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Harbor District - July 2017



## HARBOR DISTRICT NEWS

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### **Slosh Park News:**

The original plan for the project was to build a first, small phase of the park in 2017, with the remainder of the park on an uncertain timeline depending on when we were able to secure funds. However, in consultation with partners and funders, we decided that there was so much enthusiasm for the project that we needed to move forward with the entire park as quickly as possible. This new plan means a delay on the front end – no construction in 2017 – but, if all goes well, 2018 will see construction of all the park's elements:

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- The Seiche Garden, a water feature that includes water tumbling between stone and wood blocks and native vegetation that will reflect the action of the seiche in the harbor.
- A ramp that will take visitors to the water's edge and provide a location to launch canoes/kayaks or to dock boats to visit Slosh Park.
- A playground structure constructed from used shipping containers that will provide an elevated lookout point and incorporate the area's identity as the Harbor and Port of Milwaukee.



### **If You Build It, They Will Come!**

While we certainly have a long way to go, our Habitat Hotels pilot project is showing signs of life.

Milwaukee's Inner Harbor, before its days as an industrial hub, once was a lush, marshy estuary thick with plants and wildlife. Imagine paddling through the Harbor District today and seeing an urban shoreline dotted with water lilies, bulrushes, and even wild rice! along an otherwise steel-and-rust dominated shoreline.

In May, we installed our pilot set of eight Habitat Hotels throughout Milwaukee's Inner Harbor, and now, one month later, we already have signs of life! Lily pads have emerged from the Habitat Hotels' underwater planter boxes, and water celery - an underwater grass - is sprouting about 5 feet deep in the water column. We have had some fishy friends stop by, and the Habitat Hotels seem to be attractive spots for crawfish as well. Take a look: [Habitat Hotels](#) and [Yearling Perch visits the Hotel](#)

These low-cost habitat structures were designed with the help of the School of Freshwater Sciences and built by Bradley Technical High School students. We plan to continue this program as part of a larger effort to revitalize Milwaukee's Harbor

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District. All summer long we'll monitor the Habitat Hotels looking for more signs of life!

Thanks to our site hosts Paul Davis Restoration, Elementis LTP, and the UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences, and to Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust and Fund for Lake Michigan for supporting this project.

If you'd like to host a hotel at your riverfront property or contribute to the project, email [lindsay@harbordistrict.org](mailto:lindsay@harbordistrict.org).



## Harbor Fest

Mark your calendars! HDI is planning a street festival for October 7th from 11 am to 4 pm, at the east end of Greenfield Avenue. Harbor Fest will include everything you find at your Milwaukee street festivals – food, music, and vendors – but also some unique Harbor features:

- Boat Parade in partnership Milwaukee Riverkeeper and Milwaukee Kayak Company;
- Tours of UWM's research vessel, the Neeskay;
- Sustainable Sushi demonstration with Screaming Tuna;
- Painting classes with Farmhouse Paint and Sip;
- Fishing demonstrations;
- Paddling lessons;
- and a Harbor District Tree Survey with the Milwaukee Public Museum and Camen Schools of Science and Technology!

We hope you will join us for a day of fun.

Stay up to date on all things Harbor Fest by checking out our [Facebook event](#).

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## History Spotlight

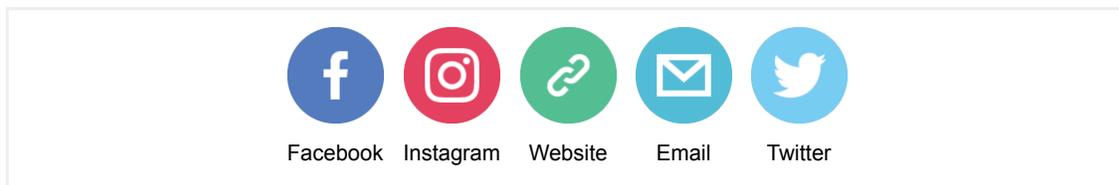
Milwaukee's rivers may not be perfect but they have come a long way. One boat can attest to that: the Seagull has seen the waters of Milwaukee's harbor and rivers for the last 55 years, and some of those years weren't glamorous. Over the years, the Seagull performed many different jobs, from removing dead fish, to breaking ice, to saving dogs trapped on the ice. The Seagull is still working, but when she's off duty you can spot her at Jones Island across from the end of Greenfield Ave.

This month, Shepard Express did an article on this veteran hardworking ship. To read the full article on the Seagull, click [here](#).

## About the Harbor District Initiative

The Harbor District Initiative brings together local, state, and federal government efforts, the private sector, and community to catalyze the redevelopment of Milwaukee's Harbor District. Our goal is to create a resilient waterfront that sets the standard for how waterfronts work - environmentally, economically and socially.

Learn more at our website [harbordistrict.org](http://harbordistrict.org).



Thank you to Operating Support Funders



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