



Friends of the Parks works to protect, improve and expand Chicago's parks and forest preserves in Cook County.

Friends of the Parks Advocate

www.fotp.org

Summer 2007

Chicago Park District Golf Courses Need New Direction

The Chicago Park District system has six public golf courses located throughout the city in Columbus, Jackson, Marquette, Lincoln and Warren Parks and the South Shore Cultural Center. Until 1993, the Park District operated the six golf courses and two driving ranges at a loss to taxpayers. In 1993, the District privatized the golf operations to KemperSports for a five-year term with a five-year extension. However, since the ten-year contract expired in 2003, the Park District has not gone out to bid for a new agreement. Instead, they have extended the KemperSports management contract through December 31, 2007.

In an April 1, 2007 Chicago Tribune Sunday magazine article, writer David Murray compared the Park District's golf courses with the recently-privatized Cook County Forest Preserve District's golf courses. The sub-title of the article summarizes the issue: "Forest Preserve Program Shines under New Management, Chicago's Park District Courses Fall Short."

The Chicago Tribune article details how Billy Casper Golf Management improved the Forest Preserve's golf courses by replacing asphalt tee boxes with natural grass, enhancing the turf

conditions throughout the courses, hiring experienced greenskeepers, and planting beautiful gardens. At the same time the Park District's courses, the Tribune article states, "remain sub-par, especially in comparison to the spruced-up Forest Preserve operation."

In the three years since Billy Casper Golf Management took over the management of the Forest Preserve's ten golf courses, all ten courses were Audubon certified. In the 13 years KemperSports has managed the Park District's six courses, only one has been Audubon certified.

(continued on page 2)

Thousands Volunteer for Citywide Earth Day Clean Up

On April 21, Friends of the Parks hosted its 18th annual Earth Day Parks and Preserves Clean Up sponsored by HSBC. Over 4,000 volunteers helped clean and green their local parks, playgrounds, beaches and forest preserves. Following the clean-up, many park stewards attended Earth Day Celebrations at Humboldt Park and the Bunker Hill Forest Preserve.

Earth Day sponsors included: Allied Glove & Safety, Be Our Guest, The Care of Trees, Carmeuse USA, Eli's Chicago's Finest, Magid Gloves, Simple Green, Walgreens, Whole Foods and Unilever. Thank you to our sponsors and volunteers who came out on Earth Day to "act locally while thinking globally."



Earth Day volunteers learn more about eco-friendly policies at Humboldt Park.

(continued on page 6)

Golf courses (cont'd)

For example, the poor maintenance conditions at Diversey Driving Range recently led to a most environmentally unfriendly proposal to install astro-turf on the entire range. At a 44th Ward community meeting, the Park District announced a proposal to spend nearly a million dollars to install seven acres of astro-turf to carpet the Diversey Driving Range.

The contract with KemperSports required the company to maintain the natural grass at the driving range. However, the company failed to maintain the range, allowing the grass to die and leaving a field of mostly dirt and mud. Yet the Park District did not enforce the contract requirements to maintain the grass, seed, aerate, fertilize, etc. Instead, the Park District proposed installing artificial turf on seven acres of parkland. Friends of the Parks does not support the use of environmentally-harsh artificial turf. The Park District should, as a general policy posi-

tion, hold KemperSports accountable for maintaining the driving range as required in the contract. Prior to the privatization of the golf facilities in 1993, grass thrived. Only since the Park District privatized the range has the natural grass died.

The Park District's contract with KemperSports stipulates that the management company "shall operate, manage and maintain" six golf courses, two driving ranges and one miniature golf course. The maintenance standards included in the contract require:

- Implementing a fertilization program for all turf areas
- Aeration of greens, tees and fairways as needed
- Annual seeding of areas on the course and grounds that are weak and have yet to mature.

Artificial turf harms the environment. A synthetic plastic-based material, it does not absorb water and contributes to the

heat island effect. The District would need to install an engineered water control system to absorb the water and prevent flooding. A University of Missouri Extension turfgrass expert recently completed a cost analysis and stated "synthetic turfgrass costs more, a lot more, than natural grass to install and maintain."

The Park District has a great opportunity to improve the golf courses and driving ranges by issuing a bid proposal that requires enhanced care of the golf courses and provides the greatest revenue to the Park District. With the current contract expiring on December 31, 2007, the Park District stated it would bid the golf management contract this summer to ensure a fair, competitive bid process.

Meanwhile, the Park District should hold KemperSports responsible for its contractual obligations to reseed and maintain natural grass. 🌱

Enjoy Adventures this Summer in the Forest Preserves throughout Cook County

"Ten City Escapes"

This brochure describes ten destinations in the Cook County Forest Preserves reachable by public transportation. Individual and family opportunities at these sites include: bike trails, wildflowers, site tours, exceptional birding spots, picnic sites and volunteer opportunities. Call (312) 857-2757, extension 17 to receive a copy of the brochure.

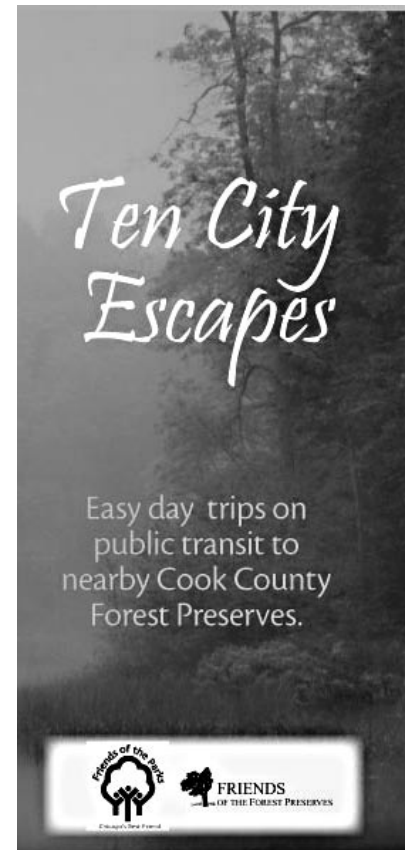
You can also view the brochure at www.fpdccvolunteers.org. Check out this new web site to also explore a wide variety of volunteer opportunities in the Cook County Forest Preserves this summer. Volunteers work on over 70 land management sites throughout the Forest Preserve District assisting the District's staff with the control of invasive, herbaceous and woody species; scientific monitoring; trash collection; seed collection and dispersal; and prescribed burns. Volunteers also work at nature centers and on special projects.

The Chicago Wilderness consortium

recently launched a web site called www.kidsoutside.info as a part of their "Leave No Child Inside" awareness campaign.

With the prevalence of the internet, video games, and green space lost to development, we now have a generation of children disconnected from nature. The lack of unstructured outdoor playtime may contribute to childhood obesity, attention deficit disorder, depression and other children's health problems.

Fortunately, this serious problem has a simple solution. Take your kids outside and skip stones, count butterflies or go fishing. Get outside with them and look, listen, touch and smell! Let your kids take the lead—with their natural curiosity, they will quickly find something for the family to explore. Have fun, stay healthy, and create a close family by enjoying the outdoors with your children. This web site helps you do just that. Check back often for ideas on where to go and what to do outside in the Chicago Wilderness region with your kids. 🌱



Friends of the Parks' Symposium on "Last 4 Miles" Draws Opposition from Private Property Owners Between 71st and 75th Streets


Friends of the Parks sponsored a symposium on "Completing the South Lakefront Parks: the Last 4 Miles." Co-sponsors of the symposium included the park advisory councils from South Shore Cultural Center, Rainbow Beach Park and Jackson Park. Following encouraging remarks by Park District Commissioner Bob Pickens and 7th Ward Alderman Sandi Jackson, architects presented a vision for the completion of the lakefront parks from 71st Street to the Indiana border. The architects developed the vision plan over the last year through a series of charrettes and community meetings with south side community groups and park activists. The concept plan includes three design

options for the stretch from 71st Street to 75th Street to connect South Shore Cultural Center to Rainbow Beach Park, a major landfill project for expanded parks and beaches at the USX site (formerly U.S. Steel plant) and the transfer of unused Port District land to the confined disposal facility to expand Calumet Park.

Residents who live directly on Lake Michigan between 71st and 75th Streets came out in large numbers to attend the symposium and loudly voiced their complete opposition to any park development east of their private property, including an off-shore and bridge concept and the park rimming the shoreline between South Shore Cultural Center and Rainbow Beach

Park. They want no change and call for the alternative which uses South Shore Drive as the connection between South Shore Cultural Center and Rainbow Beach Park.

As Friends of the Parks continues to work on a concept plan to complete the lakefront parks on both the south and the north sides of the city, we will keep the "do nothing" alternative in the plan for the 71st to 75th Streets segment.

However, as a park advocacy organization, Friends of the Parks takes the broader position that the lakefront park system should be completed from 71st Street to the Indiana border. For more information, visit fotp.org. 

Chicago Spire Approved as Nation's Tallest Building: Friends of the Parks Reviews Impact on DuSable Park

The Chicago Plan Commission approved the latest revised architectural design for the Chicago Spire, a 2,000-foot-tall condominium building designed by world-renowned architect Santiago Calatrava. The Commission approved building the Chicago Spire on a two-acre site located just north of the Chicago River and immediately west of Lake Shore Drive on private land that was part of the original Chicago Dock and Canal Trust. The building would rise directly across Lake Shore Drive from the site for DuSable Park.

Friends of the Parks reviewed the impact of the Chicago Spire on DuSable Park. At the Plan Commission meeting, Friends of the Parks testified in support of the Shelbourne Group's Chicago Spire plan. The Shelbourne Group improved the design for the Chicago Spire significantly by moving the six-level parking garage completely underground. By submerging all parking below grade, the

designers opened up the development site to light and sun. More importantly, the revised Chicago Spire design dedicated a plaza adjacent to River Esplanade Park to the public. The plaza would provide benefits to the condominium residents, the River East community and Chicagoans by providing additional open space along the DuSable Founder's Way bordering the Chicago River and connecting the plaza to DuSable Park.

Beyond the beautiful plan for the Chicago Spire, Friends of the Parks stated that after several meetings with the design team regarding DuSable Park, it was optimistic that there would be consensus on a park design that will honor Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, Chicago's founder and first non-native settler.

There remain three critical issues in the DuSable Park design. First, the Spire's northbound entrance ramp to Lake Shore Drive must have a minimal or zero

impact on DuSable Park. The entrance ramp must be tucked completely under the existing infrastructure of Lake Shore Drive. Second, the Park District should construct the pedestrian/bike "Navy Pier flyway", a bridge over the Ogden Slip and Chicago River, as close as possible to Lake Shore Drive's infrastructure, so as to maximize the size and usability of DuSable Park. Third, the Shelbourne Development Group has proposed cutting a third entrance into the center of the park. Friends of the Parks considers this a mistake. The third entrance would cut the park in half, creating two narrow hills that would reduce the size of the park and prevent mid-level access for the disabled to the water's edge.

The Shelbourne Group has shown its commitment to working with the DuSable Coalition to resolve these issues. In addition, they have committed \$9 million to building DuSable Park. 

In Memoriam: Nancy Campbell Hays 1923 – 2007

Nancy Campbell Hays helped found Friends of the Parks in 1975. Her strong involvement in park advocacy started in the 1960s when the city proposed a highway through Jackson Park. Nancy and other advocates tied themselves to trees marked for removal. They marched with signs during the morning and evening rush hours and alerted a large number of citizens of the proposed destruction of Jackson Park. Her protest and strong advocacy led the city and Mayor Richard J. Daley to hire the firm Johnson, Johnson and Roy to develop the Lakefront Plan of Chicago, completed in 1972. The Lake-

front Plan of Chicago subsequently led to the city's approval of the Lake Michigan and Chicago Lakefront Protection Ordinance. Nancy once wrote that the high point in her life was getting arrested in 1965 for tying ribbons around the threatened trees in protest of the highway construction plan.

As a Friends of the Parks board member, she worked in her quiet, soft spoken way to continuously promote a green agenda including restoring Jackson Park, planting trees, and ensuring sound management practices for the natural areas in the city's parks. Nancy remained active

in the Jackson Park Advisory Council for two decades and served as its president until her death.

As a professional photographer, Nancy worked for several publications including the Hyde Park Herald. The first of her photos the Herald published showed threatened trees in Kenwood Park. She won an award from the Audubon Society in 1997 for her environmental reports.

Nancy remained on Friends of the Parks' Board through early 2007, at which time she joined our Advisory Board. She died on May 31, 2007 at the age of 84. We will miss her. 🌿

Environmental Education Program Grows to 870 Students in 79 Fieldtrips Through "Nature Along the Lake"

Friends of the Park's Environmental Education program or "Nature Along the Lake" brought 36 Chicago Public School classes, or 870 students in grades 2-7, to the lakefront during Spring 2007. The students used binoculars to take a closer look at local and migratory birds, explored the beach ecosystems at Montrose Point and the South Shore Cultural Center, tested Lake Michigan water, and studied the

flora and fauna of the ecosystems.

In addition, as part of the continuing partnership with the Department of Natural Resources' Chicago Urban Fishing Program, 17 classes participated in a fishing clinic as part of their lakefront studies. Students learned about the Illinois waterways, food chains, and invasive species and also learned how to fish. This spring, 393 students went fishing at Montrose



Carver Primary's 4th graders enjoy lunch outside the South Shore Cultural Center during a "Nature Along the Lake" fieldtrip.

Harbor, catching blue gills, rainbow trout, carp, gobies and more!

Thanks to the continued support of the Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club and the South Shore Cultural Center, the Nature Along the Lake 2006-2007 school year ended with a total of 79 field trips to the lakefront. 🌿



More than 30 sculptures by artist Niki de Saint Phalle are on exhibit at the Garfield Park Conservatory and at three other locations. Come out and enjoy Niki in the Garden.

Friends Indeed

Major Contributors April 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007

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

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Earth Day (cont'd)

As part of this year's Earth Day event, Friends of the Parks initiated a tree-planting project. With the support of board member Oscar D'Angelo, Friends of the Parks purchased and planted a dozen large caliper trees in Burnham Park at 39th and Lake Shore Drive. A great crew of volunteers from Friends of the Parks' Junior Board and students from the Illinois Institute of Technology planted the Sycamore, White Oak, Catalpa and Serviceberry trees. May the trees grow, provide shade, and help clean the air for generations to come. Thank you, Oscar D'Angelo, for your generosity.

Friends of the Parks initiated its Tree Planting Project as part of Earth Day 2007 and will continue the project with fall and spring tree plantings through the years to come. 🌳



Susie Novak and Mary Pendergast tend to a garden at Buffalo Park.



Commissioner Deborah Sims, right, leads an Earth Day crew at Sauk Trail Forest Preserve.

Neighborhood Park News: Activities Flourish Around the City

Mario's Italian Lemonade Taylor Street Shop Donates Land for New Park

Dorothy and Mario DiPaolo, long-time owners of Mario's Italian Lemonade Shop, will provide a rent-free lease to create a park at the corner of Carpenter and Arthington Streets in the Taylor Street neighborhood. The land they own is adjacent to the Galileo Scholastic Academy and will benefit the school children and the community in general.

Skinner Park/Police Academy Joint Recreation Facility

Skinner Park (1331 West Monroe), a seven-acre park with softball, football and soccer fields; basketball and tennis courts; and a children's playground and gardens serves the growing population of the near west side community. The park lacks, however, an indoor recreation center to meet the needs of children and adults.

In a creative partnership between the Chicago Park District and the Chicago Police Department, the two agencies will renovate the Police Academy building adjacent to Skinner Park for joint use as a training facility and community recreation center. At the Park District board meeting in June 2007, the board approved an Inter-

governmental Agreement to partner with the Police Department to renovate the gymnasium, bleachers, locker rooms, club rooms, office, storage areas, and building entrance. The police will use the facility for training and recreation until 3:00 p.m. weekdays and the community will use it as a public recreation center from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and during regular park hours on the weekend.

Interestingly, the Park District owns the land on which the Academy was built in 1971. In 1971, the Park District approved construction of the Police Academy on the corner of Throop and Adams on park land.

The project addresses the lack of public recreation facilities in the community. This partnership stipulates that the Park District will contribute \$750,000 toward the \$3 million renovation costs, and the City of Chicago will pay the remaining \$2.25 million.

West Loop Park to Be Named Heritage Green Park

The Chicago Park District acquired a one-acre park site located at Des Plaines and Adams and constructed a park in 2005. A park advisory council immediately formed to raise funds for a sculpture in the park. The Park District installed the sculpture this spring commemorating the City of Galway and Chicago's historical relationship with Ireland.

The park advisory council proposed naming the new park Heritage Green Park to commemorate our nation's historic town greens which became our earliest parks. Many groups of newcomers to this country, including Irish, German, and Greek immigrants, historically settled in the community around Des Plaines and Adams.

The board of commissioners will approve the proposed park name after the required 45-day comment period.

(continued on page 11)

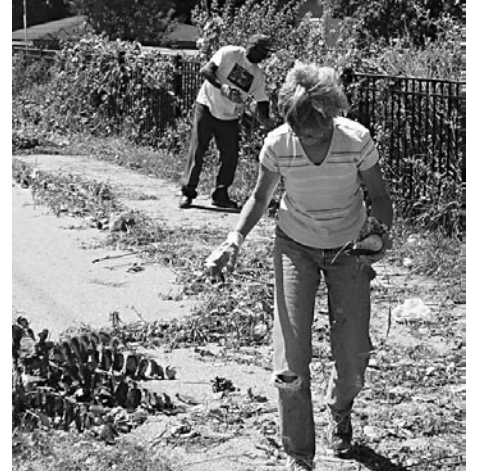
Major Taylor Bicycle Trail Clean-up: A Major Success

Volunteers met to improve the Major Taylor Bicycle Trail on July 21. Volunteers cleaned and enhanced the six-mile trail by removing trash and invasive plant species that spill over onto the trail.

The six-mile trail begins on the east side of Dan Ryan Woods at 71st Street and Western Avenue and heads south through Chicago neighborhoods to connect with the Whistler Woods Forest Preserve on the South Side. The Chicago Department of Transportation recently constructed the Major Taylor Trail on an abandoned rail line. After completion, the city transferred the property to the Chicago Park District for use as a public park.

The City of Chicago and Park District officially dedicated the trail on June 2. Sherri Heramb, Commissioner of the city's Department of Transportation and Richard Butler from the Chicago Park District publicly dedicated the bike trail connecting two forest preserves within the City of Chicago.

Officials named the bicycle trail after the famous nineteenth-century African-American cyclist Marshal "Major" Taylor. Major Taylor took the world by storm as he achieved seven world bicycling records in 1898, won the World one-mile Bicycling Championship in 1899, and was the American sprint champion in 1900. Major Taylor was one of the first African-American sports stars, and he stood as a shining example of the great achievements possible even when fighting the uphill battle of racial discrimination his entire career. At one point so many areas in the United States had forbidden him to compete that he had to move to Europe to continue competing professionally. He overcame these challenges and remained vocally supportive of his peers in the African-American community. He promoted enhancement of health, lifestyle, community, and involvement in sports as a way to transcend the restrictions of our segregated society.



Volunteers removed debris and invasive plant species along the Major Taylor Bicycle Trail.

Over 40 volunteers participated in this first-ever clean up effort. To learn more about future activities, contact Mary Eileen Sullivan at sullivanme@fotp.org.

Community Gathers for First-Ever Clean-Up Day at Dunning-Read Conservation Area on the City's Northwest Side

Nearly 50 volunteers joined Friends of the Parks and representatives from Northwest Concerned Citizens and the Austin-Irving Community Council on May 19 and June 30 for sweaty but exuberant community workdays at the newly-protected Dunning-Read Conservation Area, a 20-acre natural area on the city's Northwest Side adjacent to the Chicago Read Mental Health Center at Irving Park and Oak Park Avenue.

In 2005, Friends of the Parks and a coalition of local open space advocates won their campaign to permanently protect this 20-acre parcel of land. Thanks to a bill sponsored by Senator James DeLeo and State Representative Michael McAuliffe with the support of Alderman Tom Allen, Illinois established a conservation easement to protect the woodland and wetlands. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) holds the conservation easement, one of very few IDNR conservation ease-



Nearly 50 volunteers came out for the first volunteer work day at the Dunning-Read Conservation Area.

ments within the city limits of Chicago.

During the initial workdays, volunteers began removing the litter and invasive brush that had accumulated at Dunning-Read over the course of several decades, choking out many of the native wildflowers, trees and grasses. The workdays began the process of restoring

the site to ecological health and making it available and accessible for the enjoyment of the public and as a refuge for native plants and animals. For more information or to volunteer, contact Northwest Concerned Citizens leader, Joyce Snider, at (773) 777-0745.

Friends of the Parks Honors Children's Memorial Hospital and Kohl's Department Stores at the Parks Ball Gala

On April 27, more than 350 guests came to the spectacular Grand Ballroom at the end of Navy Pier to honor Children's Memorial Hospital and Kohl's Department Stores and to raise funds for Friends of the Parks' advocacy work.

During dinner, professional benefit auctioneer David Goodman of Auction-Results ran an entertaining live auction and raised tens of thousands of dollars for Friends of the Parks. Before and after dinner guests bid on 150 silent auction packages, and the Steve Edwards Orchestra entertained the audience, many of whom hit the dance floor late into the night.



Dr. Karen Sheehan of Children's Memorial Hospital (second from right) is flanked by Friends of the Parks' Board Member Rob Jones, Friends of the Parks' President Erma Tranter, and Director of Millennium Park Ed Uhlir.

"The ball was a great success," said chairperson Lynn Leftwich. "We exceeded our ambitious fundraising goals and everyone had a wonderful time. I thank all the guests and donors for their generous support of Friends of the Parks."

Friends of the Parks honored Children's Memorial and Kohl's for building new playgrounds in Chicago. In 2004, Kohl's Department Stores made a \$5 million commitment to Children's Memorial Hospital. Knowing that unintentional injury is the leading cause of death among children age 14 and under, Children's Memorial launched the Kohl's Cares for Kids Safety Network, dedicated to preventing unintentional injury and improving safety conditions for children in their homes and neighborhoods.

The Network started the Safe at Play program, for which Kohl's has pledged to build five new playgrounds throughout Chicago over five years. As part of its Safe at Play initiative, the Injury Free Coalition for Kids of Chicago at Children's Memorial Hospital also provides free, onsite playground safety checks to schools, park districts, preschools and childcare centers interested in making their playgrounds safer for children. In 2006, through the Kohl's Cares for Kids Safety Network, Children's Memorial worked with the Chicago Park District and Friends of the Parks to create greater awareness of playground safety, develop standards for playground maintenance and supervision, and create a network of safe places for kids to play.

Based in Menomonee Falls, Wis., Kohl's is a family-focused, value-oriented specialty department store offering moderately-priced national, exclusive and private brand apparel, shoes, accessories and home products. Kohl's operates 817 stores in 45 states.

Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, is recognized as one of the top pediatric hospitals in the country and number one in Illinois by rankings published in U.S. News & World Report. Its physicians teach at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University. As a not-for-profit organization, Children's Memorial relies on philanthropy to help provide care to 94,000 patients and their families every year.



Dr. Karen Sheehan and Sheryl Mark accepted the award for Children's Memorial Hospital and Kohl's Department Stores, respectively.



Friends of the Parks' Board Member Harold Leftwich, President Erma Tranter and Chairman of the Board Fred Bates enjoyed the Parks Ball 2007.

Friends of the Parks would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their very generous support of the Parks Ball 2007.

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Parks Ball (cont'd)

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Adrienne Meisel
Lynn Osmond
John Palmer
Pugi of Chicagoland
Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Wertz
Henrietta West

Up to \$100

Pamela and Steven Adelman
David Birkenstein
Roberta Durant
Jacquelin C. Hayes
Rev. Phil Martinez
Lori and Laurence Rubin

Special Thanks

Guest Emcee: Karen Jordan, ABC-7

Special Thanks: Dominic DiFrisco

Live Auctioneer: David Goodman,
Auction-Results



Friends of the Parks' Board Member Kim du Buclet (second from left) enjoys the Parks Ball with her husband Alex du Buclet (left), Bill Cooper and her cousin Stephanie Neely, Treasurer, City of Chicago.

Décor, Food, Graphic Design, Music and More

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Chicago Signature Events
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Florisculpture / Catherine Longmire
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Julia Mosbrook, Mosbrook Design
Steve Edwards Orchestra

Goody Bags

Arbonne International / Laurie Bachleda
Atlas Spice Co. / Tom Traficano
Cortiva Institute, Chicago School of
Massage Therapy
Jayson Home & Garden
Lush
Simple Green / Pat Sheehan



Our hardworking Parks Ball 2007 planning committee was headed by Chairperson Lynn Leftwich (second from right) and Co-Chairs Diana Garber, Richard G. George and Susan Radzinowicz.

Friends of the Parks Participates in Field Museum “E-cool-ogy” Event

Friends of the Parks sponsored an exhibit table and a hands-on children’s area at the recent “E-cool-ogy” Event sponsored by the Field Museum

All morning on June 9, several environmental organizations treated nearly 200 young people and their families to music and conservation activities, along with information on ways to save the planet. A special tour of the “Cool Globes” sculptures currently gracing the lakefront, many of which are congregated at the entrance of the Field Museum, highlighted the morning activities. “Eco-Elvis”

was also in the building, entertaining the children with his unique brand of music and humor.

Friends of the Parks’ John O’Connell and intern Korey Woods staffed a children’s table exhibiting several animal skins and shells, allowing the children to feel and discuss the different types of fauna on display. Children also had the chance to color pictures of insects and birds, while their parents learned more about the activities of Friends of the Parks. 🌿



Intern Korey Woods staffed Friends of the Parks’ table during “E-cool-ogy” event.

Junior Board Hosts 2nd Annual Friends “Fore” Parks Golf Outing Presented by Madison Dearborn Partners on May 12

The Junior Board of Friends of the Parks hosted its 2nd Annual Friends “Fore!” Parks golf outing presented by Madison Dearborn Partners on May 12 at Ruffled Feathers Golf Course in Lemont, Illinois. One hundred forty-four golfers, twice the number as in 2006, teed off in support of parks and the environment.

The Junior Board set a goal of \$10,000 and they raised \$20,000 which will go

towards Friends of the Parks’ Seed Grant and Tree Planting Programs. The Seed Grant program awards advisory councils grants to fund programs from landscaping to improved park equipment. A new initiative, the Tree Planting Program, plants trees in Chicago’s parks.

We thank the following major sponsors: Ernst & Young, Deutsche Bank, Merrill Lynch and William Blair & Company.



Golf participants enjoyed the great weather while golfing at Ruffled Feathers Golf Club in Lemont.



Golfers prepare to start from the shot gun start at the 2nd annual Friends “Fore!” Parks golf outing.

Thanks as well to the following Hospitality & Contest Sponsors: CompuBill, Rockit Bar & Grill, Proof Daily, and Brickman. And we thank all our Hole Sponsors and participants for supporting this successful golf event.

Friends of the Parks’ Junior Board welcomes new members and new ideas for fundraisers. For more information about the Junior Board, please contact Junior Board President Brent Grinna at bgrinna@mdcp.com. 🌿

“Cool Globes: Hot Ideas for a Cooler Planet” Launches in Chicago

Chicago launched “CoolGlobes: Hot Ideas for a Cooler Planet” on June 1 and the exhibit will run through September 2007. Over 100 sculpted globes, each five feet in diameter, sit along Chicago’s lakefront between Navy Pier and the Field Museum. Artists from around the world have come together to promote environmentally-sound policies and practices, and to make the public aware of solutions to global warming through artistic design.

In addition to the lakefront display, CoolGlobes also features 200 mini-globes around the city. Creators of the mini-globes include Senator Barack Obama, actor Chris O’Donnell, local artists and Chicago Public School students.

Teens participating in After School Matters programs created 40 mini-globes, including seven mini-globes designed and built by Friends of the Parks’ Calumet Park Earth Team. Earth Team apprentices from Norwood Park and Roosevelt High

School also participated in the CoolGlobes initiative. The Earth Team’s globes will be part of a separate traveling indoor exhibit this summer.

You can find more information about CoolGlobes at www.coolglobes.org.



Earth Team instructor, Jeannette Matuska, meets Mayor Daley at the lakefront launch of the CoolGlobes project.

Chicago Botanic Garden Announces New Chief Executive Officer

The Chicago Botanic Garden recently named Sophia Siskel as its new president and chief executive officer. She will take over leadership of the Botanic Garden on August 15, 2007.

Siskel had been the Garden’s Vice President since February 2006. As the new chief executive officer, Siskel will direct the operation and management of the 385-

acre Chicago Botanic Garden located in northern Cook County.

Forest Preserve District of Cook County owns the garden, but the Chicago Horticultural Society operates it. Siskel succeeds Barbara Whitney Carr, the Garden’s CEO for the last 12 years. Whitney Carr announced her retirement last October. 🌱

Neighborhood Park News (cont’d) Chicago Park District To Build a Skate Park Under Kennedy Expressway

The Chicago Park District will build a new skateboard park, nearly an acre in size, under the Kennedy Expressway at the northwest corner of Western Avenue and Logan Boulevard. The District has planned the skateboard park for several years. At the June Park Board meeting, the commissioners approved an agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation for the use of the space under the expressway.

\$700,000 Renovation Underway at Smith Park

The Smith Park Advisory Council, under the leadership of Council President Kathy McCabe, has successfully advocated for attention and improvements to the well-used Smith Park (2526 W. Grand Avenue). The park council worked with Alderman Billy Ocasio to acquire funds for the needed renovation. In response, Alderman Ocasio committed \$100,000 from his discretionary funds. In addition, the city committed \$512,000 from tax

(continued on page 12)

Events calendar

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
12:15 PM

Creative Living in the City Lecture: check Friends of the Parks’ website for details of topic and speaker at www.fotp.org. The lecture is free and open to the public.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
9:00 AM TO NOON

National Public Lands Day: Volunteers needed to restore natural areas in Chicago’s parks and Cook County’s forest preserves. For more information, call (312) 857-2757, extension 17.



A dozen Northwestern Memorial Hospital senior residents spent a morning away from their patients and volunteered to improve a Chicago park. Through a community service project with Friends of the Parks, the senior residents mulched trees in Lincoln Park. Jay Futterman, M.D. (left) and Nils Loeven, M.D., Ph.D. (right) strike the “American Gothic” pose at the start of the workday.



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Neighborhood Parks (cont'd)


increment financing. The Chicago Park District will fund the remaining \$100,000 from its capital improvement budget.

The park advisory council stipulated that they wanted to make Smith Park as green and as environmentally friendly as possible. The plan calls for using native landscaping, storm water management techniques and rain barrels. To get involved with planning for Smith Park, email Kathy McCabe at kmm@cs-g.com.

Grant Pick Memorial Dedicated in Wicker Park To Honor Chicago Journalist

Grant Pick, a Chicago journalist with a uniquely-open eye and ear for people in difficult situations, people doing extraordinary things, or both, died of a heart attack in 2005 as he walked back from lunch to work on a story. He was 57.

His wife, Kathy Richland Pick, and his friend, Ted Oppenheimer, looked for a site for a fitting memorial. They called Friends of the Parks and we directed them to Wicker Park, which has a very active advisory council that would work to make the memorial happen. Wicker Park also receives heavy use from children and adults in the community. The Park District approved locating the memorial in Wicker Park.

Dedicated on June 9, the Grant Pick Memorial includes an engraved limestone bench in a landscaped area that provides a place for families to gather in the center of the children's playground area. The Oppenheimer Family Foundation donated funds to build the memorial. 

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



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