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## **Grab Your Magnifying Glass, Head to Fox River Park, and Become a Scientist at the Milwaukee Public Museum's BioBlitz!**

**Milwaukee**—The Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM) will host its third annual BioBlitz at Waukesha County's Fox River Park on June 9 and 10. MPM's BioBlitz takes science out of the lab to provide the community the opportunity to discover the variety of species – from plants to invertebrates – living in their own backyard as well as inspire a new generation of scientists.

MPM's BioBlitz series, which began in June 2015, has taken place in Milwaukee County in the past, with its kick off at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center and its follow-up at Grant Park. Scientists discovered 853 different species at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center and 976 species at Grant Park, including endangered plants and animals both years.

"We're very excited to be moving into Waukesha County to explore Fox River Park," said Dr. Censky. "One of the goals of BioBlitz is to track biodiversity in a variety of Wisconsin locations. Working with Waukesha County will continue MPM's tradition of surveying the entire state of Wisconsin and educating the public about the biodiversity living among them."

In June 2017, Dr. Ellen Censky, MPM's Senior Vice President and Academic Dean, will lead a team of 91 scientists from 22 organizations to conduct a 24-hour survey of the 257 acres of Fox River Park to offer a snapshot of the animals and plants residing there. The Waukesha County Park is made up of woodlands, wetlands, and many species of wildflowers.

"Waukesha County is honored to host this year's Milwaukee Public Museum's BioBlitz at Fox River Park," said Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow. "This event will give scientists and visitors the opportunity to explore one of the many diverse park and open space areas we have here in the county. Our environmental education team will join the other species experts in this exciting sweep to identify all the different plant and animal species that call Fox River Park their home."

The public is invited to attend the BioBlitz on Saturday, June 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The park entrance fee will be waived and attendees can:

- See species being identified and recorded at the base camp



- Interact with scientists
- Talk with Riveredge Nature Center educators about their efforts to return sturgeon to the Milwaukee River and take a video tour of the Streamside Rearing Facility
- Discover how to get involved with citizen science
- Explore Fox River Park's aquatic biodiversity on a hike with Naturalists from the Retzer Nature Center and Waukesha County Water Resources
- Discover the roles different animals play in the food web and learn about the anatomy of owls and the critters they love to eat
- See animal displays
- Go on a scavenger hunt
- Hear the final tally of numbers

For more information, go to [www.mpm.edu/mpmbiobliz2017](http://www.mpm.edu/mpmbiobliz2017).

#### **About the Milwaukee Public Museum**

The Milwaukee Public Museum is a natural and human history museum located in downtown Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Museum was chartered in 1882 and opened to the public in 1884. MPM has three floors of exhibits that encompass life-size dioramas, walk-through villages, world cultures, dinosaurs, a rainforest, and a live butterfly garden, as well as the Daniel M. Soref National Geographic Dome Theater & Planetarium. The Museum houses more than four million objects and hosts some half-a-million visitors each year.

MPM is operated by Milwaukee Public Museum, Inc., a private, non-profit company, and its facilities and collections are held in trust and supported by Milwaukee County for the benefit of the public.

#### **About the Waukesha County Park System**

Waukesha County Park System is a natural resource based park system that demonstrates stewardship while providing recreational and educational opportunities. For more information, visit our web site at [www.waukeshacountyparks.com](http://www.waukeshacountyparks.com) or follow @WaukeshaCoParks on [Twitter](#) or like us on [Facebook](#)

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