

Approximate boundaries:

N-N. Lincoln Memorial Dr; **S**-N. Lincoln Memorial Dr;
E-Lake Michigan; **W**-N. Lake Dr (partial)

UPPER EAST SIDE *Lake Park*

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION

Lake Park's 138 acres occupies a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan to the east of the Northpoint neighborhood. Its topography is diverse, including gently rolling hills and very steep ravines. Among the many amenities at the park are tennis courts, an 18-hole golf course, soccer field, softball diamond, bowling greens, ice-skating land rink, and the North Point Lighthouse. See photos below.

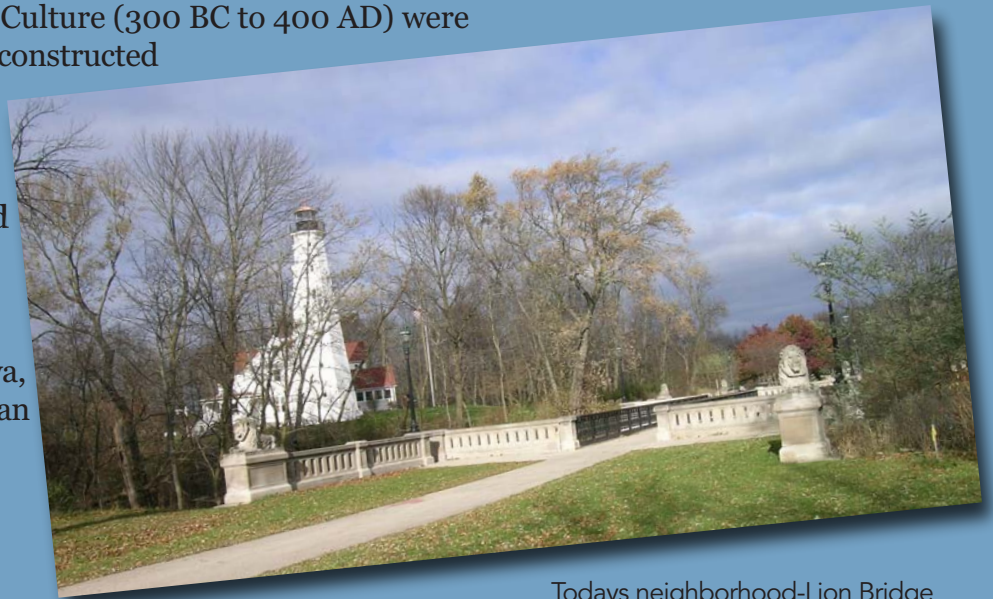
HISTORY

Long before the shoreline of Lake Michigan was set aside as a park, it was the home to human settlers.

Early populations

The first population at Lake Park appears to be Middle Woodland people. A prehistoric conical mound survives today on the grounds—the last known remaining mound within in Milwaukee. A historic plaque installed by the Wisconsin Archaeology Society in 1910 ensures its survival. People of the Mid-Woodland Culture (300 BC to 400 AD) were mainly hunter-gatherers who constructed mounds for burial or ceremonial purposes.

Descendants of *Late* Woodland people later settled along the shores of Lake Michigan, including the Menomonie, Sauk, Fox, HoChunk, Potawatomi, Ottawa, and Ojibwe. The first non-Indian residents known to reside on today's Lake Park tract were members of the Lueddemann family. See their profile below.



Today's neighborhood-Lion Bridge

Lake Park family profile (mid-1800s)

(Information and photo from U.S. Census and other public records)

The Lueddemanns

In the 1830s, Indian tribal lands were surveyed by the U.S. government and subsequently sold to white settlers. The family of Gustav Lueddemann purchased a tract in today's Lake Park area. Family members included Gustav and Gertrude (both born in Saxony)

and their children Mary Augustus, George, Carolina, and Paulina—none of whom apparently ever married.

Unlike other early settlers, the Lueddemanns did not clear their tract for timber production. While they farmed one section, they left most of the forest intact. By 1850, the Lueddemanns had turned their home into a farm to table restaurant and picnic area. Milwaukeeans travelled by foot, wagon, or boat on Sundays to enjoy the best beer, wine, coffee, cheese, and bacon the family had to offer. Concerts were also occasionally held at “Lueddemann’s by the Lake.”

By 1890, Gertrude had died and Gustav was in his late 80s. The family sold the land to the Milwaukee Park Commission, which had organized only one year earlier. The Lueddemann tract became the northern section of Lake Park.

Development of the park

The Milwaukee Park Commission completed the purchase of the acres that would become Lake Park in 1890. They contracted with Frederick Law Olmstead to design the area. By 1894, walks, brooks, waterfalls, ravines, carriage drives, and the rustic bridges were completed. Two years later the formal entrance at Newberry Boulevard was in place. The Lion Bridges were completed the next year (the bridge being designed by Oscar Sanne and the sculpted lions by Paul Kupper).

In 1903, the Pavilion and Band Shelter were added, followed by the children’s playground three years later. In 1909, the tennis courts were installed, followed by the lawn bowling area a decade later. In 1930 the original 6-hole golf course was expanded to 18 holes.

The park added many new amenities in the 1960s including new bowling greens, a clubhouse, an ice rink warming house (on the very site of the old Lueddemann farmhouse), and a bicycle path. An exercise/jogging trail followed in 1978.

Current populations (as of 2017)

Lake Park is not a residential neighborhood, but it does serve myriads of residents from other Milwaukee neighborhoods.

In spring of 1996, “Lake Park Friends” was officially incorporated as a non-profit organization. Its stated mission is “to promote the preservation and enjoyment of Lake Park, to sponsor educational, recreational and cultural events in the park, and to raise funds for the restoration and enhancement of the park in the spirit of Frederick Law Olmsted.”

INTERESTING FEATURES

- **Northpoint Lighthouse and Keepers Quarters**, at 2650 N. Wahl, built originally in 1855, moved in 1888, served U.S. Coast Guard for 139 years, decommissioned in 1994, transferred to Milwaukee County in 2003, and renewed and opened to the public in 2007.



Today's neighborhood—
North Point Lighthouse Museum

- **Erastus B. Wolcott bronze**, at the southern section of Lake Park, designed by Francis Herman Packer, with the inscription, "Gen. Erastus B. Wolcott. Surgeon General of Wisconsin in the Civil War for thirteen years afterward. He lived a blameless life. Eminent in his profession. A lover of humanity. Who delighted to serve his fellowmen, his city state and nation. Fraternity - Charity - Equality - Devotion."
- **Lake Park conical mound and plaque**, located in the northwest corner of the park and visible from Lake Drive (see more information above).

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.

LAKE PARK NATURE WALKS			
When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Any time	Lake Park.	An ecological experience using Lake Park's wildflower or tree books.	Free

LAKE PARK ICE SKATING			
When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
When ice is 6 inches thick	Lake Park, 2975 N. Lake Park Rd.	Ice skating on land rink with a warming house.	Free

NORTHPOINT LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM			
When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Sat. & Sun. 1-4pm	Northpoint Lighthouse, 2650 N. Wahl Ave.	A historic, maritime experience, with artifacts related to the history of the Great Lakes.	\$8 adults, \$5 seniors, \$5 children 5-11, free children under 4

EASTER BUNNY AT NORTHPOINT LIGHTHOUSE			
When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Mid Mar., Sat. 1-4pm	Northpoint Lighthouse, 2650 N. Wahl Ave.	Easter bunny appearance at museum with historic and maritime significance.	\$8 adults, \$5 seniors, \$5 children 5-11, free children under 4

DOWNER CLASSIC BIKE RACE			
When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Late Jun., Sat. 10am-8:30pm	Downer Ave. between Bradford and Park.	All day and evening bike races for participants and spectators that are part of the Tour of America's Dairyland Cycling Series, with food, shopping, children's activities.	Free

LOW COST MOVIES: DOWNER THEATER			
When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Sat., Sun. early show	2589 N. Downer Ave.	A Landmark arthouse theater.	\$7.50

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Announcing

Milwaukee's ethnic guide

A literal stroll through neighborhoods where Milwaukee's ethnic groups settled

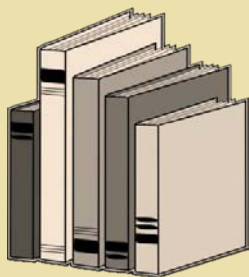
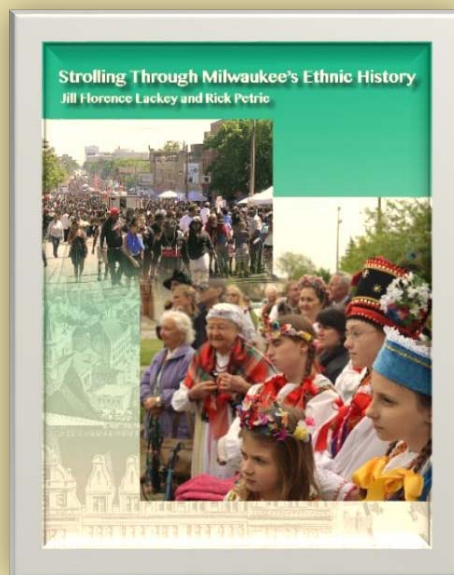
Dr. Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie

Strolling through Milwaukee's Ethnic History

Chapters taking place in Lincoln Village, Walker's Point, Third Ward, Halyard Park, East Town, Lake Park, Jones Island, West Town, Riverwest

An "up close and personal" look at local ethnic life by directing readers to the neighborhoods and venues where the groups left their marks. *Strolling* brings readers directly into their experiences, whether it involves ambling through the environments they built or participating in contemporary ethnic activities.

Ethnic groups covered: Milwaukee Germans, Irish, African Americans, Italians, Mexicans, French, English, Norwegians, Jews, Hmong, North American Indians, Scots/Scots Irish, Czechs/Slovaks, Kashubes, Greeks, Puerto Ricans, and Burmese.



MECAH Publishing

Milwaukee Ethnic Collection of Arts and Humanities

<http://mecamilwaukee.com/NonFiction.html>

"Strolling through Milwaukee's Ethnic History is an intriguing guide to the ethnic history in our midst and a colorful reminder that Milwaukee has always been a city of newcomers."

- John Gurda

LOW COST MOVIES: ORIENTAL THEATER

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Sat., Sun. early show	2230 N. Farwell Ave.	A Landmark arthouse theater.	\$7.50

WALKING TOUR—NORTH POINT MANSIONS

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Late May-mid Oct., Sun.'s 1pm	Meets at the fountain near the southeast corner of North Ave. and Lake Dr.	Tour of neighborhood that is known for its intact early twentieth century architecture and historical importance.	\$10 adults, \$2 kids 7-17, free kids 6 and under

A.W.E.'S SUMMER TRUCK PROGRAM

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
6 weeks during summer, various weekdays, 12-3pm	Various parks, including Wahl, Gordon, Clarke Sq. and more	THE TRUCK STUDIO provides meaningful, drop-in art-based enrichment activities to youth ages 4 – 14, with a focus on working with youth in Milwaukee's under-served neighborhoods.	Free

VILLA TERRACE DECORATIVE ARTS MUSEUM

When?	Where?	Description and contact info	Admission
Wed. thru Sun. 1-5pm	2220 N. Terrace Ave.	Self-guided tour of mansion informed by the design of a villa in Lombardy, Italy, complete with Renaissance Garden, and antique furnishings and artifacts.	\$7, \$5 seniors, military & students

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>

PHOTOS



Today's neighborhood-Lake Park Bistro



Today's neighborhood-Grand staircase to the east of Lake Park Bistro



Today's neighborhood-Erastus B. Wolcott statue

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