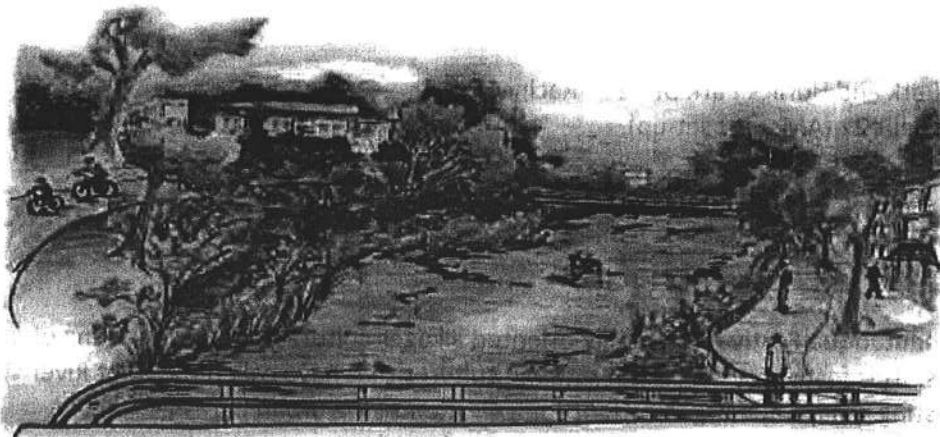
➤ **Children's games- Saturday and Sunday (11-4pm)**

- ◆ Potato/Coffee Sack Races - Relay Race
- ◆ Pin the tail
- ◆ Piniata
- ◆ Balloon Toss

➤ **Old Time photographs (costumes)**

➤ **River education – water sampling, canoes/kayaks**

Back to the Root: An Urban River Revitalization Plan



**Access for Everyone
Beauty
Restoration
Celebration
Waterfront Revitalization**

Root River Council

The Root River Council is a local volunteer committee working with the River Alliance of Wisconsin in the development of an *Urban Root River Plan* that will bring a positive focus to the Root River.

Our goal is to create and assist in implementation of an *Urban Root River Plan* that balances redevelopment and economic growth with improved water quality and increased public access to the river within the City of Racine.

Learn more about the events and the Root River by visiting
www.backtotheroot.org