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Grant Park to Host the Milwaukee Public Museum's 2016 BioBlitz

Milwaukee—November 17, 2015—The Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM) will host its second annual BioBlitz at Milwaukee County's Grant Park on June 10 and 11 in 2016. 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.

"Grant Park is a unique recreational and ecological experience," said Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele. "Whether scientists identify new wildlife or just get an opportunity to explore what they already know, they'll definitely have an adventure and encourage an interest in science and the environment among citizens young and old."

MPM kicked off its BioBlitz series in June 2015 at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center. The team of scientists discovered 853 different species, including endangered plants and animals.

In June 2016, a team of scientists led by Dr. Ellen Censky, the Museum's , Senior Vice President and Academic Dean, will conduct a 24-hour survey of the 381 acres of Grant Park to offer a snapshot of the of the animals and plants residing in the park. Grant Park is made up of northern upland forest, southern mesic forest, old growth American beech forest, clay-bank fens, a small planted prairie, a small woodland stream, section of Oak Creek with lowland hardwoods, a beach along Lake Michigan, ravine woodlands, mature evergreen plantings, and a golf course.

"We're very excited to be able to work with the Milwaukee County Park's Natural Areas coordinator for our second BioBlitz," said Dr. Censky. "The goal of BioBlitz is not only to track the biodiversity in various Wisconsin locations, but to educate the public about it. Working with Milwaukee County provides us a great opportunity to make that possible."

The public is invited to attend the BioBlitz on June 11 to see species being identified and recorded at the base camp, interact with scientists, participate in hands-on activities and hear the final tally of numbers.



"The South Shore communities are excited to see MPM bring the BioBlitz to Grant Park, one of the truly great parks within Milwaukee County," said Patricia Jursik, Milwaukee County Board Supervisor, District 8. "Having scientists, and hands-on activities, in our green spaces will provide a new way to excite youngsters about the environment and allow them to explore this wonderful park at the same time."

For more information on this year's BioBlitz, as well as last year's findings, go to <http://www.mpm.edu/BioBlitz>.

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 rain forest and a live butterfly garden, as well as the Daniel M. Soref National Geographic Dome Theater & Planetarium. The museum houses more than 4 million objects and hosts some half a million visitors each year.

The 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.

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