



Friends of the Parks Advocate

Fall 2001

Chicago Bears Stadium Design Desecrates National Historic Monument Honoring Nation's Armed Forces

On October 3rd, 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 of Chicago will cover any shortfall, officials announced.

Friends of the Parks' two pending lawsuits challenge the legality of the stadium plan, which would continue a wasteful use of a key public lakefront park, as well as the misuse of public monies.

The first suit challenges the Chicago Plan Commission's approval of the

commercial sports stadium project based on a deficient analysis, under the Lakefront Protection Ordinance. So far in two actions to dismiss the first case, the Court has ruled in favor of Friends of the Parks. The merits of Friends of the Parks' first lawsuit are scheduled to be heard in the Circuit Court of Cook County on November 15th.

The second lawsuit challenges the use of public parkland for the primary benefit of a private football corporation, as well as the state's funding legislation. The defendants (Chicago Park District, City of Chicago, Chicago Bears and Illinois Sports Facility Authority) have filed a motion to dismiss the

lawsuit, as they did in the challenge based on the Lakefront Protection Ordinance. A hearing date has been set for December 20th.

The week before the sale of bonds, the City announced that the naming rights to Soldier Field no longer remain part of the Bears stadium deal. However, Friends of the Parks has witnessed no change in the contract documents. In fact, the documents still state that the Bears have entitlement rights to the name of Soldier Field, provided that the Chicago Park District approves the name. It appears that the Bears can reopen the naming rights issue in the future.

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Soldier Field is a noble structure, a national historic landmark, dedicated to Americans who served in our armed forces.



The visual domination of Soldier Field by this proposed addition destroys its historical significance.

Chicago Bears (cont'd)

This decision not to sell naming rights, while an important issue, fails to change the fact that the stadium design would desecrate not just the name, but the very monument itself. Construction of a 16-story glass and steel stadium within the walls of the original Soldier Field, towering over its Doric colonnades, will defile a monument that honors all of America's armed forces.

Soldier Field is a National Historic Monument. It is on the National List of Historic Places along with the Lincoln Monument and the Washington Memorial in Washington, D.C. On August 19, 1925, Chicagoans dedicated Soldier Field to the men and women in the armed forces. Indeed, the original prize-winning design was a U-shaped stadium opening toward the Field Museum and intended for public gatherings 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 men and women soldiers with a public arena that would inspire nobility, dignity and civic virtues. The prize-winning structure succeeded, and for 80 years Soldier Field stood tall as a monument to our nation's soldiers. This will end if the Chicago Bears build a new stadium inside the original Soldier Field. The spaceship-like design so violates the classic architecture that the National Park Service (the agency that oversees National Monuments in America) plans to strike Soldier Field from the list of National Monuments. In that case, the stadium itself would no longer be

recognized as a national monument to our nation's soldiers.

Imagine the furor if someone proposed building a football stadium between the Lincoln and Washington monuments in Washington, D.C. Why shouldn't Soldier Field be just as beloved to us as the Mall is to our nation's capitol or the Statue of Liberty is to New York?

The City has an opportunity to create a state-of-the-art football stadium from the ground up adjacent to Comiskey Park. At the same time, the Park District could restore Soldier Field to its original U-shape and use it as a place for public gatherings and a worthy memorial for our soldiers. In addition, the Park District could convert 60-70 acres of concrete parking lots from the lakefront to public parkland.

Instead, the City and Park District are currently on the verge of making an old mistake even worse by plopping a spaceship-like structure on top of the Doric columns, abandoning all pretense of preserving the monument, field and public park.

The Bears' commercial sports stadium project is a bad deal for Chicago. It violates the Lakefront Protection Ordinance and the National Landmark status of Soldier Field. Further, this commercial sports stadium project, which primarily benefits the Chicago Bears, a private corporation, represents a gross misuse of public funds as well as 96 acres of publicly-dedicated lakefront parkland. 🌳

Near South Side Neighborhood Dedicates New Mandrake Park in Honor of Community Leader

On August 25th, the Park District dedicated Mandrake Park, naming it after Henry McNeil "Mandrake" Brown. In 1990, Mandrake started a grassroots effort to remove alcohol and tobacco related billboards, especially those targeting children, from the Oakland neighborhood on Chicago's south side. He founded the Citywide Coalition Against Tobacco and Alcohol Billboards and the National Association of African-Americans for Positive Imagery.

Mayor Richard M. Daley; David Doig, Superintendent of the Chicago Park District; Dr. Margaret Burroughs, a Park District Commissioner; Congressman Bobby Rush; State Representative Lou Jones; and the Mandrake Park Advisory Council participated in the dedication

ceremony. Several dance groups performed. Despite challenging weather, the dedication was a success.

Plans for the new park began in the early 1990s, when the Chicago Department of Transportation undertook improvements to Pershing Road and Oakwood Boulevard and made land available to the Chicago Park District for a park. The Chicago Park District then began planning a new park between the two parallel streets. After acquiring the land in 1998, the Chicago Park District developed plans for a multipurpose athletic field, a quarter-mile running track and a children's playground. The Chicago Park District completed the park construction earlier this year. 🌳

Friends of the Parks and Landmarks Preservation Council Host Public Forum on Best Location for New Bears Stadium

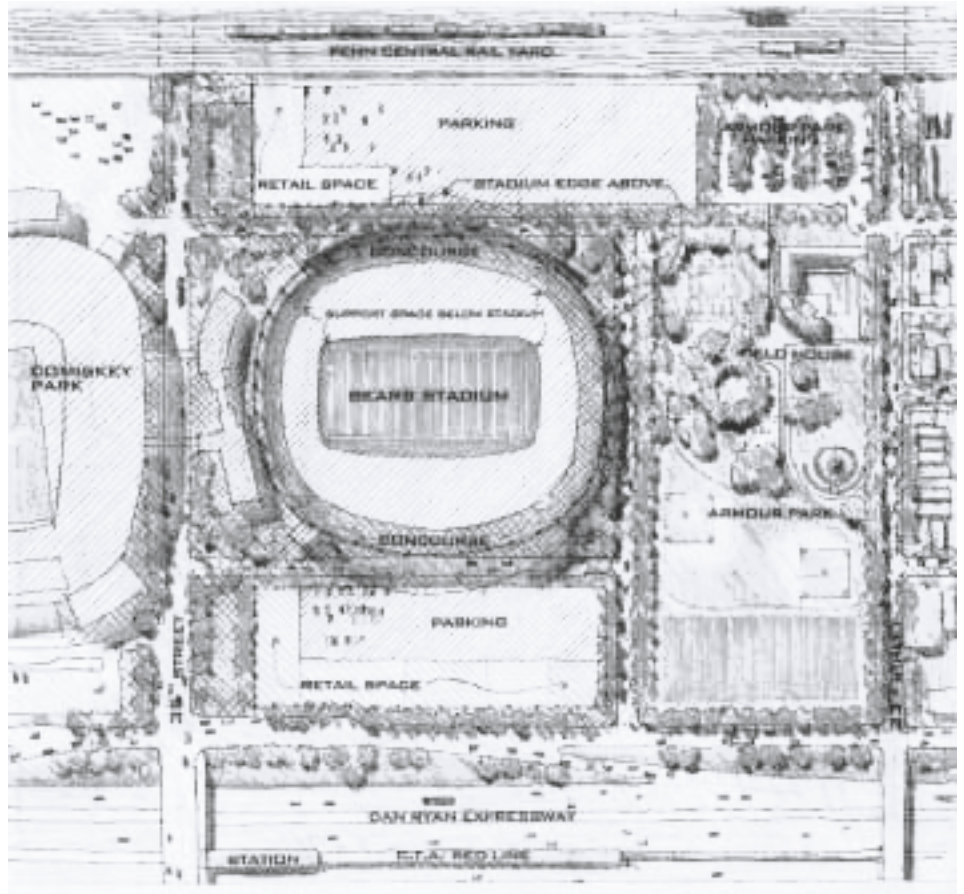
While two lawsuits move ahead in the courts, Friends of the Parks and Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois continue to work on finding an alternate site for a new Chicago Bears stadium. On October 17th, the two groups sponsored an open public forum and panel discussion focusing on the best location for a new football stadium.

Two Chicago architects, John Buenz and Joe Antunovich, presented slides to illustrate the many advantages of a new, state-of-the-art Chicago Bears Stadium near Comiskey Park on Chicago's south side.

Comiskey Park is located at 35th Street and the Dan Ryan Expressway. Approximately 25 acres of concrete parking lots remain north of the baseball stadium at 35th Street. Traffic engineer and consultant Richard Hocking explained that from a traffic perspective, the site near Comiskey Park offers significant advantages over Soldier Field. The site is adjacent to the Dan Ryan Expressway with several exit ramps nearby. The Stevenson and Eisenhower east-west expressways both link to the Dan Ryan. Public transit is available with nearby stops on both the Green and Red CTA lines.

John Buenz presented architectural renderings showing how a new state-of-the-art Bears stadium would fit within this 25-acre site. He suggested that two double-layered parking lots would maintain the current number of parking spaces. He also recommended adding retail space, cafes and restaurants to the street level of the parking garages, providing an economic development component to the area.

In Buenz's plan, Armour Square Park (3309 S. Shields Avenue) would expand from 8 to 9.5 acres. While the stadium would need a narrow piece of the park's



At the recent public forum, Chicago architect John Buenz presented this conceptual plan for a new Chicago Bears football stadium north of Comiskey Park between 35th Street and Armour Square Park on 33rd Street. The plan offers a net gain of two acres for Armour Square Park and ample space for decked parking structures with commercial/concession space at street level.

south end, the park would expand to the east and west. Buenz reminded the audience that Frederick Law Olmsted designed Armour Square Park and Daniel Burnham designed the park's fieldhouse. The Park District significantly altered the landscape in 1940. Buenz's plan provides an opportunity to redesign Armour Square in the beautiful Olmsted tradition.

Chicago architect Joe Antunovich presented a series of slides highlighting newly-built sports stadiums in Japan; Sidney, Australia; Liverpool, England; Phoenix, Arizona; Houston, Texas;

St. Louis, Missouri; and others. Most of the exciting new designs feature retractable domes, making the facilities usable year-round for many types of events. David Bahlman, President of Landmarks Preservation Council; Reuben Hedlund, attorney and former chairperson of the Chicago Plan Commission; Richard Hocking, traffic engineer and consultant; Lester Munson, Associate Editor of *Sports Illustrated* magazine; and Erma Tranter, President of Friends of the Parks, served as panelists and encouraged questions from the audience. 🌱

Nature Museum's Proposed Expansion Raises Big Issues

Friends of the Parks recently 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 move the current terrace to the third floor.

After an onsite tour of the facility and the surrounding park, and after an analysis of the Chicago Plan Commission's 1995 approval of the Nature Museum in Lincoln Park, Friends of the Parks believes 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.

In 1995, Friends of the Parks advocated for placing the Nature Museum's administrative offices at an off-park site in the 2060 N. Clark building. We further noted that both the Art Institute and the Chicago Historical Society utilize off-site facilities for non-gallery uses. We commended the Nature Museum for choosing

to house its offices away from the park. Further, the covenants in the Plan Commission's approval of the Nature Museum construction project responded to many community concerns, namely traffic congestion and appropriate park use of this significant location in Lincoln Park. We believe these covenants are binding.

The 2400 North Lakeview Condominium Association passed a resolution



Officials at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum wish to enclose its 5,600 square foot second-floor terrace on the building's west side to provide on-site office space, and move the current terrace to the third floor.

strongly opposing the Nature Museum's plan. The association issued a statement saying, "The moving of all administrative staff to the park location is a violation of the original plan for the site approved by the Chicago Plan Commission on March 16, 1995 under the Lakefront Protection Ordinance."

The North Pond Task Force (NPTF) does not support the Nature Museum's proposal. The NPTF recommends that: "1) the task force, as well as the larger community, be involved with the full public process; 2) the museum's long-term master plan for construction and landscaping be considered as part of this process; and 3) the plan be approved by the majority of the community and the Chicago Plan Commission."

At press time, the Nature Museum appears to be moving ahead with the sale of the 2060 N. Clark building despite strong community opposition. 🌱

Community Opposes Proposed Culinary Institute On Top Two Floors of the South Shore Cultural Center

The City Colleges of Chicago and its partner, the Culinary Institute of America, have proposed constructing a training center for chefs 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, objects to the proposal because it does not serve the purposes of a cultural center in a public park.

The advisory council further notes that the plan would require significant alterations affecting the exterior appearance of the Cultural Center, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Finally, under the plan many students would park in the Center's small



The City Colleges of Chicago and its partner, the Culinary Institute of America, have proposed constructing a \$10 million training center for chefs on the top two floors of the South Shore Cultural Center (shown above). The South Shore Cultural Center, with support from Friends of the Parks, objects to the proposal because it does not serve the purposes of a cultural center in a public park.

(continued on page 5)

Culinary Institute (cont'd)

parking lot, making it less accessible to recreational users and less safe for pedestrians and children.

The non-profit Culinary Institute aims to educate college students for careers in the hospitality industry. While Friends of the Parks salutes the Culinary Institute's program, it agrees with the advisory council that the program should find a non-park location more suitable for its educational job training programs.

The recently-completed South Lakefront Framework Plan — developed over two years by community members, the South Shore Cultural Center advisory council and Friends of the Parks — proposed a vision for the long-term future of recreational and cultural programming at South Shore Cultural Center Park. The plan includes developing the upper floors for expanded cultural programs. The Chicago Park District and Chicago Plan Commission approved the plan last year.

Instead of carrying out the recommendations of the Framework Plan, the Chicago Park District is now proposing an agreement with City Colleges for the culinary training center. This agreement interferes with short-term plans for the Cultural Center and clearly threatens long-term plans for the building's continued development as a cultural gem.

The acquisition and renovation of the South Shore Cultural Center by the Chicago Park District for public use and enjoyment should make all of us proud. Now we have the responsibility to ensure that the public's use is enhanced, not diminished. 🌱

Friends Indeed

Major contributors August 1, 2001 through October 1, 2001

We gratefully acknowledge these important contributors who so generously support Friends of the Parks.

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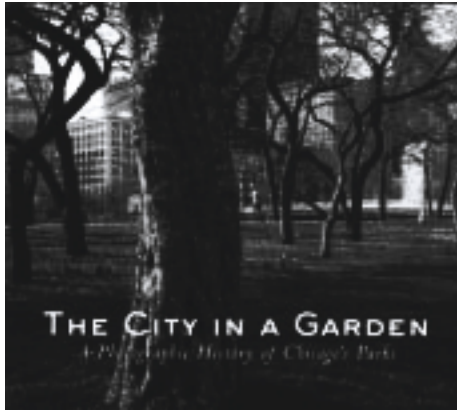
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New Photographic Book Reveals Chicago's Park History

The Chicago Park District recently published the first official history of Chicago parks. The new book reflects the city's motto, "City in a Garden," which it picked up in the early 19th century.



*The Chicago Park District recently published the first official history of Chicago parks, titled *The City in a Garden: A Photographic History of Chicago's Parks*.*

The City in a Garden: A Photographic History of Chicago's Parks traces the story from the early 1800s when officials believed in keeping lakefront property open, to revolutionary parks emerging on the South Side, through the years when Grant Park served as a dumping ground for garbage and squatters' shacks, to the late 1800s when A. Montgomery Ward fought to keep Chicago's lakefront forever open, clear and free.

By 1934, Chicago had 22 independent park districts, all of them poor because of the Depression.

In World War II, parks and recreation staff received Red Cross training. After the war, a period of park expansion set in. During the 1960s and '70s, recreation became the focus. In the

early 1980s, the Park District was sued over inequitable distribution of resources and settled with a consent decree.

"Nearly a quarter of Chicago's existing 555 parks, in fact, were created or shaped by some of the nation's most significant architects, landscape designers and artists, such as Frederick Law Olmsted, Daniel H. Burnham, Jens Jensen, Alfred Caldwell and Lorado Taft," writes Julia Sniderman Bachrach, Park District historian and the book's author.

An exhibit of pictures from the 184-page book is on display at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum. *The City in a Garden: A Photographic History of Chicago's Parks* is available at the Garfield Park Conservatory, Borders and Barnes & Noble stores. 🌿

Playground Renovations at Four Parks Add Accessibility

The Chicago Park District recently completed renovations of four playgrounds that now offer accessibility for children with disabilities.

Crews installed new equipment and soft surface material, and replaced existing woodchips. The four 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 urging 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.

In August, the Park District added Kenwood Playground in the Hyde Park community to the list of playgrounds slated for renovation. The work will begin this fall. 🌿



The Chicago Park District recently completed renovations of four playgrounds that now offer accessibility for children with disabilities.

Progress Made to Protect Triangle Park in Rogers Park

Located in the Rogers Park neighborhood north of Howard Street, Triangle Park officially opened in the fall of 1987. At first merely a three-acre vacant lot after the City demolished deteriorating housing on the site, Triangle Park represents one of Chicago's largest community-managed parks. More than a decade ago, the community built a much-needed recreational greenspace. Neighborhood non-profit agencies formed the Triangle Park Corporation and maintained the park for 13 years until this year.

City officials have been working with the Chicago Park District to transfer the land to the Park District, but Alderman Joe Moore put the transfer on hold until a

local parking dilemma could be solved.

Two renovated condominiums east of the park require by law a designated private parking lot for unit owners. Because of a need for private parking for new low-income condo conversions, the developers sought to obtain a portion of the south third of the park for a 25-car private lot. Community members and Friends of the Parks worked to protect the park by developing alternative locations for parking.

As reported in our summer newsletter, Friends of the Parks received a grant from the Seabury Foundation to work with community members on a new park design and to evaluate open space needs in the area.

Friends of the Parks hired landscape architect Josephine Bellalta to work with community members to redesign Triangle Park and present alternative parking concepts. Working with the Howard Area Community Center, Family Matters, Alderman Joe Moore and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Friends of the Parks and the community have created alternate plans that would protect Triangle Park while providing the required 25 designated parking spaces in a city-vacated alley or diagonally along the park itself.

The Department of Housing and the Department of Planning are currently reviewing our proposals. 🌱

Friends of the Parks' Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration Set for January 24, 2002

Join us for Friends of the Parks' 26th Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration on Thursday, January 24, 2002 at the Chicago Cultural Center (78 E. Washington, Preston Bradley Hall). The buffet luncheon will begin at noon, followed at 12:30 p.m. by the annual awards program and keynote speech.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members, and free with purchase of a \$35 membership.

Annual Awards

Each year, Friends of the Parks recognizes individuals, community groups, park advisory councils, businesses and foundations that have made a significant impact on Chicago's parks.

Active citizen participation in park maintenance, monitoring, planning and financial support is critical to the revitalization of Chicago's parks. Please help us recognize Chicago's strongest park advocates.

Nominations Sought

Please submit your park advocacy award nominations now. Each nomination should describe the nominee and the contribution that individual or group

made to a park project during the past year.

The deadline for submission is Saturday, December 1, 2001. 🌱

Friends of the Parks' Annual Awards Celebration Nominations

I wish to nominate the following individual(s) / group(s) for a Park Advocacy Award. I have briefly described below the nominee and the contribution made to a park project during 2001.

Please send your nominations to arrive on or before Saturday, December 1, 2001 to:

Kristine Scott
Annual Awards
Friends of the Parks
55 E. Washington, Suite 1911
Chicago, IL 60602

If you have questions, please contact Kristine Scott at (312) 857-2757 ext. 14 or scottk@fotp.org.

Volunteers Clean and Green During Public Lands Day

On September 29th, 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.

National Public Lands Day 2001 focused on "Keeping the Promise" to protect natural lands and asked Americans to honor the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) by volunteering to improve public lands. From 1933 to 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt recruited a civilian army of approximately 3.5 million members to conserve our nation's natural resources. These CCC members planted approximately four billion trees, built parks, roads and hiking trails, and laid interstate telephone lines that became the basis for the internet. This year, the CCC passed the torch to the National Public Lands Day Partnership as keeper of their legacy to conserve natural resources.

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Carole Cusack (second from left) joins David Vick and Gerry Henaghan (right) to clean up the shoreline at Beaubien Woods on Chicago's south side.



Bea Tersch of the Ravenswood Garden Club removed debris and weeds from Sunnyside Gardens during the Public Lands Day clean-up project.



Corliss Hart (left) and Sean Whitehead take a break from removing debris at Beaubien Woods.

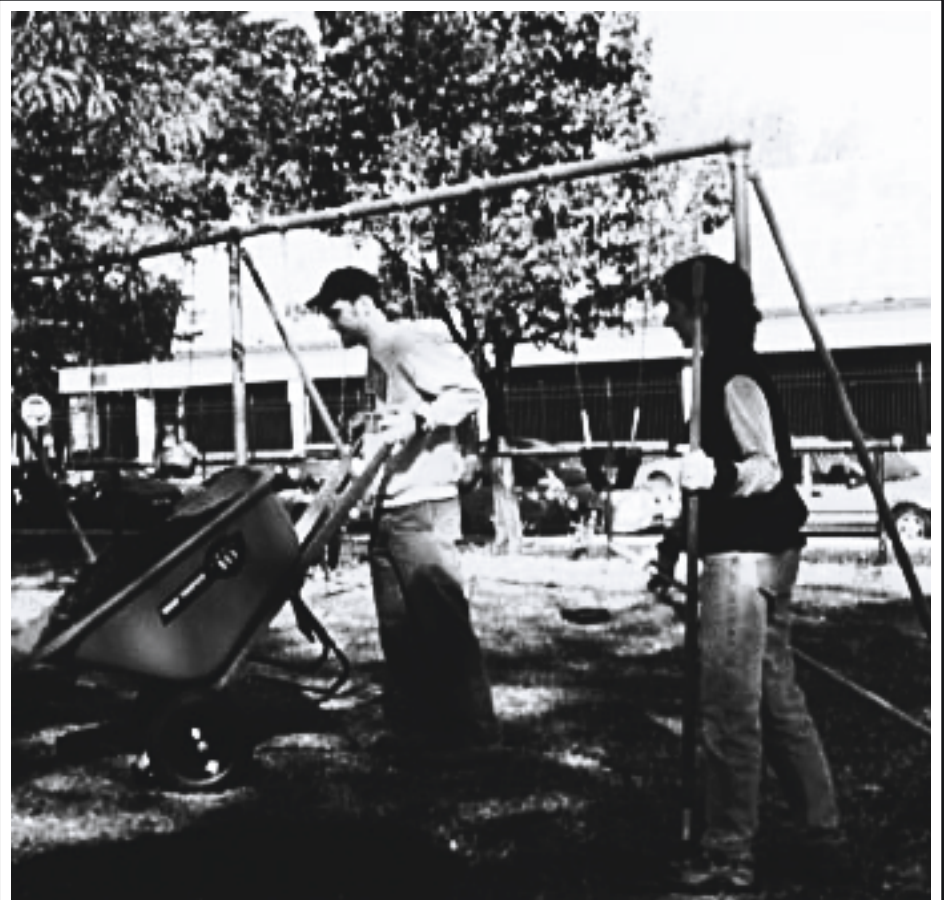
Public Lands Day (cont'd)

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.



Volunteers from Williams College Alumni group installed fiber—specially-formulated woodchips for children's playgrounds—at Dunbar Park (300 E. 31st Street) during a park service day on October 20th.

For more information about National Public Lands Day, log onto www.npld.com or call Mara Ruff, Friends of the Parks' Director of Volunteers, at (312) 857-2757 ext. 13. 🌱



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.



Anthony McClinton, Nicole Nunez, Joe Ailey and Ed Doby collected and removed many bags of debris at Beaubien Woods during Friends of the Parks' recent Public Lands Day clean-up project.

Renowned Artist Dale Chihuly To Exhibit Glass Sculptures At Garfield Park Conservatory


One of the nation's most innovative artists and the country's pre-eminent creator of sculptures in glass, has chosen Chicago for an enormous display of his work.

Running from November 23rd through May 19th, Dale Chihuly's "Garden of Glass" will be open to the public at the Garfield Park Conservatory.

Chihuly's installation of blown-glass sculptures and chandeliers will be displayed beneath two acres of glass roof at the West Side conservatory. His renowned glass art displays have included an installation at the Victoria & Albert

Museum in London and towering illuminated works last year in Jerusalem.

"Chihuly has had breathtaking displays featured in a variety of expected and unexpected locations," said Dr. Lisa Roberts, Chicago Park District Conservatory Director. "The Chicago Park District is honored to have Chihuly create an installation at the Conservatory, a house built using the medium for which he is known."

For more information on the exhibit, please call (312) 742-PLAY or visit the official Chihuly web site at www.chihuly.com or the Chicago Park District web site at chicagoparkdistrict.com. 



Dale Chihuly's work can be found in the permanent collections of approximately 200 museums around the world.


South Fieldhouse in Lincoln Park Restored

The Chicago Park District recently restored the South Fieldhouse in Lincoln Park, north of North Avenue and east of Stockton Drive.

Despite its spaciousness, the building for years featured no recreational opportunities and visitors used only its bathroom facilities.

The renovation reconfigured the space for multiple uses. DanceArt will offer classes in the main area. The bathrooms are now accessible to the public from both the inside and outside of the building. In addition, the Park District added a space for both an indoor and outdoor café.

The Northstar Eatery opened in early October. In the fall, the café will open at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast Monday through Friday, and at 8:00 a.m. on weekends. In late fall and winter, the indoor café space will be available for catered meetings and parties. Next spring and summer, diners will be able enjoy lunch on the outdoor deck.

For more information on the Northstar Eatery (1765 N. Stockton Drive), please call (773) 929-6075. 

Events calendar

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2001

TWELVE NOON*

Friends of the Parks' Member Forum, "A Review of the Proposed Chicago Park District 2002 Budget."

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2001

TWELVE NOON - 3:00 PM

GreenNet community gardener Potluck lunch in the Jensen Room of the Garfield Park Conservatory. Contact Jackie Guthrie at (312) 857-2757 ext. 15 or guthriej@fotp.org for more information.

NOVEMBER 23, 2001 - MAY 19, 2002

"Chihuly in the Park: A Garden of Glass" exhibit at the Garfield Park Conservatory will feature world-renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly's dynamic and beautiful creations. For more information, call (312) 742-4791 or visit the official Chihuly web site at www.chihuly.com.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2002

TWELVE NOON

Friends of the Parks will host its 26th Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration at the Chicago Cultural Center (78 E. Washington, Preston Bradley Hall). Tickets for the luncheon are \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members, and free with purchase of a \$35 membership. Contact Kristine Scott at (312) 857-2757 ext. 14 or scottk@fotp.org for more information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2002

6:30 PM*

Join Friends of the Parks, Lake Michigan Federation and the South Shore Cultural Center for a Member Forum titled "Beach Closings: Evaluating the Problems" at the South Shore Cultural Center (7059 South Shore Drive).



Friends of the Parks needs helpers for its VIP (Volunteers in Parks) program.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2002

6:30 PM*

Friends of the Parks and the Lincoln Park Advisory Council will host a Member Forum, "Concessions in the Parks: Evaluating Park Services" at the Lincoln Park Cultural Center (2045 N. Lincoln Park West).

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2002

9:00AM - 4:00PM

Friends of the Parks' annual Earth Day Citywide Parks Clean-Up from 9:00 a.m. until noon. To volunteer, contact Mara Ruff at (312) 857-2757 ext. 14 or ruffm@fotp.org. From 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., come to the Earth Day Fair featuring educational and hands-on activities, music and more.

APRIL 27, 2002

Purchase everything for your garden at GreenNet's "Green and Growing Fair" at the Garfield Park Conservatory.

APRIL 28, 2002

9:00 AM - TWELVE NOON**

Join Friends of the Parks for a 12-mile bicycle tour of Chicago's lakefront parks led by Erma Tranter, President.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2002

6:30 PM*

Friends of the Parks will host a Member Forum, "Lakefront Path Amenities: What's Working and What Can Be Improved?" at Daley Bicentennial Plaza (331 E. Randolph Street in Grant Park).

SPRING 2002

Friends of the Parks will host its 13th annual Parks Ball black tie gala in Spring 2002. If you would like more information or wish to join the planning committee for this exciting event, contact Nancy Minster Swabb at (312) 857-2757 ext. 11 or nancymswabb@hotmail.com.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

10:00 AM - TWELVE NOON**

Join Friends of the Parks and historian Douglas Anderson for a walking tour of historic Jackson Park.



Friends of the Parks offers many ways to get involved, from our Adopt-a-Park program to The L.A.T.E. Ride, our 25-mile, after-midnight bicycle ride.

SATURDAY NIGHT/SUNDAY MORNING

JULY 14, 2002

Get set for Friends of the Parks' L.A.T.E. Ride. The 14th annual after-midnight bicycle ride, which attracted 9,000 participants in 2001, takes riders along a 25-mile course through Chicago's downtown and north side neighborhoods and along the beautiful lakefront path. Log onto www.lateride.org for more information.

SATURDAY, JULY 20

10:00 AM - TWELVE NOON**

Join Friends of the Parks for a walking tour of Lincoln Park, featuring the Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool and the North Pond.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

10:00 AM - TWELVE NOON**

Join Friends of the Parks for a walking tour of Columbus Park, featuring the historic Prairie Style landscapes by Jens Jensen.

** All Member Forums listed above are free and open to members and the public*

*** All park tours listed above are free for members and the public and will begin at the selected park site.*

For more information or to RSVP for Member Forums and Park Tours listed above, please contact Kristine Scott at (312) 857-2757 ext. 11 or scottk@fotp.org.

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Friends of the Parks Advocate

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Community Activists Testify at Chicago Park District Budget Hearings

The Chicago Park District recently conducted its 2002 budget hearings to address capital and operational budgets. Community residents from around the city presented their recommendations. Most people requested that no cuts in programming or program staff occur at their local park in 2002.

Many expressed their strong support for making more facilities and programs throughout the city accessible for children and adults with disabilities. And others felt a need for more diverse and interesting senior programs.

Many residents encouraged the Park District to concentrate its resources on park and recreation services for children and adults in neighborhood parks. This includes retaining park program staff essential for viable community recreation programs. Several advisory council members requested that the Park District "pay attention to smaller parks" and "invest in staff" who run programs. People from around the city stated that their parks are seriously understaffed. 🌳

We'd Like to Hear From You!

Friends of the Parks often 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 / (312) 85-PARKS
FAX: (312) 857-0656
WEB SITE: www.fotp.org
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