



Friends of the Parks works to protect, preserve and improve Chicago's parks for all of its citizens.

Friends of the Parks Advocate

Fall 2003

Dr. Lisa Roberts Highlights Garfield Park Conservatory Renaissance at Recent "Tuesday Park Talk"

Dr. Lisa Roberts, Director of Conservatories for the Chicago Park District, served as the keynote speaker for Friends of the Parks' "Tuesday Park Talk" in October. Dr. Roberts presented an informative slide show about the ongoing restoration of the Garfield Park Conservatory.

This west side treasure has received more than \$8 million in new capital improvements in the last five years. The Park District built a new children's garden; completely restored the Aroid House from the ground pavers on up; built a new front entry with classrooms, meeting rooms, and improved visitor

services; and restored Horticulture Hall and the Palm House. Outside, the Park District created the new Monet Gardens and a community demonstration garden that now attract thousands of visitors.


The astonishing amount of work accomplished in the last five years has revitalized Garfield Park and the surrounding community, and also inspired the Chicago Transit Authority to construct a spanking-new Conservatory "el" stop on the Green Line at Lake and Central Park.

In just a few years, attendance increased from just several thousand visitors to 600,000 visitors per year. The

popular Dale Chihuly exhibit in 2002 had lines of visitors waiting to get into the conservatory, something that had not happened since the 1950s.

This summer's Chapungu Sculpture Exhibit ran until October 31st. On December 20th, the Garfield Park Conservatory will exhibit dinosaur bones in the plant setting, in partnership with Project Exploration and Paul Sereno from the University of Chicago.

The conservatory initiative started in 1994 when Friends of the Parks applied for and received a \$1.5 million matching grant to create the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance (GPCA). Friends of the Parks established the GPCA to work with the Chicago Park District to provide programming for the Garfield Park Conservatory. In 1995, Dr. Roberts was hired as Director of Conservatories and has been working in partnership with the GPCA ever since. Since 1995, the GPCA has offered gardening, horticulture and science classes for children, teens and adults and has improved visitor services. The Park District has concentrated on restoring the facilities and plant collections to their original splendor.

If you haven't visited the conservatory, you owe yourself a visit. The renovated green line will drop you off next door, and the collections - ranging from palms to chocolate trees to a desert room - will give you a delightful escape from the city, especially as the weather outside grows colder. 



GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Garfield Park Conservatory, located in Garfield Park, has undergone an \$8 million restoration in the last five years and now attracts more than a half-million visitors annually.

DuSable Park Gets a Boost from Zoning Amendment

A recent zoning amendment added a fourth public park as part of the River East Development (the Lake to Michigan Avenue, Illinois Street to the Chicago River). A new park in front of the Kraft Building at Peshtigo Court represents the fourth public park required in the River East Development. The other public open space areas include Ogden Park, the River Esplanade and DuSable Park. Friends of the Parks, along with many other community organizations and the Chicago Park District, has been working to design and build DuSable Park.



Bessie Neal, President of the Chicago DuSable League, stands at Pioneer Court on Michigan Avenue, where a plaque commemorating Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable is placed. Friends of the Parks supports naming the river esplanade which connects Pioneer Court and DuSable Park: DuSable Founders Trail.

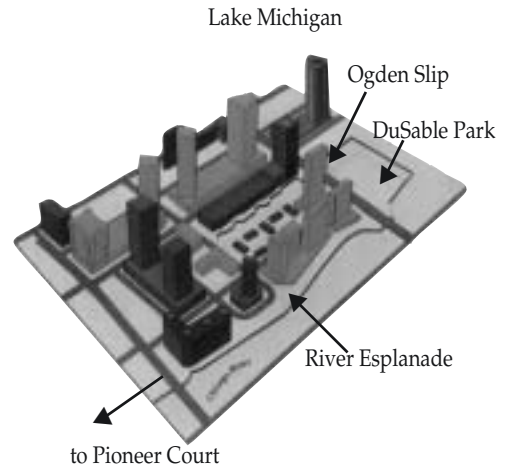
In 1988, Mayor Harold Washington with the Chicago Park District named DuSable Park for Jean Baptiste Pointe Dusable, the first non-native settler in the Chicago area. In 15 years, the park has not been developed. This past year, however, much progress has been made. First, past owners of the land paid for a clean-up of thorium contamination and, second, the Chicago Park District worked with the DuSable Park Coalition to establish a steering committee to complete a preliminary park design. The Park District now plans to hire a design and engineering consultant.


Recently, a zoning amendment for River East Planned Development (PD) has

been under review by the city. The amended PD clarifies a number of issues related to the open space requirements, especially those that positively impact the development of parks and open spaces, including DuSable Park.

The amended PD includes: 1) a new 70,000 square foot park on Peshtigo Court between Illinois Street and Grand Avenue to be developed no later than August 1, 2004; 2) a pedestrian walkway from East North Water Street to Ogden Slip, a pedestrian bridge over Ogden Slip, and an extension of the Ogden Slip promenade to Lake Shore Drive, all to be developed at the same time as DuSable Park; and 3) completion of the River Esplanade to connect with DuSable Park under Lake Shore Drive, again to be developed at the same time as DuSable Park.

Friends of the Parks continues to work with the Chicago Park District, the community and park advocacy groups, as well as organizations seeking to commemorate Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable and his contributions to early Chicago, to ensure the development of DuSable Park.



We envision including the history of the founding of Chicago displayed in artwork and plaques in the park, on the walls of the underpass under Lake Shore Drive and along the River Esplanade which leads from DuSable Park to Pioneer Court on Michigan Avenue. As part of our testimony to the Chicago Plan Commission, Friends of the Parks requested that the nearly one-half-linear-mile esplanade from DuSable Park along the river to Pioneer Court be named the "DuSable Founders Trail." 



In its current condition, the future DuSable Park, on the north side along Ogden Slip. Access to DuSable Park will include a walkway along Ogden Slip, as well as pedestrian connections along the River Esplanade between DuSable Park and Pioneer Court.

Citizen Support Needed to Preserve Grant Park - Stand Up Against Monroe Harbor Marina Construction Project

Monroe Harbor holds a uniquely historic spot in Chicago's 24 miles of lakefront public parks because of its central location in Grant Park, the keystone of our city's extensive lakefront park system. Now the Chicago Park District has proposed constructing a 1,500-foot pier extending into Lake Michigan from Adams Street, along with permanent finger docks for 900 boats, ranging in size from 30 feet to 90 feet, between Adams and Randolph Streets. The plan would enclose nearly one-third of Monroe Harbor, which has been an open harbor for more than 150 years.

Friends of the Parks, Friends of Monroe Harbor, Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois, Preservation Chicago and other community groups, oppose the Park District's proposal, and support


retaining the existing 1,000 mooring cans, primarily for sailboats, in Monroe Harbor. While constructed marina designs may fit into less prominent lakefront harbors, Monroe Harbor, the City's front yard, should retain open public views and vistas of Lake Michigan for all to enjoy. Constructed finger docks would forever change the harbor to a marina that would more closely resemble a boat trailer park. With the coalition of citizens united to preserve Monroe Harbor, Friends of the Parks is working to preserve the special historic status and open beauty of Monroe Harbor with NO new marina construction.

How You Can Help

Visit Friends of the Parks' web site: www.fotfp.org and:

- Download the petition. Gather signatures of your friends and neighbors. Send to Friends of the Parks, 55 E. Washington, #1911, Chicago, IL 60602.
- Download the sample letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, sign and send.
- Download the sample letter to public officials, sign and send.

Visit other web sites, including www.FriendsofMonroeHarbor.org and www.Neweastside.org.

Send an email to Eleanor Roemer, Friends of the Parks' Policy Director and General Counsel at roemere@fotfp.org and let her know you will attend the anticipated public meeting to express your opposition. We will let you know when the meeting is scheduled. 



Taken recently, this photo shows Monroe Harbor with 1,000 mooring cans.

Photo courtesy of John Buenz



This image shows what Monroe Harbor would look like with 900 new constructed finger docks.

Photo courtesy of John Buenz

Friends of the Parks Supports Illinois Wetlands Protection Act

Friends of the Parks supports the passage of the Illinois Wetlands Protection Act (House Bill 422). This important bill would restore protections to the wetlands that lost federal protection due to a 2001 U.S. Supreme Court decision. That decision restricted the scope of the Federal Clean Water Act, leaving over 150,000 acres of wetlands in Illinois unprotected. States and local governments must adopt regulations to protect these “isolated wetlands.”

Wetlands improve water quality, protect streams and lakes, provide habitat for rare plants and animals, and offer recreational opportunities for hiking, bird watching, hunting and other uses. Wetlands also reduce flooding, a problem which causes over \$300 million in damage to Illinois each year. Every one percent of a watershed in wetlands reduces peak flows after heavy rains by almost four percent statewide, and almost eight percent in northern Illinois. One-acre of wetland can hold over a million gallons of water.

House Bill 422 adopts a realistic approach to wetland protection, taking into account the concerns of Illinois farmers, developers, miners, utility companies, and other landowners while



A 30-acre parcel located at Irving Park and Harlem Avenues in Chicago's Dunning community has remained as a forested area with wetlands. Friends of the Parks is advocating that the land become part of the Forest Preserve of Cook County to serve as an open space for the Dunning community.

creating an effective statewide wetlands protection program. The bill resulted from four months of comprehensive negotiation among state agencies, local governments, business groups, and conservation organizations. House Bill 422 passed out of the Illinois House on May 30th with a strong bipartisan vote, receiving extensive support. Environmentalists are working with the Senate sponsor, Senator Terry Link, who hopes to call the bill for approval by the Senate during the veto session this fall. If budget issues prevail, there will be another opportunity during the spring 2004 session. [ip](#)

Friends of the Parks Encourages Citizens to Participate in Chicago Park District 2004 Budget Process

The Chicago Park District will release its proposed 2004 parks budget on November 21st.

Friends of the Parks encourages citizens to participate in the budget process and carefully review the proposed dollars allocated to their neighborhood park. To see the detailed budget, you may log onto www.chicagoparkdistrict.com or call the Park District's budget office at (312) 742-5127.

Friends of the Parks will host a workshop open to all interested citizens on the proposed budget on Wednesday, December 3rd at 5:30 p.m. at our offices at 55 E. Washington, Suite 1911. This working meeting will help participants learn more about how the Park District proposes to allocate approximately \$350 million for parks in 2004. (Park District officials recently announced a \$30 million shortfall, thus requiring \$30 million in cuts from various departments, regions or contracts.) For more information about the workshop or to RSVP, please contact Renee Chester at (312) 857-2757 extension 13 or chesterr@fotp.org.

Citizens may share their analyses and recommendations at a Public Hearing of the Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners, tentatively set for December 10th at the district's offices at 541 N. Fairbanks, 8th floor. The public is invited to attend and present written and spoken testimony. [ip](#)

Friends of the Parks Funds Neighborhood Park Projects Through Popular “Seed Grant” Program

For the fifth year, Friends of the Parks will award small “seed grants” to park groups throughout Chicago. Our program disperses \$5,000 in grants to advisory council and Adopt-a-Park groups who need additional support for park projects.

Friends of the Parks' seed grants help build stronger communities, develop alliances and foster success in the work of citizen groups. Projects may range from organizing beautification projects and plantings to conducting community-based outreach, music and art projects. In 2003,

we awarded seed grants to park groups to help them fund a therapeutic recreation program, gymnastic mats, a popcorn machine, a computer lab and beautification projects.

Seed grant 2004 applications are available online at www.fotp.org. To have an application mailed to you, please contact Renee Chester at (312) 857-2757 extension 15. Completed applications are due on or before Friday, February 13, 2004. Friends of the Parks will announce awardees next March. [ip](#)

Friends Indeed

Major contributors August 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003

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

PERSONAL SUPPORT

BENEFACTORS

\$1,000 and Above

Alyce H. DeCosta
Kendra Beard Gassel
John Jordan
Susan and Charles P. Schwartz
Jr.

\$500 - \$999

Jean and William O'Neill
Richard Pincus
Kenneth Schroeer
Erma Tranter

CONSERVERS

\$250 - \$499

Meryl Goldfarb
Mary L. Gray
Patricia and Martin Koldyke
Frank Nicholson
Richard Nopar
Mary Silver
Hawley Stodder

PATRONS

\$100 - \$249

Roula Alakiotou
Gerald Beard
Sally Kitt Chappell
Mimis Cohen

Dade Darby
Dean Playground Advisory
Council

Steve Diamond
Christine Dunn
Richard Fine
Carol Garsee
Gary Gerst
Richard Ginsburg
Carlyn Goettsch
Sherry Goodman
Reuben Hedlund
Franklin Hirsch
Jeanne Hjorth
Ruth Horwich
Daneen Jacino
Manus Kraff
Marion Lloyd
Bernard Meltzer
Richard Mott
Kathy and Grant Pick
Elizabeth Postell
Robert Pritzker
Claire and Gordon Prussian
Norman and Helene Raidl
Victoria and George Ranney Jr.
Ann Rothschild
Tomas Rutherford
Kenneth Rzeszutko
Myron and Beverly Shapiro
Patrick and Susan Sheehan

Tomas Silberman
Michael and Geraldine
Silverstein
Paul Spalla
Arlene and William Staley
Judith Stein
G.W. Stevenson
Michael and Donna Treister
Edgar Uihlein
Jody Williams
Carol JH Yetken
Henry Zemola

CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION SUPPORT

\$20,000 - \$50,000

Alphawood Foundation
Richard Driehaus Foundation
Joyce Foundation
Prince Charitable Trust
Smart Family Foundation

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley
Foundation
Lloyd Fry Foundation
Louis R. Lurie Foundation
Albert Pick, Jr. Fund

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Chicago Public Schools (BP
America, Inc.)

ComEd
Home Depot

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation
Davee Foundation
Ford Motor Company
Jordan Industries
McDougal Foundation
McMaster-Carr Supply Co.
Northern Trust
Oppenheimer Family
Foundation
Peoples Energy
Replogle Foundation
S&C Electric Foundation
Schwartz Family Foundation
Simple Green

\$100 - \$999

Alsdorf Foundation
Bill Bartholomay Foundation
Kenneth Douglas Foundation
Edelman Public Relations
Eli's Chicago's Finest
Enelow Fund
Koldyke Family Fund of the
Chicago Community Trust
MidAmerica Bank
Donald Learner Family
Foundation
Shawk Family Foundation

Ways to give to Friends of the Parks

Employer Matching Gifts

Your gifts to Friends of the Parks could be doubled or tripled if your employer has a matching gift program. Check with your employee benefits office where you work, and send the form to us with your gift.

Bequests

A bequest, or a gift from your estate, is a wonderful way to create a lasting legacy. A simple provision in your will, or an amendment (known as a codicil) will help Friends of the Parks protect Chicago's parks and forests preserves, while decreasing possible estate taxes. By providing a planned gift to Friends of the Parks (a bequest, or naming Friends of the Parks as a beneficiary of an insurance policy), you ensure that the work of Friends of the Parks continues long after your death. Please call our office for sample language.

Honorary and Memorial Gifts

You may make a contribution to Friends of the Parks in


honor of a loved one, or as a memorial gift in lieu of flowers. Gifts will be noted in our Annual Report each spring.

Give a Membership

A great stocking stuffer! Give a membership to Friends of the Parks as a holiday present this year! Individual memberships start at only \$35. It's a great way to show your support and introduce others to Chicago's Best Friend.

Gifts of Stock

A gift of appreciated stock provides you with the double benefit of making a charitable contribution to Friends of the Parks and reducing (or even eliminating) capital gains taxes on the appreciated assets.

As you evaluate your financial position and plan your estate, please keep Friends of the Parks and our mission in mind. For more information about making a contribution, please contact John O'Connell, Director of Development, at (312) 857-2757 extension 16 or occonnellj@fotp.org. 

Injury Free Chicago and Friends of the Parks Co-Host Playground Building Workshop

On November 19th, the Injury Free Coalition for Kids of Chicago and Friends of the Parks co-hosted a workshop, "Cutting Costs with a Community Build." The workshop provided useful tips and information on the steps that must be taken to embark on building a playground with the community's assistance for a community-built playground. "Community build" refers to organizing and bringing in a large group of volunteers to help the Chicago Park District build a new playground. The buy-in to the new construction of a park is rewarding and helps sustain the life of the structures as neighbors, children, parents and adults of any age can look and say, "I helped build this playground." Volunteers recently completed community-built playgrounds at Senn, Huckleberry and Russell Square Parks. Kate Thomas, who organized the Senn Playground project, explained the process and the level of commitment necessary to complete all steps to create a



Injury Free Chicago of the University of Chicago, with support from Allstate, celebrates completion of a new playground at Huckleberry Park (6200 S. Kimbark) in the fall of 2003.

new playground. A typical community-build project will take at least two years.

In the last three years, Friends of the Parks has partnered with Injury Free Chicago to help park advisory councils

evaluate the safety of their playgrounds. Often at the request of the park advisory council, trained staff have inspected playgrounds and recommended safety improvements at some of Chicago's older playgrounds. In March, we conducted the first Playground Safety Workshop for park activists who learned the hazards to look for when assessing the safety of the playground.

Children's Memorial Hospital established Injury Free Chicago to reduce the number of injuries to children playing on playgrounds. Emergency rooms treat a number of injuries to children including, head injuries, abrasions and bone breaks. Physicians at Children's Memorial Hospital know that by educating the public, the Chicago Park District and playground designers about safe playground design, Injury Free Chicago can help to reduce the number of injuries seen in Chicago's hospitals.

Many park advisory councils would like new playgrounds for their parks, and the community-build approach can help reduce construction costs. To learn more about playground safety and community build opportunities, please contact Renee Chester at (312) 857-2757 extension 13. 🌱

Expansion Sought for Eckhart Park

West Town Leadership United, a community group on the near west side, continues to bring attention to the need for a dog park in the West Town community. New condominiums have sprung up on every vacant lot in the community, and developers regularly purchase neighborhood houses and replace them with three and four unit condominiums. Unfortunately, the City did not set aside parkland before the spurt in population growth. As a result, too few parks serve the recreation and fitness needs of residents. In addition, many of the new residents attracted to the vibrant West Town community have dogs that also use parks for exercise and socialization.

With little park space in the community, dog owners use Bickerdike Square (1461 W. Ohio Street), a small neighborhood park adjacent to Otis School. For at least three

years, however, the needs of the dog owners have come into conflict with the needs of the school, children and park users.

The solution seems to be in finding space for dogs in the neighborhood. Friends of the Parks has worked with West Town Leadership United to designate an alternative dog-friendly area somewhere in the community. We have identified a small triangular parcel situated next to Eckhart Park (1330 W. Chicago Avenue) just east of Elizabeth Street and north of Chestnut Street. The Illinois Department of Transportation owns the land, and Friends of the Parks and the West Town Leadership United hope to persuade elected officials to transfer the land to the Chicago Park District for use as a dog park, or to find other parcels of land for dog parks in the West Town community. 🌱

Friends of the Parks Organizes Service Day During which DePaul Students Create Walking Trail in Burnham Park

Students from DePaul University arrived at the 47th Street Prairie in Burnham Park on September 9th to find two large mulch piles, wheelbarrows and pitchforks. Friends of the Parks asked the students to create a walking trail through the wooded area of the park. They rolled up their sleeves, and through some sweat (but mostly smiles), made the mulch piles disappear into the woods. DePaul University contacted Friends of the Parks about volunteering in our Community Stewardship Program as a way to encour-

age the new freshman class to give back to the community. After four hours of hard work, the group of young adults successfully created a trail.

The Chicago Park District has designated the 47th Street Prairie, located on the west side of Lake Shore Drive at 47th Street, as a natural area where native prairie plants have begun to establish themselves. Friends of the Parks has organized several community workdays at the prairie, during which most volunteers remove non-native plants to allow



On September 9th, students from DePaul University created a walking trail through the 47th Street Prairie in Burnham Park.



Armed with work gloves, pitchforks and a wheelbarrow, DePaul University students spread mulch to create a walking trail through a wooded area of Burnham Park.

the native ones room to grow and thrive. Some of the DePaul students helped in this effort by removing an invasive mint plant, while others collected the seeds of two native grasses, which the Park District will spread at either this site or at other sites in the future.

If you visit the prairie, you will see results of the efforts of the student volunteers and their work will make a lasting impression on the community that uses this site as a natural respite in their busy lives. If you would like to volunteer in a Chicago park or find out about Friends of the Parks' Community Service Program or Adopt-a-Park Program, please call Mary Eileen Sullivan, Director of Volunteers, at (312) 857-2757 extension 13 or visit our website at www.fotp.org.

Friends of the Parks' Guide for Park Advisory Councils Fresh off the Press

Friends of the Parks will offer a new Guide for Park Advisory Councils in November. The guide includes information on the role of a park advisory council, how to get a council started and how to gain effectiveness as a council. The guide will assist your park council with problem-solving and provide ideas for

marketing and fundraising. The guide also contains important contact numbers, for both non-profit organizations and government agencies. To receive a free copy, please call Renee Chester at (312) 857-2757 extension 15 or send an email to chesterr@fotp.org with your mailing address.

Friends of the Parks Night!
Chicago Bulls vs. Golden State
United Center, Sat. Feb 28, 2004, 7:30

**\$10 from each ticket will be donated to
Friends of the Parks,
Ticket prices \$31, \$26, \$23
(Tickets regularly \$42, \$32, or \$26)**

Please call Sarah Strong,
Membership Coordinator at FOTP
for more information.
(312) 857-2757 ext. 14

Park Newsbriefs: Activities Flourish Around the City

Citizens Work to Make Dean Park a Community Resource

Years ago, gang problems closed down this small, half-acre park at 1344 N. Dean Street, making it unusable by children or adults. The Dean Park Advisory Council organized and worked with their alderman to fence the park and involve citizens in using and watching out for the park. They also planted a garden. As a result, the gangs moved on.

Dean Park continues to receive much-needed attention due to the efforts of a reinvigorated park advisory council. The Park District recently reseeded the field, and Alderman Manny Flores has committed to match funds raised to buy new equipment for the park.

Cottontail Park Mulching Project a Success

Dearborn Park II Advisory Council met in October to mulch the trees and bushes at Cottontail Park. Their first community mulch project was a success. Twenty kids and adults created mulch "donuts" around the trees, nourishing and protecting them for the winter. Thanks to Suzanne Turner, Susan Zubek and Friends of the Parks' volunteer George Williams who also joined the day's activity.

Clarendon Park Advisory Council Seeks New Members

The Clarendon Park Advisory Council seeks new members to help develop a framework plan for Clarendon Park, located at 4501 N. Clarendon. The advisory council would like to improve the outdoor park areas and suggest new programming for the park fieldhouse. If you are in the neighborhood and would like to participate, contact Katherine at kathimax@sprynet.com. Friends of the Parks will help facilitate the visioning process.

South Lake Shore Drive Reconstruction Project on Schedule

Good news for south side residents! The Illinois and Chicago Departments of Transportation (CDOT and IDOT) expect to finish the South Lake Shore Drive



Marian Byrnes (center), a life-long environmentalist and citizen-activist, was recognized last April for her decades of work to preserve the ecologically valuable natural areas of South East Chicago. The VanVlissingen Prairie, located between 97th and 103rd Streets on Van Vlissingen in SE Chicago, was named the Marian R. Byrnes Natural Area. Pictured with Marian from left are Alderman John Pope, Clem Balanoff, John Clarke, Jr., and Tom Shepherd.

Reconstruction Project on schedule in 2004. And in two months, by the end of this year, South Lake Shore Drive will return to its normal traffic pattern. In other words, both the north and south-bound lanes will go in the correct direction, and you can forget the detour signs.

During the upcoming winter, workers will complete the pre-cast concrete designs on all five new underpasses (Marquette, 63rd Street, 59th Street and two at 57th Street, one east-west under Lake Shore Drive and one north-south under 57th Street). They will also complete finishing touches to the site work in spring.

This fall, workers will begin the landscaping phase by planting trees in Burnham Park. Next spring, they will plant shrubs and perennials in Burnham and Jackson Parks, including near all underpasses except the south end of the 57th Street underpass at the Museum of Science and Industry. CDOT and IDOT



Hiram College alumni members helped spread seeds for native plant growth at 47th Street Prairie.

will coordinate this landscape element with the museum's relocation of its famous submarine, the U505.

Friends of the Parks commends CDOT and IDOT officials on the design and park improvements incorporated into the roadway project. They reclaimed a total of 15 acres of concrete in Burnham and Jackson Parks and funded five underpasses, planted median dividers and completed the landscaping along the roadway. In addition, both CDOT and IDOT undertook the process with complete community involvement. They considered ideas and concerns identified in the early public meetings, found funding, and incorporated park improvements into the construction project. Chris Wellner, CDOT's project manager, led the community process as well as managed the construction project. Kudos to Chris and all those involved!



Pam Holy (right) from Chicago Wilderness shows a Hiram College alumna proper techniques for removing invasive species.

Hiram College Alumni Group Volunteers in Park (photo available)

As a way to reconnect with old friends and make new acquaintances, Hiram College Alumni gathered on October 25th for a Community Service Workday organized by Friends of the Parks at the 47th Street Prairie in Burnham Park. Hiram College is located in Hiram, Ohio and has a dedicated group of alumni here in Chicago.

Newsbriefs (cont'd)


A group of nine volunteers, including a family from Kenosha, cut back brush and planted native seeds at the Prairie. Volunteer Jim Clark felt that this was a great group activity because of its ease of set up. One call to Friends of the Parks and his group was able to coordinate their service day along with the tools needed for the day. Jim was also impressed with the nature lecture presented by the Chicago Park District's Nathan Schroeder. All participants were thrilled that children were welcomed, too.

Friends of the Parks looks forward to coordinating future service days with Hiram College Alumni.

Bronco Billy Playground To Receive Much-Needed Funds

Alderwoman Helen Schiller (46th Ward) recently announced her plan to contribute \$150,000, matched by another \$150,000 from the Chicago Park District, to rebuild Bronco Billy Playground, located at 4437 N. Magnolia in the Uptown community.

Peanut Park Draws Volunteers

Four University of Chicago students pitched in at Peanut Park (part of Grant Park near Randolph and Lake Shore Drive) to mulch trees. Adopt-a-Park volunteer Pat Reis said, "The lakefront looks beautiful with all that new mulch." 

The Morgan Shoal Offers a Unique Shoreline Expansion

The City of Chicago, Chicago Park District and Army Corps of Engineers held a public meeting at Kennicott Park to present preliminary plans for the shoreline protection project from 45th to 51st Streets. The shoreline protection project involves rebuilding eight miles of lakefront shoreline using mostly concrete step stone revetments. The Army Corps of Engineers has already begun constructing the revetment from Belmont to Fullerton on the north side.

Lake Michigan at 47th Street in Burnham Park has an extremely shallow

granite floor, unlike anywhere else along the Chicago lakefront. Swimmers love the area because it allows for swimming and snorkeling. Working with a large number of community groups, including Friends of the Parks and Alderwoman Toni Preckwinkle, planners created four designs which would expand the parkland at 47th Street with additional landfill instead of the concrete revetment. The four plans present different park concepts ranging from a wetland and bird habitat to dunes and three distinct beaches.

(continued on page 10)



This illustration depicts one of four concept designs for the proposed Morgan Shoal at Lake Michigan and 47th Street. Check the City of Chicago's website to see all four designs.

"Nature Along the Lake" Program Draws Rave Reviews

Chicago's lakefront is well known for the enjoyable outdoor experience it affords Chicago families. However, beyond its beauty and recreation, Lincoln Park and Lake Michigan offer a living outdoor laboratory for science with habitats rich in native plants, migratory birds and aquatic life.

In a unique program sponsored by Friends of the Parks in partnership with the Chicago Public Schools, "Nature Along the Lake" uses the 14-acre nature preserve at Montrose Point to serve as nature's classroom. For the past four years, hundreds of Chicago Public School students have been involved with education programs and outdoor class-

room experiences making nature come alive at the lake for students.

The "Nature Along the Lake" project provides lakefront park experiences that are customized to school curriculum, where students learn about the lake as a habitat system, birds and their migratory patterns, aquatic life, native plants and trees, as well as other outdoor science topics through this program.

Children get to experience activities not usually experienced in the city setting, nor offered in indoor classrooms, such as fishing, birding, and water sampling. Students also learn about the history of their lakefront. Teachers work directly with Friends of the Parks' project coordi-



Children have a chance to learn about the dune ecosystem during a visit to Montrose Harbor.

nators, Peter Leki and Julie Peterson, allowing for many different opportunities for integration into the curriculum and classroom activities.

(continued on page 10)

Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration Set for Thursday, February 5th

Join us for Friends of the Parks' 28th Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration on Thursday, February 5th at the Chicago Cultural Center (78 E. Washington, GAR 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 \$20 for members, \$25 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.

Deadline for submission is Saturday, December 20, 2003. 

Morgan Shoal (cont'd)

Planners asked participants in the public hearing to respond to the four designs, viewing them as a "cafeteria of options," and picking and choosing concepts from each design to create the optimum plan for the community.

The public may attend additional meetings scheduled for Wednesday January 21, 2004 and Tuesday March 2, 2004 at Kenicott Park, located at 4435 S. Lake Park Avenue.

To view the park designs visit the project website at <http://www.cityofchicago.org/Environment/Shoreline/43rd-51stStreet.html>. 

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 2003.

Please send your nominations to arrive on or before Saturday, December 20, 2003 to: Sarah Strong

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


If you have questions, please contact Sarah Strong at (312) 857-2757 extension 14 or strongsf@fotp.org.

Nature Along the Lake (cont'd)

Up to fifteen Chicago Public Schools will be involved in 2003 and 2004. The quotes from students speak to the overwhelming success of this environmental education project:

"I really liked the outdoor activities because we had fresh air in our lungs, we got to see a beautiful environment, and we learned things in a fun way."

"It is a fun way of learning, instead of reading it from a book."

"I learned a lot of things like how to fish correctly, how to plant correctly, how to watch birds, and how not to pollute the water. I also learned a lot about the history of Chicago's lakefront that I never knew before." 



First-hand experiences make a lasting impression on young students participating in the "Nature Along the Lake" program.

Events calendar

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

5:30PM

Join Friends of the Parks for a workshop on the proposed Chicago Park District 2004 budget. Call Renee Chester at (312) 857-2757 extension 15 for more details.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

12 NOON

Join Friends of the Parks for a "Tuesday Park Talk" focusing on the Chicago River, from its history as a working river to today's recreational opportunities. Speakers include Laurene von Klan, Executive Director of Friends of the Chicago River, and Kathy Dickhut of the City's Department of Planning and Development. Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington, 5th Floor East. Free. Bring bag lunch.

DECEMBER 20 THROUGH LABOR DAY 2004

"Dinosaurs: Dinosaur Bones Under Glass" at the Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Avenue.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2004

"Preserving Monroe Harbor" reception and symposium, co-sponsored by Friends of the Parks, Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois and the Chicago Architecture Foundation, from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm at 224 S. Michigan Avenue.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2004

12 NOON

Friends of the Parks will host its 28th Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington, GAR Room. Tickets for the luncheon are \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members, and free with purchase of a \$35 membership. Contact Sarah Strong at (312) 857-2757 ext. 14 for more information. Invitations will be mailed to members in early January.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2004

12 NOON

Join Friends of the Parks for a "Tuesday Park Talk" focusing on the Lake Calumet Ecological Park, Industry and Environment Working Together. Panelists include Susan Malec from the Chicago Department of Environment, community activist Miriam Byrnes, and Lynn Westphal from the U.S. Forest Service. Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington, 5th Floor East. Free. Bring bag lunch.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2004

12 NOON

Join Friends of the Parks for a "Tuesday Park Talk" focusing on "The Legacy of Historic Murals in Chicago's Parks" by author Mary Lackritz Gray. Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington, 5th Floor East. Free. Bring bag lunch.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2004

1:00-4:00PM

Friends of the Parks will host its annual Volunteer Appreciation reception to recognize significant contributions to Chicago's parks. All members and volunteers welcome. Location to be announced soon.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2004

9:00AM - 4:00PM

We invite you to volunteer from 9:00 AM until NOON during Friends of the Parks' annual Earth Day Citywide Parks Clean-Up. From 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM, come to the Earth Day Fair at Humboldt Park featuring educational and hands-on activities, music and more.

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2004

Friends of the Parks will host its 15th Annual Parks Ball gala at the South Shore Cultural Center. For more information, contact Nancy Minster Swabb at (312) 857-2757 extension 11.

SATURDAY NIGHT/SUNDAY MORNING JULY 11, 2004

Get set for Friends of the Parks' L.A.T.E. Ride. The 16th annual after-midnight bicycle ride takes riders along a 25-mile course on Lake Shore Drive, through Chicago's north side neighborhoods and along the beautiful lakefront path. Log onto www.lateride.org for more information.



Friends of the Parks: Chicago Parks' Best Friend

Who is your Best Friend? Who is that one true friend who has always come through for you? The one who has fought your fights, who has gone to bat for you time and again?

Chances are, it's an old acquaintance who is now more like a member of the family - someone you can call on anytime you need support.

Well, Chicago's parks and forest preserves have a Best Friend: It's **Friends of the Parks**.

When you think about it, we hope you consider us your friend, because we look out for the best interests of all Chicagoans and suburban neighbors who use and pay for our parks, forest preserves and open

spaces, as well as all visitors to our city. And we have been doing so since 1975.

We hope that, if you have not done so already, you will consider becoming a member of Friends of the Parks. Your membership allows us to continue to work in all of Chicago's neighborhoods, advocating for those who need a place to play, jog, walk the dog, or just enjoy some open green space in the city.

The mission of Friends of the Parks is to preserve, protect and improve Chicago parks, forest preserves and recreational areas for the benefit of all neighborhoods and citizens. Your membership allows us to:

- Educate the public on opportunities

to improve our neighborhood parks

- Encourage the establishment of park advisory councils and citizen action committees
- Fund seed grants to help fledgling community groups establish new park programs
- Monitor the proposed changes to our parks, forest preserves and open spaces
- Support efforts for more bikeways and other bicycling amenities

Please detach the membership form on page 12 and send it, along with your contribution, to: Friends of the Parks, 55 E. Washington, Suite 1911, Chicago, IL 60602.

Be a Friend. Join Friends of the Parks.



55 East Washington
Suite 1911
Chicago, IL 60602-2174

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chicago, Illinois
Permit No. 3352

Friends of the Parks Advocate

EDITOR: Erma Tranter
MANAGING EDITOR: Nancy Minster Swabb

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Kendra Beard Gassel

VICE CHAIRS: James Alter, Diane F. Ciral,
Kimberly du Buclet, Robert Feitler, Lauren
Moltz, Charles P. Schwartz, Jr.

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Donald Young

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Joanne Bauer, Josephine
Bellalta, Robert P. Gordon, M.D, Harold
Leftwich, Richard Pincus, Thomas Sanberg

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Anthony Belluschi, Victor
Bernhard, Stephen Christy, Kay Clement, Oscar
O. D'Angelo, Ronald DeNard, Leon M.
Despres, Betsy Downs, Mark Doyle, David
Eubanks, Fredda, Miriam Gonzalzes, Nancy
Campbell Hays, Scott Jamieson, Kitty Kurth,
Fred Lebed, Michael Moran, Bob Muzikowski,
Walter Netsch, Nancy Nugent, Dr. Serge Pierre-
Louis, Patrick K. Sheehan, Allen R. Smart,
Roger Taylor, Kelly Drew Townsel

ADVISORY BOARD: Kenneth C. Burkhart, Karen
Davis, Alyce H. DeCosta, Phil Fisher, Mary L.
Gray, Deone Jackman, Alberta Johnson, Alicia
V. Pond, Victoria Post Ranney, Marc Schulman,
David C. Sharpe, Gerry Moss Silverstein, Roger
Taylor, Lois Weisberg, Harvey Wells


STAFF:

Gretchen Bystedt, *Office Manager*
Renee Chester, *Director of Neighborhood Parks and
Community Relations*
Eleanor K. Roemer, *General Counsel/Public
Trust & Policy Director*
John O'Connell, *Director of Development*
Smoky Sakurada, *Office Volunteer*
Sarah Strong, *Membership Director*
Mary Eileen Sullivan, *Director of Volunteers*
Nancy Minster Swabb, *Communications
and Events Director*
Erma Tranter, *President*

Neighborhood Parks Task Force Reviews Park Programs

In early October, Friends of the Parks sponsored a meeting of the Neighborhood Parks Task Force. Ten community members attended the meeting and discussed local park programming. Friends of the Parks held the meeting in response to a recent Chicago Tribune story, "Limited Park Programs Leave Teens at Loose Ends." The story reported on the lack of funding for teen programs in 17 of 77 Chicago neighborhoods, fourteen of those neighborhoods on the West and South sides.

As a result of this initial meeting the representatives on the Task Force have begun to conduct an informal survey of the number and type of programs in a sample number of parks. We plan to visit more than 50 parks in the next few weeks,

measuring program content and how actual sessions compare to the Park District's schedule. If you would like to participate on the Task Force and help examine and address programming issues, please call Renee Chester at (312) 857-2757 extension 15. 

Yes! I want to help preserve, protect and improve Chicago's treasured parks by making a contribution of:

- \$1,000 Fredrick Law Olmsted Society
- \$500 Benefactor
- \$250 Conserver
- \$100 Patron
- \$75 Protector
- \$50 Family
- \$35 Individual/Park Advocate
- \$25 Student/Senior

I have enclosed my check payable
to Friends of the Parks

Please charge my account:

VISA Mastercard

Account number: _____

Exp. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

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

ADDRESS: 55 E. Washington, Suite 1911,
Chicago, IL 60602-2174