



FRIENDS OF THE CHICAGO RIVER • 2004 ANNUAL REPORT



Program Activities and Highlights

Fiscal Year 2004 was a six-month year as Friends transitioned from a fiscal year beginning January 1 to one beginning July 1. The activities outlined in this report occurred between January 1, 2004, and June 30, 2004.

Although it was a short fiscal year, Friends made great strides towards a greener river, a more accessible river and a river cared for by the people of this region. This work is achieved through on-the-ground projects, outreach and education, and policy and planning.

On-the-Ground Projects

Friends' on-the-ground projects physically improve the health of the river for the plants, animals and humans within its watershed. Reflecting the steadily improving river, in 2004 Friends officially changed the name of Chicago River Rescue Day to Chicago River Day. A record-breaking 3,100 volunteers working through the morning from the Cal-Sag Channel to the northern suburbs made the event a tremendous success.



Photo by: Volve Hestay
Volunteers picked up an estimated 39 tons of trash at the 2004 Chicago River Day.

The goals of the North Branch Watershed Project are to reduce runoff pollution, flooding, streambank erosion and improve the habitat of the Chicago River. Because they meet these goals, 10 new on-the-ground projects were recommended for funding by the North Branch Watershed Project and were awarded grants by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in FY 2004.

Outreach and Education



Photo courtesy of The Boeing Company
Friends' executive director Laurene von Klan speaks at the Adopt A River Downtown breakfast.

Friends' educational programs foster awareness, involvement, and stewardship ethic. In January 2004 Friends launched Adopt A River Downtown with a breakfast hosted by Friends, The Boeing Company and Mayor Richard M. Daley. Established through a grant from The Boeing Company and supported by the City of Chicago, Friends' new corporate adoption program improves the Chicago River and raises its profile through river-edge greening efforts, cultural and educational programming and employee volunteer opportunities. Nine corporations chose to adopt the river in the program's first year.

Renovation of the interior of the Michigan Avenue Bridgehouse Museum began in April 2004. Located on the southwest corner of the Michigan Avenue Bridge, the unique museum will tell the dynamic story of the Chicago River and the major role the people of the Chicago region play in the river's health.

Through the Chicago River Schools Network Friends supports K-12 teachers in the Chicago River watershed who wish to incorporate the river into their classroom curricula. In spring 2004, the Chicago River Schools Network took approximately 1,100 students to the river. For many students, it was their first introduction to the river and wildlife in their own backyard.

Policy and Planning

Through policy and planning initiatives Friends works towards lasting and systemic river improvements. In FY 2004 the North Branch Watershed Project, in collaboration with a number of agencies and municipalities in the North Branch, completed the Open Space Plan, a plan that catalogs land parcels along the North Branch of the Chicago River. With the completed plan, the North Branch Watershed Project will provide assistance to municipalities and landowners as they consider options for funding for restoration and improvements of the identified parcels of open space. Where key parcels are privately owned, Friends is working with landowners so that they protect the land as open space so that the habitat is not lost in the future.

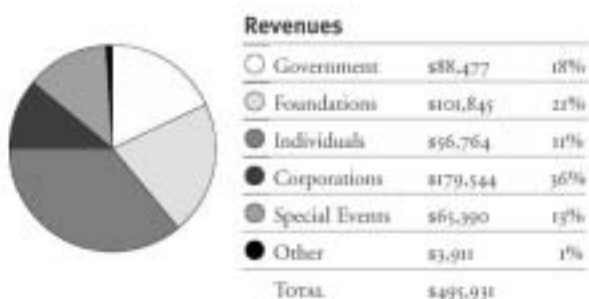
Within Chicago, Friends' Planning Committee continues to work with river-edge developers to be sure new developments incorporate river-friendly design. For example, Friends began working with the Rezmar Corporation in 2001 as they planned to develop an-acre site on the South Branch of the Chicago River between Roosevelt Road and 18th Street. The partnership has proven successful. In early 2004 the Chicago Plan Commission approved a plan for the South Branch Meander Site which includes public open space, rooftop gardens, trails and habitat protection. Additionally, the approved South Branch Meander Site plan does not add stormwater meaning there will be less pollution from sewer overflows.



Photo by: Edli Kruger
Because of clean water and healthy habitat, native mussels flourish in the North Branch of the Chicago River.

2004 Financial Report

Audited statement of revenues and expenses for six months ending June 30, 2004.



Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$544,097
Increase in Net Assets	\$31,287
Increase in Endowment	\$11,006
Net Assets at End of Year	\$586,390

Fiscal Year 2004 Contributors

The board of directors, staff and volunteers of Friends of the Chicago River are grateful to all of the people and organizations who have supported our work. With their generous contributions, the river is becoming more alive and beautiful every day.

INDIVIDUALS

\$3,500 and up

Kenneth M. Arenberg
Thomas and Sue McDowell

\$1,000 to \$3,000

Thomas H. Hott
Linda Krubbs
Mary E. Lambert
William and Julia McBride
Tim Bosson and Jill Riddell

\$500 to \$999

Frank Czani

\$250 to \$499

Anonymous (2)
E.M. Bakwin
Crystal M. Chan
Bill and Amy Cook
Donna LaPietra and Bill Kuris
Henry and Wendy Parson
Sigrid M. Schmidt
Suzanne Swisher
Ron and Dee Trevisan
Reven Uhlstein-Fellus
Laurenne von Klan

\$150 to \$249

Lindsay Arenberg and Glenn Wincour
Janet Des Jardins
Sally M. Harsh
William and Mary Holloway
Jerry Jacks
Susan Malone
Francis and Barbara Rechten
Janet L. Rogatz
Clark and Joan Wagner
Rose Wehner

\$100 to \$149

Frederick and Cynthia Acker
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Roya Behnia
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\$50 to \$99

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Dan and Bonnie Weber
Joyce Wolf

\$25 to \$49

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Kyle Bradley
Jerry Brockell
Mary Bryning
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Terry Cichocki
Kenneth and Chaele Clarkman
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Craig J. Cook
Len Cohen
Lou and Brenda Cosentino
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Frank Dina
Morris and Arlene Dobbis
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Trudy Donnelly
John Dragosovich
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Nancy L. Gajewski
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Norman Victorson
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Wallace C. Wimer
Susanne M. Wulow
Lawrence Yabloug
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Raymond and Dawn Zinner

FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

\$30,000 and up

Grand Victoria Foundation
McCormick Tribune Foundation

\$20,000 to \$29,999

Richard H. Deichau Foundation
Pilk Bros Foundation

\$10,000 to \$19,999

ACE INA
Equity Group Investments
General Growth Properties, Inc.

KPMG

LaSalle Bank N.A.
Nansen Investments, LLC
Unimut, Inc.

\$5,000 to \$10,000

Commonwealth Edison
James and Marshall Field Foundation
Midwest Generation EME

\$1,000 to \$4,999

Ann Employer Matching Gift Program
Bell, Boyd, & Lloyd LLC
Francis Beider Foundation
Bridgstone/Facstone
The Educational Foundation of America
General Iron Industries
Household International
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Lake Michigan Federation
Marsh
Mercury Chicago's Skyline Cruise
Metal Management Midwest, Inc.
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
Morgan Stanley
The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust
Prairie Group
Pulse Homes
Ryan Companies
Seneca Family Foundation

\$500 to \$999

Altria Group, Inc. Employee Matching
Gift Program
Draper and Kramer Incorporated
Graphic Converting, Inc.
Hitchcock Design Group
River Network
Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill LLP
Village of Lincolnshire
Wolf Clements & Associates

\$25 to \$499

Altoz
Applied Ecological Services, Inc.
DeVry University
Follett Corporation
IBM Corporation
Institute for Conservation Leadership
James Anderson Company
L & M Riverbend Venture - Levy Organization
Lake Forest Garden Club
SAP
Titan Unlimited- Oak Brook Chapter

GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Illinois State University

IN-KIND DONATIONS

America Onboards
Jay and Kelly Behn
Central Beverage
Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation
Cub Foods
Del Hall Voles, Inc.
Alex Epstein
Richard and Margery Frisbie
Goose Island Beer Co.
Home Depot Corporate Office
Jays Foods, L.L.C.
Kraft Foods R & D
Lent's Sausages--Sausages by Amy
Libra Industries
Dan Nichols
Patagonia Chicago
Jen Pagnini
Querry and Harrow
Sam Lee
Trader Joe's
Whitball Medical Supply Co.
Whole Foods Market

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Jim King, *LaSalle Bank N.A.*

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Max West, *Marsh*

David Wong, *Arthur Wong & Associates*

Staff

Laurene von Klan	Executive Director
Margaret Cline	Development and Communications Assistant
Cynthia Fox	Manager of Stewardship and Volunteers
Margaret Frisbie	Deputy Director
Sasha Kerlow	Manager of Education
Kelli Kruger	Watershed Programs Assistant
Joni Martin	Education Coordinator
Marta Nelson	Project Coordinator
John Quail	Manager of Watershed Programs
Tina Stubbs	Events and Development Assistant
Kristie Willis	Associate Director of Development and Communications

Statement of Organization's Mission

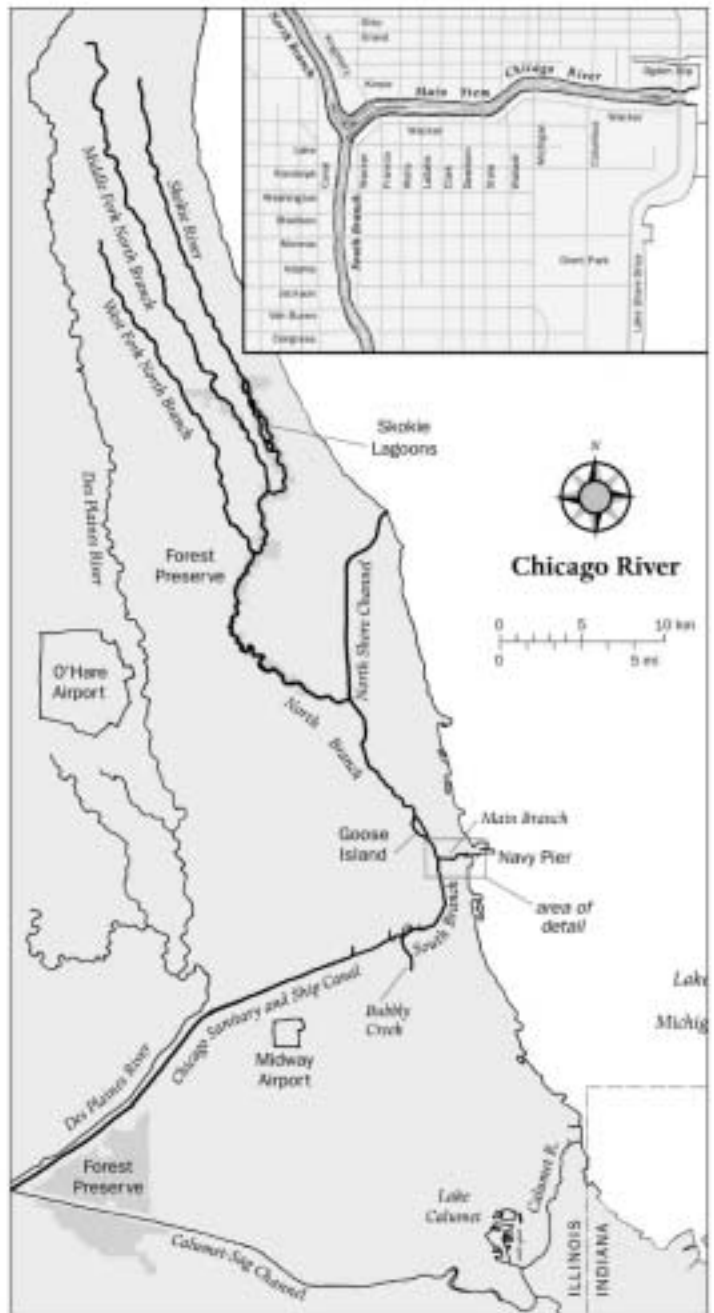
Friends of the Chicago River's mission is to preserve, protect, and foster the vitality of the Chicago River for the plant, animal, and human communities within its watershed. Friends achieves this mission through three program areas, education programs that foster awareness, involvement, and stewardship ethic, on-the-ground projects that physically improve the quality of the Chicago River, and policy and planning efforts that result in systemic river improvements.

Eligibility to Receive Deductible

Contributions/Appeal for Support Friends of the Chicago River is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and is eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. The governing body of Friends is the board of directors which sets the organization's policies and procedures, controls its fiscal affairs, manages its assets, and oversees the executive director. The executive director is an ex officio voting member of the board of directors and is the principal executive officer of the organization.

The Chicago River

The Chicago River watershed extends from Lake County to southern Cook County and includes the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and the Cal-Sag Channel. The Chicago River has a fascinating natural and cultural history and has undergone many human modifications from channelization to the reversal of its flow. An increasingly popular recreational resource, the river also supports a diversity of wildlife and economic uses. The Chicago River has played a central role in the development of the region and continues to do so today as a natural, economic and recreational resource, loved, cherished and used by the people of this region.



Friends of the Chicago River

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