

Approximate boundaries:
N-W. Vliet St; S-W. Honey Creek Pkwy;
E-N. Hawley Rd; W-N. 60th St

WEST SIDE *Hawthorne Glen*

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION

The Hawthorne Glen neighborhood is on the western edge of the city bordering Wauwatosa. It is a small residential area of a few blocks just west of the larger Washington Heights neighborhood, located on a bluff overlooking the Hawthorne Glen Outdoor Education Center for Milwaukee Public Schools. Vliet Street is the neighborhood's major business corridor.

The houses are mostly early 20th century bungalows. See photos below.

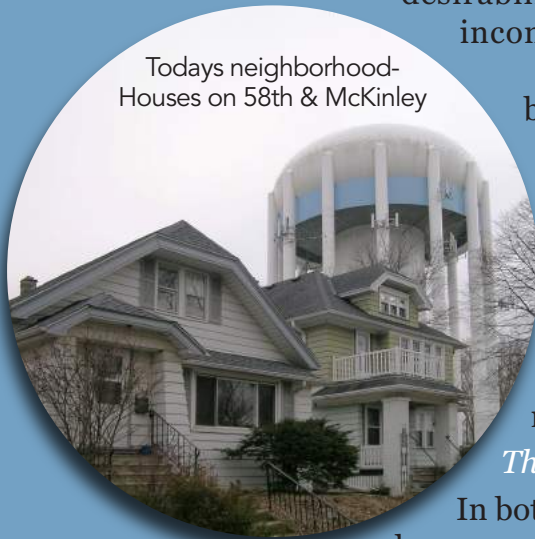
HISTORY

Hawthorn Glen, named after its little valley or glen, developed as a satellite of its much larger neighbor, Washington Heights.

Early populations

Much of the population that would settle in both Washington Heights and Hawthorn Glen was influenced by the development of Washington Park, just east of both neighborhoods. In 1891, 124 acres were originally allocated and purchased by what was then a Milwaukee Park Commission. The Park Commission Board then engaged Frederick Law Olmsted & Company to design and plan the park. Olmsted was known for designing New York City's Central Park and later planned and designed Milwaukee's Lake Park. The early Washington Park offered a horse racing track, carriage rides, band shell, a lovely lagoon, and a zoo. The presence of the park increased the desirability of the area and attracted middle and upper middle income settlers.

Much building took place between 1910 and 1930, and both Washington Heights and Hawthorn Glen were recipients of the boom. The vast majority of settlers in Washington Heights were Germans, but the tiny satellite neighborhood today known as Hawthorn Glen, with only a few hundred residents, had large numbers of Germans, but also people of Irish, Russian, Czech, Swedish, and Hungarian descent. Several immigrant Polish families had also migrated in from the Riverwest neighborhood. (See randomly selected resident below.)



The importance of Vliet Street

In both Washington Park and Hawthorn Glen, Vliet Street quickly became a significant commercial corridor. The following chart shows the businesses and offices that were on Vliet Street within the boundaries of today's Hawthorne Glen in 1933. See summary and notes below.

<i>Addresses on W. Vliet St. in 1933</i>	<i>Businesses, offices, apartments, organizations from the Milwaukee City Directory</i>
5601	Maegli-Nolte Filling Station
5602	Shell Petroleum Corporation Filling Station

<i>Addresses on W. Vliet St. in 1933</i>	<i>Businesses, offices, apartments, organizations from the Milwaukee City Directory</i>
5624	Otto H. Kubitz Meats
5626	Robert J. Prees Dentist
5628	George A. Horky Drugs U.S. Postal Station #122
5700	Great A&P Tea Company Grocery
5704	Oscar Adam Baker
5706	John M. Kosidowski Hardware
5707	Phillips Petroleum Company Filling Station
5710	Bernhard B. Manhoff Fruits
5714	Donald H. Henry Shoe Repair Peter J. Becker Tailor
5724	Apartments
5806	Apartments
5827	Edward Collette Shoe Repair
5830	Louis Jahnke Tavern
5831	Fred Stiegler Groceries
5900	Wadham's Oil Company Filling Station
5918	National Tea Company Grocery & Meats
5921	Rudolph Hofmeister Grocery
5924	Erick Dabke Bakery
5926	Apartments
5928	Highland Park Pharmacy
5929	Standard Oil Company Filling Station

Summary and notes from U.S. Census and other public records:

- Despite its very small size, Hawthorn Glen had a plethora of food stores—seven grocers in total, including two supermarkets, on this stretch of Vliet St. The street also had two bakeries, a butcher shop, and a fruit store.
- The neighborhood had five filling stations. Despite Depression times, the locals apparently had enough automobiles to support this number of gas stations.
- As in most Milwaukee neighborhoods prior to 1970, few shopkeepers had high school educations. Most were immigrants or children of immigrants.

- Otto Herman Kubitz, with the meat market, had been a salesman for a milk company before opening his own shop. In 1930 he was single and living in a boarding house. He was the son of German immigrants.
- George Horky, with the pharmacy, was an anomaly on the street because he had a college education. He was the son of a Czech immigrant.
- Oscar Adam, the baker, was born in Germany. He told the census taker that he had never attended school, but he had learned to read and write.
- John M. Kosidowski, with the hardware store, was a son of Polish immigrants. He'd completed 6th grade and lived at the same address as his store. He'd resided in Riverwest before moving to Vliet Street.
- Bernhard Manhoff, with the fruit store, was the son of Russian immigrants (possibly Jewish). He was adopted by David and Ather Manhoff as a child. His adoptive father had operated a grocery store on Water Street. Bernhard had completed the 8th grade.
- Peter J. Becker (the tailor) and his wife Theresa were both born in Hungary. Peter had completed 6th grade.
- Edward Collette was a German-speaking shoe repairman who was born in Massachusetts.
- Louis Jahnke, with the tavern, lived at the same address as his bar. He'd completed 8th grade and was the grandson of German immigrants.
- Rudolph Hofmeister, the grocer, was born in Germany. He had completed 8th grade. He and his family lived at the same address as his store.
- Erich Dabke (actually Dobke), the baker, was also born in Germany and he and his wife also lived at the same address as his shop. He had only been in the United States for 9 years before opening his business.

Below is a profile of one of the Polish families that migrated to Hawthorn Glen and Vliet Street from the Riverwest neighborhood.

Hawthorn Glen Random Resident (1930s)

*Name selected randomly from the 1933 City Directory in the Hawthorn Glen area
(photo and other information found in public records on Ancestry.com)*

William Kuszewski

Born Wladyslaw Kuszewski in the German sector of Poland in the late 1860s, William (the Americanized version of Wladyslaw) immigrated to the United States in 1891 at age 24. He married Apolonia Zinda, also an immigrant from Poland. She later went by the name of Pollyanna.

Before coming to Milwaukee, William and Pollyanna lived in the town of Raymond in Racine County, Wisconsin. They moved to Milwaukee prior to 1912 and joined a small Polish community on Weil in the Riverwest neighborhood. By 1920 the family had moved

to a home in today's Hawthorn Glen neighborhood, at 5621 W. Vliet Street—an address listed in the Village of Wauwatosa at that time. The couple had children Emily, John, Otto, Clemmons, and possibly others. Both William and Pollyanna were naturalized.

William had an interesting occupation. He was a manufacturer of snuff. Snuff (or smokeless tobacco) was widely used and accepted in the United States in the early 20th century. In fact, until the mid-1930s a communal snuff box was installed for members of the US Congress to use.



The importance of the glen

Over the years, the Hawthorne Glen Outdoor Education Center, run by Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), grew in importance. MPS has maintained great influence in the area. Its district headquarters have long been located in the Washington Heights neighborhood. In 1911, the MPS Department of Recreation and Community Services was created through legislation to strengthen and extend the bond between public education and the community. One of its domains became the operation of the Hawthorne Glen Outdoor Education Center.

The Glen has multiple features that attract nature-loving spectators, including a pond that is home to families of ducks, two large play sets with slides and swings, rustic nature trails, a grassy hill, a soccer pitch, and picnic areas. Its featured attraction is the Little Nature Museum (see photo below) used mainly to educate school groups, with living rabbits, frogs, fish, snakes, birds and turtles, and a few stuffed ones as well.

Current populations (as of 2017)

The Hawthorne Glen Outdoor Education Center continues to attract students to the neighborhood. Reportedly, more than 12,000 visit the little valley and nature museum each year.

The neighborhood of Hawthorn Glen, with only a few hundred residents, remains culturally eclectic, but not all the diversity today is European. While three-quarters of the residents are white (mostly of German, Irish, Dutch, and Polish ancestry), 1 in 7 residents are African Americans and 1 in 14 are Asians. The rest are people of multiple backgrounds, American Indians, and Latinos. There are 15 percent more men in Hawthorn Glen than women.

Approximately 6 in 10 residents today live in lower middle to middle income households (with annual incomes of \$25,000 to \$75,000). The proportion of home ownership is higher in Hawthorn Glen than in Milwaukee generally, and in two-thirds of the cases select monthly costs (e.g., mortgages, insurance, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, taxes) go for \$1,001 to \$1,500. Rents are also modest with just under 100 percent going for \$501 to \$1,000.

The neighborhood is well-educated with nearly 50 percent of the residents over the age of 25 holding bachelor's or graduate degrees. The leading jobs listed by residents are in the fields of administration, production, and education.

INTERESTING NEIGHBORHOOD FEATURES

- **Hawthorn Glen Outdoor Education Center** at 1130 N. 60th St. (see above and below).
- **The Little Nature Museum at Hawthorne Glen** at 1130 N. 60th St. (see above and below).

RECURRING NEARBY OUTINGS

In the following section the website addresses have been eliminated due to technical problems with the various ways different web browsers display PDF files. Website information on these events is available through the book *Milwaukee Area Outings on the Cheap*. See below.

EARLY MORNING BIRDWALK--WASHINGTON

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Most Wed.'s 8-10am	Washington Park, 1859 N. 40th St.	A walk for bird watchers of all ability levels to explore Washington Park for birds.	Free, but might need to register

WINTERFEST FOR AFTERNOON NAPPERS

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Late Jan. 10:30am-12pm, see website for dates	Washington Park, 1859 N. 40th St.	Opportunity for children ages 5 and under accompanied of adult to enjoy a morning of fun including a craft, hike and puppet show and still get home in time for afternoon nap.	\$7, \$5 kids (with adult)

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS EASTER EGG HUNT

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Mid Mar., Sat. 11:45am-1pm	Washington Park, 1859 N. 40th St.	Fun event for children and adults with Easter egg hunt.	Free

JULY 4TH CELEBRATION--WASHINGTON

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
July 4th, 11am-10pm	Washington Park, 1859 N. 40th St.	Doll Buggy, Bike & Trike, and Coaster judging, games, fireworks.	Free

WEDNESDAYS AT THE SHELL IN WASHINGTON PARK

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Summer months, Wed.'s, 6-8:30pm	Washington Park, 1859 N. 40th St.	A variety of difference musical genres and bands.	Free

FALL FAMILY PADDLE

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Mid Sep., Sat., 1-3pm	Washington Park, 1859 N. 40th St.	Celebration of autumn with guided canoeing and nature on lovely lagoon. Requires early registration.	\$9 adult, \$6 kids (with adult)

MILWAUKEE BREWERS GAMES

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Early Apr. to late Sep., see website for times	Miller Park. 1 Brewers Way	Major league baseball games.	Prices vary

ECO ART WEDNESDAYS

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Weds., 4-5:30pm	Menomonee Valley 3700 W. Pierce	Children work on nature-inspired recycled arts and crafts. Take home own creation every week! Register at Urban Ecology website.	\$5 per child

EARLY MORNING BIRDWALK

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Most Tue.'s. 8-10am	Menomonee Valley, 3700 W. Pierce St.	A walk for bird watchers of all ability levels to explore Three Bridges Park for birds. Register at Urban Ecology website.	Free, need to register

SLEDDING THE SLOPES OF MENOMONEE VALLEY

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Late Jan. Tue. 4-6pm	Menomonee Valley, 3700 W. Pierce St.	An evening of snow and sledding in Three Bridges Park with hot chocolate (if there is no snow, will hike Three Bridges Park). Register at Urban Ecology website.	Free

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING FOR KIDS

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Late Jan. Thu. 4-6pm	Menomonee Valley, 3700 W. Pierce St.	Bring children to workshop designed just for kids to learn all they need to know before hitting the slopes, with gear provided. Register at Urban Ecology website.	\$5 kids 7-12

FAMILY HIKE

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Mar. & Apr, Nov, Tue.'s 4-6pm	Menomonee Valley, 3700 W. Pierce St.	Guided hike to see changes in seasons through Three Bridges Park. Register at Urban Ecology website.	Free

SHAKESPEARE IN THREE BRIDGES PARK

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Late Jul., Fri. 7pm	Menomonee Valley behind Palermo Villa next to 33rd Ct.	Play performed by Summit Players along river in the park.	Free, but donations welcome

FRIENDS OF HANK AARON STATE TRAIL 5K RUN/WALK

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Early Aug., Sat. 7-8:15am	Start and finish near Klement's Sausage Haus (on the east end of Miller Park Stadium)	Opportunity to walk or run in race on Hank Aaron trail, or be a spectator—entertainment and food available. (Requires registration to participate)	Free (to watch)

These outings are provided courtesy of MECAH Publishing. To access the book that provides nearly 600 outings—all priced under \$10—for the entire Greater Milwaukee area, go to <http://mecahmilwaukee.com/NonFiction.html>

QUOTES FROM RESIDENTS

If you are a resident of this neighborhood and wish to make an interesting observation about it, please send your quote to JFLanthropologist@currently.com

PHOTOS



Today's neighborhood-
Houses on 58th & McKinley



Today's neighborhood-58th & McKinley looking north



Today's neighborhood-
The Little Nature Museum at Hawthorne Glen



Today's neighborhood-
Hawthorne Glen looking north and water tower
that overlooks Hawley Rd.

For more information on Milwaukee neighborhoods, refer to John Gurda's *Milwaukee, City of Neighborhoods*.

Do you have great photos of this neighborhood? Are you a resident with an interesting quote about this neighborhood? Do you have recurring outings, additions, corrections, or general comments about this neighborhood? Please email your input to Dr. Jill Florence Lackey at: jflanthropologist@currently.com

