



FRIENDS OF THE PARKS

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW: 2001



Friends of the Parks  
CHICAGO



## DEAR FRIEND



**T**he battle over the Chicago Bears' stadium may have dominated the headlines in 2001, but Friends of the Parks also maintained its focus on protecting, maintaining and improving neighborhood parks and children's

playgrounds in communities throughout the city. We went beyond advocacy by recruiting volunteers to help care for parks, partnering with groups to improve parks, and educating members and the public about park issues.

Friends of the Parks worked with the North of Howard Community Organization to successfully protect Triangle Park from development. We hired a landscape architect to work with the Rogers Park community to redesign Triangle Park and to find an alternative location for a parking lot not on parkland. After a series of community meetings where consensus on a park design was achieved, the Chicago Park District agreed to acquire Triangle Park from the owner, the City of Chicago.

We continued to work with the Nichols Park Advisory Council to ensure that an agreement between the Park District and the Board of Education would grant both the community and a school adjacent to Nichols Park use of a proposed gymnasium and recreational fieldhouse without negatively impacting Nichols Park.

Exciting events continued to develop in Garfield Park on the city's West Side. Since Friends of the Parks established the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance in 1995, the Alliance contributed \$4 million in programming and visitor services and the Park District contributed \$8 million in capital improvements. This year the CTA opened a new \$7 million "L" stop by the conservatory. In the fall of 2001 the Park District announced the "Garden of Glass," an enormous display of Dale Chihuly's glass artwork in the gardens of the conservatory.

Friends of the Parks awarded seed grants of up to \$1,000 to seven park advisory councils to help them beautify parks and develop children's programs.

After identifying an undeveloped Park District-owned parcel of land in the Humboldt Park neighborhood, we worked with the community to design a children's playground on the site. We helped the community obtain State of Illinois and Chicago Park District funding, with which the Park District constructed a new children's playground with a water feature in Spring 2001. Named Artesian Park, it is now one of four playgrounds that offer accessibility to children with disabilities. At a second playground in

the Edgebrook community, Friends of the Parks purchased new playground equipment and worked with the Park District to improve and dedicate the Jeffrey S. Green Park, a park renamed in memory of the former president of Friends of the Parks.

We undertook a new initiative in 2001, a study of the operations of the Cook County Forest Preserves. We partnered with Friends of the Forest Preserves on the year-long study which includes a scientific land analysis and a user survey.

Over 3,000 volunteers beautified more than 100 parks during Friends of the Parks' 12th Annual Citywide Earth Day Parks Clean-Up on April 21, 2001. Community groups adopted ninety-one parks and each group completed six workday park activities during the year. On September 29, 2002 we hosted clean-ups at three sites during Public Lands Day.


Friends of the Parks' fun events included the Parks Ball and the midsummer L.A.T.E. Ride. In May 2001, we honored John H. Bryan, Chairman of the Board of Sara Lee Corporation, for co-chairing Millennium Park Inc., the private sector committee that has worked with the City to raise over \$100 million in private dollars for the development of Millennium Park. And at The L.A.T.E. Ride over 9,000 sleep-deprived bicyclists took a 25-mile jaunt through the City and its parks starting at 1:30 in the morning, and with the help of generous sponsors raised over \$200,000.

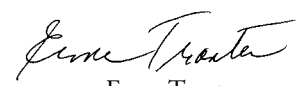
Lakefront park issues required a strong voice for park advocacy. Friends of the Parks established the DuSable Coalition to work with the U.S. EPA to force the responsible parties to clean the 3.2-acre future DuSable Park of thorium, a radioactive material found at the site.

So as you can see, the board, staff, and members of Friends of the Parks had a full year even without the fight over the Bears' stadium. But because the proposal for a new stainless steel and glass stadium inside the historic walls of Soldier Field would be so harmful to the lakefront and to Burnham Park, Friends of the Parks filed two lawsuits in 2001. We challenged the Chicago Plan Commission's approval of the proposal as a violation of the Lakefront Protection Ordinance. Judge Lester Foreman did not support our lawsuit, which we have now appealed. The second lawsuit challenged the stadium plan because it violated the Public Trust Doctrine and the Illinois Constitution by granting a private organization, the Chicago Bears, public land for their private use and by using public funds to benefit a private organization. The court will decide the merits of the second lawsuit in late April 2002. We are proud of our work to uphold the Lakefront Protection Ordinance and the Public Trust Doctrine.

It was a very busy year, with many important successes. We thank you for your support, which makes our work possible.

Many thanks,

  
Thomas G. Sanberg  
Chairman of the Board

  
Erma Tranter  
President

# PARK ADVOCACY: PROTECTING THE PUBLIC INTEREST

## PROTECTING LAKEFRONT PARKLAND

### Friends of the Parks Files Lawsuits Challenging Soldier Field Plan

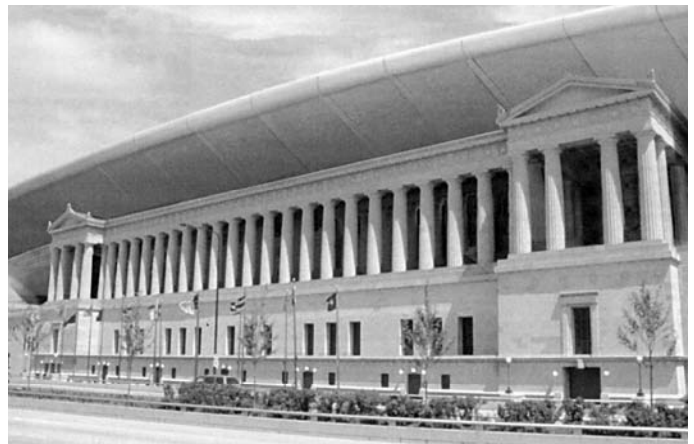
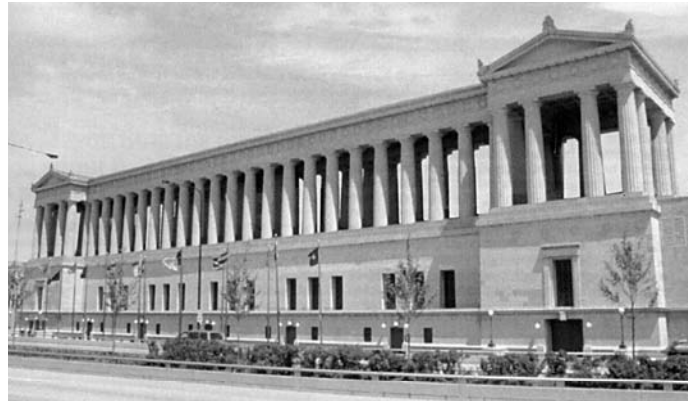
**O**n August 19, 1925, Chicagoans dedicated Soldier Field to the men and women in the armed forces. The original prize-winning design was a U-shaped stadium opening toward the Field Museum and intended for public gatherings and athletic events of all kinds. The Greek design, including 64 Doric columns, harkened back to the 2,500-year-old public gathering places of Greece, the birthplace of democracy. The architects, Holabird and Roche, sought to honor the soldiers with a public arena that would inspire nobility, dignity and civic virtues. In 1970, after using the arena for 45 years for public recreation and events, the Chicago Park District converted it into a football stadium specifically for the Bears, who were no longer allowed to play in Wrigley Field. The Park District constructed the north stands and skyboxes and paved over 40 acres of nearby parkland for parking lots.

Friends of the Parks had long argued that when the Bears' lease ended in 2000 the City should return Soldier Field to its original arena design for public athletic events and festivals and, at the same time, convert dozens of acres of parking lots to lakeshore parkland. As recently as March 1999, Mayor Daley agreed, telling the Chicago Bears "not on the lakefront," and raising hopes that the Bears would move to an off-park location at the expiration of their 30-year lease. But last year, with little or no public discussion, the City and Park District changed their position and supported plans to construct a towering new stadium within and above the historic colonnades of Soldier Field. Friends of the Parks presented numerous arguments against the plan, including the following:

1. The plan provides for private development by a privately-owned football franchise on public land. The Bears control the design and construction of the \$606 million commercial sports stadium. The plan also grants the Bears significant management and revenue rights, including parking, concession and advertising privileges that will enrich the private Bears franchise.
2. The new 61,000-seat stadium, approximately 800 feet long and sixteen stories high, will tower five stories over and obscure the landmark Soldier Field columns. The National Park Service told the Park district that Soldier Field would lose its designation as a National Historic Landmark if the new stadium is constructed.
3. Parking lots, roadways, and the stadium will cover over 90% of the 96 lakefront acres from 14th Street to 21st Street. Three major parking lots totaling nearly 6,000 parking spaces will surround the stadium. The project also calls for a new four-lane roadway where just two years ago taxpayers spent \$100 million to remove the northbound lanes of Lake Shore Drive.

Despite Friends of the Parks' arguments that the plan for a new Bears stadium violates all relevant policies and purposes of the Chicago Lakefront Protection Ordinance, on March 15, 2001 the Chicago Plan Commission approved the plans by a vote of 10-1, with one recusal.

On April 11, 2001 Friends of the Parks filed a lawsuit in the



BEFORE: SOLDIER FIELD IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON LOOKING SOUTH. SOLDIER FIELD IS A NOBLE STRUCTURE, A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK, DEDICATED TO AMERICANS WHO SERVED IN OUR ARMED FORCES. AFTER: DIGITAL OVERLAY SKETCH OF NEW STADIUM ADDITION. THE VISUAL DOMINATION OF SOLDIER FIELD BY THIS PROPOSED ADDITION DESTROYS ITS HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

Circuit Court of Cook County challenging the Chicago Plan Commission's approval of the commercial sports stadium without sufficient findings of fact as required by the Lakefront Protection Ordinance. The Lake Michigan and Chicago Lakefront Protection Ordinance states that the Chicago Plan Commission, as the agency responsible for administering the Ordinance, shall make its "decision...in conformity with the thirteen purposes for which this Ordinance is adopted...as well as the fourteen basic policies." In its report to the Chicago Plan Commission, the Chicago Department of Planning evaluated the proposal based on only four of the basic policies (1, 4, 6 and 7) of the Ordinance and made no determination of fact based on the other ten policies or the thirteen purposes of the Ordinance.

Judge Lester Foreman ruled against Friends of the Parks in November 2001 in the first lawsuit. Friends of the Parks has filed an appeal which is pending in the Circuit Court of Appeals.

On August 13, 2001, Friends of the Parks filed a second lawsuit in the Circuit Court of Cook County challenging the misuse of public funds and public parkland for the primary benefit of a private football corporation.

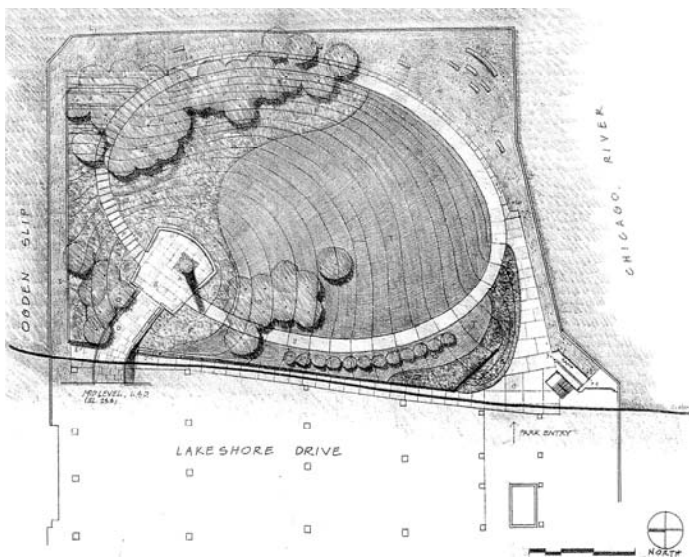
A major count of the August 13th complaint alleged that the construction of a new stadium on public parkland for a private corporation, the Chicago Bears, violated state and federal law regarding the Public Trust Doctrine. The Public Trust Doctrine protects public parkland held in trust for public use only. The suit alleged that the commercial sports stadium project primarily benefits the Bears, a private professional sports corporation. The Bears, not the Chicago Park District, hired the architect to design the new stadium and hired Turner Construction Company to design and build a stadium. In addition, the Chicago Bears control the use schedule for the stadium and will be the primary beneficiary of the economic gain. To accommodate the Bears' need for 6,000 parking spaces, 1000 new spaces will be constructed and forty acres of public lakefront land will remain developed as surface parking lots.

On October 3, 2001, the Illinois Sports Facility Authority sold \$399 million in bonds to finance construction of a new stadium within the historic walls of Soldier Field. Hotel and motel tax revenues collected in Chicago will be used to pay the debt on the 30-year bonds. The City and the State each provide a \$5 million subsidy. In addition, the City of Chicago will cover any shortfall, officials announced.

Judge John Madden, in Cook County Circuit Court, will rule on the declaratory judgment action April 25, 2002.

#### Friends of the Parks Pushes for Creation of DuSable Park

In 1988, the Chicago Park District received 3.2 undeveloped acres on Chicago's lakefront just north of the Chicago River as part of the planned development approval of River East. As part of the plan, the developers contributed \$600,000 with the Chicago Park District committed to contributing a matching \$600,000 to develop DuSable Park.



THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT COMPLETED THIS CONCEPTUAL PLAN FOR THREE-ACRE DUSABLE PARK SEVERAL YEARS AGO. FRIENDS OF THE PARKS CONTINUES TO PUSH FOR CLEANING UP THE LAND AND CONSTRUCTING A NEW PARK ON CHICAGO'S LAKEFRONT JUST NORTH OF THE CHICAGO RIVER.

In July 2000, the Chicago Park District proposed allowing a private company to build a temporary parking lot on the site. The plan galvanized residents, community groups, Haitian-American groups, and park and river groups (including Friends of the Parks, Friends of the Chicago River, the DuSable League, Chicago River Rowing and Paddling Center, Friends of DuSable Park, Serene, the Grant Park Advisory Council and S.O.A.R.) not only to oppose the construction of a parking lot, but also to question why the Park District had not yet constructed the proposed DuSable Park. In late 2000, the Park District listened to citizens and civic groups opposed to the temporary parking lot, and rescinded its proposal.

In February 2001, Friends of the Parks sponsored the DuSable Festival to celebrate the history of Chicago's first settler. Unfortunately, at about the same time, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found that some soil samples from the undeveloped land contained radioactive thorium. Friends of the Parks hosted several meetings with the Park District Board President, and the U.S. EPA to push for cleaning up the land and constructing a new park. The U.S. EPA agreed to hold the responsible parties accountable for the thorium cleanup.

#### Hyde Parkers Able to Negotiate Promontory Point Plan Revisions

In early 2001, Hyde Park residents strongly protested the Park District's plans to close Promontory Point for two years to construct a high concrete revetment or sea wall that would replace the present limestone steps and would deny swimmers access to the water. Friends of the Parks' board members Lauren Moltz and Kay Clement organized and facilitated the Promontory Point Revetment Task Force.

As a result of their advocacy, in May 2001 the Park District announced a revised plan incorporating nine changes requested by the community. The new plan provided for rebuilding the Point's revetment in two phases, the north half in 2002 and the south half in 2003. The District agreed to place the existing limestone just below the water's surface, reduce the size of drainage gaps, and raise the bike path to give bicyclists and joggers a full view of the lake. The Park District also agreed to a designated swimming area along the peninsula's southern edge to be monitored by lifeguards during the summer.

However, the community argued that the revetment should be constructed of limestone, not concrete. The task force received a grant from the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation to complete an independent engineering study.

#### Commercial Concessions in Lakefront Parks Draw Controversy

In March 2001, the Chicago Park District proposed issuing a new three-year contract to the Lincoln Park Athletic Club to install and run fitness centers at three lakefront park locations, including climbing walls at North Avenue Beach, 31st Street Beach and Montrose Beach. The location of the climbing walls at three crowded beaches raised concerns about additional congestion and attention-grabbing distractions for the bicyclists, runners, and skaters who use the nearby lakefront path.

Friend of the Parks spread the word among the lakefront communities about this little-known plan and worked with the Park

District and Alderwomen Toni Prewinkle, Vi Daley and Helen Schiller to ensure community input on this issue. At community meetings, a majority of the neighbors opposed locating these activities at the crowded beaches. As a result, the Park District withdrew the proposal, and later simply extended the club's present contract to operate a fitness center at North Avenue Beach for one year.

#### Nature Museum's Proposed Expansion Raises Big Issues

In the fall of 2001, Friends of the Parks reviewed the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum's proposal to enclose its 5,600 square foot second-floor terrace on the building's west side to provide on-site office space, and to move the current terrace to the third floor. Friends of the Parks opposed the plan because the sale of the museum's Clark Street office building and subsequent move of administrative staff to the Nature Museum would violate the conditions of the Chicago Plan Commission. The 2400 North Lakeview Condominium Association and the North Pond Task Force also opposed the Nature Museum's proposal.

#### Culinary Institute Proposed At South Shore Cultural Center

The City Colleges of Chicago and its partner, the Culinary Institute of America, have proposed constructing a training center for students on the top two floors of the South Shore Cultural Center (7059 South Shore Drive). The two groups would pay for this \$10 million project. The South Shore Cultural Center Advisory Council, with support from Friends of the Parks, initially objected to the proposal because it did not serve the purposes of a cultural center in a public park.

In response to the community's concerns, the Park District revised its proposal. The advisory council agreed to support the revised plan provided that the Park District meets a number of conditions, including addressing health issues regarding garbage and waste management, addressing safety issues regarding fire hazards, ensuring pedestrian access to the facility, and ensuring cultural programs for the community are not neglected.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARK EXPANSION AND PROTECTION

#### Friends of the Parks Protects Triangle Park in Rogers Park Area

Located in the Rogers Park neighborhood north of Howard Street, Triangle Park, a community-built park on City-owned land, officially opened in the fall of 1987. Recently, a developer of low-income condominiums sought to obtain a third of the park for a 25-car private lot.

Friends of the Parks received a grant from the Seabury Foundation to work to protect the park by developing various alternative plans for the park and to find a solution for the parking. Friends of the Parks hired a landscape architect, Josephine Bellalta, to work with community members to redesign Triangle Park. After several community meetings, Ms. Bellalta developed five alternative park schemes. The City's Department of Housing



THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT RECENTLY COMPLETED RENOVATIONS OF THREE PLAYGROUNDS AND CONSTRUCTION OF A FOURTH THAT NOW OFFER ACCESSIBILITY FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.

and Department of Planning agreed to one of the alternatives, which maintains Triangle Park in its entirety and found an alternative location for the parking lot for the housing development. As a result of this six-month involvement, the City transferred Triangle Park to the Chicago Park District for use as a public park.

#### Work Continues to Ensure Public Access at Nichols Park

In 2000, concerned citizens of Hyde Park lobbied for public dollars to build a fieldhouse in the community. They received \$1 million of state funds for that purpose. In 2001, the Chicago Park District agreed to contribute an additional \$500,000 to build a gymnasium addition to Murray Academy at the eastern end of Nichols Park (1300 E. 55th Street) that would also serve as a Park District fieldhouse. The addition will include a gymnasium, all-purpose rooms, storage and an office. In return, the Board of Education contributed \$500,000 for the gym, which will be used by the school during school hours and by the Park District for recreation programs after school and on weekends.

Friends of the Parks and the Nichols Park Advisory Council thoroughly reviewed the intergovernmental agreement between the Board of Education and Park District and worked diligently to ensure: 1) no loss of green parkland, 2) design compatibility of the school park facility with Nichols Park, 3) community use of the facility including third-party notice if there are significant changes in the Intergovernmental Agreement, and 4) replanting or replacing trees impacted during construction.

#### Friends of the Parks Awards Seed Grants

In January 2001, Friends of the Parks announced the names of eight Seed Grant recipients, each of which received small grants up to \$1,000 to improve their neighborhood parks:

- *Bradley Park* (9729 S. Yates Ave.) for a summer community festival
- *Commercial Park Advisory Council* (1845 W. Rice St.) for a children's arts and crafts program
- *Eugene Field Adopt-a-Park group* (5100 N. Ridgeway Ave.) for a community garden project
- *Gately Park Advisory Council* (810 E. 103rd St.) for its "Spring Fling Extravaganza" talent and fashion show involving teens and seniors

- *Loyola Park Advisory Council* (1230 W. Greenleaf Ave.) for its “Artist on the Wall” outreach project for teens and seniors
- *McGuane Park Therapeutic Recreation program* (2901 S. Poplar Ave.) and Pros Arts Studio for a mural project
- *Washington Park Advisory Council* (5101 S. Hyde Park Blvd.) for its “Discovery Days” stewardship program
- *Woodhull Playground* (7340 E. End Ave.) for its “Up and Coming” summer special event

Friends of the Parks’ seed grants helped local park groups landscape and beautify parks, add exciting park programs, and develop alliances to foster success in the work of volunteer park groups.

### Garfield Park Conservatory Bursts with Activities

In the summer of 2001, the Chicago Park District began holding public hearings regarding a framework plan for the future of the 185-acre Garfield Park on Chicago’s west side. Since 1996, the District has funded \$8 million in capital improvements at the Conservatory, rebuilding Horticultural Hall, renovating the Aroid House, constructing a new entryway and classrooms, and completing a new Children’s Garden. At the same time, the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, a new organization established by Friends of the Parks in 1995 to provide education programs at the Conservatory, contributed another \$4 million in programming and visitor services. As a result, attendance at the Conservatory increased from 3,000 people a year in 1995 to 150,000 people a year in 2000. In addition, the Chicago Transit Authority officially opened a new \$7 million Conservatory / Central Park Green Line “L” station at Lake Street and Central Park Avenue. The framework plan will build on the success of these projects.

In the fall of 2001, the Park District announced that Dale Chihuly, one of the nation’s most innovative artists and the country’s pre-eminent creator of sculptures in glass, had chosen the Garfield Park Conservatory for an enormous display of his work entitled “Garden of Glass.” The Conservatory announced it would host the display for over ten months, during the entire winter and early spring, from November 2001 through September 2002.

### Friends of the Parks Behind Campus / Park Program

Friends of the Parks worked to involve citizens in the conversion of 25 additional asphalt-paved public school yards to children’s parks. We have worked with the City’s City-Space program, the Board of Education, the Chicago Park District and local groups to add 25 new parks each year for the last four years (1998-2001).

### Renovated Parks Now Offer Accessibility

In 2001, the Chicago Park District completed work on four playgrounds that now offer accessibility for children with disabilities. Three park renovations include Galewood Park in the Austin community, Cotton Tail Playground in the Near South Side, and Bosley Playground in Bridgeport. A brand new park, Artesian Park, was constructed in the Humboldt Park community. Friends of the Parks worked closely with the community on the new Artesian park site. At the request of Friends of the Parks,

Senator Miguel del Valle secured \$100,000 from the Illinois First program to fund the project. With this commitment secured, the Chicago Park District then allocated the remaining \$60,000 to complete the new playground.

### Friends of the Parks Undertakes Study of Cook County Forest Preserves

Although many Chicagoans consider the Cook County Forest Preserves bordering the City as their neighborhood parks, for 25 years Friends of the Parks focused only on the parks within City limits. In January 2001 Friends of the Parks joined forces with Friends of the Forest Preserves to undertake a formal study of the operations, budget, management, land acquisition policies, and security measures of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, as well as the use of 68,000 acres of Forest Preserves by over 40 million visitors each year.

The two groups commissioned Stephen Christy, former Supervisor of Planning and Design at the Lake County Forest Preserve District, and former Executive Director of the Lake Forest Open Lands Association, to head up the study. The groups testified at the Cook County Forest Preserve Board on the budget for 2001, including park restoration projects and capital improvements. The groups released Phase I of the final report in early 2002.

In addition to commissioning this study, Friends of the Parks also organized clean-ups in Beubien Woods, Dan Ryan Woods, and Eggers Grove, all a part of the Cook County Forest Preserves.

### Park Dedicated in Memory of Jeffrey S. Green

In March 2001, the Chicago Park District approved changing the name of Edgebrook Playlot Park (6500 North Algonquin Ave.) to Jeffrey S. Green Park, in memory of the former president of Friends of the Parks. Jeff Green lived in the community, and served as an advocate for parks throughout the City of



THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT APPROVED CHANGING THE NAME OF EDGEBROOK PLAYLOT PARK (6500 N. ALGONQUIN AVE.) TO JEFFREY S. GREEN PARK, IN MEMORY OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF FRIENDS OF THE PARKS. THIS CHARMING 1.14-ACRE PARK INCLUDES A CHILDREN’S PLAYGROUND AND A LARGE GROVE OF MATURE TREES.

Chicago. Privately, for many years he collected donated bulbs and plants from Edgebrook nurseries and recruited friends to plant them in his community.

Publicly, he served on Friends of the Parks' Board of Directors for seven years. As a member of Friends of the Parks' Board he helped lead efforts to clean up playlots and beaches all over the City. As chairman of Friends of the Parks from 1997 to 1999, Jeff saw many of our high-profile recommendations finally become reality, including the Museum Campus and relocation of Lake Shore Drive at the south end of Grant Park and the beginning of the Millennium Park construction at the north end of Grant Park.

Friends of the Parks proposed naming a park in his honor and worked with the Park District to improve the park. The District installed new play equipment, planted trees, and improved the landscape. Friends of the Parks purchased new play equipment for the children's playground. After completing the renovation, the District officially dedicated the park on August 14, 2001. We thank the Chicago Park District and the Edgebrook Community Association for their support.

## VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS: OUR GREATEST ASSET

### Earth Day Volunteers Clean 100 Parks

Volunteers for Friends of the Parks' 12th Annual Citywide Earth Day Parks Clean-Up on April 21, 2001 worked tirelessly at more than 100 parks. Over 3,000 volunteers participated in their local parks by mulching trees, removing trash, planting and preparing garden beds, and conducting other beautification efforts. Our dedicated volunteers removed 1,110 bags of trash, recycled 600 blue bags, mulched over 100 trees and made our Chicago parks beautiful. Friends of the Parks extends a big thank you to all of our volunteers who made this event possible.

After the clean-up, Friends of the Parks in partnership with ComEd, the Chicago Park District, Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, Keep Chicago Beautiful, Lincoln Park Boat Club, Hendrickson Care of Trees and the EPA celebrated with more than 800 community members and volunteers at Garfield Park's Earth Day Fair. The fair included inspirational speeches, live music, hands-on activities for families, recycled art and instrument projects, kayaking demonstrations and tree climbing.

### Volunteers Clean and Green During Community Service Days

Children's playgrounds, neighborhood parks, regional parks, and parts of the lakefront benefited from the nearly 1,000 volunteers from corporations and universities who cleaned and greened the parks before and after the winter season. Friends of the Parks' community service workday projects in 2001 included:

More than 250 students from Illiana Christian High School in south suburban Lansing, Illinois helped clean up Cook County Forest Preserve District's Beaubien Woods on the south side of Chicago.

As a way to promote its new Family Service and Learning Center, Ford Motor Company worked with Friends of the Parks to host a clean-up in Beaubien Woods.

Twenty-five employees of Bain and Company helped clean up Touhy-Herbert Park (2107 W. Monroe Street) on the City's west side.

Thirty volunteers from Congregation Sinai helped remove debris from the perimeters of Horner Park (2741 W. Montrose

Avenue) along the banks of the Chicago River, and helped prepare the baseball field for its upcoming season.

Students in an environmental biology course at Kellogg Middle School completed a community service day in Dan Ryan Woods by cleaning the south grounds of the forest preserve and removing weeds from the trails.

At Hermitage Park (5839 S. Wood Street), Mt. Carmel Church volunteers planted flowers, mulched trees, and spread woodchips in the children's playground.

GATX Corporation worked with Friends of the Parks to clean and paint Lowe Playground Park (3050 S. Lowe Avenue).



VOLUNTEERS FROM WILLIAMS COLLEGE ALUMNI GROUP INSTALLED FIBAR — SPECIALLY-FORMULATED WOODCHIPS FOR CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS — AT DUNBAR PARK (300 E. 31ST STREET) DURING A PARK SERVICE DAY.



MEMBERS OF THE BESSEMER PARK AND ECKHART PARK THERAPEUTIC RECREATION PROGRAMS WORKED VERY HARD TO CLEAN UP BEAUBIEN WOODS DURING FRIENDS OF THE PARKS' PUBLIC LANDS DAY CLEAN-UP PROJECT.

**Businesses, Community Groups and Schools  
Sign on for Adopt-a-Park Program**

In 2001, each of ninety-one groups maintained and beautified parks, completing six workdays throughout the year through Friends of the Parks' Adopt-a-Park program. Volunteers removed and recycled litter, planted flowers and trees, painted over graffiti, replaced and spread soft surfacing around children's play equipment, and monitored the care and maintenance provided by the Chicago Park District at their neighborhood parks and playgrounds.

**Volunteers Restore and Enhance Natural Habitats  
During Public Lands Day**

On September 29, 2001 Friends of the Parks hosted clean-ups at three sites during national Public Lands Day, a program of the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation in Washington, D.C. During this eighth annual event, volunteers restored and enhanced natural habitats around the country. In Chicago, Friends of the Parks recruited volunteers to improve three sites.

At Dan Ryan Woods on Chicago's south side, twenty students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades at Kellogg Middle School removed litter and debris from the duck pond area in the 89th Street Grove.

In Beaubien Woods on Chicago's south side, participants from two Chicago Park District therapeutic recreation programs (Eckhart Park and Bessemer Park) worked alongside community residents to remove debris and clean up the shoreline, wetland and prairie area. Approximately 50 people worked throughout the day to clean up the area.

At Sunnyside Gardens, between Wilson Avenue and Sunnyside and just west of the Ravenswood railroad tracks, ten volunteers weeded, mulched and cleaned up the two-block stretch of community gardens. Volunteers included members of the Ravenswood Garden Club, the Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce, and community members. The 47th Ward Department of Streets and Sanitation and the Department of Forestry helped by providing labor and mulch.

## WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE A GOOD PARK, ACCORDING TO AUTHOR PETER HARNIK

Peter Harnik, author of *Inside City Parks*, spoke at Friends of the Parks' Annual Meeting and shared his views on what it takes to make a good park.

**PHYSICAL.**

"You want something that highlights the topographic, geographic speciality of the city. In Denver, the mountains. In St. Louis, the river. In the case of Chicago, that's the lakefront."

**LINKAGE.**

"It's not enough to have a few isolated parks. You need greenways or a conceptual linkage."

**EQUALITY.**

"There should be equity among the neighborhoods. Not [parks] just for the rich."

**ADVOCACY.**

"You also need a strong private-sector park advocacy system to lobby parks and hold the park district's seats to the fire if they do something wrong. Chicago is excellent on that."

**PREDICTABLE FUNDING.**

"Chicago Park District gets a portion of property tax, day in, day out."

**ADVISORY.**

"Have a park advisory board to work along with paid staff. It's an excellent go-between [between] citizens and staff. I think the best kinds are elected. Chicago has a board appointed by the mayor."

**COMMITMENT.**

"You want a city that is fully committed to parks, not just a park district [that is]."



# ANNUAL MEETING AND FUNDRAISERS

## ANNUAL MEETING AND AWARDS CELEBRATION

On January 23, 2001, Friends of the Parks' members, friends and supporters gathered for the 25th Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration at the Chicago Cultural Center. Peter Harnik, author of *Inside City Parks*, encouraged the 170 guests in attendance to continue working to improve Chicago's parks.

Based on his study of urban parks around the country, Harnik gave Chicago's park system a mixed review. Because of the work of Daniel Burnham, A. Montgomery Ward, Frederick Law Olmsted and others, Chicago has the greenest, most accessible, and most inviting lakefront in the United States. Unfortunately, noted Harnik, Chicago's parks suffer in comparison to cities of similar density such as Boston and Philadelphia as one moves away from the lake. Harnik traces much of this to the several decades of neglect Chicago parks suffered between the Depression and the 1990s. He has also said that he thinks the best park boards are elected, rather than appointed, like the Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners.

Harnik urges cities to support park systems in good times and bad by using increased tax revenues to build parks in good times and buying cheap land during bad times. He notes that parks consistently pay for themselves by increasing property values in the surrounding neighborhood. The best park systems come from a combination of a compelling vision, a consistent plan, dynamic leadership, recognition of the economic value of parks, a citywide commitment to parks, and an entrepreneurial park district or parks department.

## EDUCATION AND MEMBER SERVICES

In 2001, Friends of the Parks organized a series of bicycling, bus and walking tours through many of Chicago's historic parks. We sponsored member education forums and produced a quarterly newsletter.

### John H. Bryan, Chairman of Sara Lee Corporation, Honored at Parks Ball 2001

In May 2001, Friend of the Parks hosted its 12th annual Parks Ball black tie gala at the Mid-America Club on the 80th floor of the Aon Center, across Randolph Drive from Millennium Park. Friend of the Parks honored John H. Bryan, Chairman of the Board of Sara Lee Corporation, for his work as the co-chairman of Millennium Park Inc., the private sector committee that has worked with the City to raise over \$100 million in private dollars for the development of Millennium Park. The project will add more than one million square feet of urban parkland to Chicago's lakefront and will feature an outdoor music pavilion and pedestrian bridge designed by Frank Gehry, public sculpture



U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN JAN SHATKOWSKY (LEFT) AND ELEANOR ROEMER, GENERAL COUNSEL/PUBLIC TRUST & POLICY DIRECTOR OF FRIENDS OF THE PARKS, STAND NEXT TO A DISPLAY OF ARTIST ANISH KAPOOR'S SCULPTURE FOR MILLENNIUM PARK.

designed by Anish Kapoor, a 21st Century fountain, the Music and Dance Theater Chicago, an ice skating rink, a garden, and outdoor event spaces.

### 9,000 Bicyclists Ride under the Moonlight During The L.A.T.E. Ride 2001

In July 2001, Friends of the Parks hosted its 13th annual non-competitive, after-midnight bicycle ride, and raised over \$200,000 for its citywide park advocacy work. Nine thousand participants began their trek between 1:30 a.m. – 2:15 a.m. from Buckingham Fountain, then headed through downtown Chicago, northwest to Montrose and Pulaski, east to Montrose Avenue Beach, and back south to a sunrise breakfast in Grant Park. Along the 25-mile route, cyclists enjoyed refreshments at two rest stops.

We thank all our sponsors, and particularly our major supporter, WGN-TV Children's Charities, for making this year's ride such a success. Mark your calendar now for The L.A.T.E. Ride 2002 on Saturday night / Sunday morning, July 14th.



FRIENDS OF THE PARKS HOSTED ITS 13TH ANNUAL NON-COMPETITIVE, AFTER-MIDNIGHT BICYCLE RIDE ON SATURDAY NIGHT/SUNDAY MORNING JULY 15. NINE THOUSAND PARTICIPANTS BEGAN THEIR TREK FROM BUCKINGHAM FOUNTAIN DURING OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISING EVENT OF THE YEAR.



ENJOYING THE PARKS BALL ARE (LEFT TO RIGHT) ED UHLIR, DIRECTOR OF MILLENNIUM PARK PROJECT; TOM SANBERG, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF FRIENDS OF THE PARKS; ERMA TRANTER, PRESIDENT OF FRIENDS OF THE PARKS; JOHN H. BRYAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SARA LEE CORPORATION AND THE PARKS BALL 2001 HONOREE; AND ARCHITECT JOHN VINCI.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2002

Friends of the Parks' programs, events and goals for 2002 include:

- The completion of a study of the Chicago Park District's therapeutic recreation program for children and adults with special needs and publication of the subsequent report, plus continued work with the Citywide Therapeutic Recreation Advisory Council to review and direct the research project.
- A new Student Stewardship Initiative at three city schools in which we will teach students about the importance of urban parks and park history in return for community service hours in their neighborhood park.
- Recruitment of at least 4,000 volunteers for our Earth Day Citywide Parks Clean-Up on April 20, 2002.
- Recruitment of 1,000 or more volunteers for Public Lands Day on September 28, 2002.
- Expansion of our citywide Adopt-a-Park program to 100 parks.
- Continuation of our Build-a-Park program, which will focus on two new park sites for 2002: 5300 S. Halsted and 2845 W. Arthington.
- Completion of a report on the Cook County Forest Preserve District.
- Distribution of "seed" grants to help local park groups landscape and beautify parks, add exciting park programs and foster success in the work of volunteer park groups.
- Co-sponsorship of the Osaka Garden Festival in Jackson Park in summer 2002.
- Sponsorship of a series of exciting member forums, park tours and special events.

## LOVE AT THE L.A.T.E. RIDE

Angel seat and bike helmet, how romantic! When Scott Jackson took Julie Shatkowsky on their first date, he knew better than to bring flowers. After all, what would Julie do with flowers when they rode together in The L.A.T.E. Ride 1999? Instead, he proved he cared with gifts near and dear to any cyclist.

A year later, still dating, the couple signed up for The L.A.T.E. Ride 2000. And what did Scott bring this time? Oh, just a diamond ring!

Julie told us, "We had such a great time on The L.A.T.E. Ride, our first date, that I should have expected the proposal on the bike ride the following year. But it was a total surprise. Scott found the exact spot where we watched the sun rise on our first date. We watched the sun come up, and then he proposed. He asked a fellow L.A.T.E. Ride participant to take our picture, whispering to him, 'Just keep taking pictures...I'm going to propose.'"

So naturally, The L.A.T.E. Ride 2001 brought Scott and Julie to the next step in their relationship: the wedding. They married on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, and after the reception, the newlyweds cycled in The L.A.T.E. Ride after midnight! They were tired, but said, "The memories were worth it!"



JULIE AND SCOTT'S FIRST DATE IN 1999.



SCOTT PROPOSES DURING THE L.A.T.E. RIDE 2000.



THE NEWLYWEDS CYCLE IN THE L.A.T.E. RIDE 2001 JUST HOURS AFTER THEIR WEDDING!

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October 1, 2000 –  
September 30, 2001

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Friends of the Parks thanks the following individuals for generously donating to the Soldier Field Fund, a special fund created in 2001 to support Friends of the Parks' legal work challenging the use of public parkland for private use.

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October 1, 2000 –  
 September 30, 2001

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Friends of the Parks thanks the following individuals, corporations and foundations for their generous support of the Parks Ball.

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Sara Lee Corporation

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## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

October 1, 2000 – September 30, 2001

### Revenue

Membership Contributions	\$ 97,990
Corporate Contributions	\$ 32,550
Foundation Grants	\$ 186,000
The L.A.T.E. Ride 2001	\$ 355,871
Parks Ball 2001 Benefit	\$ 101,962
Park Tours and Special Events	\$ 1,440
Environmental Fund of Illinois	\$ 911
Miscellaneous / Interest	\$ 9,847
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$786,571</b>

### Expenses

Education / Member Services	\$ 88,607
Volunteers in Parks Program	\$ 126,723
Neighborhood Greening Initiative	\$ 116,309
Policy and Research Program	\$ 116,866
The L.A.T.E. Ride 2001	\$ 143,272
Parks Ball 2001 Benefit	\$ 47,082
Park Tours and Special Events	\$ 77,699
Administration	\$ 84,049
Seed Grant Program	\$ 5,200
Depreciation	\$ 2,718
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$808,525</b>

(Deficiency) Excess Revenue Over Expenses (\$21,954)

### Fund Balance

Beginning of Year	\$ 307,157
End of Year	\$ 306,344

## WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Friends of the Parks helps residents with questions, problems and issues concerning their neighborhood parks. If you have concerns you wish to discuss or help solve, you may contact us in one of the following ways:

Phone (312) 857-2757

Fax (312) 857-0656

Web site [www.fotp.org](http://www.fotp.org)

Address 55 E. Washington, Suite 1911, Chicago, IL 60602



AT THE EARTH DAY FAIR IN GARFIELD PARK, CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN CRAFT PROJECTS, TREE CLIMBING AND OTHER HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES.

**Yes! I'll help preserve, protect and improve Chicago's parks. Sign me up as a member today! Enclosed is my contribution.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student/Senior   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Protector    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Advisory Council | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Patron      |
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- My check payable to **Friends of the Parks** is enclosed.
- My company's matching gift form is enclosed so that the value of my contribution will be multiplied.
- Please charge my credit card:  VISA  MasterCard

ACCOUNT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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*Thank you for your generous support!*

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## ANNUAL REPORT

**Editor:** Erma Tranter

**Managing Editor and Writer:** Nancy Minster Swabb

### Photography Credits:

**Cover:** Sherman Park Bridge; **Page 1:** Tree and Lagoon; **Page 7:** Osaka Gardens — Frank Dina. Friends of the Parks thanks Frank Dina for sharing his photographs of Chicago's parks. Chicago native and fine art photographer Frank Dina has cast a fresh eye on our city's natural gems in a new book called *Chicago Parks Rediscovered*. The vision of a "garden in a city" is reflected in 54 color photographs of well-known and lesser-visited Chicago parks. The book is available at your local bookstore.

**Page 8** — L.A.T.E. Ride photo by Robert Lightfoot

IN GARFIELD PARK, ADULTS AND CHILDREN VOLUNTEERED SIDE-BY-SIDE TO PLANT FLOWERS DURING FRIENDS OF THE PARKS' 12TH ANNUAL CITYWIDE EARTH DAY PARKS CLEAN-UP.





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