



Friends of the Parks Advocate

Spring 2002

Will Chicago's Treasured Lakefront Lose to "da Bears?"

Judge John Madden ruled against the lakefront on Thursday, April 25. He determined that P.A. 91-0935 (the Bears' commercial sports stadium legislation), quickly enacted during the fall veto session, 2000, was valid on its face. As a matter of law, the Court opined that there was no need to look beyond the face of the legislation, which stated that P.A. 91-0935 would promote economic development in Illinois.

Article VII of the Illinois Constitution, Section 1(a), provides that "public funds, property or credit can only be used for public purposes." However, Judge Madden deferred totally to the legislature's unsupported declaration that the legislation has public purpose. Although Judge Madden noted that the "deal" is very good for the Bears and not very good for the public, he concluded that the Court had no authority to review the matter any further because the General Assembly had stated that this "deal" stimulated economic development in Illinois.

Providing undisputed evidence that the primary beneficiary of the 96-acre commercial sports stadium project is the Chicago Bears, a private, for-profit, Delaware-based corporation, Plaintiffs argued, as a matter of law, that the "Bears" deal, set up by PA 91-0935, violates the Illinois Constitution, as well as the public trust doctrine.

Plaintiffs Friend of the Parks and the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois contend that the Court does have authority, under Illinois law, to review

the legislative act and implementing agreements to determine whether the public purpose declaration is a shell-game sham.

Plaintiffs contend that the Court refused its appropriate role to analyze whether the Bears corporation, not the public, is in fact the primary beneficiary of the commercial sports stadium project in Burnham Park, one of Chicago's premier lakefront parks. Under the Illinois Constitution, public monies and property must be used for public purposes. If the Bears corporation is the primary beneficiary, the Act and its implementing agreements would be unconstitutional. In turn, without a primary public purpose, the public trust doctrine is violated.

Lester Munson, a locally-based writer and commentator, wrote in the April 29, 2002 *Crain's Chicago Business* editorial (Soldier Field a done deal? That ball is still in court), "The heirs of George Halas, founder of the Chicago Bears and the National Football League (NFL), already enjoy a patrimony valued at nearly \$400 million. If the mayor's Soldier Field project is completed, the Halas-McCaskey family will take control of lakefront acreage so priceless it is held in a public trust." Lester Munson further explains, "And they will see their team's annual profits triple while the total value of their enterprise instantly doubles. If the deal goes through, their franchise will become the third most valuable in the NFL behind Dallas and Washington."

And the lakefront and Chicago taxpayers lose! For the primary economic

benefit of a private commercial sports corporation, 96 acres of Chicago's lakefront are rezoned "commercial manufacturing" and designed for the Bears NFL stadium, not for public recreation and cultural activities. The promise of 17 acres of "new parkland" has been confirmed by a recent *Chicago Tribune* analysis as a misrepresentation of ten acres, at best. Hardly playable, the "new parkland" consists of disparate pieces of green space, many of which are "bermed" at a rather steep grade, surrounded by parking lots and a new four-lane roadway.

Two "use" examples illustrate the non-public character of the Bears stadium: 1) The southern parking lot of the 96-acre commercial sport stadium project is sited for festivals and recreational events, which should take place in a public recreational and cultural stadium; 2) the recently approved Grant Park plan includes replacement of playing fields with an amphitheater for festivals and musical events, which should appropriately take place in a public recreational and cultural stadium.

To stand up for the lakefront and the taxpayers, Plaintiffs Friends of the Parks, the Landmark Preservation Council of Illinois, and named private parties filed a direct appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court. In May, the State Supreme Court granted plaintiffs' request on the grounds that this matter is of significant public interest. We expect a decision from the Illinois Supreme Court after Labor Day. 🌿

A Legacy Squandered: Groups to Release Report on Cook County Forest Preserve District

Friends of the Parks and Friends of the Forest Preserves, two citizen organizations, in March released the first part of a comprehensive review of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. "We undertook this study more than a year ago," said John Sheerin of Friends of the Forest Preserves, "because, like thousands of people throughout this county, we use and love the forest preserves, and we are deeply concerned about their future."

The organizations have released Phase I and plan to release Phase II later this summer. Phase I covered the District's three most important missions: land acquisition, land management and service to the public.

"We wanted to find out what the District was doing to fulfill its core mission and what citizens can do to help," Sheerin said. "The news from our perspective is not good - we found an agency adrift and in danger of going down. It appears to have lost its sense of direction."

In particular, the Friends' study found:

- The District has virtually abandoned its historically aggressive land acquisition program. Since 1990, the District has acquired only 892 acres of forest preserves, the lowest rate of land purchase since the District was established in 1913. While the District issued an impressive Land Acquisition Plan in 1994, it has failed to purchase most of the parcels identified in the Plan and instead allowed many land protection opportunities to become permanently lost.

The District has severely neglected the condition of its natural lands. In the last five years, due to lack of management, most preserves have lost approximately 10% of their ecological value. In a first-of-its-kind scientific land "audit" conducted last summer at 87 sites throughout the forest preserves, we found that 68% of the land is in poor shape.

- In the various woodland communities surveyed, the average amount of bare

ground per plot was 57% to 70%. The wildflowers were largely gone. Yet, healthy woodlands shouldn't have more than 10% to 15% of bare ground.

- Respondents to a user survey identified deterioration of habitat and the need to acquire land as the most serious problems facing the District.

"Phase I of the study found that the Forest Preserve District of Cook County has lost sight of its mission, to acquire and manage natural areas for current and future generations of users," stated Erma Tranter, President of Friends of the Parks. "Rather than moving quickly to acquire additional land before it is permanently lost, the District secretly transferred the funds to cover operating costs. The Board of Commissioners allowed politics, not science, to determine land management policy and placed a moratorium on essential land management practices. As a result, the quality of the natural lands deteriorated significantly in the last decade."

The major recommendations include:

- Make land acquisition a priority. Spend land acquisition funds for that

purpose and not to cover deficits elsewhere. In addition, the Cook County Forest Preserve District should acquire land through long-term lease agreements with other governmental agencies.

- Dramatically increase the management of the natural areas. Hire or train an adequate staff of land management professionals. Improve the volunteer program, but realize that volunteers can't fulfill this major part of the District's mission unaided.

- Involve the public in the decision-making process. People expressed frustration because the District did not respond to their requests or to their needs. They described the District as bureaucratic and not user-friendly. District officials do not make annual budgets available for timely public review. The Board of Commissioners does not provide an opportunity for citizens to comment on proposals until after the items have been approved at the Board hearings. Survey respondents said that the District needs to improve sanitary facilities, trail signs, trash collection and public information in the forest preserves. 🌱

Friends of the Parks' Board Members Make the News Around Chicago

In the past several months, Friends of the Parks' board members have made the news.

Leon Despres received a Community Award from the Southeast Chicago Commission for his passionate dedication to good government and public accountability in Chicago.

Nancy Campbell Hays received the Community Award from the Southeast Chicago Commission for her decades of advocacy on behalf of parks, the environment and the community in Hyde Park.

Mayor Richard M. Daley nominated **Cindy Mitchell** to the Board of Commissioners of the Chicago Park District.

Cindy was a founding member of Friends of the Parks and Chairman of the Board for eight years. She brings more than 27 years of experience in park planning, environmental issues, landscape design, history of sculpture and community involvement to her new post. The City Council approved the nomination on May 29.

Walter Netsch received the Daniel H. Burnham History Maker Award for Distinction in Architecture and Design from the Chicago Historical Society.

In February 2002, **Roger Taylor** was appointed President of Knox College, a liberal arts college located in Galesburg, Illinois. 🌱

Hidden in Plain View: DuSable Park Awaits Development

DuSable Park sits where the Chicago River meets Lake Michigan and represents a critical piece of Chicago's lakefront park system. The future park is named for Chicago's first non-native settler, Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, whose contribution to the development of Chicago is only beginning to be known and celebrated by Chicagoans. The park is very much desired by residents in the nearby Streeterville and Near East Side neighborhood areas, lakefront park advocates, and by those groups desiring to commemorate Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable.

Since the approval of the original Chicago Dock and Canal Planned Development in 1985, when the three-acre parcel was put aside for parkland and named in 1988 by the late Mayor Harold Washington, the completion of DuSable Park has been the focus of many park advocates, community organizations and groups dedicated to the commemoration of Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable. However, the three-acre parcel has remained undeveloped.

Over a year ago, Friends of the Parks helped to form the DuSable Park Coalition, a group of 15 organizations seeking the development of DuSable Park. At about the same time, the U.S. EPA completed a preliminary soil testing of the park and discovered radioactive thorium in three soil samples. The thorium came from the old Lindsey Light Company that was located in the early 20th century at approximately Columbus and Grand Avenue. The Lindsey Light Company routinely dumped the tailings from the manufacturing process for gaslight fixtures in the area surrounding their manufacturing plant. The U.S. EPA previously required Kerr-McGee, the subsequent owner of Lindsey Light Company, to complete environmental testing and the clean-up of other nearby parcels of land. The DuSable Park Coalition met with key elected officials and the U.S. EPA to push for similar treatment of the park site. As a result,

(continued on page 9)



*Ariel Photo Courtesy of Okrent Associates
The arrow points to the future DuSable Park, located where the Chicago River meets Lake Michigan.*

Chicago Park District Approves Property Tax Increase, Despite Friends of the Parks' Opposition

The Chicago Park District approved a 2002 budget that raises Chicagoans' property taxes by \$7 million. When the Park District approved the budget in late December, the City of Chicago, suburban municipalities, the State of Illinois and other cities in the country all had experienced a budget crunch due to the tragic events of September 11 and the slowing economy. Most such government entities proposed slashing costs to balance agency budgets. Governor Ryan proposed reductions in staff, health care, social services as well as other measures to balance the state's budget. The City proposed new fees and hiring freezes. The Chicago Park District, however, raised

property taxes by \$7 million in 2002, after having increased property taxes \$5 million in 2001.

Friends of the Parks opposed the tax increase, and recommended that the Park District reduce costs in central administration to balance the budget. In addition, Friends of the Parks recommended a modest increase in the golf fees at the district's six golf courses as well as an increase in the yearly parking permit for boaters.

While the budget for 2002 increased by \$7 million, it included cuts in staff in 122 parks. As a comparison, staff levels remained the same in 61 parks, and increased in 45 parks. 🌱

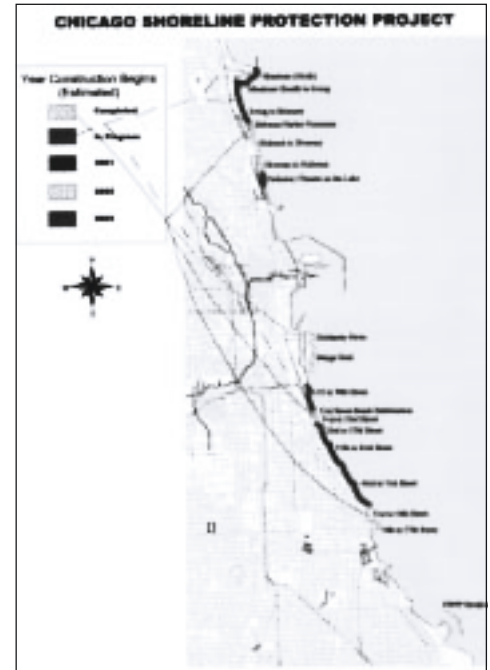
Chicago Shoreline Revetment Project Update

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with the City of Chicago and the Chicago Park District, is rebuilding eight deteriorating miles of Chicago's man-made shoreline, which was constructed between 1910 and 1931 of wood pile cribs filled with stones and placed along the lakeshore in the shape of steps called revetments. Chicago needed the Corps to reconstruct these collapsing structures to prevent erosion and infrastructure and storm damage, preserve the integrity of the shoreline, and prevent the loss of valuable land, infrastructure, and facilities. Chicago intended the \$301 million restoration plan to maintain safe access to the shoreline while preserving historical and aesthetic value.

The Corps divided the 20-year restoration plan into a series of projects, which began in the '90s with the Adler Planetarium and the Southwater Purification Plant. In 2000, work began on the south side at 31st Street Beach and on the north side at Belmont. The completion of the Belmont revetment led Friends of the Parks and others to protest the completed

design of the project. The Corps had constructed an unapproved 33" high storm deflector wall which blocked visual and physical access to Lake Michigan.

Advocating for lakefront restoration which promotes public access to the lake, Friends of the Parks expressed the following concerns to the Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago Department of the Environment, and Chicago Park District: 1) the revetment project should not include a 33" storm deflector wall; 2) the revetments should include an environmentally sound and park appropriate drainage system and should also include mapping drainage outfalls; 3) the revetments should include appropriate access for the disabled; 4) the color, texture and size of the revetment steps should be modified; 5) the revetment project should incorporate extensive landscaping and tree planting when the revetment is completed; and 6) ladders for ingress and egress for safety purposes, as well as access to the lake for swimming where feasible, should be included. In addition Friends of the Parks requested that the



(continued on page 9)

Revetment Construction Schedule

Location	Project Scope	Status
Montrose to Irving Park	Reconstruction of step stone revetment	Scheduled for completion in 2004
Irving Park to Belmont	Reconstruction of step stone revetment	Completed with landscape restoration in 2002
Belmont to Diversey	Reconstruction of 3,300 ft. of step stone revetment	Project on hold because of community's concerns with over engineered design
Diversey to Fullerton	Reconstruction of 1,200 ft. of step stone revetment	Phase 1 - Diversey to Theatre on the Lake to begin Summer 2002 Phase 2 - Theatre on the Lake to Fullerton to be completed by 2004
31st Street Beach	Reconstruction of 800 ft. of step stone revetment with submerged breakwater, construction of a new pier, and beach expansion	Completed in 2000
33rd-37th Street	Reconstruction of 2,050 ft. of step stone revetment	Scheduled for completion in 2002
37th-43rd Street	Reconstruction of 3,180 ft. of step stone revetment with landfill to create 15 acres of new parkland	Construction underway in 2002
43rd-51st Street	Reconstruction of 6,500 ft. of step stone revetment with new landfill at 47th Street	Scheduled to begin in 2003
54th-57th Street	Reconstruction of 4,200 ft. of step stone revetment with land expansion to accommodate new pedestrian underpass at 57th Street	Under construction in 2002
55th Street Promontory Point	Reconstruction of step stone revetment around Promontory Point	Project on hold. Community received a grant to complete an independent engineering analysis. Report due in Summer 2002.

Friends Indeed

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

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* The L.A.T.E. Ride is an event of Friends of the Parks and WGN-TV Children's Charities, a fund of the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation

Despite Bad Weather, Earth Day 2002 Pushes Through the Dirt with Ingenuity, Perseverance, and Panache

Volunteers came out in cold and blustery weather to make for yet another successful Earth Day Citywide Parks Clean-Up on Saturday, April 20th from 9:00 a.m. until noon. With sixty parks participating in Friends of the Parks' 13th annual clean-up event, over two thousand Earth Day 2002 volunteers turned out to clean, green and beautify Chicago parks. Outfitted with gardening gloves, garbage bags, rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows and a few Clif Bars, volunteers from all over the city raised consciousness about the importance of doing community service and furthering stewardship of the planet by donating their time and energy to the Earth Day cause.

Friends of the Parks kicked off Earth Day 2002 with a press conference at 9:00 a.m. at Murray School playground inside Nichols Park. In attendance were Alderwoman Toni Preckwinkle, Stephanie Franklin of the Nichols Park Advisory Council, Erma Tranter and Tom Sanberg from Friends of the Parks, and representatives from the U.S. EPA and ComEd. ComEd made the very generous donation of 300 trees to the area.



A young participant shows off the birdhouse he created during the Earth Day Fair at Murray School in the Hyde Park neighborhood. ComEd donated wooden birdhouses and helped children put them together with hammers and nails.

Introductions ensued and Pamela Torres, a fifth grader from Sandoval School, made her claim to fame as the winner of Friends of the Parks' Earth Day T-shirt contest. Her design graced the Earth Day t-shirts distributed by Friends

of the Parks and also won the U.S. EPA's poster contest. Pamela's mother, father, brother and schoolteacher, Selena Rodriguez, came to support her.

Earth Day Clean-Up

Highlights of the Earth Day Parks Clean-Up include the work of Terry Schilling and the Lake View Citizens Council, who spearheaded a group at the Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary. There they planted approximately thirty-five shrubs, 225 legume seeds and removed an abundance of beer bottles from the pond area. Terry reported, "there's plenty more



Pamela Torres, a fifth-grade student at Sandoval School, received accolades for her winning design in Friends of the Parks' annual Earth Day T-shirt contest. We congratulate her on a fabulous creation!

to do" and so they'll be returning the coming weekend and throughout the summer and fall for ongoing park clean-up and care.

At Montrose Beach at 6:00 a.m., two inspired individuals started cleaning up. By 7:00 a.m. there were five people and by 9:00 a.m. there were sixteen cleaning and bagging up trash. They cleared over 988 pounds of trash from the area and reported the contenders for the most often



Eleanor Roemer, General Counsel/Public Trust and Policy Director of Friends of the Parks, cleans out flower beds with Mary Gugenheim during the Earth Day clean-up.

Earth Day (cont'd)

"trashed and left" include Corona beer bottles, Bacardi Silver bottles, Miller Beer bottles, soiled diapers and bottles of Snapple. Volunteers from Montrose Beach concluded that all the bottles prove the reasonability of establishing a returnable bottle law.

Volunteers in sixty other parks joined in to improve their corners of the planet. Friends of the Parks partnered with the Nichols Park Advisory Council on Saturday morning to clean and green Nichols Park. Stephanie Franklin, director of the Advisory Council, led the way, directing volunteers from all over the Nichols Park neighborhood, including students from UIC, to clean, green and beautify the area. They planted nine trees, mulched nearly 50 trees with a mulch donation from Hendrickson The Care of Trees, and restored 12 garden beds at 53rd Street. The volunteers worked diligently from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. By all accounts the results were stunning and Nichols Park returned to a more pristine state.

Earth Day Fair

The Earth Day Fair got under way in Murray School playground at noon following the parks clean-up. ComEd donated wooden birdhouses and helped children put them together with hammers and nails. Hiroshi Kaneko brought



Earth Day participants help gather and spread mulch at one of sixty parks tended by Friends of the Parks' volunteers.

supplies to help children make Japanese kites. Angela Myles created beautiful designs on kids and adults alike with her face paints. Friends of the Parks provided refreshments for all, as graciously donated by Whole Foods, Fantasia, Starbucks and Hinckley and Schmitt. Also during that time, interested individuals continued to pick up the diverse assortment of trees donated by ComEd. All 300 trees donated by ComEd found homes.

Thanks to Sponsors

Friends of the Parks thanks the generosity of all our Earth Day sponsors:

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- Whole Foods Market

For information on volunteering for next year's Earth Day Citywide Parks Clean-Up, log onto Friends of the Parks' web site at www.fotp.org or call us at (312) 857-2757. ♻️



Volunteers gather near the lakefront during Friends of the Parks' Earth Day clean-up.



Catherine Mertes of ComEd assists volunteer Allyson Patrick with her birdhouse project.



At the Earth Day Fair, face painter Angela Myles creates whimsical patterns on volunteer Sasha Spallina.

Friends of the Parks Honors LR Development Company at the 13th Annual Parks Ball on Friday, May 10th

More than 250 guests flocked to The Mid-America Club on Friday, May 10th as Friends of the Parks honored LR Development Company during the 13th annual Parks Ball. LR Development is an award-winning Chicago-based real estate firm responsible for such high-profile projects as Park Tower on Michigan Avenue and The Residences on Lake Shore Park. LR Development has also cleaned contaminated sites and replaced them with thriving affordable housing developments.

Friends of the Parks commends LR Development's commitment to beautifying Chicago. The company has donated more than a quarter-million dollars to improve children's playgrounds and landscaping at five parks around Chicago. Its projects include renovations of historical landmarks, and it often designs the landscape around its buildings to create beautiful public space. Furthermore, the company makes a point of seeking community involvement in planning its developments.

We wish to thank the Parks Ball 2002 planning committee, chaired by Fredda and Kitty Kurth Lampe, for their hard

work on the event and for helping to raise approximately \$50,000 for Friends of the Parks' citywide parks advocacy work. We'd also like to thank The Mid-America Club, Toolbox, Inc., Steve Musgrave, Tourmaline Studio and Kurth Lampe Public Relations.

Friends of the Parks would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their very generous support of the Parks Ball 2002.

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(\$7,500)

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(\$5,000)

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Tom Sanberg (left), Erma Tranter, Fredda and Kitty Kurth Lampe congratulate Tom Weeks (second from left), President of LR Development Company, at the Parks Ball 2002. Friends of the Parks honored LR Development for its strong commitment to beautifying Chicago and for creating properties that benefit entire communities.

Friends of the Parks to Host 14th Annual After-midnight L.A.T.E. Ride

Friends of the Parks will host its 14th annual 25-mile, after-midnight bicycle ride called The L.A.T.E. Ride on Saturday night/Sunday morning July 14th. Participants gather at midnight and the ride begins at 1:30 a.m. from Buckingham Fountain.

Participants will ride between skyscrapers into Greektown; share high-fives with onlookers in Lincoln Park; and cruise along the lakefront back to Grant Park as the sun rises.

The entry fee is \$30 until May 31st, then \$35 from June 1st - July 10th. Cost the night of the ride is \$40. Riders receive a T-shirt, refreshments and a post-ride breakfast. For more information, log onto www.lateride.org or call (773) 918-RIDE. 🌱



Friends of the Parks will host the 14th annual L.A.T.E. Ride on Saturday night/Sunday morning July 14th.

Little Village Environmental Justice Organization Wins Governor's Green Community Grant

The Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO) recently received one of Governor Ryan's Green Communities grants. The group's proposal, titled "Cultivating Community in Little Village," represents a community-wide environmental visioning process. LVEJO's community-based environmental program focuses on developing an environmental blueprint for the Little Village community, a five-square-mile industrialized community of 91,000 people, 90% of whom are Latino, on the city's Southwest Side.

The community visioning process will be a participatory process in which youth and adults from the community work together in leadership groups. These leadership groups will study and define the environmental issues facing Little Village, including the lack of parks, open spaces and natural areas; the lack of

recreational and ecological access to the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal; and a high concentration of industry and pollution in the area.

Groups working with LVEJO on this environmental blueprint include: Epiphany Church, Friends of the Chicago River, Friends of the Parks, General Woods Boys & Girls Club, Josefa Dominguez Elementary School, Little Village Academy Public Elementary School, The University of Illinois at Chicago Landscape Urbanism Laboratory, Little Village Boys and Girls Club, Nuestra Senora de Tepeyac Church, Openlands Project, St. Agnes Church, and The University of Illinois Extension.

Friends of the Parks congratulates LVEJO for winning the Governor's Green Communities Grant and looks forward to working with the organization on an environmental vision for Little Village. 🌱

Chicago Shoreline Revetment Project Update (cont'd)

Corps, the City, and the District keep the community apprised of the project, including the time schedule, and minimize any intrusions on park use as much as possible.

As a result of the community's concerns, the Corps, the City, and the District have presented some major changes in the design of the revetment restoration project to community groups. However, serious issues remain.

To facilitate understanding of this important restoration project, we have provided a brief chart on page 4 describing the location of various phases, listing continuing design concerns, and providing a time schedule. 🌱

DuSable Park (cont'd)

Kerr-McGee and the U.S. EPA signed an agreement for Kerr-McGee to complete a comprehensive thorium testing project. That work was done in April and May.

On March 21, Friends of the Parks sponsored a symposium at the Chicago Architecture Foundation to discuss the struggle to develop DuSable Park. Panelists included Dan Purchierello, Chicago Park District; Virginia Julien, Chicago DuSable League; Serge Pierre Louis, Haitian Physicians Abroad Association; Bob O'Neill, Grant Park Advisory Council; Eleanor K. Roemer, Friends of the Parks; and Susan Urbas, Chicago River Rowing and Paddling Center. The symposium was part of the month-long exhibit assembled by artist Laurie Palmer, titled "The DuSable Park Project," at the Chicago Architecture Foundation.

On May 6th, The Art Institute of Chicago, with the DuSable Museum and the Chicago Historical Society, hosted a reception discussion with the DuSable Park Coalition to discuss plans for the Martin Puryear sculpture of Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, which The Art Institute, through the Ferguson Fund, has commissioned. A public presentation at The Art Institute followed on May 7th. 🌱

Friends of the Parks Salutes Park Stewards at 26th Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration

On March 19th, Friends of the Parks' members, friends, volunteers and supporters gathered for the 26th Annual Meeting and Awards Celebration at the Garfield Park Conservatory.

Keynote Address

Jo Ann Nathan, Director of the Jens Jensen Legacy Project, made the keynote address at this year's annual meeting. The Project celebrates and advances the irreplaceable legacy and vision of Jens Jensen, a master of American landscape architecture. The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, the Chicago Park District, and the Chicago Department of Special Events co-sponsor the Project.

A century ago, Jens Jensen helped create a distinctly Midwestern style of municipal parks and private gardens now known as the Prairie Style of landscape architecture. He also helped lead the movement to conserve threatened scenic natural areas throughout the region. Jensen's efforts continue to enrich our lives today, yet many of his masterworks are threatened and his name fading from memory.

Ms. Nathan discussed the Project's exhibition, "A Force of Nature: The Life and Work of Jens Jensen," which opened at the Chicago Cultural Center in March 2002. This first major exhibition of Jensen's work features both historic and contemporary materials (many never before seen) to provide an inspiring and

scholarly look at the parks and private gardens he created, the evolution of the Prairie Style, and his conservation efforts.

Ms. Nathan also discussed the Chicago Park District's efforts to renew the major west parks designed in part or in whole by Jens Jensen to their former distinction, bringing new life and vitality to the surrounding neighborhoods. The latest framework plan for Garfield Park includes making it a safer place for every age group, where people could go night and day to enjoy the park amenities. But Ms. Nathan wondered whether in the context of life and death issues - gangs, drug sales, violence and severe economic need - her wish list to incorporate modern needs into the park without compromising its historic fabric would seem petty and effete. Would people care that Garfield Park was touched by a master designer? Would they want to preserve its historic character in the face of their monumental needs?

Then, at a meeting to discuss the framework plan, she heard people from the neighborhood talking about how proud they were to live near a place with a rich history, how they loved to hear old stories about the park, and how important it was to them to live near the park. Jensen's original goal to bring nature to city people is still working, she concluded. As Jensen said, "Everyone is entitled to a home where the sun, the stars, open fields, giant trees, smiling flowers, are free to teach an undisturbed lesson of life. To my notion, there should be a park area within walking distance of every city resident."

In Douglas Park, Jensen sited a long formal garden along Ogden Avenue at



Tom Sanberg congratulates award winner Lois Buenger for her dedication and successful efforts to save and develop Warner Park as a public park.

Sacramento Drive, where the diagonal roadway and streetcar line divided the park into two separate landscapes. A Prairie Style pavilion, Flower Hall, marks the garden entrance with a grand archway, colonnade and reflecting pool. The garden formality becomes more naturalistic as undulating perennial beds line a simple center meadow, bordered by a soft-edged lily pool. Unique Prairie Style concrete benches face the garden and line an oval-shaped outer path.

Now, almost one hundred years later, the Chicago Park District has undertaken a major project to revitalize Jensen's impressive garden. The work has included cleaning and carefully patching the concrete elements in the formal garden that were crumbling and covered with graffiti. The Flower Hall concrete pavilion was restored and its original ornamental grillwork reconstructed. The reflecting pool, dry for many years, has been repaired, filled with water, and planted with lilies, irises, water hyacinths and rushes. Similarly, the garden's long inoperable Prairie Style light fixtures have been repaired.

On Saturday, June 30, 2001, Mayor Richard M. Daley dedicated these significant improvements to historic Douglas Park as well as a new miniature golf course, an instructional junior golf course, field house upgrades, and Jensen's revitalized landscape elements.

(continued on page 11)



Friends of the Parks presented a special award to several individuals for their outstanding leadership in challenging the Soldier Field commercial sports stadium plan. Erna Tranter (second from right) presented the award to Joe Antunovich of Antunovich and Associates; David Bahlman, President of Landmarks Preservation Council; John Stassen, Chairman of the Board of Landmarks Preservation Council; and John Buenz of Solomon Cordwell Buenz & Associates.

Annual Meeting (cont'd)

Annual Park Steward Awards

Friends of the Parks awarded five outstanding park advocates with this year's 2002 Park Steward Awards. They are:

- **Lois Buenger** for her dedication and successful efforts to save and develop Warner Park as a public park;

- **South Shore Cultural Center Advisory Council** for its advocacy in improving the plan for the culinary institute in the South Shore Cultural Center;

- **The Boeing Company** for its sponsorship of the Chihuly Glass Exhibit in the Garfield Park Conservatory;

- **Charles Thompson and Friends of Busse Woods** for its successful work and ongoing efforts to protect and improve Busse Woods Forest Preserve; and

- **Neighbors Garden Association** for developing and maintaining the Neighbors Garden in the Logan Square community.

We also presented a special award to **John Stassen**, Chairman of the Board, and **David Bahlman**, President, of Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois; **John Buenz** of Solomon Cordwell Buenz & Associates; and **Joe Antunovich** of Antunovich and Associates for their outstanding leadership in challenging the Soldier Field commercial sports stadium plan.

New Board Members Elected

Friends of the Parks approved Thomas G. Sanberg to serve a second year as Chairman of the Board. He joined Friends of the Parks' Board of Directors seven



Lorene Richardson of the South Shore Cultural Center Advisory Council accepts from Tom Sanberg the council's award for advocacy in improving the plan for the culinary institute in the South Shore Cultural Center.



Tom Sanberg (second from left) and Erna Tranter (second from right) congratulate Maigdalena Galarza (left) and Teresa Coutre of Neighbors Garden Association for developing and maintaining the Neighbors Garden in the Logan Square community.

years ago. Tom serves on the Board of Directors of the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance. He is the Principal of Non-Profit Resource Development, a firm providing services for clients such as the Epilepsy Foundation, Goldie's Place and Jane Addams Resource Corporation.

We are pleased to add the talents and enthusiasm of three new members to Friends of the Parks' Board of Directors.

Miriam Gonzalzes received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Pace University and an MBA from Columbia Business School, both in New York City. She works as a marketing consultant. She and her family live in Hyde Park.

Harold Leftwich is a partner with the accounting firm Benjamin & Birkenstein. He is also on the advisory board of Northern Trust Bank. He received his law degree from DePaul University. He and his wife, a teacher, live in the New East Side neighborhood of Chicago, east of the Loop.

Kelly Drew Townsel received a B.S. in mathematics from Florida A & M University and an M.B.A. in marketing from the University of Chicago. She and her husband, a real estate developer, live in the Beverly neighborhood of Chicago. 🌱

Events calendar

MARCH 9 - JUNE 16

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Chicago Park District present "**A Force of Nature: The Life and Work of Jens Jensen**" at the Chicago Cultural Center (78 E. Washington Street).

Admission is free to the exhibition and related programs. Exhibition viewing hours are Monday through Wednesday, 10am-7pm; Thursday, 10am-9pm; Friday, 10am-6pm; Saturday, 10am-5pm; and Sunday, 11am-5pm. Closed holidays. For more information, call the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs at (312) 744-6630 or visit www.cityofchicago.org/Tour/CulturalCenter/

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

10:00 AM-12:00 NOON

Join Friends of the Parks and tour guide Douglas Anderson for a walking tour of Jackson Park's Osaka Garden and the Paul H. Douglas Nature Sanctuary, also known as Wooded Island. Our group will meet on the Clarence Darrow Bridge, located behind the Museum of Science and Industry, at 10:00 a.m. To RSVP, call (312) 857-2757 ext. 14.

SATURDAY NIGHT/SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 14

MIDNIGHT - SUNRISE

Friends of the Parks will host its 14th annual 25-mile, after-midnight bicycle ride called The L.A.T.E. Ride. The ride begins at 1:30 a.m. from Buckingham Fountain. Participants ride through downtown, Greektown, Lincoln Park, and along the shoreline path back to Grant Park as the sun rises. The \$30 entry fee (\$35 after May 31st and \$40 the night of the ride), for which riders also receive a T-shirt, refreshments and a post-ride breakfast, benefits Friends of the Parks. Log onto www.lateride.org for more information.

SATURDAY, JULY 20

10:00 AM-12:00 NOON

Friends of the Parks and Friends of Lincoln Park will host a tour of the recently rehabilitated Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool in Lincoln Park. Steve Zelter, Executive Director of Friends of Lincoln Park, will discuss the Lily Pool's extensive restoration. The group will then head to nearby North Pond, home to many of nature's fine-feathered species. The tour will meet at the Lily Pool, at Fullerton and Cannon Drive, at 10:00 a.m. To RSVP, call (312) 857-2757 ext. 14.

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Friends of the Parks Hosts Education Forum "Making Money in Our Parks: Good or Bad?"

On Wednesday, May 22, Friends of the Parks and the Grant Park Advisory Council co-sponsored a workshop entitled "Making Money in Our Parks: Good or Bad?" Panelists discussed how to balance the Chicago Park District's goal for revenue with the practical, aesthetic and ethical limitations of money-making programs.

The panelists included: Laura Foxglover, Senior Project Manager, Chicago Park District; Dr. Robert Gordon, Board Member, Friends of the Parks; Bob O'Neill, President, Grant Park Advisory Council; Alderwoman Mary Ann Smith, Chair, Parks & Recreation, City of Chicago; Bruce Wicks, Professor, Department of Leisure, University of Illinois; and Ed Uhler, Project Director, Millennium Park Project.

Friends of the Parks will continue working on this important question. If you have ideas or concerns, please call Eleanor Roemer at (312) 857-2757, ext. 17. 🌱

Betsy Barlow Rogers To Speak on "The Shaping of Space and The Meaning of Place" at The Art Institute

On Tuesday, July 23rd at 6:00 p.m., Betsy Barlow Rogers will speak on "The Shaping of Space and The Meaning of Place: Landscape Design from Pre-historic Times to the Present" at The Art Institute of Chicago (Fullerton Hall). The lecture is free and open to the public; seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Ms. Rogers, founder and first president of the Central Park Conservancy and Cityscape in New York City, is the author of "Landscape Design: A Cultural and Architectural History," published in 2001. A book signing at 5:00 p.m. in The Art Institute's Michigan Avenue lobby will precede the lecture.

Friends of the Parks joins The Art Institute of Chicago's Department of Museum Education, the Architecture and Design Society of The Art Institute, and the Chicago Wellesley College Alumnae Association in sponsoring this lecture. For more information, please call (312) 443-3683. 🌱

We'd Like to Hear From You!

Friends of the Parks often helps residents with questions, problems and issues concerning their neighborhood parks. If you have concerns you wish to discuss or help solve, you may contact us in one of the following ways:

PHONE: (312) 857-2757 / (312) 85-PARKS

FAX: (312) 857-0656

WEB SITE: www.fotp.org

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