

## Public Flocks to Dunning-Read Conservation Area Trail Dedication and Opening Celebration

On September 19, Friends of the Parks joined the Austin-Irving Community Council and the Chicago Read Mental Health Facility in publicly celebrating the opening of the Dunning-Read Conservation Area on the city's northwest side (Irving Park Avenue just west of Oak Park Avenue). The twenty-five acre conservation area consists of woodlands and wetlands which the public could not access for the past 150 years. The Dunning family donated 238 acres of their land to Cook County just after the Civil War to be used to help people with mental health prob-

*(continued on page 2)*



Volunteers planted 1,000 native plant plugs, constructed seating areas and installed a three-quarter mile woodchip walking path at the Dunning-Read Conservation Area on the city's Northwest Side.

## Last Four Miles Plan Wins Three Prestigious Awards

Friends of the Parks proudly announces that *The Last Four Miles Plan: Completing Chicago's Lakefront Parks* received three prominent awards:

- **2009 Daniel Burnham Award** from the American Planning Association (Illinois)
- **2009 Planning and Analysis Award** from the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects
- **2009 Urban Design Award** from the American Institute of Architects (Chicago Chapter)

*The Last Four Miles Plan* resulted from a multi-year planning process in which Friends of the Parks worked with North and South Side communities to determine how to complete the last four miles of Chicago's lakefront park system.

Since the city's inception in 1836, Chicago's residents have gradually construct-

ed the present lakefront park system. Not an inch of the shoreline is natural; people have engineered it all. The commitment of previous generations over 173 years gave us the 26 miles of public lakefront parks we all enjoy. Only four miles of Chicago's lakeshore remain inaccessible to the public: two miles on the south between 71st Street and the Indiana border and two miles on the north between Hollywood Avenue and the Evanston border.

With volunteer support from six talented architects, our Last Four Miles Design Team developed a concept plan for 500 acres of new parks. The team based the plan on the visions and ideas of various community charrettes (collaborative design sessions) and meetings. Friends of the Parks released *The Last Four Miles Plan* in June as part of the Burnham Centennial. We received the three planning awards

this fall with great pleasure. In 2010, we will advocate legislation in Springfield to transfer 100 acres of unused Port District land to the Chicago Park District.

Congratulations to the Last Four Miles Design Team for their outstanding work. The team includes: Thom Greene, Greene & Proppe Design; John Buenz, Solomon Cordwell Buenz; Peter Kindel and Kareeshma Ali, Topografis; Joanne Bauer and Julie Burns, BauerLatoza Studio; and William Weaver, AECOM.

### Last Four Miles Video on the Internet

Watch a video on [www.FOTP.com](http://www.FOTP.com) to learn about Chicago's dedication to a public lakefront, and about the last four miles of lakefront which remain outside of the lakefront park system. Hear comments from walkers, bicyclists, joggers, beach lovers and friends who value Chicago's lakefront and urge complete access to all 30 miles! 🌿

# New Gateway Harbor to Be Constructed at Navy Pier

The Chicago Park District plans to construct a new marina and harbor facility in the heart of downtown between the Chicago River Locks and Navy Pier. To be called Gateway Harbor, the 240-slip marina will serve two boating constituencies: the Park District will lease approximately 160 slips to transient boaters visiting Chicago from around the Great Lakes and the world, and the remaining 80 slips to local boaters on a seasonal basis.

The new 2,000-foot-pier will stretch into Lake Michigan along the existing Dime Pier. Today, Dime Pier has fallen into disrepair and is only visible as a collection of wooden pilings sticking up from the water parallel to Navy Pier. Dime Pier got its name a century ago when it became a popular fishing spot, and fishermen paid a dime each for rowboat tenders to take them out to the pier in the morning and pick them up later in the day.

The new Gateway Harbor will restore and widen Dime Pier and extend it to the west, connecting it with Gateway Park, the park in front of Navy Pier. As a public facility, the new pier will provide space for sitting, strolling, fishing, viewing the skyline, watching the fireworks and



The rendering above shows the proposed harbor facility in the heart of downtown between the Chicago River Locks and Navy Pier.

enjoying other public events. The plan will also create an additional 1.4 acres of new public parkland. The Park District will seek LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for the accessory public boating facility.

Friends of the Parks supported the Gateway Harbor plan, and recommended two changes. First, the Park District

should reduce the size and height of the proposed two-story, 200-foot-long boating facility. Second, the Park District should eliminate an unnecessary and intrusive restaurant from the harbor proposal.

The Park District plans to construct the marina in 2010 using revenue bonds. Rental of the 240 boating slips will pay off the bonds. 🌱

## Dunning-Read (cont'd)

lems. Cook County ran the mental health facility until 1912 when it transferred the property to the State of Illinois to continue treatment of mental health conditions and to run a poor farm.

At the Dedication and Opening Celebration, twenty-five acres of the original land grant were opened to the public, including a three-quarter mile woodchip trail constructed entirely by volunteers. The event celebrated five years of work by a coalition of neighbors and local organizations, including the Austin-Irving Community Council, Northwest Concerned Citizens and Friends of the Parks, to protect this twenty-five acre forested area and wetlands site from a large-scale proposed development, and to open it up for public use. With the support of State Senator James DeLeo and State Representative

Michael McAuliffe, the state legislature in Springfield approved a bill protecting this land as the Dunning-Read Conservation Area, only the second dedicated conservation area in the City of Chicago.

Beginning in 2007, volunteers undertook monthly community volunteer workdays to make the area available and accessible both for the enjoyment of the public, and as a refuge for native plants and animals. The work included planting 1,000 native plant plugs, constructing seating areas, and installing a three-quarter mile woodchip walking path.

Officials at the Opening Celebration included Forest Preserve Commissioner Peter Silvestri, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Deputy John Rogner, and Aaron Durnbaugh from Chicago's Department of Environment. 🌱



Visitors can now enjoy the land at the Dunning-Read Conservation Area, only the second dedicated conservation area in the City of Chicago.

# Hinsdale Land Grab Approved by Forest Preserve Board

On October 7, the Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners approved negotiating a lease with the Village of Hinsdale to allow Hinsdale to build a sports and recreational park on Bemis Woods in a western forest preserve. The board voted 9-4 with one present vote and three absent commissioners to transfer nearly thirty acres of the land, despite the protests of Friends of the Parks, Friends of the Forest Preserves, OpenLands Project, Sierra Club

and the Civic Federation along with one hundred activists who showed up outside the commissioners' chambers to try to prevent this illegal action.

The Village of Hinsdale seeks to construct two lighted soccer fields, a new baseball field with a concrete dugout, bleachers, a shelter and other facilities for active recreation, events, festivals, concerts and other park district activities.

As a park advocacy organization, Friends of the Parks naturally supports the addition of parks in cities and villages in the county, but *only on park district or city-owned land*. Villages and cities are responsible for planning for and acquiring city or park district land for parks in their communities. They are not entitled, due to their

*(continued on page 4)*

## Friends of the Parks Hosts Park Advisory Council Networking Session

Friends of the Parks recently hosted a park advisory council networking session. More than 35 passionate volunteers shared ideas and learned about opportunities to grow their partnership with Friends of the Parks. The group discussed a variety of issues, including working with elected officials, understanding the Chicago Park District 2010 budget, and park operation concerns and compliments.

A presentation by Steve Hughes, Chief Financial Officer of the Chicago Park District, was an evening highlight. Steve outlined budget priorities for 2010 and answered questions about policies and programs at local parks.

Participants received a survey asking for ideas on how Friends of the Parks can advance our partnership with advisory councils. The survey examines a park advisory council's current relationship

with Friends of the Parks, interest in networking session topics and awareness of Friends of the Parks services. It also provides an opportunity for additional feedback. The survey can be found on our website, [www.fotp.org](http://www.fotp.org). Please consider completing the survey if you are interested in working with Friends of the Parks as an established or new advisory council. We are asking for surveys to be completed no later than Thursday, December 3, 2009.

Based on the success of this fall event, Friends of the Parks plans to host additional networking sessions in 2010. In the meantime, please contact Jill C. Heise, Director of Neighborhood Parks and Community Relations, with questions or comments. You can reach Jill by email at [heisej@fotp.org](mailto:heisej@fotp.org) or by phone at (312) 857-2757 ext. 17. ☺

## Neighborhood Park News

**New Neighborhood Parks and Community Relations Director Named for Friends of the Parks**

We'd like to welcome Jill Heise as the new Director of Neighborhood Parks and Community

Relations at Friends of the Parks. Jill brings a wealth of experience to the job, having served as a President of the Sheil Park Advisory Council, heading the fundraising drive for a new playground. Jill has

a Masters Degree in marketing from Loyola University Chicago and an undergraduate degree from Indiana University Bloomington. She most recently worked as Marketing and Development Director at SMR Properties. Jill lives in Lakeview with her husband and three young children. She is very excited about the opportunity to work with you to improve communities throughout Chicago.

If an advisory council in your neighborhood wants to start a project and needs technical expertise, please call on Jill to help get you started. You can reach Jill at (312) 857-2757 ext 17, or email her at [heisej@fotp.org](mailto:heisej@fotp.org).

**New Sculpture Dedicated in Honor of Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable**

On October 17, the City of Chicago, the local Haitian community and the DuSable Coalition dedicated a new sculpture of Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable

*(continued on page 7)*



*Jill Heise recently joined Friends' staff as Director of Neighborhood Parks and Community Relations.*



*Friends of the Parks hosted a successful Park Advisory Council Networking session in November.*

# The Great Rake-Off! Event Gets Rid of Leaves at Many Parks

On November 7, the Chicago Park District and Friends of the Parks hosted a new citywide effort called “The Great Rake Off!” during which hundreds of volunteers raked leaves at many Chicago parks, including:

- North Side Parks: Clarendon, Eugene Field, Gompers, Horner, Margate and River Parks
- South Side Parks: Calumet, Hamilton, Nichols, Russell Square, Sherman and Washington Parks
- West Side Parks: Columbus, Douglas, Garfield and Humboldt Parks

The volunteer effort cleared hundreds of pounds of leaves from parks around the city. 🌿



*Friends of the Parks' Earth Team members raked leaves at Horner Park during the first-ever Great Rake Off! event in November.*

## Calumet Heritage Partnership Conference Focuses on “Burnham in the Calumet”

The Calumet Heritage Partnership is a diverse, bi-state coalition of individuals; environmental, cultural and historical organizations; and public institutions. Each of the dozens of participating organizations, including Friends of the Parks, has committed to improving, preserving and protecting the unique heritage of the Calumet region.

This year’s fall Calumet Heritage Partnership Conference examined the effects of the Burnham Plan on the Calumet region. Rod Sellers, historian and author, presented a lecture on “Burnham in the

Calumet.” He described the history of the development of the Calumet region and the need to rethink the area today, both now and in the future. Rod identified opportunities to convert abandoned industrial land to public recreation. He supports The Last Four Miles Plan, the plan to complete the south lakefront from 71st Street south to the Indiana border, which would create 400 acres of new parks and connect the lakefront trail to the new Burnham Trail as well as to proposed trails in the Calumet region. 🌿

## Loyola University Hosts Burnham Centennial Symposium

Loyola University recently sponsored a half-day symposium that explored the legacy and implications of Burnham’s and Bennett’s 1909 Plan of Chicago on development of Chicago, with a special focus on the Edgewater and Rogers Park communities. Both Loyola students and

local residents attended the event. Eleanor Roemer, Policy Director of Friends of the Parks, participated on a panel discussion about The Last Four Miles Plan, the plan to complete Chicago’s lakefront park system. 🌿

### Hinsdale (cont’d)

poor planning, to grab land from the Forest Preserve District.

The Hinsdale project violates the Forest Preserves’ Land Use Policy, Section 2-5-4A:

**Transfer of Land.** No transfer of such lands or authority to control and manage such lands in a manner inconsistent with the defined mission of the District shall be made for municipal, school or park districts or similar public or private uses.

In addition, the Hinsdale proposal violates the basic mission of the Forest Preserve District: “to acquire and hold lands...for the purpose of protecting and preserving the flora, fauna...in their natural state and condition...”

We worked hard to prevent this action from moving forward, but the Forest Preserve Commissioners nevertheless approved negotiating an Intergovernmental Agreement with Hinsdale. The fight isn’t over yet; the Forest Preserve Board will have to review and either approve or reject the final negotiated agreement. 🌿

# Friends Indeed

## Major Contributors August 1, 2009 through October 31, 2009

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

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\*\* The Louis R. Lurie Foundation has provided a grant of \$225,000 to Friends of the Parks in support of our Last Four Miles initiative.

## Give a Membership

A great stocking stuffer! Give a friend or family member a membership in Friends of the Parks this holiday season. Show your support and introduce others to "Chicago's Best Friend."

# Nature Along The Lake Program Draws Interested Students

Elementary school students in Friends of the Parks' Nature Along the Lake program enjoyed an exciting autumn as the migratory bird population at Montrose Point returned in larger numbers than usual. Students witnessed a wide variety of birds, including yellow Warblers, Sparrows and a Downy Woodpecker, as well as native birds like Cardinals, Red-Winged Blackbirds and Catbirds.

Seeing other forms of wildlife was equally exciting. The group spotted several chipmunks, rabbits, wooly caterpillars, and most fascinating, a large red fox. The fox had been spotted a few times over the past two years at Montrose, but this was the first encounter for a Nature Along the Lake class. McCutcheon Elementary School's fourth-graders were quite surprised, and pleased!

On the high school level, our Earth Team environmental apprentices continue their work with After School Matters this fall. Led by experienced instructors, Earth Team teens engage in environmental studies and community stewardship projects

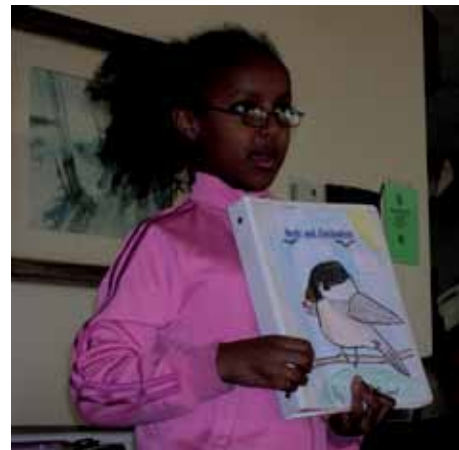


*During a Friends of the Parks' Nature Along the Lake program outing, fourth graders from McCutcheon School investigate a tree full of woodpecker holes.*

## Call for Seed Grant Requests

In 2010, Friends of the Parks will award \$10,000 in small grants for park-related projects and programs. Contact Jill Heise at (312) 857-2757 ext. 17 or [heisej@fotp.org](mailto:heisej@fotp.org) or visit [www.fotp.org](http://www.fotp.org) for more information.

at Carver Academy, Humboldt Park, and Horner Park. The Carver Academy Earth Team is working with instructor Elizabeth Levenda, a botanist, and Steve Folliard, an Army veteran, to learn about the ecology of nearby Beaubien Woods. At Humboldt Park's Visual Arts-based Earth Team, longtime instructor Jasmine Kummer is creating a semester's worth of environmentally-themed art projects, such as murals and video presentations. At Horner Park, Caitlin McMahon and Stacey Schoenecker have crafted a program focusing on community involvement in parks and green issues. 🌱



*A fifth grade student from Disney Magnet school presents her bird research project to classmates during Friends of the Parks' Nature Along the Lake program.*

## Ways to Give to Friends of the Parks

### 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 better and safer. Individual Memberships start at \$35, and Family memberships at \$50. You can make a tax-deductible gift in various categories to proclaim your support as a Protector (\$75), Patron (\$100), Conserver (\$250) or Benefactor (\$500). We recognize gifts of \$1,000 or more with membership in our special giving society, **The Frederick Law Olmsted Circle**. We acknowledge Olmsted gifts in a special section of our annual report, and invite Olmsted Circle members to a special reception to show our appreciation for this grand level of support.

### Employer Matching Gifts

Your employer may double or triple your gifts to Friends of the Parks with a matching gift program. Check with the employee benefits office where you work to see if your employer will match your gifts.

### 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 they have included us in their estate plans become members of our estate circle, the **Burnham & Ward Society**, named after Daniel J. Burnham and A. Montgomery Ward, two visionaries who helped to shape our city and parks. 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. We will note such gifts in our Annual Report each spring.

### 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 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 call John O'Connell at (312) 857-2757 ext. 16, or send him an email at [occonnellj@fotp.org](mailto:occonnellj@fotp.org). 🌱

# Chicago Park District Changes Public Participation Rules

At its October Board of Commissioners meeting, the Chicago Park District approved a resolution to change rules for the public to participate at Committee and Board meetings.

After receiving a copy of the written resolution the following day, Friends of the Parks found that two new rules will limit the public's role in policy discussions at the Park District in conflict to the Park District's stated goal: "the Board is committed to increasing public input in its decision-making process."

## Neighborhood News (cont'd)

on Pioneer Court. Mr. Lesly Benodin, a Haitian-American who has lived in Chicago for forty years, donated the sculpture and worked with two colleagues, Harry Fouche and Aliette Marcelin, to gain permission to install the sculpture near the site where DuSable founded the City of Chicago.

Mr. Benodin and his working group met with Alderman Brendan Reilly, who supported installing the DuSable sculpture. In addition, Alderman Reilly introduced a resolution to rename the Michi-



*In October, the City of Chicago, the local Haitian community, and the DuSable Coalition dedicated a new sculpture of Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable on Pioneer Court.*

gan Avenue Bridge as DuSable Bridge.

On October 17, Haitian-Americans annually commemorate the death of Haiti's founder, Jean Jacques Dessalines. In 2009, that date also became the date the Haitian-American community and all Chicagoans honored Chicago's founder, Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable.

The two new rules include:

"Speakers will be limited to speak on one (1) agenda item during one Committee meeting and cannot speak to any other item from other Committee meetings scheduled from the same date."

A speaker attending the three committee meetings would have to select one (1) item from all three committee agendas and comment on only that one item (of

perhaps thirty total items). The rule is unnecessarily restrictive.

"Groups must select a maximum of two (2) representatives from those who have signed up to speak on their behalf. The Board Secretary will schedule group speakers according to topic."

Friends of the Parks believes that any person who has taken the time to come to the Park District's Board meeting and wishes to speak should be able to testify. 🌿

## Park District Protects Trees from Beavers

This fall, the Chicago Park District installed black fencing around the North Pond in Lincoln Park to protect certain shoreline trees from potential beaver damage. The Lincoln Park Conservancy and the Chicago Park District evaluated every tree on or near the shoreline. Trees chosen to receive fencing were either native species, habitat trees, high-quality trees, trees that provide shade to woodland plants, or trees that have special aesthetic value. Some key unfenced trees are on a "watch list" and should the beavers begin gnawing them, they too, will be fenced. The fencing, while aesthetically distasteful to many pond visitors, is needed to protect the trees from destruction by the beavers.

The project will protect the valuable trees, while allowing beavers access to the trees that are invasive or weedy species, are specimens near the end of their natural

lifespan, or not wanted for the long-term.

Beavers have been living at the North Pond Nature Sanctuary since spring 2008. No one is sure if an entire colony moved in at that time or each incidence of beavers since then has been new pairs or individuals. A professional trapper successfully caught and relocated two beavers earlier this year, and a third was accidentally killed in the trapping process. Currently, a mother beaver and her kit still reside at North Pond. Due to the kit's small size, experts do not believe it is possible to safely trap and relocate it at this time. So the Conservancy has opted to wait until spring to re-evaluate relocating them.

October and November are busy months for beavers as they build their food cache of branches for the long winter. Once the pond freezes over in November, tree eating will cease until the spring thaw. 🌿

## Bret Harte Elementary Students Win Mayor's Landscape Award

The University of Illinois Extension asked Madiem Kawa, President of the Washington Park Conservancy, to organize and lead 46 Master Gardeners to maintain the Museum of Science and Industry's Smart Home Garden this summer. Madiem Kawa also planned MSI's summer garden camp with Bret Harte Elementary school students in Hyde Park.

And maintain the garden they did! The Master Gardeners and the students maintained the gardens, creating magnificent flower beds. They received a

First Place Citywide Award in the Public Institutions Category in Mayor Daley's 2009 Landscape Awards program. It is the first time that U. of I. Extension won such a city wide honor. Congratulations!

## Ground Broken for New Park on Near West Side

In early October, the Chicago Park District broke ground on the site of a new park at Adams and Sangamon, a few blocks west of the Kennedy Expressway, the latest step in a nearly ten-year effort to bring more park space to a Near West Side

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# Volunteers Clean Up Parks During Community Service Days

From litter removal, recycling, and tree and garden planting, to organizing special events, Friends of the Parks' Volunteers In Parks Program offers volunteers the opportunity to promote community pride in Chicago by becoming directly involved in the parks, preserves, and public spaces. Through our Volunteers in Parks Program, interested individuals, company employees, universities, and community organizers work together to improve local parks, beaches, open spaces and forest preserves.

A donation of \$1,500 could support a clean-up day for over 200 volunteers. For more information, contact Vice President of Development John O'Connell at (312) 857-2757 ext. 16. 🌱



*Motorola brought more than 400 employees out to remove invasive plants and trash from Busse Woods on October 14.*

# Chicago Volunteers "Green" Parks During National Public Lands Day

On Saturday, September 26, volunteers with Friends of the Parks joined a national volunteer effort to clean and green their local parks and preserves. Volunteers from Build On, the Man Group, the Blue Island Bicycle Group, Mizuho Corporate Bank, and individual volunteers donated their time and talent to mulch trees, pick

up litter, and clean playgrounds at Columbus Park, Gompers Park, Grand Crossing Park, Busse Woods, and Whistler Woods. Volunteers from Mizuho Corporate Bank returned to Columbus Park on Chicago's west side to mulch trees, remove litter and clean the playground. 🌱



*Volunteers from throughout the city and county helped clean and green their local parks and preserves – these photo's are from Gompers Park.*



*Volunteers from Mizuho Corporate Bank and Building with Books mulched trees at Columbus Park on National Public Lands Day.*



*Volunteers collected seeds for the prairie at Gompers Park.*

# Friends of the Parks Partners with Park District on Grand Crossing Playground Community-Build Project

The Park District rebuilt over 500 playgrounds between 1988 and 1993 during a massive playground renovation program. The cost to construct a new children's playground has increased tenfold in the last 20 years, making it impossible to rebuild all the playgrounds at once, or even over five years.

Park District Superintendent Tim Mitchell works hard to find additional dollars for new playgrounds, and he looks for other models that might help in some neighborhoods. After reading an article about a community-built Play Planet Playground, Superintendent Mitchell asked Friends of the Parks to partner with the Park District and a Chicago community on

a community-built children's playground.

Following Superintendent Mitchell's recommendation, we began working with the Grand Crossing Park Advisory Council, Children's Memorial Hospital's Injury Free Chicago and elected officials at Grand Crossing Park (7655 South Ingleside). Parkreation, an equipment manufacturer, completed a design for the playground. We also secured \$170,000 to pay direct costs. Kohl's Department Stores contributed \$70,000 and State Representative Marlow Colvin secured \$100,000 in state funds. Community volunteers will come together next spring to build the playground. 🌱



*Children's playgrounds offer city kids a great place to play!*

## Blue-Green Initiative Proposed for Chicago Harbors

As we think beyond winter to a new boating season in 2010, Friends of the Parks is partnering with the boating community, the recreational yachting groups and harbor councils to initiate a Clean Chicago Harbors program to implement best environmental practices for the Chicago Park District's nine harbors. Several coastal cities have established best environmental practice programs including Seattle and all harbors in California. Many great lakes states have examined ways to minimize the impact of boating on lake environments. Michigan has established a voluntary Clean Marina Program, and, to date, twenty-one marinas have been designated as clean marinas.

A Clean Chicago Harbors program would include a partnership with boaters, Westrec Marinas (which manages the harbors), the Chicago Park District, the Chicago Yachting Association and park advisory councils to work toward cleaner harbors and parks. Best practices should address reduction of chemical discharges as well pollution from plastics and litter.

A Clean Chicago Harbors program should include systems to reduce the

discharge of chemicals in Lake Michigan from the spilling of fuel, oil, paints or cleaning solvents.

Boaters can learn how to improve the management of their bilge water. They could use bilge pads to absorb oils and chemicals. In California, harbors make bilge pads and disposal drums available to all boaters, sometimes for free. Bilge pads prevent spills into Lake Michigan. In addition, boaters should clean chemical spills and dispose of the cleaning materials in designated bins.

To ensure proper disposal of chemicals and hazardous waste materials, Westrec Marinas should install waste recycling signs and separate bins for batteries, hazardous waste, used motor oil and oil filters, oily bilge water and sewage.

Most plastics float on the surface of our public waters, where sunlight breaks them down to the size and shape of plankton which wild animals inadvertently eat. Ingested plastics can cause internal injury, intestinal blockage or starvation. Although most plastics come from land-based uses, winds blow plastic bags and other lightweight plastics into Lake Michigan.

Boaters can make sure they never discard trash overboard. Lakeshore park and harbor users should conserve plastic use by bringing supplies and picnics in reusable canvas or cloth bags. Boaters can use biodegradable bags to stash trash on board and bring it back to shore.

Boaters can help clean and clear plastic debris when they come across plastics floating on the lake. Park users and boaters should help on the green side by picking up litter on shore, particularly broken glass that can injure children, adults and animal life. Cigarette butts and bottle caps are also litter that often are overlooked. We should remember that plastic litter is not only unsightly but also a real danger to wildlife.

Park harbor groups and park advisory councils can kick off the boating and park season by helping to green parks on the annual Earth Day Parks Clean-Up on April 17, 2010. Working beyond Earth Day, we will continue to advocate a new Clean Chicago Harbors program to further enhance our blue-green lakefront parks for boaters and park users. 🌱

## Friends of the Parks' Junior Board Hosts Fall Wine Event

In September, the Junior Board of Friends of the Parks hosted a fall wine event at Winestyles in the South Loop. Guests sampled a variety of great wines and noshed on food donated by Whole Foods and Piece Pizza while mingling with other park advocates. The evening came to a close with a raffle of prizes donated by the Chicago Wolves, East Bank Club, Panasonic and Unilever. The Junior Board consists of environmentally-conscious Chicagoans in their twenties and early thirties who love and use the city's parks and nearby forest preserves. If you would like to learn more about the Junior Board, please contact Amy Donatell at [donatella@fotp.org](mailto:donatella@fotp.org). 🌿



Junior Board members Tanya Cummings, April Garrett, Mike Weeks and Mike Wall enjoyed the group's fall wine event at Winestyles.

## 2009 Men's Health Urbanathlon™ Races Through the City

The *Men's Health* Urbanathlon™ & Festival took place on Saturday, October 17. Over 2,000 people participated in the 12-mile relay race through Chicago's historic districts, great parks and iconic locations like Navy Pier, Northerly Island, and the stairs at Soldier Field. Some of the course challenges included leaping over the hoods of taxi cabs, crawling through cement cylinders and climbing over a six-foot wall. For the third year in a row, *Men's Health* magazine selected Friends of the Parks as one of the event's non-profit beneficiaries. The event increased park usage, promoted health and fitness, and showed off Chicago's architecture. 🌿



More than 2,000 participants took part in the Men's Health Urbanathlon on October 17.



Urbanathlon course challenges included leaping over taxi cabs.

### Follow Us on Facebook and Twitter

Friends of the Parks has joined Facebook. Become a fan of Friends of the Parks today on our Facebook page and stay informed about our community service days, action alerts, and events. Go to Friends of the Parks' website at [www.fotp.org](http://www.fotp.org) for more details.

# Annual Award Nominations Sought For Outstanding Work for Parks

Friends of the Parks will celebrate our 35th year at the Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon on Thursday, February 4, 2010 in the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Hall at the Chicago Cultural Center (78 E. Washington Street, Chicago). We will present awards for outstanding work to an individual, a park advisory council, elected officials, a community group, a park advocate, and a corporation or business for their outstanding contributions to parks and the environment in 2009.

Tickets to the luncheon cost \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members.

## Neighborhood News (cont'd)

location. The Park District will make the park, including a new playground, accessible to adults and children with disabilities. The Park District expects to complete the project in Spring 2010.



*Pictured at Adams and Sangamon (left to right) are Ernest Wong, Architect from Site Design Group, Chris Gent from the Chicago Park District, Beth White from Trust for Public Land, and Aldermen Bob Fioretti (2nd Ward) and Walter Burnett (27th Ward).*

## TIF Funds for Jefferson Memorial Park

The City of Chicago has approved the transfer of \$500,000 in TIF (Tax Increment Financing) funds for a new playground redevelopment project in Jefferson Memorial Park (4822 N. Long near Milwaukee and Lawrence in the Jefferson Park community). Alderman Patrick Levar (45th Ward), strongly supports the project and arranged for the transfer of the TIF dollars.

## Expanded Dog Friendly Area Approved for Skinner Park

The Park District's Board of Commissioners recently voted to approve a lease with the Board of Education in order to expand the size of a soon-to-be-built Dog

*(continued on page 12)*

Those who wish to support Friends of the Parks may purchase a Patron Ticket for \$100 or a Table Sponsorship for \$450. Contact Amy Donatell for tickets at [Donatella@fotp.org](mailto:Donatella@fotp.org).

We invite you to nominate an individual or group for one of the listed categories. Provide a description of the individual, group, business and park advisory council, community organization, or elected official and the park or preserve project which the person or organization helped to improve. Include your name and contact information.

You can find the application on [www.fotp.org](http://www.fotp.org). You may also send your submission by email to Amy Donatell at [Donatella@fotp.org](mailto:Donatella@fotp.org) or mail it to Amy Donatell, Friends of the Parks, 17 N. State, Suite 1450, Chicago, IL 60602. 🌱

## You're Invited! Mayor's Preview Party At Garden Show

Mark down **Friday, March 5, 2010** in your calendar! We're thrilled to announce that the Chicago Flower & Garden Show organizers selected Friends of the Parks as one of the charities to benefit from the Mayor's Preview Party!

You'll enjoy a festive evening of global cuisine, cocktails and entertainment – plus a sneak peek of the 2010 Chicago Flower & Garden Show floor – at the "Evening in Bloom" preview benefit held before the show's official opening the next morning. The event always attracts a fun crowd.

The show features:

- Lush theme garden displays
- Garden market and home market exhibitors
- New plant varieties exhibit
- Super ideas for your home garden

Ticket buyers may choose the charity they wish to support. **Please check "Friends of the Parks" as your beneficiary!** Log onto [www.chicagoflower.com](http://www.chicagoflower.com) for more information. 🌱

## Events calendar

### THROUGH DECEMBER 19

The Daniel Burnham and Chicago Lakefront Exhibit focuses on the history of the development of Edgewater's lakefront parks and includes recent planning efforts to complete the lakefront park system, including Friends of the Parks' Last Four Miles Plan. See the exhibit at the Edgewater Historical Museum, located at 5358 N. Ashland Avenue. Admission is free. Hours are on Saturdays from 1-4 pm.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10 12:15PM

Did you think bicycling ends on Labor Day? Think again. This edition of Friends of the Parks' and Active Transportation Alliance's Creative Living in the City Lecture Series, "Lively Biking in the Dead of Winter," highlights ways for you to stay involved in bicycling even when the weather drops below freezing. Come to the free lecture at the Chicago Cultural Center in the Claudia Cassidy Theater, 78 E. Washington.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

The Signature Room on the 95th floor of the John Hancock Building will throw a charity gala called "Table of Twelve." The restaurant has chosen Friends of the Parks as one of twelve charities to benefit from this event. Have dinner at the Signature on January 27th and proceeds will be shared by several charities, including Friends of the Parks.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4 TWELVE NOON

Friends of the Parks' Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon at the Chicago Cultural Center. We will present awards to an individual, park advisory council, elected official and a business or corporation for outstanding work to improve parks in 2009. You may send in a nomination; see story on this page for more details.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 5 6:30PM – 10PM

The Chicago Flower & Garden Show has chosen Friends of the Parks as one of the charities to benefit from the Mayor's Preview Party. The party features global cuisine, cocktails and entertainment, plus a sneak peek of the 2010 Chicago Flower & Garden Show floor. The show organizers ask ticket buyers to choose which charity they wish to support. **Please check "Friends of the Parks" as your beneficiary!** Log onto [www.chicagoflower.com](http://www.chicagoflower.com) for more information.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 9 6:30PM – 10:30PM

Join Friends of the Parks for the Parks Ball, our annual fundraising gala! This year's event will take place at the South Shore Cultural Center, with cocktails, dinner, entertainment and more. We will unveil more details over the next few months on [www.fotp.org](http://www.fotp.org).



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**Neighborhood News (cont'd)**

Friendly Area (DFA) in Skinner Park (1331 West Monroe). Alderman Bob Fioretti (2nd Ward) advocated for the DFA.

The Near West Side community has changed dramatically in the last two decades from warehousing to residential. It's population has increased substantially, and many of the new residents have dogs. Residents need both new parks and a designated area for dogs. The Park District will construct the DFA next year.

**Five New Park Projects to be Built by Public Building Commission**

At the October Park District Board Meeting, commissioners approved the construction of five park projects through the Public Building Commission. The Park District will design and construct new fieldhouses in Valley Forge Park (7001 West 59th Street) and Haas Park (2402 North Washtenaw). At Hollywood Avenue and Lake Shore Drive, the Park


District will build a new children's playground to replace the Great Lakes Playground and a new comfort station on Osterman Beach. In Burnham Park at 41st Street and Lake Shore Drive, the Park District will construct a second comfort station.

**Brownfield Cleanup Grants Sought by Park District**

The Chicago Park District submitted an application for grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for Brownfield Cleanup Grants for the following three park projects in Chicago:

- Ping Tom Park expansion (18th Street and the South Branch of the Chicago River) in the 25th Ward
- Mahalia Park expansion (8301 South Wallace Avenue) in the 21st Ward
- Proposed Park 512 (1800 North Ashland Avenue) in the 32nd Ward

Securing these grants will provide necessary environmental cleanup funds to remediate these vacant, underused parcels of land. After the cleanup, the Chicago Park District can construct new parks and improve the quality of life in the neighborhoods in which they are located.

Friends of the Parks submitted a letter of support for the Brownfield Grants. 

**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.fotpp.org

ADDRESS: 17 North State Street,  
Suite 1450, Chicago, IL 60602-2174

