

Folk festival a success, expected to grow

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The inaugural Poerio Park Folk Festival appears to have struck the right chord as city officials hope for an encore.

The festival, held last weekend brought folk artists to a pair of stages near the park's Nature Center and also provided a place for anyone to come up and make their own folk music.

Penney Haney, the city's community relations liaison, said the concept for the event came from a visitor to her office several years ago, though it took a few years to work out the logistics.

Haney estimated costs associated with the event would total about \$12,000, but she was very pleased with the results of the work that went into the first Folk Festival.

"It was a great success," Haney said.

Official attendance numbers were not kept, but Haney said she would estimate that 2,000 or 3,000 people were at the festival during the course of the weekend. Haney said Sunday seemed like the busier day as weather improved and word of mouth about the event spread.

A concern that city officials heard was about the growing numbers of mosquitoes near the park's pond. Brent Towle from Spectrum Pest Control applied a non-toxic, organic material to the grounds twice over the weekend, only charging the city for materials. Haney said the application did the trick in keeping mosquitoes away, with only a few nuisance mosquitoes showing up as the application

L-E' to be n at park
VER LAKE — The "WALL-E" will be tonight in Silver park.

outdoor showing at 8 p.m. in the area of the park, 5th St.

is \$5, which includes a complimentary and box of popcorn. Men 6 and under are free. All children younger must be accompanied by an adult. Use attending should lawn chairs, blankets and bug spray. Campers may set up at 5 p.m. in the area and must by 9 a.m. Saturday. For more information, call 1-1869.

for Literacy on Saturday

OSHA — The Literacy Council, in partnership with the Rob of Kenosha, will second Laps for y Walk Saturday at Memorial Park at the 52nd Street along a's lakefront.

walk is not a race. Participants will walk a couple laps or 3.6 miles the park. Strollers, chairs, wagons and pets are welcome. Rest stops along the route will be available. Additionally, there is a scavenger hunt. Participants who complete the scavenger hunt will be entered into a drawing.



KENOSHA NEWS PHOTO BY BRIAN PASSINO

The Garlic Mustard Pickers perform Saturday during the first day of the two-day Poerio Park Folk Festival. Despite some pesky mosquitoes, the event was a success.

wore off at night. "The mosquitoes turned out to be a no-show," Haney said. "We were very happy."

Haney said the festival was intended to become an annual event, and she felt the response to the initial festival matched that hope. "I and other people who performed or worked at the event have been getting a steady stream of encouragement to make it an annual

event," Haney said. "I think it has a great potential for expansion."

She hopes that expansion can include more artisans and exhibitors and a kids tent with more children-based activities. Haney said a dance floor of further use of the pond could also be considered for next year.

"There are several ways I would like to see this grow, maybe not all next year, but

over the course of time," Haney said. Haney also said the north side pond can be difficult to find, despite maps on the event's website. Haney said the street markings meant to lead people to the Folk Festival may not have been as effective as planned and she hoped to address that issue next year.

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