



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

Friends of the Parks Advocate

www.fotp.org

Fall 2006

Washington Park Not Best Site for Olympic Stadium

The Olympic Committee recently announced its plan to build a 95,000-seat stadium in Washington Park as part of its proposal to host the Games in 2016. The proposed Olympic Stadium would house the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as track and field events and open-air festivals.

Friends of the Parks opposes the plan. The National Register of Historic Places lists Washington Park, one of Chicago's oldest parks, as a cultural resource worthy of preservation. Frederick Law Olmsted, the greatest landscape designer in our nation's history, designed Washington Park in the 19th century. The park lies between 51st Street on the north, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive on the west, 60th Street on the south and Cottage Grove Avenue on the east.

Instead of Washington Park, Friends of the Parks urges the city to relocate the proposed stadium to other undeveloped parcels of land that would make better stadium venues. At least two large tracts of land on the South Side offer a unique opportunity to develop a major temporary stadium venue for the Olympic Games. Both parcels would benefit from the influx of capital a temporary Olympic stadium would provide. Both parcels would benefit from the construction of necessary public transit links to the area. Both park-deficient parcels would also greatly benefit from the lasting legacy of a new park left after the Games.

The USX Site

The first tract of land, the USX site, consists of 580 acres at 79th and Lake Michigan which used to house the U.S.

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Two boys bike along the lagoon in historic Washington Park.

History of Chicago's Washington Park

In 1869, after several years of lobbying by prominent South Side residents, the Illinois State Legislature established the South Park Commission. The newly appointed Board of Commissioners identified more than 1,000 acres of land just south of Chicago for a large park and boulevards that would connect it with downtown and the West Park System. Originally called South Park, the property included eastern and western divisions, now Jackson and Washington Parks and the connecting Midway Plaisance.

The commissioners hired Frederick Law Olmsted, considered the "father of

American landscape architecture," and his partner Calvert Vaux, who designed and built New York's Central Park, to create the original plan for South Park. One of the earliest improvements was the "South Open Green," a pastoral meadow with grazing sheep, also used as a ball field. Architect Daniel H. Burnham's firm designed the 1880 limestone round stables, the 1881 refectory, and the 1910 administrative headquarters for the South Park Commission. Today, the administrative building houses the DuSable Museum of African-American History. Many consider Washington Park a major social center of the South Side where numerous summer festivals, including Chicago's best organized cricket league, take place. 🌿

Washington Park (cont'd)

Steel plant. Visitors to the Olympics could reach this location from downtown Chicago in twenty minutes, the same travel time as Washington Park.

The city should consider the USX site, now cleared of buildings, cleaned of toxins, and ready for development, as an ideal location for the temporary 95,000-seat Olympic stadium. The location would offer picturesque views of the lake, and would help the city develop a 125-acre lakefront park, new housing, a completed South Lake Shore Drive, and a new link to public transit. All of this development would offer jobs and lasting improvements to the city's Southeast Side.

Port District Is Another Option

The second tract of land, the Illinois International Port District land at 89th

Street and Lake Michigan, would also offer an opportunity to bring change to an area ripe for development. The Port sees little activity these days. Fourteen percent of its budget comes from port business, while eighty-six percent comes from the Harborside Golf Course. The Chicago Park District and the Army Corps of Engineers already have plans to construct a new lakefront park on top of a confined disposal facility located on the property.

This site would also make for an impressive Olympic venue with its views and vistas of downtown Chicago, its location on Lake Michigan, and its adjacency to Calumet Park. Again, a new park and new, useful and permanent links to public transit would bring lasting benefits to the community.

In either of these cases, the city could develop and improve neglected city land,

create permanent parks to complete the lakefront park system, create transportation links to isolated communities, and bring lasting economic development to an area that has suffered for decades.

Washington Park Not Good Option

Washington Park, on the other hand, does not need redevelopment. Building the stadium in Washington Park would deprive the community of well-used baseball, soccer and cricket fields for years during construction and demolition, and permanently if a 10,000-person sunken bowl remains at this location after the games. Washington Park's listing on the National Register of Historic Places cannot survive this Olympic plan. Because of its landmark status, federal dollars could not be used to build a temporary stadium at this park site. We need a better plan and better venues. 🌱

Friends of the Parks Expands Environmental Education to School Children

Three years ago Friends of the Parks began a small program of environmental education using the Montrose bird sanctuary and the Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club for outdoor classroom activities. The program, called Nature Along the Lake, was so successful that we have expanded it to the South Side at the South Shore Cultural Center.

The Nature Along the Lake program ties the curriculum of elementary students in grades 2-8 to science-based activities to study lakefront ecology. Students complete preparatory work in their school classroom and then complete three field trips to two nature sanctuaries in the city—Montrose Point on the north or South Shore Cultural Center on the south—to study environmental science in the outdoors. For many students, the field trips are their first lakefront experiences.

Beginning this fall, students began studying the changing seasons, trees,

bird migration and water ecology. They hike in the park, study tree species, test the Lake Michigan water, learn about lake fish and see directly the formation of sand dunes. As part of the program, students adopt a tree which they name, inspect, sketch and use as inspiration for creative writing. They will complete three fieldtrips to the lakefront classroom during three seasons (fall, winter and spring) to discover and record changes.

In total, during this school year the expanded environmental education program will reach nearly 1,000 elementary students in grades 2-8.

In addition to the Nature Along the Lake for elementary grades, Friends of the Parks is partnering with After School Matters to run two Earth Team teen apprenticeship programs for high school students. Earth Team programs are targeted for students in grades 9-12 and focus on Chicago's ecosystems, biodiversity and

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Solti Bust Comes to Grant Park

On October 5th, the bronze bust of Sir George Solti, for 22 years the music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, moved from Lincoln Park to a site in Grant Park just south of the Art Institute, across Michigan Avenue from Orchestra Hall. The Grant Park Conservancy, working with the Chicago Park District, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Mrs. Valerie Solti, worked for over three years to create the "Solti Gardens" dedicated to the memory of the late maestro. 🌱



The Solti Bust in its new Grant Park location across from Orchestra Hall.

Great News for Cook County Forest Preserves

On October 3rd, President Bobbie Steele issued an Executive Order during the Forest Preserve of Cook County Board meeting to end the nine-year moratorium on restoration activities in forest preserves.

In 1996, then President John Stroger ordered a moratorium on all restoration work in forest preserves. Due to the strong advocacy of environmental groups over the years, President Stroger lifted the ban on all sites except for six forest preserves. The moratorium, however, remained at Miami Woods, Indian Road Woods, Bunker Hill, Bunker Oxbow and Sauganash. President Steele's Executive Order will allow forest preserve restoration work to resume at all preserves.

"I hereby order, effective immediately, that the general superintendent of the Forest Preserve District, Mr. Steve Bylina, adopt and implement broadly-accepted best management practices on all our natural lands, insofar as is possible," President Steele read. "These practices have been endorsed by land management agencies across the country at every level of government, including local park districts, neighboring forest preserve and conservation districts, and the National

Park Service. The techniques of managing natural areas are based on science and the judgment of experienced ecologists and land managers."

President Steele received a standing ovation for her strong leadership in lifting the moratorium from a packed gallery of more than 25 preservation advocates,

including representatives from Friends of the Parks, Brookfield Zoo, the Chicago Botanic Garden, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Friends of the Forest Preserves, Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, North Branch Restoration Project, Des Plaines River Valley Volunteers, Openlands, Corlands and others. 🌿



With the lifting of the restoration ban, prairies such as this one can be restored by volunteers, students and District staff.

Tri-State Tollway Authority Proposal Deferred

The Real Estate Committee of the Forest Preserve of Cook County considered the Illinois Tollway Authority's proposal to acquire a permanent easement on 16 acres of forest preserve land. Tollway officials continue to seek to expand I-294 from six to eight lanes from Touhy Avenue to Lake-Cook Road to "reduce congestion benefiting Tollway users with faster travel times and a more comfortable paving surface."

The permanent easement essentially disguises a sale of land to the Tollway

Authority to solve their storm water management requirement. The additional pavement requires forest preserve land for water retention caused by increased runoff from a widened Tri-State.

Friends of the Parks did not support the tollway's proposal. The project would cause the loss of habitat, encroach on water bodies and adversely impact flora and fauna. With this proposal, road salt would intrude further into the forest preserves. The proposed project would also harm several endangered and threatened species known to be in the area, including

the Massasauga Rattle Snake, Kirtland's Snake and the Blanding Turtle.

Friends of the Parks also argued that the Tollway Authority's proposal violates the District's Land Policy Ordinance which requires no feasible alternatives and a proven need before such use of Forest Preserve land. The Tollway Authority's desire for "faster travel times" does not necessitate or justify taking this sensitive land.

The Real Estate Committee of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County deferred action on the issue. 🌿

Plan for DuSable Park Released – State and Federal Funding Needed

The Chicago Park District, working with Friends of the Parks and the DuSable Park Coalition, recently released the Framework Plan for DuSable Park, a 3.5-acre site located at the confluence of the Chicago River and Lake Michigan.

The Park District named DuSable Park for Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, the first non-native settler and founding father of Chicago. Born in Sainte-Domingue (Haiti), DuSable traveled to the mouth of the Chicago River by canoe in the 1770s, where he founded what became the City of Chicago. He married a Native American woman and built a prosperous farm and trading post where Lake Michigan met the Chicago River. Other pioneers soon joined DuSable and in a short time a thriving settlement emerged.

The Framework Plan for DuSable Park presents the consensus plan for the construction of the park. When completed, a terraced and lushly landscaped park will feature educational elements highlighting

DuSable and the founding of the City of Chicago. A sculpture by internationally-known artist Martin Puryear will grace the park. The public will access the park by exiting the mid-level of Lake Shore Drive or by foot or bicycle from ground level along the DuSable Founder's Trail, which will run beside the Chicago River underneath Lake Shore Drive.

Officials estimate a \$12 million price tag to construct the park, which includes \$6 million to repair revetments surrounding the 3.5-acre peninsula to the east of Lake Shore Drive at the Chicago River. Chicago Park District officials committed \$3 million from their capital funds and the City of Chicago committed another \$3 million from landscape impact fees. Friends of the Parks and the DuSable Coalition have met with both state and federal elected officials to push for \$3 million from the state and \$3 million in federal dollars to complete the funding. 🌿

Next Steps for Revetment at Promontory Point

The Chicago Park District agreed to a third party review of the feasibility of preserving the historic limestone revetment at Promontory Point at 55th Street and the lake. The agreement means an independent third party will apply federal preservation guidelines and produce two preservation treatment options for repair of the Promontory Point revetment, a project that has been in dispute for nearly six years.

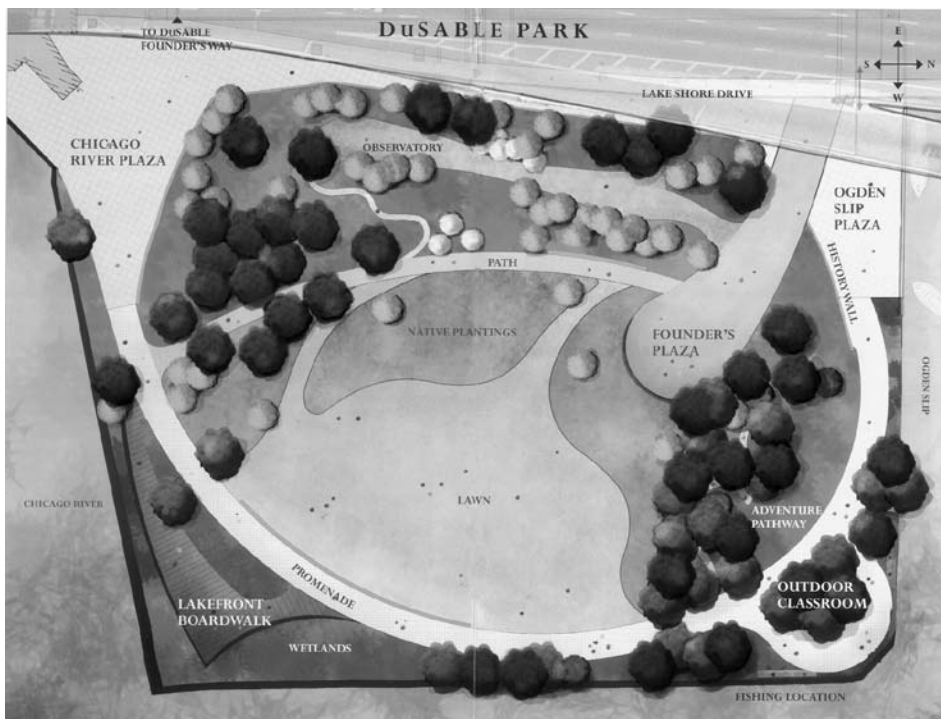
The Park District, the City and the Army Corps of Engineers proposed reconstructing the Promontory Point revetment using concrete steps, similar to the reconstructed revetments at Irving Park, Montrose, 31st Street and 40th Street. The poured concrete steps would replace the historic limestone blocks that have been in place over 70 years.

An outcry from the community erupted over the stark concrete design, and the community organized a group called the Community Task Force for Promontory Point (CTFPP). CTFPP raised funds to hire its own engineering firm, which completed studies and analysis and concluded that Promontory Point could be restored in place using the existing limestone and some new material, at a cheaper cost. Over the years, CTFPP continued to fight the Park District's plan and called for the preservation and restoration of the Point in compliance with federal law and the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Historic Preservation.

Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. and Senator Barack Obama stepped in and called for an independent review to be conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers under the direction of the Corps' Center for Expertise (CX) for the Preservation of Historic Buildings and Structures.

The process will begin with a design charrette involving all stakeholders and then proceed to a 35% design document. The review process, however, is not yet funded. Senator Obama and Congressman Jackson, however, promised to seek funding in this year's federal budget.

For more information, go to hydepark.org or savethepoint.org and go to parks/point. 🌿



The plan for DuSable Park, a 3.5-acre site located at the confluence of the Chicago River and Lake Michigan, is shown above.

Friends Indeed

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

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Annual Gifts

Each year, we seek membership gifts from caring citizens and families who want to assist us as we make Chicago's parks and forest preserves greener and safer.



Frederick Law Olmsted

You may make a tax deductible gift as a member: Individual \$35; Family \$50; Protector \$75; Patron \$100; Conserver \$250; Benefactor \$500. Donors of \$1,000 or more enter our special giving society, *The Frederick Law Olmsted Circle*. They are recognized in a special section of our annual report and receive an invitation to a special donor's reception each year to show our appreciation for this grand level of support.

Employer Matching Gifts

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

Bequests: The Burnham & Ward Society

A bequest, or a gift from your estate, creates a wonderful and lasting legacy. A simple provision in your will, or an amendment, or a gift of life insurance will help Friends of the Parks protect Chicago's parks and forests preserves, while decreasing possible estate taxes. Individuals who inform Friends of the Parks that we

have been included in their estate plans become members of our estate circle, the *Burnham & Ward Society*, named after Daniel J. Burnham and A. Montgomery Ward, the two visionaries who helped to shape our city and parks.

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. We will note such gifts in our Annual Report each spring.

Give a Membership

A great stocking stuffer! Give a friend or relation a membership in Friends of the Parks. 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 the Friends of the Parks and reducing or 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.

VIP's (Volunteers in Parks) Help Make Improvements

Friends of the Parks has hosted thirty-two Community Service Days in Chicago parks and forest preserves this year. Many of these days happen because of the willingness of our advisory councils, schools, community groups and busi-



Volunteers from Motorola fill a wheelbarrow with mulch at Ogden Park.



Motorola volunteers rake the perimeter of Ogden Park as part of their Community Service Day.

nesses to participate in making parks and preserves cleaner and safer.

Friends of the Parks hosted eleven Community Service Days in the last few months, working with Motorola, Whole

Foods, Unilever and HSBC. In addition, we have worked with many local colleges and universities this year, including Kellogg, DePaul, IIT (Illinois Institute of Technology), University of Chicago, University of Wisconsin at Madison and alumni groups from Emory University and College of Worcester.

We wish to thank our VIP sponsors: Clif Bar, Ford Motor Company and Unilever.

To learn how you can get involved in your park or preserve and plan a Community Service Day, contact Mary Eileen Sullivan, Director of Volunteers at sullivanme@fotp.org or (312) 857-2757 extension 13. 🌱

Tour of Caldwell Lily Pool in Lincoln Park Attracts Key Supporters of Friends of the Parks

On September 28th, more than eighty "best friends" of Friends of the Parks attended a tour and celebration of the Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool, newly renovated by the Lincoln Park Conservancy and the Chicago Park District.

The Department of the Interior recently designated Alfred Caldwell's exquisite Lily Pool in Lincoln Park as a National Historic Landmark— an honor bestowed upon only a select number of America's most significant landscapes representing or illustrating an important theme, event, or person in the history of the nation.

The National Historic Landmark designation represents the highest such recognition accorded by our nation to historic properties. These special places are the actual sites where significant historical events occurred, or where prominent Americans worked or lived, and represent the ideas that shaped our nation. Fewer than 2,500 historic places carry the title of National Historic Landmark.

Located at the corner of Fullerton and Cannon Drive near the east entrance of Lincoln Park Zoo, the award-winning Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool is one of Chicago's premier prairie-style landscapes designed by Caldwell in 1937.

Alfred Caldwell, then Chief Landscape Designer for the Chicago Park District, designed the space. Born in 1903 in St. Louis, he worked for more than five years as landscape assistant to legendary landscape architect Jen Jensen. Jensen's "Prairie School Style" – which emphasizes natural formations of stone outcroppings, native prairie plantings, waterfalls and horizontal pavilions – greatly influenced Caldwell. The Lily Pool itself suggests a "prairie stream," replicating a creek running through a Midwestern plain. Caldwell created the Pool and its surrounding environ between 1937-1938. It was known for a while as "The Rookery," for all of the waterfowl it attracted.

After years of neglect, the Lincoln Park Conservancy and the Chicago Park District restored it to Caldwell's original specifications in 2003.

Friends of the Parks' reception featured a guided tour by Friends of the Parks' President Erma Tranter. Following the tour, local thespians from Ground Up Theater entertained guests with three scenes from William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, which the group performed in various Chicago parks for free during the summer of 2006, with assistance from Friends of the Parks.

Friends of the Parks thanks the Lincoln Park Conservancy for its help and Stefani's Signature Restaurants for its catering services. 🌱



Friends of the Parks' board member, Paul Boyd and North Pond volunteer, Veronica Cook, enjoy the Caldwell Lily Pool tour.

Volunteers Provide Support on National Public Lands Day

On September 30th, hundreds of volunteers came out to beautify their public lands including parks, preserves and open spaces. Volunteer stewards led groups in mulching trees, fixing playgrounds and removing invasive plants at the following sites: Beaubien Woods, Calumet City Prairie, Columbus Park, Cermak Woods, Deer Grove Woods, Dvorak Park, Gompers Park, Harms Flatwoods, Mount Forest Island, Lincoln Park, Schiller Woods Canoe Launch, Senn Park, Spring Creek Headwaters, Whistler Woods and Wolf Road Prairie.

In addition, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County offered environmental education and stewardship training at five of its nature centers including; Crabtree Nature Center, Little Red Schoolhouse, River Trail Nature Center, Sand Ridge, and Harold Tyrell Trailside Museum.

National Public Lands Day volunteers enjoyed Clif Bars, donated for the event, while they worked. 🌱



Volunteers from Washington Mutual participate with Friends of the Parks for National Public Lands Day in Columbus Park.

Park Notes and Facts: Global Warming and Trees

Friends of the Parks wants you to know:

- According to results from the Audubon Society's Great Backyard Bird Count completed in February, 2006, global warming has affected bird migrations. Many bird species wintered further north in greater numbers than usual. As a result, winter bird populations in the southern United States were 50% lower than usual. For details go to www.birdsource.org/gbbc.
- The City of Chicago has only 13% tree canopy. American Forests, a nonprofit conservation organization, recommends a minimum of 40% tree cover for most urban areas.
- An article in September's Hemisphere Magazine discussed the media's role in reporting on the devastating losses of virgin forests in the Amazon and in other parts of the world. The media fails, however, to educate the public on the "equally disturbing disappearance of our 'urban forests'" – the trees along streets, in residential yards, and in parks – in metropolitan areas. The magazine quotes a study by American Forests that shows that "the 448 largest urban areas in the U.S. lost more than 3.4 billion trees in just the past ten years".
- Global warming will continue to grow as a major policy issue. However, Clement W. Hamilton, Vice President of Programs for Morton Arboretum, reminds us what all of us should do: "In all the environmental hubbub, one of the most important solutions to these myriad problems is getting overshadowed by fascinating discussions of flex-fuel cars, solar and wind power, cap-and-trade market schemes for carbon emissions, sustainable architecture and progressive environmental policy. That largely neglected solution is, to quote [Al] Gore, 'plant trees...lots of trees.'"
- Did you know that 23% of the City of Chicago is for the public's right-of-way and 8% of the land in the city is landscapes? 🌱

Chicago Park District Awards Park Advisory Councils at Family Appreciation Day

On Saturday September 9th, the Chicago Park District hosted an Advisory Council Family Appreciation Day at the Northerly Island Pavilion to thank community volunteers for their support of parks throughout the city. Participants enjoyed carnival games, a rock climbing wall, a dance video game and a wonderful lunch served up by the Chicago Park District's downtown executive staff.

In addition to fun and games, the Park District honored several Advisory Councils for their outstanding efforts.



Cecilia Butler (center) received a Lifetime Achievement Award for her work to improve Washington Park. With her is Superintendent Tim Mitchell and park activist Sylvia Royt (left).

In Memoriam

Nat Silberman – 1924 - 2006

Friends of the Parks mourns the recent passing of long-time park advocate and South Shore resident Nat Silberman.

Along with his wife Polly, Nat served as a strong park advocate and environmentalist for many years. Together, they served with the South Lakefront Coalition (a group of representatives of park advisory councils consulting with the Chicago Park District for lakefront improvements), the Southeast Environmental Task Force, the South Shore Cultural Center Advisory Council, the Jackson Park Advisory Council, National Audubon Society and Friends of the Parks. Together, they helped lead the community effort to save the South

Most Successful Grassroots Fundraising - Beverly Park

The Beverly Park Advisory Council's neighborhood fundraising campaigns and events have raised more than \$108,000. Funds will help create a new playground, to be completed this fall.

Most Support and Sponsorship of Park Programs - Holstein Park

The Holstein Park Advisory Council successfully partnered with the Park District to sponsor more than ten park programs using council funds.

Excellence in Gardening - Wicker Park

The Wicker Park Advisory Council demonstrated tremendous care and effort in maintaining a community garden within a park. Wicker Park's garden has received awards from many different agencies, including Friends of the Parks!

Largest Active Membership - Amundsen Park

The Amundsen Park Advisory Council boasts membership of more than fifty ac-

tive individuals who participate consistently in meetings, events and fundraisers.

Most Successful New Member Initiative - Dean Park

The Dean Park Advisory Council greatly expanded its membership over the last year. The group started with four members and now contains seventeen members.

Chicago Park District's Daniel Burnham Award for Dedication and Vision - Cecilia Butler

The Park District presented this award to Advisory Council Member Cecelia Butler. She showed extreme dedication and volunteered a great deal of time to develop a plan or vision for Washington Park.

The heartwarming occasion drew communities together from across the city all in the name of caring for their local parks. Many thanks and kudos to the Chicago Park District for hosting the event! 🌱

Shore Country Club from demolition and achieved its preservation as the South Shore Cultural Center. He was also active in the Boy Scouts, Metro Seniors in Action and the South Shore Planning Coalition. Our thoughts are with his wife Polly.

Seymour Simon – 1915 - 2006

The Honorable Seymour Simon, 91, passed away in September. Seymour Simon served as Alderman, Cook County Commissioner, Cook County President and Illinois Supreme Court judge. He was a Chicago Democrat with an independent streak who sparred with everyone from Mayor Richard J. Daley to his fellow Illinois Supreme Court justices during a

political career that took him through five decades of service.

In the 1980s, he cast the only dissenting vote in the Clement v. Chicago Park District case involving the construction of a golf driving range in Jackson Park. Friends of the Parks' board member Kay Clement challenged the Park District's decision to eliminate heavily-used soccer and football fields and public picnic areas in order to construct a restricted-use golf driving range that charged user fees. The Illinois Supreme Court found that only the City of Chicago could enforce the Lakefront Protection Ordinance, but Seymour Simon dissented. 🌱

Neighborhood Parks: Programs and Projects Abound

Commercial Park (1845 W. Rice)

The Commercial Park Advisory Council continues its leadership role in providing direct programs to children at Commercial Park. In September, the group hosted a fundraiser at The Uncommon Ground to raise funds for the Community Art Studio which offers free arts programs for youth and families at the park. Council members will purchase art materials and hire art therapists to work with over 250 youth and families through after-school and summer programs as well as community workshops and neighborhood events.

Additionally, funds support the Girls Create A.R.T. (awareness, responsibility, truth) program. In a partnership with the Heartland Alliance, thirty girls ages 10-17 will participate in the program as part of a refugee resettlement program. The girls will exhibit their art works as a way to celebrate their diversity and creativity.

Parks in Streeterville

The Streeterville neighborhood—bounded on the south by the Chicago River, on the east by Lake Michigan, on the north by Oak Street and on the west by Rush Street—is experiencing tremendous growth and development. Sixteen buildings are currently designed, approved and are under construction in the area. When completed, the population of Streeterville will increase 40% from 25,000 people to 35,000 people. The increase in population will place more demand on the limited parks in the community. As a result of the new development, Streeterville will need twenty additional park acres to serve its residents. The city's standard of two acres per thousand population, currently met by Streeterville's 50 park acres, will not be enough. Instead, Streeterville will need 20 acres of new parks to meet the city's minimal two-acre standard. The Streeterville Organization of Active Residents is setting up a parks committee to make recommendations.

Senn Park (5887 N. Ridge)

Work began recently to reconstruct Senn Park, an 8.13-acre park located west of Senn High School. The park renovation project will improve and add landscaping to the school's parking area, adjacent to the school, and will create school entrance and egress routes. The park will gain a grand south entry and plaza along Ridge Avenue, upgraded landscaped areas and ballfields. In addition, both the basketball and tennis courts will be resurfaced. The construction plan creates new paths and benches to facilitate use of the park by

both Senn students and the community.

Officials estimate park improvement costs at \$1.5 million. Alderman Mary Ann Smith contributed \$750,000 from her aldermanic menu money and the Chicago Board of Education contributed \$750,000 for this huge project.

Erie Park Dedicated



Mayor Richard M. Daley, Park District Commissioner Rouly Shalabi, (left) and Alderman Burton Natarus were on hand to officially dedicate the new Erie Park at Erie Street and the Chicago River.

Montrose Dune Tour for Park District Commissioners

On September 9th, Friends of the Parks organized a special tour of Montrose Dunes, a site monitored by volunteers and staff of the Chicago Botanic Gardens' Plants of Concern program. The tour introduced Park District officials to this extremely rare area.

Our guests from the Chicago Park District included Commissioner Cindy Mitchell; Tim Later, Chief of Staff liaison; Ellen Sargent, Deputy Director of the district's Department of Natural Resources; and Hillary Pranga, Volunteer Manager.

Donald Dann, President of the Bird Conservation Network; Rob Curtis, nationally-known nature photographer; a landscape painter and a photographer from the Art Institute, who regularly paints and photographs the dunes; and local birders also attended the tour.

Site steward Leslie Borns, who works with students in Friends of the Parks' "Nature Along the Lake" program and our high school environmental education program to teach them about the dunes and provide stewardship opportunities there,

led the tour.

Guests viewed the 9.25-acre natural area, which has been under restoration for the past six years by the Park District and many dedicated volunteers. The restoration aims to encourage growth of native grasses, sedges, rushes and other plant life that have adapted to the beach, dunes and swales in the area. Volunteers monitor several state-listed plant species for the Chicago Botanic Garden's Plants of Concern Program, as well as monitor resident and migratory birds.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) recently designated the Montrose Beach Dunes (the site's official state name) an Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) site. The INAI is a statewide list of high-quality natural areas. This is the first time a Chicago Park District parcel has been recognized as an INAI site.

The move for INAI designation came about last summer after Debra Nelson, a heritage biologist from the IDNR, was consulted on ways to control several troublesome invasive species at the site. Nelson and a colleague visited the dunes and were immediately impressed by the unique flora and fauna, including uncommon geological features such as a panne (a wet depression in a dune/swale system). Nelson noted that pannes are "globally imperiled with fewer than 200 acres worldwide." IDNR subsequently nominated the site for INAI status. The lengthy application and supporting documentation were approved by the Natural Areas Evaluation Committee in Springfield in early October.

Leslie Borns told the group that the INAI designation opens the door for further protection and enhancement of Montrose Beach Dunes. She mentioned that several changes will soon go into effect at the site to increase protection of its flora and fauna. The fence around the dune, which has been in place for five years and sustained much wear and tear, will be dismantled so that sand, snow, and ice can move around freely in the unique habitat over the winter. A new fence will be installed in the spring. The Park District will also put up temporary signs demarcating the habitat. There will also be some ongoing thinning of the large cottonwood trees on the big dune, which will reduce the need for volunteers to weed the thousands of cottonwood seedlings that crop up each year (the trees produce millions of fluffy seeds that sprout in damp sand). 🌿

Friends of the Parks' Fall Frolic: Bike the Preserves Takes Cyclists Along Forest Preserve's North Branch Trail

Nearly two hundred bicyclists joined Friends of the Parks for our third annual Fall Frolic: Bike the Preserves ride through the North Branch Bike Trail of the Cook County Forest Preserves.

The ride took place on Sunday, September 17th. Riders traveled thirty miles through Caldwell Woods, Edgebrook Woods, Forest Glen Woods, Glenview



We had fantastic weather for the 3rd annual Fall Frolic: Bike the Preserves in September.



Fall Frolic participants enjoyed the beautiful scenery along the North Branch Bicycle Trail.

Woods, Harms Woods and the Skokie Lagoons to the Chicago Botanic Garden. Riders toured the beautiful gardens and enjoyed refreshments before heading back south, finishing the event at Caldwell Woods.

The Fall Frolic: Bike the Preserves was

a great opportunity for people who like to cycle, but don't like to venture onto Chicago's busy streets. The event used the paved bicycle path through the preserves and offered the beautiful dappled woods as a safe backdrop.

Please join us next year – September 16, 2007. 🌿

Friends of the Parks Sponsors Presentation on "Agora" Sculpture by Magdalena Abakanovich at Chicago Cultural Center; Dedication Set for November 16

On October 12th, Chicago Park District Commissioner Cindy Mitchell led a one-hour presentation at the Chicago Cultural Center on the newest public-art project to grace Chicago's parks. Entitled "Agora, A Meeting Ground" (agora means "a place of gathering" in Greek), this massive exhibit of 106 nine-foot tall iron figures by internationally-renowned sculptor Magdalena Abakanovich will permanently reside in Grant Park at Michigan Avenue and Roosevelt Road.

Ms. Abakanovich donated the sculpture, valued at \$3 million, "on permanent

loan" to the City of Chicago. A private foundation and the former minister of culture for Poland provided additional funding.

Commissioner Mitchell, Susan Drymalski Bowey and Chris Gent, Director of Planning for the Chicago Park District, spoke about the gift's background and the meaning of the sculptures.

Mitchell and her panel explained the design, fabricating steps and complicated shipping and installation. Workers cast the pieces in a ship-making foundry in Srem, Poland. The figures then traveled

across the Atlantic to Montreal, where they were transferred to a train to Chicago and then by truck to the corner of Michigan and Roosevelt in Grant Park.

Commissioner Mitchell has been responsible for the successful fundraising efforts which have raised \$650,000 of the \$900,000 goal. Local funds will cover installation costs and maintenance of the 106-piece monumental sculpture.

A dedication ceremony of the "Agora" sculpture will take place on Thursday, November 16 at 11:30 a.m. at Roosevelt and Michigan Avenue. 🌿

Environmental Education (cont'd)

career awareness. In mid-October both teams met up at Montrose Point and the Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club for a field trip. The students fished as part of the Illinois Department of Natural Resource's Urban Fishing program and worked on dune stewardship with Montrose Dune Specialist, Leslie Borns, and other local volunteers. Leslie spoke with students about dune ecology and the teens helped plant native species and remove garbage from the beach and dunes. Afterward, they went birding in the Magic Hedge. Students spotted warblers, robins and

chimney swifts in high numbers. They also caught an amazing territorial display by two red-tailed hawks and four American crows which seemed to leave the students in awe. The birds' tactical swoops and dive-bombs turned a few more teens into official "bird nerds."

The Earth Team members total 25 teens from the north and 25 teens from the south who will be working together on several stewardship and environmental projects. While the teens learn a new appreciation for the environment, they also embrace the diversity of their peers and build a sense of comradery. ♻️



Students engage in environmental education as part of Friends of the Parks Nature Along the Lake Program

Emerald Ash Borer Found Infecting Ash Trees in Chicago

The Morton Arboretum provides the following advice to homeowners and municipal foresters on the Emerald Ash Borer.

Advice to Homeowners

The Morton Arboretum suggests these steps:

Do **not** move firewood. Campers and vacationers who head to their summer homes should acquire firewood from the local area.

Familiarize yourself with ash trees.

Familiarize yourself with the borer's appearance, and keep your eyes open for any signs of it.

If you believe you have spotted a borer, call a city forester, a certified arborist, a county cooperative extension office nearest you, or The Morton Arboretum Plant Clinic at (630) 719-2424. ♻️

Events calendar

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9*

12:15PM

"Creative Living in the City" lecture: "Defiant Gardens: Gardens Growing Through Adversity." Landscape historian Kenneth Helphand will discuss gardens built in war-torn spaces during the twentieth century. Helphand's new book *Defiant Gardens: Making Gardens in Wartime* examines gardens built inside and behind the trenches of World War I, gardens built in Warsaw and similar ghettos under the Nazis during the World War II and more. Helphand focuses on gardening as a source of hope and resilience. Co-sponsored by Friends of the Parks and the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14*

12:15PM

"Creative Living in the City" lecture: "Completing the South Lakefront Park System: The Last 4 Miles" lecture. Four miles of Chicago's 30-mile lakefront remain in private ownership. Friends of the Parks and pro bono architects have worked in partnership with south side park advisory councils and community organizations to develop a vision for completion of the south lakefront from 71st Street to the Indiana border. A panel will present a draft plan envisioned by the community to complete the south lakefront park system starting from 71st to 75th Streets, the USX site and finally the Illinois Port District land which would connect to Calumet Park and the Indiana border. Co-sponsored by Friends of the Parks and the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2007*

12:15PM

The Museum of Contemporary Art's recent "Massive Change: The Future of Global Design" exhibit celebrated the human capacity to change the world through responsible design. This "Creative Living in the City" lecture explores how some of the ideas and innovations presented in the exhibition are creating local and global change. Co-sponsored by Friends of the Parks and the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2007

TWELVE NOON

Friends of the Parks will host its 32nd Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon at the Chicago Cultural Center (G.A.R. Hall, 78 E. Washington in Chicago). We will announce our special keynote speaker soon. Members will receive an invitation in early January. For more information, please contact Amy Donatell at donatella@fotp.org or (312) 857-2757 extension 14.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2007

Friends of the Parks will host its 18th annual Parks Ball gala featuring a sit-down dinner, entertainment and an exciting auction. Join us for a wonderful evening and to help raise funds for our important parks advocacy work!

*All lectures take place at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington.



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Earth Share Benefits Work of Friends of the Parks

Friends of the Parks receives important funding from individuals who donate through workplace payroll deduction campaigns. Friends of the Parks, along with over 60 other environmental non-profit groups, belongs to an umbrella federation called Earth Share of Illinois, part of a national workplace giving consortium called Earth Share, which coordinates workplace giving for environmental causes.

By participating in Earth Share, Friends of the Parks has the potential to allow thousands of workplace donors an opportunity to support our work with payroll deductions. Hundreds of employers, both public and private, including City of Chicago employees, federal employees, and many private sector companies, participate in workplace giving campaigns.

An Illinois law states that public employers running employee giving campaigns must list all of the over 1,000 state-certified charities in its campaign pledging system (including Friends of the Parks). Since the charities involved wish to make it an easy process for employers, they united themselves with one name - the Combined Charities Campaign (CCC). The CCC allows employees to review all Illinois-certified charities in one easy-to-use booklet, and they use one standard pledge form for processing. As a result, public employers run streamlined and effective campaigns that keeps them in compliance with Illinois state law.

Friends of the Parks is pleased to announce that the Chicago Park District will be running a CCC campaign for the first time in 2006! We encourage other public employers to utilize this CCC program, so that we and other worthy charities can receive crucial funding. Please visit www.combinedcharities.com for more information. To learn more about Earth Share, please go to www.earthshare.org.

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 / (312) 85-PARKS

FAX: (312) 857-0656

WEB SITE: www.fotp.org

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

