



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

Fall 2011

Mayor Names Chicago Park District Superintendent

Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced his selection of Michael Kelly as Superintendent of the Chicago Park District. Mr. Kelly has served as the interim superintendent since June 2011 after the resignation of Tim Mitchell.



Mayor Rahm Emanuel recently appointed Michael Kelly (above) as Superintendent of the Chicago Park District.

Michael Kelly brings a great deal of experience to the District's top office. Since 2007, he worked as the District's Chief Operating Officer and led

the development of the District's long-term capital investment program, prioritizing \$350 million in park design and construction projects. These efforts include the completion of LEED-certified field houses, ADA-compliant playgrounds, new beach houses and the extensive restoration of Chicago's Buckingham Fountain. He also worked as the District's First Deputy Counsel and Director of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs.


In the past, Kelly has worked as a freelance sports writer, and served as coordinator for the Buffalo Bills football team during Super Bowl XXVII.

Kelly is a lifelong sports and fitness enthusiast and CrossFit athlete. He acknowledges that he developed his athletic and leadership skills in large part from

spending his formative years in Chicago parks. "I grew up in the parks," he said. "I learned to play sports in the parks, and I went to the park every day after school. My kids all participate in park programs, too." He proudly acknowledges that he has visited all 580 of the District's parks.

Kelly earned a JD from DePaul College of Law in Chicago, and a BA in Political Science from John Carroll University in

Cleveland, Ohio. He and his wife and their four children live in the West Morgan Park community.

Friends of the Parks congratulates Michael Kelly on his new appointment. We look forward to advancing partnerships on playgrounds, stewardship, volunteerism, and park and playground planning. 

Friends of the Parks' Banner Reaches Summit of Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro

Jackie Payne, Chicago Park District Area Manager for the Central Region, recently climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain peak in Africa.

Mount Kilimanjaro contains virtually every ecosystem on earth – glaciers, snowfields, deserts, alpine moorland, savannah, and tropical jungle. Packing for such a trip presented a challenge, but Payne made sure to pack her Friends of the Parks' t shirt and banner! She wore




Jackie Payne, Chicago Park District Area Manager, wears her Friends of the Parks' t-shirt during her recent climb up Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa.



Jackie Payne unfurls Friends of the Parks' banner at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

the t-shirt on the lower elevations of the climb and unwrapped Friends of the Parks' banner at the 19,341 foot summit.

As part of her climbing adventure, Payne raised money for three park advisory councils in her area: Sumac Park, Taylor Park and Wentworth Gardens. To date, she has raised more than \$1,000 for park improvements. 

Erma Tranter Receives Award from UIC Alumni Association

The University of Illinois Alumni Association honored Friends of the Parks' President Erma Tranter at its Alumni Dinner and Awards Ceremony on October 14.

Each year, the group honors UIC alumni who have given back to the University and the community. This year, the Alumni Five ceremony included presentations of the Alumni

Achievement, Distinguished Service, Alumni Humanitarian, City Partner and Corporate Partner awards.

An avid runner and cyclist, Erma Tranter has been fiercely passionate about protecting parks for city residents and visitors for over 25 years. She was recognized for embodying Friends of the Parks' mission to protect, improve and promote the use of Chicago parks, forest

preserves and recreational areas for the benefit of all neighborhoods and citizens.

Thanks to her efforts, Friends of the Parks has saved hundreds of acres of parkland, protected parks from encroachments, built new children's playgrounds, restored the Garfield Park Conservatory, empowered citizens to protect their parks and established a network of local park advisory councils. 🌿

Commercial Park and Snowberry Playlot Volunteers Enjoy Bountiful Season in their Community

The 2011 season of Green Team Growers has come to an end. Volunteers extended this successful Commercial Park (1845 W. Rice Street) program to include Snowberry Playground, a local 'pocket' park located at 1857 W. Huron Street. Many young budding gardeners enjoy this free drop-in program that East Village Block and Garden Club's Jeannie Felknor started.

This year, as part of their efforts to increase positive loitering at Snowberry Playground, volunteers used a grant from Friends of the Parks to purchase two

large raised beds, along with plants and supplies to start a community garden.

Program instructors taught kids how to start seeds in peat pots, tend the beds, and harvest the produce. The kids excitedly picked berries, beans and cherry tomatoes, among other foods, and discovered first-hand where some foods originate. Parents commented repeatedly that they cannot get their kids to eat some of these foods when served from grocer to table, but the kids would eat the same vegetables that they grew and harvested themselves.

Snowberry Playground has seen the start of a positive transformation. A newly formed 'Friends of Snowberry' committee, under Commercial Park Advisory Council (CPAC), has infused new volunteer energy into the park. For the first time in recent memory, gangs have not cut open the chain link fence along the back of the playlot to allow late-night traffic. Simple vines and sunflowers were planted along the back perimeter. The park now displays two large 4' and 8' raised garden beds.

To create the gardens, volunteers power-washed old wood and added sweat equity and a few cans of paint. They planted colorful annuals in the front beds with perennials and food plants in the other beds. They installed a new gate which makes the park much safer for young children.

But CPAC and Friends of Snowberry do not want to stop there. They plan

to redo the front beds with Snowberry bushes, the native plants for which the park was named. They hope to add grow boxes and planters. They want to install a pumice-stone mosaic to line the water spray play feature to add art and reduce slipperiness. The results so far are clearly positive: less gang traffic, less graffiti, more community involvement, and more positive kid interaction.

Who would think that plants could be that powerful? 🌿

Friends of the Parks Mourns Passing of Former Board Chairman Tom Sanberg

Friends of the Parks is saddened by the recent passing of one of our leaders, Thomas G. Sanberg, who served as chairman of our Board of Directors from 2001-2003.

Tom worked as a professional fundraiser for much of his career and brought a strong spirit to that discipline. He worked successfully with many non-profit organizations during his productive career. Tom was also a devoted environmentalist, serving as a Boundary Waters canoe guide and an avid gardener.

Tom is survived by his wife of 39 years, Lora, five children and eight grandchildren. 🌿



Two interested toddlers watch as a volunteer releases red wigglers into a compost bin, part of the Commercial Park Green Team Growers' successful community garden.

REI Grant Encourages More Volunteerism at Dunning Read Conservation Area on the City's Northwest Side

Friends of the Parks received a generous \$20,000 grant from retailer REI to help promote restoration efforts at the Dunning Read Conservation Area.

Work made possible by this grant began with an event on October 15 with more than 80 volunteers from the nearby community, Roosevelt University, Chicago Academy High School, Schurz



Dunning Read Conservation Area volunteer Gary Bonikowski removes phragmites near the creek that runs through the site.



Volunteers from REI weren't afraid to "Get Dirty." In fact, getting dirty is REI's volunteer mantra! The group removed roots from the creek bed at the Dunning Read Conservation Area.

High School, Senn High School and the Girl Scouts. Together, they removed invasive phragmites and worked on trail maintenance.

To expand volunteer efforts, the grant provided new tools, plant material, signage and supplies for the site.

We are excited to receive this outstanding support from REI and look forward to continuing improvements at the Dunning Read Conservation Area. The next work day on the site will be held on Saturday, November 12. For more information, please contact Mary Eileen Sullivan at sullivanme@fotp.org. 🌱

Public-Private Partners Create New Augusta Park Playground

Injury Free Coalition for Kids of Chicago at Children's Memorial Hospital, Kohl's Department Stores volunteers, Friends of the Parks, the Chicago Park District and community members joined forces in August to build a sorely-needed new children's playground in Augusta Playground Park (4433 W. Augusta Boulevard) in the West Humboldt Park neighborhood.

The 20-year-old playground had exceeded its usable lifespan. As one of the few parks in West Humboldt Park, it desperately needed attention.

Thirty volunteers rolled up their sleeves and grabbed wrenches, screwdrivers and levels to help install

new play equipment, which now includes six swings, a climbing feature, slides and ramps.



Volunteers from Kohl's Department Stores joined forces with other helpers to install new play equipment at Augusta Playground Park in the West Humboldt Park neighborhood.

The completed playground features a play structure for children ages 2 to 5 and a separate structure with ramps, climbers and slides for children ages 6 to 12. The construction project added new park benches, a pergola, new basketball nets and new landscaping. Park planners also made room for a future water feature on the site.

As the last swing was hung, neighborhood children raced to jump on the equipment. They sounded quite happy with their exciting new playground!

Funding for the Augusta Playground came from Allstate Insurance, Kohl's Department Stores and the Chicago Park District. 🌱

Chatham Community Builds and Dedicates Wortham Playground

Under a sunny blue sky at Cole Park (361 E. 85th Street), members of the Cole Park Advisory Council joined neighbors, Chicago police officers, volunteers, Friends of the Parks staff, Chicago Park District staff, Alderman Roderick Sawyer, and the family of Thomas Wortham IV, to install equipment in the new playground, named in memory of Wortham.

Over 40 volunteers installed rings, bouncers, panels and balance beams in the entirely new playground. In addition, a crew of volunteers installed rolls of sod from six loaded pallets.

To test out the equipment, Alderman Sawyer and Thomas Wortham's sister Sandra Wortham climbed the nets, performed chin ups on the bars, and



Children flocked to the new Thomas Wortham IV playground in Cole Park.

even reclined in one of the webs. They gave the new playground their stamp of approval!

While the adults busily installed playground equipment, 30 neighborhood kids created mosaic tiles which were installed along the nine seating walls in the playground. The kids – under the guidance of artist Damon Reed of the Chicago Public Art Group – created mosaic titles of musical instruments depicting Nat King Cole, along with words that describe the legacy of Thomas Wortham IV.

Wortham worked as a Chicago Police Officer and served two tours of duty in Iraq. At Brother Rice High School, he ran track for four years and played football. He volunteered as the President of the Cole Park Advisory Council, working to make the park safer for children in his Chatham neighborhood. He worked to improve his community not just as a police officer, but as a resident – in protecting his neighborhood for the children of Chatham. Tragically, in May 2010 four subjects attempted to rob Officer Wortham when he was off duty, and, even



The playground's mosaic seating wall incorporates photographs of Thomas Wortham IV.

though he identified himself as a police officer, the subjects shot and killed the 30-year-old.

The community built this modern red, white, and blue playground in his honor and memory. The Park District officially named it the Thomas Wortham IV Playground. Together with his family, friends, fellow officers, neighbors and volunteers, the playground was officially dedicated on October 22. 🌱



Thomas Wortham III hosted the playground dedication, which paid tribute to his son.

Jesse "Ma" Houston Park Advisory Council Hosts Basketball Tournament at Ellis Park

In August, the Jessie "Ma" Houston Park Advisory Council – in conjunction with Friends of The Parks and the Aissia Foundation – hosted the 7th Annual Ace Basketball Tournament at Ellis Park (535 E. 35th Street) in memory of Darius Brown, a promising young man tragically slain doing what he loved – playing basketball with his friends.

Kenya Hawkins came up with the idea for the Ace Tournament in 2004 after



This year's Ace Basketball Tournament honored the late Darius Brown.

her uncle, Aissia "Ace" Harris, passed away from leukemia. His dedication to his neighborhood and love of basketball inspired his niece to organize a day of sports and health awareness in the Hyde Park community.

The event also provides ongoing opportunities for families to enjoy safe and positive events, and it promotes health initiatives. 🌱

Friends Indeed

Major Contributors August 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011

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

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Friends of the Parks Receives Bequest from Park Activists Polly and Nat Silberman

Pauline "Polly" and Nathaniel "Nat" Silberman worked tirelessly as park activists for more than 30 years.

Their passion for parks and their South Shore community led them to advocate for the South Shore Cultural Center, Jackson Park and the entire south lakefront park system.


For decades, Polly and Nat attended nearly every monthly meeting of the Chicago Park District Board

of Commissioners. Both Polly and Nat testified frequently on issues of accountability, equal distribution of tax dollars and the restoration and programming of the South Shore Cultural Center.

They were part of a group of South Side residents who walked from 31st Street to 71st Street with Friends of the Parks, clipboards in hand, to identify the repairs and capital projects needed to improve the south lakefront park system.

Together, we developed a

plan for Burnham Park which led to major restoration and development by the Chicago Park District. A new skate park, a new beach, a renovated 63rd Street Beach house, and a restored South Shore Cultural Center were all completed, in part, as a result of the plan.

Recently Friends of the Parks received a bequest from the estate of Polly and Nat Silberman to be used to continue our work to improve the south lakefront from 52nd Street to the Indiana border. 

Friends of the Parks Questions Army Corps' Expansion of Confined Disposal Facility on South Lakefront

The Chicago Park District owns a 43-acre parcel of land overlooking the Calumet Harbor, at the juncture of the Calumet River and Lake Michigan. The public cannot access this open space even though it would provide a remarkable riverfront and lakefront resource. Furthermore, developing this open space as a park would complete continuous north-south lakefront access on Chicago's southeast side and significantly expand the existing Calumet Park. This site provides sweeping, unencumbered visual access to Lake Michigan and the Calumet Harbor, a place of great historical significance in Chicago's development. Moreover, because this site consists of fill material placed in public waters, it has become part of the public trust and the public should benefit from it.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (US ACE) uses this property as a confined disposal facility (CDF) for contaminated sediments dredged from Chicago area

waterways. The Park District in 1982 signed an agreement permitting the US ACE and the Illinois International Port District to construct a disposal facility there with the stipulation that, when filled, they would cap the facility with clay and soil and turn it over to the Park District for a public park.

The CDF will reach its disposal capacity this year. However, the US ACE has attempted to expand the CDF by adding 4-foot tall concrete blocks to the CDF's perimeter wall.

Friends of the Parks opposes expanding the CDF. We have written to Chicago Park District officials urging them to formally and unequivocally oppose any efforts to allow additional sediment disposal on its property, and to bar access to its property for this purpose, beginning in 2012.

According to US ACE documents, the 43-acre site has reached its approved capacity. Therefore, the US ACE would

cap the facility in 2012, including a soil layer that will support appropriate vegetative cover. The US ACE and Illinois International Port District should then return the facility to the Park District so that the Park District can develop it into a park for public use. 🌱

Keith Harley contributed to this article.

New Membership Director Joins Staff



A veteran of non-profit organizations, Elizabeth Liwazer recently joined Friends of the Parks' staff as Membership Director. Liz increased membership for the Illinois Library Association and the American Hospital Association, and she raised thousands of dollars for healthcare, disadvantaged children and disaster relief through the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago.

Liz has a master's degree in Creative Writing from Goddard College in Plainfield, VT, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI. Fueled by the organization's mission, Liz is pleased to be part of such a dynamic team. Excited about meeting Friends of the Parks' supporters, Liz looks forward to expanding the membership base. 🌱

Chicago Park District Receives \$1.1 Million Great Lakes Restoration Grant

The US Environmental Protection Agency recently awarded the Chicago Park District \$1.1 million to protect and improve water quality at Chicago's beaches.

The Park District will use the funds in 2012 to groom the city's 24 beaches on a daily basis and to build a protective

barrier to make swimming areas cleaner at Montrose Harbor and Rainbow Beach. In addition, the District will construct a culvert at 63rd Street Beach. Officials anticipate these actions will result in fewer swimming bans and swimming advisories from lake water contamination. 🌱

Community Celebrates Newly Restored Dunbar Park

The Bronzeville community recently celebrated the reconstruction of Dunbar Park (300 E. 31st Street).

The Chicago Park District gave Dunbar Park a \$2 million "face lift" which included a state-of-the-art playground, new walking paths, a new park entrance, and new lighting and landscaping. Crews completed the work over the past 12 months with approximately \$1 million in Tax Increment Financing funds and \$1

million in Chicago Park District capital improvement funds.

"Dunbar Park is a crucial resource for recreation in the Near South Lakefront," Alderman Bob Fioretti said at the park rededication. "This wonderful greenspace is used every day by its neighbors, Dunbar High School students, and the Near South Youth Sports League, among many others."

An intensive community process over many years by the Chicago Park District,

the Dunbar Park Advisory Council and Alderman Fioretti led to the Dunbar Park master plan. This cooperative park design process provided for the first phase in the renovation of Dunbar Park.

Alderman Fioretti is also leading the effort to complete this project by installing a historic marker and a sculpture honoring Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906), the first African-American to gain national recognition as a poet. 🌱

Environmental Education Uses Parks as Outdoor Classrooms

Friends of the Parks' Environmental Education Program began its fall initiative with 5th grade elementary school students involved with fishing in Montrose Harbor. Over the course of two hours, while fishing at the Montrose Harbor pier, the students and volunteers caught and removed over 80 gobies from the harbor. Students especially enjoyed feeding their catches to the nearby ring-billed gulls!

Brenda McKinney of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources spoke about Illinois waterways, invasive species and fishing practices. The students then paired up with a "fishing mentor" from PepsiCo, and spent the morning practicing their new-found fishing skills.

The environmental education program continues through the fall with hundreds of students from Chicago's public elementary schools using the lakefront as an outdoor classroom to study dune formation, water quality, bird watching, tree identification and fishing.

The After School Matters Earth



Peirce Elementary 5th graders and PepsiCo volunteers enjoyed their fishing experience at Montrose Harbor.

Team environmental education program began its eighth year in October at three locations: Carver Military Academy, Humboldt Park, and Taft High School. The program provides 75 Chicago students with an afterschool environmental apprenticeship, learning earth science and

park stewardship. The teens will focus on creating programs and projects at their high schools to enhance "green living" at their campuses and parks. Teens will also take field trips to college campuses, Cook County Forest Preserves, and the Dunning-Read Conservation Area. 🌿

"Bike Calumet" Bicycle Ride Showcases Calumet Region

On October 16, Lake Calumet became the centerpiece of Bike Calumet, a 15-mile bicycle ride showcasing Chicago's



Calumet Open Space Reserve. The Reserve contains remnant wetlands and prairies supporting large populations of herons, egrets and other water birds. New hiking and biking trails will eventually interconnect more marshes and open lands.

The Southeast Environmental Task Force hosted the event in partnership with Friends of the Parks, the Calumet Ecological Park Association, the Lake Calumet Vision Committee, the Chicago Department of Environment and the Chicago Park District.

Participants of Bike Calumet began

their trek at the International Harbor Golf Course. They rode around a large portion of Lake Calumet, even though they were not able to access the lake or its shoreline in any other location. Organizers of Bike Calumet dedicated the event to the future possibility of opening the lake and its shoreline to public recreation and conservation purposes.

Organizers arranged tour stops at Big Marsh, Indian Ridge Marsh, and Van Vliet Prairie/Marian Byrnes Natural Area, all natural areas recently transferred to the Chicago Park District. 🌿

Phoenixes from Columbian Exposition Find Safe Nests at Art Institute

Four carved and painted wooden panels, which highlighted Japan's exhibit at the Columbian Exposition of 1893 on Jackson Park's Wooded Island, have found a fitting home in the Art Institute of Chicago's Asian Galleries. After careful restoration, the museum permanently mounted the panels at the entry to a

special contemplative room within the Japanese Galleries of the Weston Wing.

A Japanese artist deeply and elaborately carved the panels and heavily painted them and applied gold leaf, as commonly done to add light in Japanese temples. The two sharp-beaked mythical

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Friends of the Parks' Major Donors Gather at Newly-Expanded Ping Tom Park in Chinatown

On September 14, Friends of the Parks thanked its major donors with a lovely evening under the red pagoda in Ping Tom Park, located in Chinatown along the Chicago River.

Attendees sipped wine and enjoyed tasty delicacies from Chinatown's Cantonasia Restaurant with friends, board and staff in this magnificent riverfront park.

Park designer Ernie Wong of Site Design Group led attendees on a tour of the park, including its newest addition. He described the history of the neighborhood and his inspiration for the many Asian features in the park such as the pagoda,

plantings, dragon entry columns and Chinese landscape design.

Formerly a Chicago and Western Indiana Railroad yard located along the edge of the South Branch of the Chicago River, 12-acre Ping Tom Memorial Park has since 1998 offered visitors impressive river and city views. 🌿



Guests at Friends of the Parks' major donor event enjoyed strolling through Ping Tom Park in Chinatown. The Chicago Park District recently expanded the park by six acres, doubling its size.

FOTP Brings 3,000 "VIPs" To Parks Around the City

Friends of the Parks has seen a large increase in corporate service days this year, which has increased the number of volunteer projects in parks. To date, we have brought an additional 3,300 volunteers since Earth Day out to parks throughout the city, including the Dunning Read Conservation Area.

We had great participation from our local universities.

DePaul University sent two large groups to work on restoration efforts at the Dunning Read Conservation Area.

Loyola University sent 100 students to Washington Park to mulch the trees in the park from 51st Street to 55th Street in

preparation for the Bud Billiken Parade.

Northwestern University sent 600 students to clean up parks on September 18. They worked at Jackson Park, Humboldt Park, Columbus Park, Garfield Park and the Dunning Read Conservation Area. Despite a very rainy afternoon, the students managed to clean and beautify the parks by picking up hundreds of pounds of garbage, removing invasive plants and restoring trails.

The Dunning Read Conservation Area has become quite an outdoor classroom for students from Chicago Academy and Latin School. Both schools have hosted several service learning events for their students at the site.

Friends of the Parks worked with Mesirow's summer interns to beautify Douglas Park by cleaning and mulching the Park.

In September, Mizuho Corporate Bank worked at Jackson Park with more than 30 volunteers to clean and clear the lakefront near LaRabida Hospital.

The Dunning Read Conservation Area hosted events for Allscripts, Bank of America, Inpoint and Altair Advisors. These companies restored trails, built fences and removed a semi-load of invasive plants and trees.

For National Public Lands Day in late September, Friends of the Parks

partnered with Chicago Wilderness to host volunteers at Gompers Park, Washington Park, Whistler Woods and the Dunning Read Conservation Area. These volunteers cleaned parks, restored trails, and helped mark and monitor recently planted trees, saplings and shrubs. Friends of the Parks is grateful for the increasing number of local companies who have made a strong commitment to the environment by hosting service days and team building events in the parks. 🌿

Chicago Loop Alliance Hosts First Open Streets Day on State Street

The Chicago Loop Alliance celebrated fall on October 1 by closing all traffic on State Street from Van Buren Street to Lake Street.

The group transformed State Street into the ultimate urban playground, allowing Chicagoans and visitors the fun opportunity to walk, bike, skate, and otherwise enjoy healthy recreation in a totally car-free environment. Events included a walkathon, yoga and martial arts.

Thank you, Loop Alliance, for the first Open Streets event on State Street. We hope it becomes an annual event! 🌿



Volunteers from Steppenwolf Theater worked alongside community residents to prepare a wall for a mural installation at Clarendon Park in the Uptown neighborhood.

Tree Initiative Really Growing

Friends of the Parks hosted four tree plantings this fall and installed 86 trees within Chicago Park District land. Generous funding from the Wm. J. Wrigley Jr. Company and Hyatt Corporation, along with a donation from the Charles Marks Trust, supported our tree planting efforts at two lakefront parks and two historic parks.

As part of their Adopt-a-Park effort, the Wm. J. Wrigley Jr. Company held a Corporate Service Day at Washington Park with 60 employees who helped plant 25 trees at the south end of the park, mulch 100 other trees and paint a mural at the fieldhouse.



Volunteers from Wrigley mulch a newly planted Kentucky Coffee tree in Washington Park.

Volunteers from Global Chicago, including 50 volunteers from 48 countries, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps by installing 25 trees at Rainbow Beach Park on Chicago's south lakefront.

Volunteers from the Jackson Park Advisory Council planted 10 trees near the Wooded Island in memory of Charles Marks, Jr., a resident of Hyde Park.

As part of their corporate greening efforts, 20 volunteers from Hyatt Corporation planted trees in Burnham Centennial Park just south of McCormick Place, part of a major restoration effort at that park.

Friends of the Parks also donated a tree to the Openlands TreeKeeper program for their fall session's final tree planting class at Chase Park.

Friends of the Parks Announces 2011 Volunteer Award Recipients

Each year, Friends of the Parks awards individuals and groups who have most improved their local park or forest preserve. We are thrilled to announce the 2011 winners:

Community Group
Trees R Beautiful

Individual Volunteer
Nick Amato, Ismel Enriquez and Samantha Galicia

Park Advisory Council
Major Taylor Trail Advisory Council and Rutherford Sayre Advisory Council

Stewardship
Alison Anastasio, Habitat 20/30 Group and Mike Roche

Outstanding Chicago Park District Employee
Sherida Hudak, Langdon Leonard and Gene Morgan

Outstanding Forest Preserve District Employee
Cassie Hatzfeld

Smoky Sakurada "Friends of Friends" Award
Carl Thompson, The Late Ride Committee Member

Friends of the Parks will present awards to this year's best stewards and park advocates at our annual Volunteer Awards Reception on Sunday, November 13 at 2:00 p.m. at Douglas Park (1401 S. Sacramento Boulevard). Please join us in celebrating their good work and that of all the volunteers across the city. For more information, please contact Mary Eileen Sullivan at sullivanme@fotp.org. 🌱

Junior Board Busy with Events

Friends of the Parks' Junior Board has raised funds and awareness for our advocacy work throughout the year. On October 13, the Junior Board hosted its 2nd Annual Fall Frolic Wine Tasting event. The group of young professionals has also participated in park clean-ups, hosted weeknight fundraisers and organized a benefit concert featuring Ben Cameron and the Moondogs.

The Junior Board welcomes new members. If interested, please contact the group at JBFOTP@gmail.com. 🌱



Wm. J. Wrigley Jr. Company joined Friends of the Parks' Adopt-a-Park program. Wrigley employees care for part of Washington Park as part of the company's corporate greening initiative in 2011.

One Good Deed Chicago also worked with Friends of the Parks on a tree care effort at Douglas Park which included a tree mulching extravaganza with hundreds of volunteers as part of Make A Difference Day.

Friends of the Parks is proud to help increase Chicago's tree canopy along with our partners from Possibility Place Nursery, The Care of Trees and the Chicago Park District. 🌱

Logan Square Dog Park Committee Marks Its Territory

In July, more than 50 neighbors convened in an area that some might dismiss as an average highway easement at Logan Boulevard and Artesian Avenue. Over the course of four hours, the group transformed the forgotten, trash-laden lot into a revitalized, Fido-friendly field!

The group picked up trash, cut down weeds, raked grass, and hung banners to “claim” the open space for the community. The cleanup was the Logan Square Dog Park Committee’s first event and the Logan Square Community’s first sweat-equity investment into what they hope will become one of the city’s premier dog-friendly areas.

Once a common gathering space for homeless people and abandoned vehicles, the Logan Square Open Space Plan proposed converting this space into a dog-friendly area, but progress had stalled for years.

With the help of Friends of the Parks, the Logan Square Dog Park Committee

formed in December and showed the Community’s interest in seeing this project completed. The group has already raised approximately \$7,000 from neighbors. Recently, the Park District and Alderman

Rey Colon had a fence installed at the site.

To learn more about this great project, or to become involved in supporting the effort, please visit their website at www.logansquaredogpark.com. 🌱



Members of the Logan Square Dog Park Committee removed trash and weeds at the future home of their neighborhood’s dog-friendly area, located at Logan Boulevard and Artesian Avenue.

New Tile Mosaic Graces Rutherford Sayre Park

Where can you find a bison, rabbit, turtle, fox and snake in the Galewood Montclare neighborhood? Check out the new tile mosaic created this summer on the northeast side of the Rutherford Sayre Park train tunnel.

Art instructor Carol Tarnoff led a teen

workshop at the park, during which students created the mosaic’s overall design as part of a multi-summer endeavor to illustrate the neighborhood’s history and beautify a tunnel that bisects the park. The first panel completed, *Prairie Wall*, begins as a land filled with

animals, grasslands, and blue sky. Future panels will continue through the length of the tunnel, showing the neighborhood evolving from farmland to a golf course, to a residential community, and then finally to a view of the city skyline.

In addition to the teen workshop, Rutherford Sayre Park hosted two children’s workshops for the neighborhood to create the fish and insect details. Rutherford Sayre Park Advisory Council (RSPAC) held a Community Mosaic Day on August 20. Throughout a wet and stormy morning, up to 35 volunteers, including new Alderman Nick Sposato, persevered under tarps to add their efforts to the overall design. During the following week, many residents stopped by to work on the wall or to offer encouragement.

A grant from Friends of the Parks, tile donations from Corna Kitchen Bath and Tile, and the efforts of RSPAC made the mosaic possible. 🌱



Under the leadership of art instructor Carol Tarnoff, high school students created a beautiful mosaic this summer in Rutherford Sayer Park that illustrates the history of the Galewood Montclare neighborhood.

Westrec Marina Expands Questionable Operation at Montrose Harbor

Westrec Marina, the private contractor that manages Chicago Park District harbors, recently began expanding its footprint and the services it offers at Montrose Harbor. Last year, the Park District added a new 6-foot wrought-iron fence around the large Montrose parking lot to allow Westrec to begin operating a winter storage facility for small boats.

On October 10 of this year, Westrec began directly installing pylons into Lake Michigan to support a large crane for moving boats from the harbor to the large fenced-in lot. Westrec installed five pylons into the bottom of Lake Michigan without the necessary permits from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Nor did the Park District submit plans for the expanded boat storage and service yard to the Chicago Plan Commission for approval under the Lakefront Protection Ordinance. (The Park District argues Plan Commission approval is not necessary.)

Use of the Montrose parking lot for a boatyard raises the question of potential pollution to the lakefront. Many materials used to remove paint and to sand, clean and repair boats and boat engines can be toxic to the environment. Paint and other chemicals can and will easily blow onto the surrounding grass and children's play areas. Uptown resident Mark Carroll added in an email, "Because of the potentially hazardous nature associated with the business of repairing and servicing boats, the marine service industry is strictly monitored for environmental compliance as well as for the health and safety of the people working on the boats."

At press time, Friends of the Parks requested that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources halt the operation and hold public hearings on the appropriateness of a boatyard in Lincoln Park. 🌿

Chicago Velo Campus Now Open

Chicago Velo Campus is now open at 87th Street and Burley Avenue. Organizers built this temporary 66-meter outdoor track at the former United States Steel South Works plant. A crew of volunteers, many from the local community, built the outdoor track.

The Chicago Velo Campus focuses much of its work on area youth, including a program that teaches young adults about the practical job skills of building a bicycle from scratch (which a student may keep after they assemble it!).

So far, the track has served as a hub of activity for young people to learn about healthy and safe lifestyles, and to train and race at this beautiful facility.

The group is organizing a race series called The Major Taylor Cup so that young people around the city can compete with local youth at the Velodrome.

For more information on the Chicago Velo Campus, log onto www.chicagovelocitycampus.com. 🌿



Chicago Velo Campus president Emanuele Bianchi gives rider Robert a push while Josué gets ready to take to the track. Both young men had never ridden before the Velodrome was built.

Events calendar

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13 2:00PM

Friends of the Parks will host its annual "Volunteers in Parks" Awards Celebration to recognize the work and accomplishments of 12 individuals and groups. The free event will take place in Douglas Park (1401 S. Sacramento Boulevard).

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 5:30PM – 7:00PM

Enjoy a Family Preview Night of the Winter Flower and Train Show at Lincoln Park Conservatory. The fundraiser will have craft tables, Legos, storytelling, hot cocoa, snacks, a music concert for the children, and a real live train conductor! Parents and grandparents can enjoy wine, spiced cider, and hors d'oeuvres while starting their holiday shopping at the silent auction! To purchase tickets go to info@lincolnparkconservancy.org

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28 5:30PM

Friends of the Parks will host a Park Advisory Council (PAC) Network Meeting on the proposed 2012 Chicago Park District budget. Steve Hughes, Park District budget director, will present a summary of the proposed budget and answer questions. The meeting will take place at Friends of the Parks' office, 17 N. State Street, Suite 1450.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8 12:15PM

Friends of the Parks will host its Creative Living in the City lecture, free to members and the public. Tony Macaluso, author of the book *Sounds of Chicago's Lakefront: A Celebration of the Grant Park Music Festival* will talk about the Festival's long, fascinating history from its start in 1935 in the Great Depression to the Cold War to today. The talk will also feature many never-before published historic Chicago photographs. Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington Street, Claudia Cassidy Auditorium.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14 4:00PM

The Board of Commissioners of the Chicago Park District will hold its monthly meeting at Park District headquarters (541 N. Fairbanks Street). The public participation segment is called "People in the Parks" and begins at 4:00 p.m. (It is necessary to arrive 10 minutes early to register to speak about a park issue.)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2012 NOON

Join Friends of the Parks for its Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration at the Chicago Cultural Center, Preston Bradley Hall (78 E. Washington Street). For more information, please contact Liz Liwazer at (312) 857-2757 ext. 14.

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2012 6:30PM – 11:00PM

Join Friends of the Parks for its 23rd annual Parks Ball gala. Guests will enjoy cocktails, dinner and dancing at Galleria Marchetti (825 W. Erie Street). Invitations will be mailed in April. For more information on tickets or to donate an item to our auction, please contact Nancy Minster Swabb at (312) 857-2757 ext. 11.



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Phoenixes (cont'd)

phoenixes on each panel look like crosses between pheasants and peacocks. The phoenixes have open mouths and closed mouths – representing dichotomy and complement, yin and yang.

The Phoenix Hall became a highlight of the Columbian Exposition, set apart on the Island that was intended in part to serve as a respite and elaborate garden. The Phoenix Hall was the first Japanese-style building in the U.S. Japan sent skilled craftsmen to build it. They lived in a small village in the south part of Wooded Island during construction. Master sculptor Takamura Kuon (1852-1934) made the phoenix panels.

In 1893, the Phoenix Temple consisted of three structures joined by a covered walkway to form the shape of the phoenix bird. Inside displays included artifacts and

treasures from three periods of Japanese history, including vases, decorative screens, writing materials, and musical instruments. Elaborate stone lanterns and the colorful paper lanterns at ceiling level lit the room.

After the exposition, the Japanese government gave the temple and its panels to Chicago, and they remained in Jackson Park. They suffered gradual neglect, and in the mid 1940s a succession of controversially-set fires destroyed the Ho-o-Den and severely damaged the panels. The Chicago Park District placed the damaged panels in storage under the bleachers of Soldier Field. About 1973, the Park District found the panels in the football stadium and sent them to the Art Institute of Chicago for restoration and display. 🌱

Gary Ossewaarde contributed this article.

We'd Like to Hear From You!

Friends of the Parks helps residents with questions, problems and issues regarding 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

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