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I-Park 2021: Creating Art in Nature for 20 Years

A YEAR-LONG ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

I-Park is excited to be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of its international artists-in-residence program. Since 2001, over 1,000 fully funded residencies have been awarded to artists from around the world. While the residency program was on hiatus in 2020 due to the public health crisis, the artists who were scheduled for 2020 residencies will instead be joining us this year. They will begin arriving on May 27.

Based on the overwhelmingly enthusiastic response to last year's Open Trails Initiative (*over 800, mostly first time, visitors walked I-Park's unique system of art/nature trails in 2020*), we will be refining and expanding this community engagement program this season. Except for the Music Along the Trails and Woodlands Gala fundraisers, all events will be free and open to the public (*pre-event registrations are required*).

I-Park will kick off the season with its first Open Trails: Saturday in the Park event on Saturday, May 15 from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. Visitors are given a trail map and are invited to explore the grounds, including the 40+ existing environmental art installations. You're welcome to bring a picnic lunch, pull up a patch of grass and enjoy a relaxing screen-free, fresh-air experience. The events are family-friendly for children of all ages. However, due to the fragility of some of the artworks and certain natural features, pets are not permitted on the I-Park grounds.

The major Open Trails event of 2021 will be our signature Site-Responsive Art Biennale on September 18, eighth in the series. Between eight and ten brand new artworks will join the existing environmental art collection for that occasion.

SELECT UPCOMING PUBLIC EVENTS

Open Trails: Saturday in the Park

May 15, August 28, October 2 and November 6

Open Trails: Tuesdays in the Park

June 22 and July 20

Music Along the Trails: Fundraising Event

July 24 (Rain date July 25)

Site-Responsive Art Biennale Opening

September 18 (Rain date September 19)

I-Park Woodland Gala: The Next 20 Years

September 25



VOLUNTEERS DAYS

May 22, July 23, September 11 and September 17

MORE INFORMATION:

I-Park, a not-for-profit public charity, is seeking volunteers to join its facilities and garden committees. We're looking for community-spirited, outdoor enthusiasts willing to help us keep up with the relentless burden of keeping I-Park in tip-top, guest-ready condition. Please write events@i-park.org and indicate your availability and areas of interest. While we have the above scheduled Volunteers Days, we are happy to accommodate personalized time schedules.

I-Park nurtures the creative process through self-directed artists' residencies in music composition, visual art, architecture, moving image/new media, creating writing and landscape-garden-ecological design. We also steward a 450-acre nature preserve that artists are encouraged to engage with sensitive site interventions.

Eco Harvester is Here!



By the time you read this, our Eco Harvester will be here, on Moodus Reservoir. Our crew of volunteers is ready to begin operation. People are trained in the operation and maintenance. A truck has been purchased for hauling the extracted aquatic invasives from our shores to the Berryhill Farm for mulching into fertilizer for their organic produce. The Eco Harvester is ecologically clean and chemical free and is the most effective control of invasive aquatic plants.

We are very close to our \$100,000 goal. We need to raise the remaining amount and, as we begin cleaning the lake, we will have to raise annual funds for operation and maintenance expenses. Please plan to support the health of our town beach and recreation lake. See below to donate.

TIPS FOR A CLEAN & HEALTHY LAKE:

1. Do not sweep or blow grass cuttings into the water; they decay and become fertile soil for invasive aquatic plants.
2. Always mow in "mulch" mode; provides natural fertilization.
3. Get reliable yard and garden information; go to ladybug@uconn.edu, the University of Connecticut Home & Garden Center site.

Monthly Meetings - 2nd Tuesday at the East Haddam Sportsmen's Club, 7:00 pm. All are welcome. Watch for coming MRPG Events on our website at: www.moodusreservoir.org.

Tax deductible donations may be made payable to: MRPG, c/o Brittany O'Mara, CPA, MRPG Treasurer, 76 Mildred Rd, Meriden, CT 06450. To donate online, go to: www.moodusreservoir.org, or www.paypal.com.

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