

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO GLORIA MILLER

Gloria Miller Looking Glass Valley Park Commemoration

At their meeting on December 18, 2017, the Watertown Charter Township Board of Trustees was pleased to present a tribute to Gloria Miller, long-time township resident and champion of the Looking Glass River, with the renaming of the Looking Glass Valley Park to the **Gloria Miller Looking Glass Valley Park**.

Throughout her 90-plus years, Ms. Miller has been a great champion of this community and of its natural beauty, in particular the Looking Glass River. She has truly enriched the community with her distinguished service.

In 1990, after paddling in the first Grand River Expedition, a once-per-decade canoe trip from the river's headwaters in Liberty Mills to Grand Haven where it meets Lake Michigan, Ms. Miller was inspired to begin the Friends of the Looking Glass River. The objective of this newly founded non-profit was, and continues to be, to educate the community about the importance of clean rivers, watershed management, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities on the river.

Ms. Miller continues to encourage and inspire others to understand that we all live downstream, and to care about the river that flows through our community. As a teacher by trade, she is a true advocate for connecting children and adults to the river system, and her work has benefitted many future generations. Classrooms, citizen scientists, community members, and local professionals from the area now participate in stream monitoring, river restoration projects, cleanup days, and outreach events on the Looking Glass River. Some just enjoy a nice paddle down the river on a sunny day, and all owe a debt of gratitude to the leadership, commitment, and dedication of Ms. Miller.

Ms. Miller has been steadfast her in endeavors to protect the natural waterways for recreation and as a source of clean water for years to come. Ms. Miller has worked with the Groundwater Management Board, showing her commitment to protecting the environment and showing her concern for the future of our natural resources. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds, or MGROW, a group which protects and preserves the history and natural resources of the Middle Grand River Watershed, by promoting education, conservation, restoration, and wise use of watershed resources. Ms. Miller served on many board and commissions at Watertown Charter Township, including Parks and Recreation, the Granger Landfill Trust, and twelve years as a township trustee.

It is a most fitting tribute to Gloria Miller's dedication and leadership in the community by naming Looking Glass Valley Park, through which the Looking Glass River runs, in her honor.

