



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 2011

Friends of the Parks Calls for Closure and Capping of 42-Acre Confined Disposal Facility to Create a New Park

Friends of the Parks and other environmental groups are calling for the closure and capping of a 42-acre Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) at the end of 2011. Located along Lake Michigan between 90th and 95th Streets, the CDF has reached its legal capacity with toxic dredged material taken from the Calumet River after nearly 30 years.

In 1982, after entering a contract with the Chicago Park District and the Illinois Port District, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) constructed the Calumet CDF, a bathtub-like concrete structure with impermeable linings, to store toxic materials dredged from the Calumet River. When the CDF is filled, the agreement requires the ACOE to first close the CDF and cap it with two feet of clay and three feet of soil, then turn it over to the Park District for a lakefront park.

The ACOE's public documents state that the CDF will reach its legal limit with the 2011 Calumet River dredging. However, the ACOE now seeks a 5-year permit extension from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to continue to dump toxic materials, thus expanding the CDF. This action violates the 1982 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required by U.S. law. The 1982 EIS stated the CDF's capacity as 1,300,000 cubic yards of dredged, toxic materials topped with two feet of clay layer and three feet of topsoil, for a total capacity of 1,450,000 cubic yards.

In 2011, the ACOE has taken steps without public awareness or the approval
(continued on page 3)



The Confined Disposal Facility is the triangle-shaped concrete bathtub filled with toxic material from the Calumet River. The aerial photo is taken from Lake Michigan looking south to Calumet Park.

Garfield Park Conservatory Sustains Heavy Damage During Hail Storm

The wild hailstorm that pummeled parts of Chicago on June 30 seemed, unfortunately, to be centered directly over the Garfield Park Conservatory. Hail the size of golf balls rained down on Chi-

cago's glorious glass pavilion and caused millions of dollars of damage. One of Chicago's greatest indoor spaces, the historic Fern Room designed by Jens Jensen, sustained massive damage. The Fern Room,



Hail caused millions of dollars of damage to Garfield Park Conservatory during a recent storm.

Show House and Desert House suffered the most damage in the public areas, and all ten propagation greenhouses sustained damage.

(continued on page 11)

Take the Field Foundation Donates \$5 Million for Artificial Turf Multi-Sport Fields in Chicago

The Take the Field Foundation/ Traubert Pritzker Family Foundation will match up to \$5 million in private donations to the Chicago Park District for artificial turf multi-sport fields in economically-challenged neighborhoods in the city. In addition, the Chicago Park District will contribute \$2 million to install new lighting to extend playing time.

In 2011, six parks will receive funds for artificial turf field installation: Cornell Square, Garfield, Humboldt, Jackson,

Lafollette and Pasteur Parks. In 2012, four more parks will receive funds.

Park District officials saw great community interest and received 400 letters of support from soccer players in the targeted areas. Officials perceive a demand for artificial turf multi-purpose fields, as they allow for more outdoor activities and extend the playing season. They say that grass fields cannot withstand the heavy wear and tear created by extremely heavy usage.

The Park District will open the fields to the surrounding community from 6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Teams can rent the fields after those hours.

The Park District will form an advisory group of park advisory council members, District staff and community members to monitor usage and permit requests for the fields. 🌱

Strong Partnerships Transform Lakeview's Weisman Park

Weisman Park, located at the corner of Oakdale and Mildred Avenues in Lakeview, recently received a long-needed major overhaul. Weisman Park is the largest play lot in the 44th Ward and serves about 5,000 households. Nearby resident Marie Poppy led community efforts for a \$600,000 capital campaign.

The Weisman Park Advisory Council approached the nearby Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center early in the campaign. The hospital had contributed funds 20 years ago, and it now offered to match up to \$200,000 in contributions. "This was a great way to kick off our fund-raising," said Poppy.

The Council applied for and received several grants, including \$25,000 from McCormick Foundation Cubs Care, \$1,500 from Enterprise Rent A Car Foundation, \$500 from Friends of the Parks, and \$25,000 from Alderman Tom Tunney. The balance of the funding came from the work of the Advisory Council. Poppy and her team, along with other community volunteers, held numerous fundraisers, such as brick sales, rummage sales, special events and lemonade stands.

Once the Council reached its goal of \$400,000, the Park District contributed the final \$200,000. The Park District completed the \$600,000 park renovation in December 2010. Nearly 200 residents celebrated the opening of the new park on May 21, 2011.

"Given the growing number of families in our community," said Poppy, "this open space was something we wanted to protect and improve for our neighborhood."

The highlight of Weisman Park's transformation has been the enlarged splash pad. "We wanted this park to be unique, as no other park in the area has water sprayers," said Poppy. On a hot summer day, families crowd around the water sprayers, watching children play in the streams of cool water. 🌱

Landscape Architect Ernie Wong Leads Tour Of Four Parks

Ernie Wong, President and founder of Site Design Group, a landscape architecture firm in Chicago, has won several awards for his urban park designs. In the 20 years since Site Design Group was established, Wong and his staff have designed several innovative, state-of-the-art parks in Chicago.

In June, Wong generously spent a Saturday with Friends of the Parks' members and friends, leading a tour of four of his outstanding parks.

We learned about the thinking and community planning behind each of the diverse parks. The parks ranged in size from 1.4-acre Bartelme Park in the West Loop to the 29-acre Palmisano Park (formerly called Stearns Quarry Park) in Bridgeport. In addition, we toured the 6-acre Lakeshore East Park (officially Park No. 546) in the eastern part of the Loop, and finally the 12-acre Ping Tom Memorial Park in Chinatown, where we enjoyed

a catered Chinese buffet lunch under the Wong-designed red pagoda. All of these beautiful, innovative parks are well worth a visit! 🌱



Award-winning landscape architect Ernie Wong (left) led a group of Friends of the Parks' members and friends on a tour of four outstanding Chicago parks he has designed.

Chicago Park District Waives Fees and Covers Liability for Advisory Councils

Chicago Park District officials have listened to the frustrations of Park Advisory Council (PAC) members about permit costs and liability insurance requirements. Under the leadership of Board President Bryan Traubert, the Park District recently announced that it will waive permit fees for certain PAC fundraising events, and will no longer charge a fee to apply for a permit for a PAC fundraising event. As an additional way to ease the financial burden, the Park District's insurance policy will cover certain PAC events.

The Park District has come to recognize that many park advisory council events requiring permits generate funding for park improvements or programs. Permit fees and liability insurance made events cost prohibitive and placed a

burden on PAC finances. In these trying economic times, the Chicago Park District depends more and more on PACs to raise funds for necessary park improvements such as playgrounds, water features, soccer fields and baseball diamonds. Waiving permit fees and liability insurance will help PACs in their fundraising efforts.

Park District-provided liability insurance covers PAC events with:


- 500 or fewer attendees
- no liquor
- no animals
- no carnival/amusement rides, including inflatables
- no food sales

The insurance policy will only cover PACs that are recognized and registered with the Department of Legislative and Community Affairs. 

Confined Disposal Facility (cont'd)

of the Chicago Park District to expand the CDF by adding four-foot-tall boulders on the edge of the CDF to increase its capacity. This unilateral action was also taken without a new EIS and in violation of the 1982 EIS.

Friends of the Parks states unequivocally that it is time to close and cap the CDF and create the planned lakefront park.

You can help by writing to the ACOE, opposing the expansion of the CDF. Address your letters to Colonel Frederic Drummond, U.S. ACOE, 111 N. Canal Street, Chicago, IL 60606. Please send copies of your letter to Senator Richard Durbin, 230 S. Dearborn, Suite 3892, Chicago, IL 60604; Congressman Michael Quigley, 3742 West Irving Park, Chicago, IL 60618; and Governor Patrick Quinn, 207 State House, Springfield, IL 62706. 

Neighborhood Park News from Around the City

New Playground for Augusta Park

The Chicago Park District, Children's Memorial Hospital/Injury Free Chicago, and Friends of the Parks will join forces on August 26 to help construct a much-needed new playground at Augusta Park (4433 W. Augusta Boulevard) in the West Humboldt Park community.

This playground project uses the community-build model with volunteers from the neighborhood, Kohl's Department Stores, Children's Memorial Hospital and Friends of the Parks doing much of the actual playground construction. This will be the second community-build in 2011.

Funding for this new and improved playground comes from Allstate Insurance, Alderman Emma Mitts, Kohl's and the Chicago Park District.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information regarding the Augusta Playground Community Build, please contact Maria Dmyterko Stone at (312) 857-2757, extension 17.

Historic Union Park Receives TIF Funds

Union Park (1501 W. Randolph Street) has become famous as the location of the

Pitchfork Music Festival, a summer music extravaganza. Located in the West Loop at Ashland Avenue and Randolph Street, Union Park covers 13 acres. It is one of the city's oldest parks, created in 1853 and named in honor of the Federal Union.

Union Park has a great musical history. In the 1910s, African-Americans began moving into the West Loop neighborhood. Union Park was one of the city's few racially-integrated parks. Between the 1920s and the 1950s, many notable musicians performed there, including many African-American musicians such as gospel great Thomas A. Dorsey, trumpeter Sonny Cohn, and jazz pianist Ramsey Lewis.

The Pitchfork Music Festival extends the musical history of the park to today's indie rock and rap groups.

The community supports the festival, but it noted that the heavy use of the park for the festival calls for additional dollars for maintenance. With the leadership of Alderman Walter Burnett and the Chicago Park District, City Council recently approved \$750,000 in TIF funds for improvements to Union Park. The planned

improvements include a new children's playground and children's water park.

Stanton Park Receives TIF Funds For Much-Needed Renovation

Stanton Park (618 W. Scott Street) is a ten-acre park just north of Division Street and west of Clybourn Avenue. With the leadership of Alderman Walter Burnett, City Council awarded Stanton Park \$2 million in TIF dollars to rehabilitate its field house and outdoor park space.

Alderman Burnett testified at the Chicago Park District that he would like to see the Stanton Park field house expanded by adding general-use community rooms. The current field house does not have community rooms for after-school programs or community events.

Friends of the Parks suggested that the Park District consider expanding the field house by remodeling the front entrance façade on Clybourn Avenue. Stanton has always been a tucked-away and hard-to-find-park. The Park District could use the newly-allocated TIF funds to expand the field house and create a clearly-identified and welcoming entrance on Clybourn.

(continued on page 4)

In Memoriam: Ruth Dunbar Davee 1912 – 2011

Friends of the Parks' Board Member and Philanthropist

Friends of the Parks joins all of Chicago in mourning the passing of Ruth Dunbar Davee in April. Ms. Davee, President of the Davee Foundation, was 99 years old, and had long been a major force in Chicago's non-profit community as well as an accomplished teacher, writer and journalist.

Born in West Chicago in 1912, Ms. Davee graduated from the University of Illinois at Champaign in 1935. She attained an MA in 1937 and a PhD in English Literature with honors in 1942, both from Northwestern University. She worked as

a teacher, a published writer, and for many years as a journalist at the *Chicago Sun-Times*, where she authored an influential and award-winning series of articles "Why Johnny Can't Read – Or Can He?"

Ms. Davee loved to travel, visiting many countries around the world. She visited China four times, and even went with a small group to Tibet to learn photography.

She married Ken Davee in 1988. After his death in 1998, she became President of the Davee Foundation, one of the most important local foundations. The foundation

provides millions of dollars each year to more than 60 non-profit organizations in the health, arts, social services, advocacy and education fields.

Ms. Davee and her husband had for many years supported Friends of the Parks, and in 2007 Ruth joined our Board of Directors. We are saddened by her passing and will miss this great friend of Friends of the Parks and of Chicago. 🕊️

Neighborhood News (cont'd)

Ping Tom Park in Chinatown

Nearly Doubling in Size

Ping Tom Park (399 W. 19th Street) is the only neighborhood park in the Chinatown community. The previous neighborhood park was destroyed when the Dan Ryan Expressway was constructed through the community in the early 1960s. It took 40 years to get the first replacement park, Ping Tom Park.

Using TIF funds the city allocated for the project, the Park District has begun constructing Phase 2 of Ping Tom Park, an expansion to the north that will nearly double its current 12 acres.

In July, the city approved using additional TIF funds to begin Phase 3, which involves construction of a field house on old railroad-owned land. Expected to cost \$15 million, the field house will include a gym, swimming pool, clubrooms and fitness center.

Chicago Park District Hires New Contractor to Maintain Natural Areas

The Chicago Park District hired Pizzo and Associates in DeKalb County to maintain its terrestrial and shoreline natural areas. The contract covers 35 parks, totaling 300 acres, reaching as far as Columbus Park (west), the former USX Site (south) and Loyola Park (north). The contract includes removal of invasive species, ecological burns, storm water management, plantings, soil improvements and education.

In a recent meeting with Friends of the Parks, Jack Pizzo stressed his desire to take the Chicago Park District to the next level by working with site stewards to improve natural areas. Pizzo believes that

(continued on page 8)

Park District Begins Construction of Thomas Wortham IV Playground

The Chicago Park District recently approved a contract for construction of a new children's playground in Cole Park in memory of slain Chicago police officer Thomas Wortham IV. The Park District will fund the \$1.3 million project, including demolishing the old children's playground, redesigning the two entrances to Cole Park along 85th Street, constructing a new playground, and installing a mosaic art piece. Friends of the Parks has committed to raise the additional \$15,000 for the mosaic art.

Thomas Wortham IV served as president of the Cole Park Advisory Council and worked selflessly to improve the park and his community. He sought to improve programs and facilities for community children. In addition to his work as a police officer and park advocate, Wortham served our country as a member of the National Guard, including two tours in Iraq.

In September, the Cole Park Advisory Council and Friends of the Parks will join forces in a one-day community build to complete the playground and install the Thomas Wortham-inspired mosaic wall. We applaud the Chicago Park District for funding the construction. 🕊️



Photo courtesy of Northwestern Memorial Hospital

Mayor Emanuel Names Two New Park District Commissioners

Mayor Rahm Emanuel appointed two new members to serve on the Chicago Park District's Board of Commissioners. The two nominees are Avis Lavelle, former spokesperson for Mayor Daley, and Juan Salgado, from the Instituto del Progreso Latino.

In addition, the mayor re-nominated Laird Koldyke to serve a second five-year term on the board. The City Council Committee on Recreation and Parks, chaired by Alderman Walter Burnett, held a hearing on the mayoral nominees on July 21. The committee approved the nominations, as did City Council. 🕊️

Friends Indeed

Major Contributors June 1, 2011 through July 31, 2011

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

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Friends of the Parks Honors Phil Cline and Rick Simon for Creating the Chicago Police Memorial and Park

Friends of the Parks hosted its 22nd annual Parks Ball gala at beautiful Galleria Marchetti in Chicago on Friday, May 20.

We honored Philip J. Cline and Richard A. Simon for their roles in establishing and maintaining the beautiful Gold Star Families Memorial and Park. The five-acre site in Chicago's Museum Campus honors the memory of Chicago police officers who died or suffered serious injuries in the line of duty since the founding of the department in the 1830s.

Phil Cline has served as Executive Director of the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation since August 2007. Before that he served the Chicago Police Department for 37 years, culminating in his service as Superintendent of Police from 2003 to 2007. His innovations at the Chicago Police Department produced unprecedented results in reducing crime and increasing safety for Chicagoans. His dedicated work for the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation exemplifies his integrity and concern for officers and their families.

Richard Simon, President and CEO of United Service Companies, became the company's principal in 1985 and built it into the largest service contractor for conventions and special events in the U.S. United provides cleaning, staffing and security to public venues, airlines, hotels and other businesses across America. After serving in the United States Marine Corps from 1967 to 1970. Simon then had a dual career with the Chicago Police Department and United Service Companies. He has served as Chairman of the Board of the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau and as a board member of the United States Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation. Simon has contributed United Service Companies staff and resources to maintain the Gold Star Families Memorial and Park. He has privately funded the maintenance of this Memorial Park at no cost to taxpayers or the Memorial Fund since its opening.

More than a memorial to those who died, the park honors how these officers lived. The Chicago Park District granted the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation the rights to develop the site, the goal

being to develop the finest police memorial in the nation. The memorial honors officers while still serving as a park attractive to all users.

The non-profit Chicago Police Memorial Foundation, led by Phil Cline, also provides support and assistance to families of Chicago Police Officers killed or catastrophically injured in the line of duty.



The Chicago Police Memorial and Park serves as a beautiful park, open to all.

Friends Indeed

Friends of the Parks would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their very generous support of the Parks Ball 2011.

TABLES OF TEN

Grand Benefactor, Table of Ten (\$5,000)

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Honoree Phil Cline and his wife Kathy enjoyed the evening at Galleria Marchetti.

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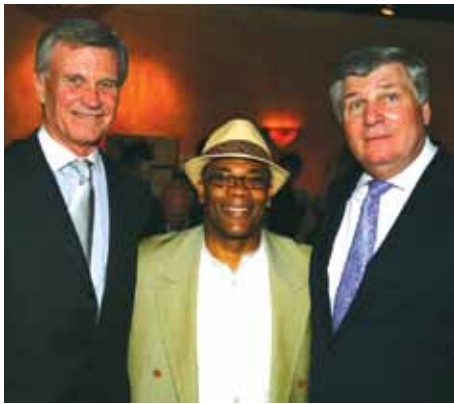
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Alderman Walter Burnett (center) is a great friend of Friends of the Parks.

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The five-acre Chicago Police Memorial and Park, located near Soldier Field, honors the memory of police officers who died or suffered serious injuries in the line of duty.

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Friends of the Parks honored Rick Simon (left) and Phil Cline (right) for their work in creating and maintaining the Chicago Police Memorial and Park, located near Soldier Field. Erma Tranter and Lauren Moltz presented the awards.



Chicago Park District Commissioner and Mrs. Rouhy Shalabi are regular guests at the annual Parks Ball.

Special Thanks

- “Give for Green” - Ace Auctioneers
- Photography – Lee Auerbach and Lauren Bauer
- Band – The Business
- Performance – South Shore Drill Team
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We greatly appreciate the support of our guests, contributors and auction donors who have given so generously to Friends of the Parks. And a big thanks to the Parks Ball volunteers for helping to make the evening a success! 🌱

Friends of the Parks' Community Service Days Program Grows with More than 2,500 Volunteers in Parks

Friends of the Parks has hosted 40 community service events with corporations, community groups, Boy Scouts, schools and alumni groups this spring and summer. In all, over 2,500 volunteers chose to work with Friends of the Parks in parks, children's playgrounds and forest preserves.

In addition, eleven universities and corporations volunteered to help maintain the Dunning-Read Conservation Area, a 25-acre wetland and woodland site on the city's northwest side. Volunteers from the nearby community, DePaul University, Northwestern University and its Kellogg School, Yale Chicago Academy of Science High School students, Merck, Exelon, PepsiCo, Harris Bank, Kohl's Department Stores and Ford joined in to clear invasive plants, to improve the trail, and to plant

native flowers, shrubs and trees. The American Indian Center expanded the rain garden with additional plants and shrubs.

Our service learning high school partners worked with Friends of the Parks on multiple Adopt-a-Park projects. The Latin School of Chicago students worked at Washington Square Park on Dearborn and Delaware; Muchin College Prep students helped to maintain the Burnham Prairie on the South Side, and Hancock High School students worked on projects in West Lawn Park in the West Lawn Community. These Adopt-a-Park partnerships are part of an ongoing effort to help children learn about nature and stewardship in their own communities.

Volunteers from Arcelor Mittal and Boy Scouts cleaned up Whistler Woods and the Major Taylor Trail.

Finally, volunteers from Ohio State University, Whole Foods, Steppenwolf Theatre, Mesirov Financial, William J. Wrigley, Jr. Company and Peoples Gas brought hundreds of volunteers to clean and green several parks, including Clarendon, Douglas, Garibaldi and Washington Parks. The groups painted and prepared a concrete wall for a mural, maintained a garden, installed soft surface material in children's playgrounds, and mulched trees. 🌱



Volunteers from Steppenwolf Theater and the community prime a concrete wall for a children's mural.

Neighborhood News (cont'd)

communication and education are an integral part of natural land maintenance, and that it is important to educate park users about natural areas. Signage is extremely important in educating the public and Pizzo plans to incorporate educational signage into the scope of the firm's work.

Park Advisory Council Awarded Grant

The Ashe Park Advisory Council was awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Parkways Foundation in support of their community garden. The grant will provide funds for garden tools, equipment and plant material for the all-volunteer garden. The Park District will also contribute to the project by constructing a small storage facility for the garden tools and supplies. The Ashe Park Advisory Council welcomes volunteers to help them with the park gardens. Contact them at ashepark@gmail.com.

New Park Advisory Council for Eckersall Park

Eckersall Park (2400 E. 82nd Street) has a new park advisory council made up of several active block clubs surrounding the park. The Eckersall Park Advisory Council seeks funds and political support for replacing the 20-year-old playground in the park.

Edison Park Groups Petition for New Playground

The Edison Park Chamber of Commerce seeks funds for the full cost of a new children's playground in Edison Park (6755 N. Northwest Highway). The existing 27-year-old playground received only a 64% safety rating from a study completed by Children's Memorial Hospital and Friends of the Parks.

Representatives from the Edison Park Chamber of Commerce and the Edison Park Community Council made a presentation to the Park Board of Commissioners formally requesting a new playground to be named the John McDonough Playlot. The two community groups committed to work to fully fund the playlot.

Bow Making Workshop Held at Dunning-Read Conservation Area

The American Indian Center sponsored a Traditional Bow Making Workshop at the conservation area. Woodworker John Dall (Indian name Hočak) led the workshop, demonstrating Native American techniques involved in building a wooden bow-and-arrow kit using plants traditionally used by tribes of the Midwest. The workshop taught how to

(continued on page 12)

Help Needed on September 24 For National Public Lands Day

On Saturday, September 24, join Friends of the Parks and communities across the country in a "clean-up" to celebrate National Public Lands Day. Gloves and garbage bags will be provided.

Current sites registered for the clean-up include the Dunning-Read Conservation Area, Gompers Park and Whistler Woods. For more information, please visit our website at www.friendsoftheparks.org or contact our Director of Volunteers, Mary Eileen Sullivan at sullivanme@fotp.org or (312) 857-2757, extension 13. 🌱

Friends of the Parks' Earth Team Designs Urban Wildlife Mural

Friends of the Parks' Earth Team in Humboldt Park spent their summer program studying public art enrichment and designing and creating a community mural.

This is the fifth consecutive summer that the Earth Team has worked in Humboldt Park, once again in the Nature Room of the historic Jen Jensen-designed boat house at the park's lagoon.

Friends of the Parks' instructor Elizabeth Levenda and Director of Environmental Education Colin Taylor led the

summer environmental studies apprenticeship in partnership with After School Matters.

The Earth Team teens decided to paint the mural to highlight the positive community features of a neighborhood that, they feel, too often receives notice for negative attributes. "A lot of people hear 'Humboldt Park' and think gangs, crime, things like that," said third-year apprentice Cynthia Alvarado, age 17. "But it's mostly families, kids and people who want to spend time in their park, enjoy-

ing being outdoors. We want the mural to show off the parts of the neighborhood and park that we care about the most."

Instructor Levenda says that the mural features the urban wildlife of Humboldt Park intertwined with the people of the Humboldt community. The students painted the mural on large portable canvases that allow them to showcase it at various spots in the park and neighborhood, such as the field house, boat house, their local library and schools. 🌿

Starcom USA Employees Improve Seven Parks and Beaches

Starcom USA takes community service seriously. Starcom employees participate in a large-scale Starcom Serves Day each year.

This year, more than 450 Starcom employees joined with Friends of the Parks and the Alliance for the Great Lakes to clean and improve seven parks and beaches. The volunteers removed litter, planted 60 shrubs, and mulched trees and trails. It was a tremendous effort and helped improve Dvorak Park in Pilsen, Jackson Park and its LaRabida Beach, Montrose Park and Montrose Beach, Sherman Park on the South Side, and the Dunning-Read Conservation Area. 🌿



With support from Friends of the Parks, Starcom employees helped to clean and improve seven parks and beaches throughout Chicago.

U.S. Conference of Mayors Adopts Urban Parks Resolution

The U.S. Conference of Mayors has adopted a resolution that advocates for more federal resources for urban parks in the United States. The resolution urges the Obama administration, U.S. Congress, U.S. mayors and the private sector to provide more funds and resources for the nation's heavily-used urban parks in cities, large and small, across the nation. The resolution, stating that "Everyone in urban America should live within a short walk of a park that is clean, safe and vibrant," was adopted at the 79th annual conference held in Baltimore, Maryland, on June 21.

The resolution calls for President Obama and Congress to:

- Include urban parks as essential elements in a comprehensive approach to urban policy and community development
- Support the adoption and implementation of the recommendations of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative
- Support full funding for the Land Water and Conservation Fund to establish and support great urban parks

- Raise awareness of the need for greater public and private investment in parks and green space to create healthy, walkable and sustainable cities

The resolution also calls on the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the nation's mayors to work in partnership with the President, all members of the administration and Congress to create healthy and vibrant urban parks and open spaces for the 21st century and to engage the public and private leaders in this effort. 🌿

Friends of the Parks Hosts 23rd Annual L.A.T.E. Ride and Shows Off Chicago and Its Lakefront After Midnight

You may have slept through the best time of day to ride your bike!

Friends of the Parks' 23rd annual after-midnight L.A.T.E. Ride once again provided a temperature-friendly bike cruise (contrasting with the usual midday July heat). Thousands of riders burned calories while the rest of the city snoozed!

The 25-mile route began at Buckingham Fountain in Grant Park; pushed through the South Loop, Chinatown, Greek Town, and the North Side and finishing along the beautiful lakefront trail under the moon.

In addition to the glittering city lights along the course, riders could also shift their gaze to hundreds of riders decked out in festive costumes and brightly-lit bikes.

Thanks to Sponsors

We gratefully acknowledge the following sponsors who generously supported The L.A.T.E. Ride this year.

Presenting Sponsors

Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas Sports Authority

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Friends of the Parks hosted its annual Best Lit Bike and Best Decorated Helmet contest again this year, with many riders participating.

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Village Cycle Center

Top 10 Reasons to Participate in The L.A.T.E. Ride 2012

1. No sun, no sweat, and an almost-perfectly hill-less course.
2. Groove to live music at Buckingham Fountain.
3. Cruise through as many cool Chicago neighborhoods as you can squeeze into a 25-mile trek.
4. Burn at least 250 calories when you'd normally be sleeping.
5. Check out fellow riders in funky glow-in-the-dark fashions, helmets decorated with dinosaurs and fancy lit-up bikes.
6. Meet your soul mate (it's happened at least four times - that we've heard of!).
7. High-five onlookers and get cheered on like you're in the Tour de France.
8. Once-a-year chance to ride along the lakefront under the stars (parks close at 11 p.m.).
9. Watch the sun rise over Lake Michigan.
10. Free coffee.

Plus: Brag to co-workers on Monday that you stayed up ALL night.



At 1:00 a.m., thousands of bicyclists packed Columbus Drive between Congress and Balbo for the start of Friends of the Parks' L.A.T.E. Ride.

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Late Ride (cont'd)

Special Thanks

Chicago Athlete Magazine
Chicago Park District
Chicago Police Department
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LaGrou Distribution
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The 25-mile took participants through many Chicago neighborhoods, including Chinatown.

Rave Reviews

People rave about our one-of-a-kind event...

"The L.A.T.E. Ride is a must-do for all folks who enjoy bike riding, and love the city of Chicago!" Don P.

"It says a lot about a city that organizes such a huge bike ride in the middle of the night! The L.A.T.E. Ride gives people a chance to see Chicago from a whole different perspective." Jon J.

"It's like Woodstock on wheels!"
Jennifer E.



Participants tell us they love riding at night under the stars, as well as eating breakfast along the lakefront while watching the sunrise.



More than 250 volunteers helped before, during and after The L.A.T.E. Ride.

Committee Thanks

We extend our thanks to the planning committee and all of our volunteers whose dedication and enthusiasm make this event possible!

Graphic Design: Lynn Wier / i2i Design

Website: Lynn Wier / i2i Design and Jeff Goeters

Facebook Fan Page: Carl Thompson

Office Volunteer: Natalie Ward

Registration Processing: Barbara Minster

T-Shirt Design: George Wills

Mark your calendar now for next year's ride on Saturday night/Sunday morning July 8, 2012! 🌱

Garfield Park (cont'd)

In all, the hail destroyed about 60 percent of the glass in the Conservatory, damaging the building, historic plants and other features.

As a result of the storm, parts of the Conservatory are closed to the public. The Chicago Park District is evaluating the damage and bringing in contractors to decide a course of action. As the first step of the massive cleanup, the Park District must remove pieces of glass hanging from the roof, along with all the broken glass in the dirt and garden beds. The Park District can then determine the cost of reconstruction and a timeline for completion. Meanwhile, with winter only months away, the Park District will likely need to temporarily wrap the buildings to protect the priceless plants from cold weather.

Despite the damage to Chicago's West Side treasure, the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance and the Chicago Park

Events calendar

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

NOON

Join a discussion with Chicago filmmaker Thomas Comerford as he screens and discusses his documentary film *The Indian Boundary Line*. The film takes us on a tour of Chicago's Rogers Avenue and the history surrounding it, as well as Pottawattomie and Indian Boundary Parks. The film highlights the history of the disputed border that separated the United States' Louisiana Territory from Indian country, where settlers and the US Army fought the Sauk, Fox, Kickapoo and other tribes for control of the land in the 1832 Black Hawk War. Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington, Claudia Cassidy Auditorium.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

The Chicago Yachting Association, Westrec Marinas and Friends of the Parks will sponsor Harbor Cleanup Day. Boaters will clean the harbor of debris, complete underwater dives, maintain gardens or recycle boating materials. For details, go to Friends of the Parks', website www.FOTP.org.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

5:30PM – 7:00PM

Friends of the Parks will hold its quarterly Park Advisory Council Networking Meeting at our office, 17 N. State, Suite 1450. For details, contact Maria Dmyterko Stone at stonem@FOTP.org.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

The public may attend the Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners meetings. The committee hearings take place at 10:30 a.m. and the full board hearing will occur at 4:00 p.m. To register to testify at the People in the Parks segment, you must arrive by 3:45 p.m. and fill out a sign-up request.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

9:00AM – NOON

Join Friends of the Parks to volunteer to help maintain a natural area in a Chicago Park or forest preserve. Contact Mary Eileen Sullivan at sullivanme@FOTP.org.

District immediately opened the remaining rooms including the Palm House, the Children's Garden and the Sugar from the Sun exhibit room as well as the outside public gardens for the public's ongoing use and enjoyment.

To support the restoration of the Garfield Park Conservatory, go to www.garfieldconservatory.org. 🌱



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Neighborhood News (cont'd)

identify trees, shrubs and plants used to make bows, bow string and arrows; how to select and harvest a tree; how to carve green wood and other woodworking techniques. Nearly 20 young adults and teens participated in the bow making workshop.

Chicago Sustainable Backyard Program

To promote the many ways Chicago residents can create more environmental-friendly landscapes in their yards, the City of Chicago is offering rebates for up to 50% of their next local purchase of trees (up to \$100 back), native plants (up to \$60 back), compost bins (up to \$50 back), and rain barrels (up to \$40 back). To find out about the sustainable Backyard Workshop series and to download rebate forms, visit www.cityofchicago.org/rainbarrel. Rules and restrictions apply and can be found on the rebate forms. Funding for rebates comes from the EPA's pollution prevention Program and a USDA Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant.

Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project Underway

Many environmental groups completed a survey to include their stewardship activities and information in the Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project (Stew-MAP) at stewmap.cnt.org. Stew-MAP will tell the story of park stewardship in Chicago and help strengthen the local network of environmental stewards. Project organizers will produce an online stewardship map showing sites and territories where groups are working. A beta version will be launched in August. For more information, please contact Cherie LeBlanc Fisher of the USDA Forest Service at clfisher_r@fs.fed.us. 

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

WEBSITE: www.FOTP.org

ADDRESS: 17 North State Street,
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