

Historic Water Tower Neighborhood - Achievements

1973-1979 Water Tower Landmark Trust established to protect and enhance the historic architecture and residential character of the areas known as North Point South and North Point North.

Outdoor rock concerts at Water Tower Park moved to an alternative site directly on the Lakefront.

Committee established to ensure that city zoning variances were compatible with existing residential use.

Raised public awareness and increased city participation in preserving the area. Milwaukee Harp Lamp recognized as landmark by the city.

Negotiated Boundary Impact Agreement with St. Mary's Hospital to limit expansion at the expense of homes on Lake Drive and Terrace Avenues.

Initiated annual Holiday Parties at Villa Terrace.

1980-1989 North Point South (Lafayette Place to North Avenue) and North Point North (North to Park Place) achieved local historic preservation protection of the City of Milwaukee.

North Lake Drive District (Park to Hampshire Avenue) achieved local historic preservation protection of the City of Milwaukee.

Negotiated with St. Mary's Hospital placement of a new parking structure as part of their expansion along Lake Drive.

Worked to prevent multi-family conversions along Wahl Avenue; supported conversion of Joseph Uihlein home on Lake Drive to condominiums.

Water Tower Monument at Lafayette and Lake Drive dedicated to mark the southern boundary of the Historic District. Historic home tours and Water Tower run organized to raise money for the monument.

Continued to advocate with the city on zoning code enforcement, Lakefront development, and law enforcement.

Social events included spring Tea Dance, children's party at the Water Tower, and winter picnic.

1990-1999 North Lake Drive Estates District (Hampshire to Edgewood Avenue) designated by the City of Milwaukee for local historic protection.

Provided significant input toward the most recent reconfiguration of Lincoln Memorial Drive - Harp Lights substituted for standard freeway style lighting;

Bath House pedestrian bridge saved by lowering the roadway underneath.

Continued to advocate with the city on zoning and safety code enforcement: absentee landlords around UWM required to better maintain private student housing.

Focused UWM attention on impact of student parking in adjacent residential streets - need for school to develop better alternatives (shuttle buses, remote lots, etc).

Continued Holiday Party tradition at Villa Terrace.

2000-2009 Downer Avenue Commercial District (Webster to Park) designated by City of Milwaukee for local preservation protection. Worked with developer to integrate new parking structure adjacent to historic homes.

City residential permit parking (one side of street limited to resident-only permit holders) instituted on streets around UWM.

UWM Kenilworth complex - agreement to use only for graduate student housing and art studios, with internal parking provided; undergraduate dormitories constructed further west on North Ave.; shuttle bus service provided for all housing to limit parking congestion.

Negotiated with Columbia St. Mary's Hospital on most recent expansion: saved historic original hospital building by keeping new hospital west of Lake Drive; limited visual impact of new parking structure on Terrace Avenue side; avoided permanent closure of Lake Drive from North to Downer Avenues.

Changed organization name to Historic Water Tower Neighborhood for easier identification.

Paid for neighborhood surveys to place the whole historic area on National Register of Historic Places, allowing homeowners to receive 25% State Historic Tax Credits on repairs.

Donated design work and funds to install HWTN lamppost signs throughout the historic area.

2010-2017 Negotiated with Milwaukee County on Bradford Beach Pavilion renovations and new private lease - limits on noise and activity impact.

Initiated active participation on groups that monitor large institutions affecting our area: Milwaukee Eastside Neighborhood Association (works with UWM issues) and North Avenue Task Force (works with Columbia St. Mary's and North Avenue tavern issues).

Supported Wahl Avenue owners requiring County to maintain vista pruning immediately south of Lake Park.

Provided neighborhood forum concerning virtual reality games (Pokemon) in Lake Park, bringing City and County attention to homeowner, motorist, and pedestrian safety impacts.

Brought increased attention and police patrols in response to crime concerns in the area; initiated monthly meeting updates from Police Community Liaison Officer.

Partnered with Lake Park Friends to oppose paid parking in County Parks; provided significant input to County on proposed replacement of Ravine Road Bridge.

Added casual Home and Garden parties in summer and fall months; provided annual Earth Day Cleanup activity in Back Bay and Water Tower Parks; held spring Pizza Parties at Downer Avenue restaurants; co-hosted Easter Egg Hunt with North Point Lighthouse; participated in Lake Park Fourth of July activities.

National Register of Historic Places

Several properties in our area have been awarded this significant national recognition.

- The Water Tower, designed by Charles A. Gombert, 1873.
- The North Point Lighthouse, 912, on the site of a lighthouse dating from 1855.
- The Bogk House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, 1916.
- North Point South, which generally includes the area between Lafayette and North Avenues.
- North Point North, which generally includes the area between North Avenue and Newberry Boulevard.

Local Historic Preservation District

Our area contains five locally designated historic districts, protected by the City of Milwaukee via review processes of the Historic Preservation Commission.

- North Point South.
- North Point North.
- North Downer Avenue Commercial District - Webster Avenue to Park Place, east side of Downer.
- North Lake Drive - Park Place to Hampshire Avenue, east side of Lake Drive.
- North Lake Drive Estates - Hampshire to Edgewood Avenue, east side of Lake Drive.

Boundaries of the Historic Water Tower Neighborhood

