

FRIENDS OF THE CHICAGO RIVER
2006 Annual Report



FISCAL YEAR 2006 HIGHLIGHTS

Opening the McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum, holding our first-ever fundraising gala and celebrating our 25th anniversary are just a few of Friends' major achievements in FY2006. We continue to work towards our goal for a cleaner, more accessible Chicago River that is cared for by the people of the region. Friends' work occurs in three program areas, education and outreach, on-the-ground programs, and policy and planning. The activities outlined in this report occurred between July 1, 2005, and June 30, 2006.



McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum

After receiving a naming gift from the McCormick Tribune Foundation, Friends' long-term strategic vision came to fruition with the opening of the McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum. Working with a highly qualified team that included staff, hired consultants, board members and volunteers, Friends crafted inspiring exhibits based on the river's history and uses today. Following an aggressive production schedule, work to complete exhibits and construction was completed before the preview gala opening of the museum on June 8, 2006.

A ribbon cutting and press conference to announce the museum's opening was held on June 9, 2006, with Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley officially cutting the ribbon. With continuing fanfare, the doors of the McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum officially opened to the public on Saturday, June 10, 2006. One hundred fifty eight visitors attended the McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse on the first day.



Big Fish Ball

On Thursday June 8, 2006, Friends held the dramatically successful preview opening of the McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum, with the Big Fish Ball. As Friends' first-ever gala fundraising event, other highlights included fine dining, live music, an appearance and address by Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley and an on-the-water performance spectacle by "astounding circus punk marching band" Mucca Pazza. They captivated guests from 14 boats paddled by Friends' volunteer canoe guides.

Some of Chicago's most prominent and diverse leaders in the civic and corporate communities were among the 310 guests who attended our sold out event, not including 60 volunteers and canoe guides. They were the very first to tour the museum. The Big Fish Ball, with sponsorship from The Boeing Company, Ozinga, Crain's Chicago Business and more, exceeded Friends' revenue goal by 30%.



25th Anniversary Campaign and Celebration

Hundreds of individuals, foundations and corporations contributed to Friends' \$1.2 million campaign goal in FY2006. The campaign was launched in 2003 to support the McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum and Friends' first endowment fund. Through the endowment, Friends' goal is to ensure that there is a voice for the Chicago River far into the future. Friends' successful 25th Anniversary Campaign is on target to reach its financial goals by the campaign's end on September 30, 2006.

Friends also celebrated our 25th anniversary throughout FY2006 by incorporating the anniversary into each of our program areas. One example of a special anniversary focus is our Design Charrette Series "Action Plan for the Chicago River: Getting Specific" which will conclude in spring 2007. The Design Charrette Series brought together over 50 experts to share ideas and collaborate on the myriad and complex issues that affect the river. Friends will use the results as a road map for our next 25 years. Our findings report, to be released in FY2007, will present long-term strategies for improving the river.

Front cover photos

Top: *The Skokie Lagoons feed into the Skokie River, the most eastern fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River.* Photo by: Tom Keaveny

Bottom: *Paddling the Chicago River is a unique adventure.* Photo by: Rob Kuehnle

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Education and Outreach

In July 2005, Friends' Chicago River Schools Network (CRSN) enhanced its teacher workshop series by offering its first Rivers Curriculum training. Revered by educators from around the country, Rivers Curriculum was originally developed by Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. This past summer, Friends' CRSN was "given the torch" to train the teachers in the Chicago region. To add more depth to the training, Friends added a focus on service learning, a teaching method where students learn by taking action in their local community. Through this and other resources offered by Friends' CRSN, hundreds of teachers in the Chicago River watershed were able to educate young scholars about the Chicago River.



On a fieldtrip with Friends, over 1,800 students were introduced to the wildest flora and tiniest fauna found in or along the Chicago River.

In early FY2006, Friends' Adopt A River Downtown program, with the City of Chicago, piloted the "Michigan Avenue Fish Hotel" near the Michigan Avenue Bridge. The Fish Hotel is a floating fish habitat designed to help fish and other aquatic animals thrive in sections of the river where hard walls and heavy boat traffic pose many challenges. The innovative project attracted world-wide attention and has educated countless people about the plants and animals that call the river home. The successful and popular Fish Hotel was installed at the Michigan Avenue Bridge again in spring 2006.

On-the-Ground Projects

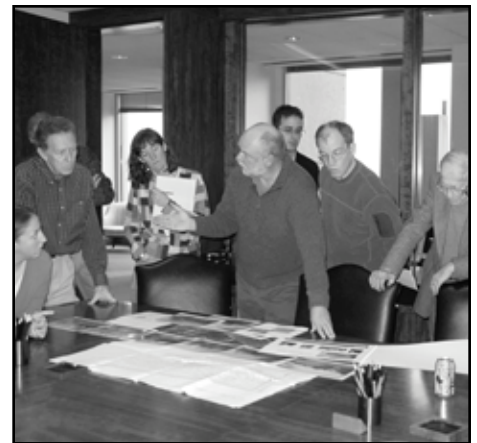
Friends developed our Adopt A River program as a way to support and foster community groups who want to improve the river-edge in their neighborhood. This year, the Adopt A River was honored with two awards in recognition of our success. We received the Governor's Hometown Award for a community restoration project we led, and we won first place in the national Keep America Beautiful awards for Chicago River Day, our annual cleanup event.

Friends, in partnership with other organizations, developed the North Branch Watershed Project in 1996 with a goal to reduce runoff pollution, flooding, riverbank erosion and improve the habitat of the Chicago River. Because they met these goals, four 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 FY2006.



At Deerfield High School restoration efforts funded through the North Branch Watershed Project are taking root. In addition to regrading the riverbank, funds were used to plant hundreds of native plants and trees.

Since the inception of the North Branch Watershed Project, 35 projects (over \$9 million in total project cost) have been awarded.



Friends' volunteer planning committee continued to review proposals on a regular basis. In FY2006, the committee met eight times and reviewed 11 proposals.

Policy and Planning

In January, 2006, Friends and our project partner, the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, held the inaugural Open Space Summit to promote the use of the Open Space Plan to the 24 municipalities in the North Branch. At the meeting, the Open Space Plan was released to a group of park districts, land management agencies, county boards, municipalities and other land agencies. Sixty-five people attended the event and 32 copies of the Open Space Plan were distributed. Since publication, the Open Space Plan has been an effective tool for regional planning.

Because of the advocacy efforts of Friends' volunteer planning committee, two development plans that did not originally adhere to the City of Chicago's 30 foot setback guideline for public access to the river were revised. In both cases Friends worked with the City of Chicago and the real estate developer to ensure that public access would not be compromised.

Lastly, Friends advocacy efforts continue to have a lasting impact on the Chicago River. By working closely with local and regional policy makers, compiling complex data, attending public hearings, submitting testimony and rallying citizen support, Friends made great strides towards making the water quality of the Chicago River more hospitable for plants, animals and people.

FISCAL YEAR 2006 SUPPORTERS

The board of directors, staff and volunteers of Friends of the Chicago River recognize and thank all of the people and organizations who have supported our work.

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Mary Szpur
Charles A. Tausche
Edward and Karen Tenner
Scott Terry
Karl and Christine Teske
Ed Thompson
Amy Truelove
Yvette Turcott
Jason Vala
Peter Van den Dool
Chris and Juliane Van Meter
Ivar and Mara Vilcins
Victor and Jane Walchirk
Theresa Waldack
Michael Walsh
Catherine Warner
James S. Watts
Marcia Weese
Charles Weingarten
Jane Wenger
Peter D. Werner
Ken Wexler and Kim Stone
Robert L. White Jr.
Ron and Nancy Wick
Gordon Williams
Marilyn Williams
Jason Young
Robert and Susan Zapinski
Victor and Barbara Zaveduk
Charles J. Zine
John Zver
Julia A. Zver

FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

\$75,000 and up

The Boeing Company
McCormick Tribune Foundation

\$20,000 to \$74,999

Alphawood Foundation
Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
Grand Victoria Foundation
Polk Bros. Foundation
Prince Charitable Trusts
Winston and Strawn

\$10,000 to \$19,999

ACE INA
AIG Environmental
Costco Wholesale Corporation

Arie and Ida Crown Memorial
Equity Properties & Development, LLC
General Growth Properties
Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation
LaSalle Bank
McDougal Family Foundation
Morrison Family Foundation
Nuveen Investments, LLC
Ozinga Chicago
REI, Inc.
Relations Foundation
Dr. Scholl Foundation
The Seabury Foundation
Unitrin, Inc.

\$1,000 to \$9,999

Alliance for the Great Lakes
Aon Corporation
Baker & McKenzie
Alvin H. Baum Family Fund
Francis Beidler Foundation
Bridgestone/Firestone
The John Buck Company
Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella
Calvanese Family Foundation
CDM
CNA Foundation
Crain's Chicago Business
Earth Share of Illinois
Earth Tech
Jamee and Marshall Field Foundation
Robert G. Friedman Foundation
General Iron Industries
Gensler
Heritage Development Partners, LLC
Highland Park Conservation Society
HNTB Corporation
HSBC
Industrial Developments International
The Edith B. and Lee V. Jacobs Fund No. 3
Jewel-Osco
Levy Restaurants
Marsh USA, Inc.
Mercury Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline
Metal Management Midwest, Inc.
Midwest Generation EME
Morton Salt
O'Briens Restaurant & Bar
The Oppenheimer Family Foundation
Joel Oppenheimer, Inc.
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Jack Ringer Family Foundation
The Siragusa Foundation
Tom's of Maine
The Howard J. and Paula M. Trienens
Foundation
Christy Webber Landscapes
Wendella Sightseeing Company, Inc.
Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company Foundation

\$150 to \$999

Allstate Foundation
Anonymous
James G. Blaine School
Centrum Properties, Inc.
Chicago Marine Towing
Chiropractic for Life, LLC
Continental Paper Grading

Des Plaines River Canoe Marathon
 Draper and Kramer, Inc.
 Eastland Disaster Historical Society
 Erehwon Mountain Outfitter
 Robert T. Friedman Family Foundation
 Elizabeth Friedman O'Connor Family
 Foundation
 Goose Island Beer Company
 Graphic Converting, Inc.
 Great Lakes Kayak
 Harris Bank
 Hines Engineering Associates
 Hitchcock Design Group
 Howard Family Foundation
 Kenard Corporation
 Lohan Anderson Architects
 Maddock Douglas
 Mead Witter Foundation, Inc.
 Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc.
 Pearl Izumi
 River Walk Townhomes Association
 Shoreline Sightseeing
 Solis Chicago Hotel & Spa
 Trout Unlimited - Oak Brook Chapter
 Village of Lincolnshire
 The Vitale Family Foundation
 Wolff Landscape Architecture, Inc.

\$25 to \$149

James Anderson Company

Baetis Environmental Services, Inc.
 Bank of America Foundation
 Jim Beam Brands Co.
 Chicago River Canoe & Kayak
 Chicagoland Bicycle Federation
 Christenson Chevrolet, Inc.
 Follett Corporation
 Forest Preserve District of Cook County
 Fund Inc.
 Girl Scout Troup #262
 Girl Scout Troop #469
 Graziano Real Estate
 Haffner Foundation
 Creighton R. Helms Trust
 Jewish Children's Bureau of Chicago
 Kraft Foods
 Lake Forest Garden Club
 Lawrence's Fisheries, Inc.
 Maragos & Maragos, Ltd.
 Morton Grove Woman's Club
 The Nature Conservancy
 Newport Builders, Inc.
 Phillips Towing Service, Inc.
 The Prairie Club
 Sirius Fund
 Sterling Bay Companies
 Swett Family Foundation
 Torstenson Glass Co.
 Tyco
 Wineman Family Foundation

**GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND
 CONTRACTS**

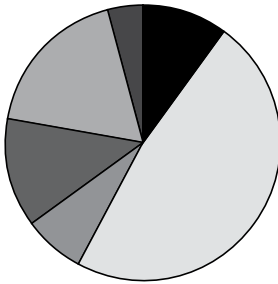
Chicago Park District
 Chicago Public Schools
 Chicago Public Schools, Museum Partners
 Program
 Illinois Conservation Foundation
 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Crain's Chicago Business
 Fletcher Chicago, Inc.
 Goose Island Beer Company
 Timothy and Joyce Greening
 Karen S. Harrer
 Terry Karpowicz
 Tom and Colleen Keaveny
 Chris and Nan Parson
 REI, Inc.
 David and Marcia Rigg
 Solis Chicago Hotel & Spa
 Mark and Ann Sorteberg
 Toney Spreitzer
 Taste America Catering
 William and Jayne Walsh

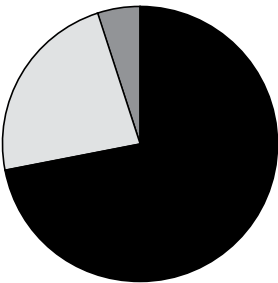
FY2006 FINANCIAL REPORT

Audited Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the 12 months ending June 30, 2006.



Revenues

● Government	10%	\$125,103
○ Foundation Grants	48%	\$618,359
● Individuals	7%	\$98,758
● Corporations	13%	\$166,034
● Special Events	18%	\$238,346
● Other	4%	\$54,355
Total		\$1,300,955



Expenses

● Programs	72%	\$872,227
○ Fundraising & Development	23%	\$280,332
● Administration	5%	\$57,560
Total		\$1,210,119

Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$774,357
Increase in Net Assets	\$90,836
Increase in Endowment	\$6,568
Net Assets at End of Year	\$871,761

Board of Directors

President

Craig Coit, *Aon Corporation*

Vice President

Cy H. Griffith, *Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella, P.C.*

Vice President

Bryan Whitehead, *PricewaterhouseCoopers*

Treasurer

Daniel Drew, *The Drew Group*

Secretary

Lois Morrison, *The Nature Conservancy*

President Emeritus

Fred Axley, *McDermott Will & Emery*

Kenneth M. Arenberg

Kent Brown

Kate Chappell, *Chicago Youth Centers*

Grant Crowley, *Crowley's Yacht Yard*

Joel Fink, *Allied Metal Company*

Robert Friedman

Jim King, *LaSalle Bank N.A.*

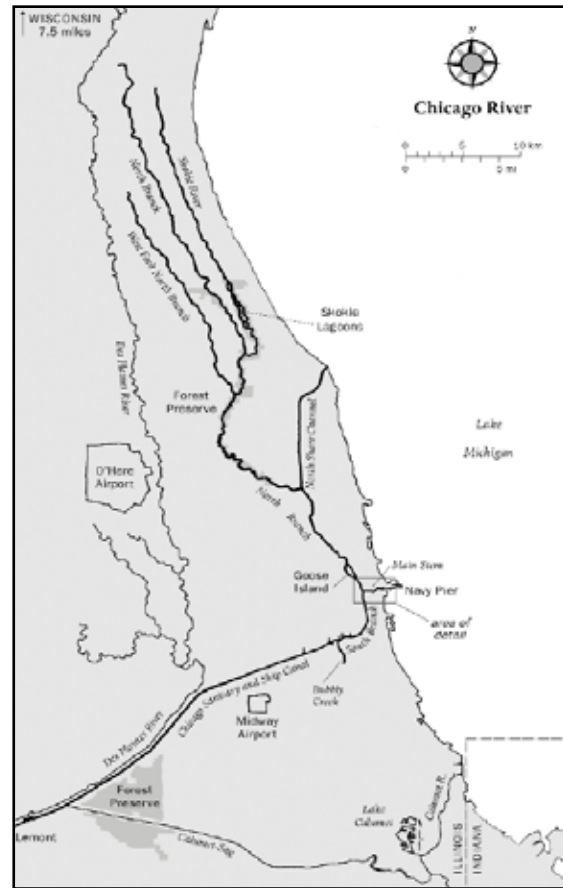
Charles Kubert, *Environmental Law & Policy Center*

David M. Solzman

Raymond Wambaja, *Metal Management, Inc.*

Max West, *West*

David Wong, *Arthur Wong & Associates*



Staff

Executive Director

Margaret Frisbie

Event Coordinator

Kim Bevan

Development Director

Suellen Burns

Manager of Stewardship

and Volunteers

Cynthia Fox

Manager of Education

Sasha Kerlow

Director of Policy and Planning

Todd Main

Education Coordinator

Joni Marin

Development and

Communications Assistant

Margaret Meyer

Project Manager, Planning, Research,
and Public Access

Marta Nelson

Manager of Watershed Programs

John Quail

Associate Director of Development
and Communications

Kristie Willis

Statement of Organization's Mission

The mission Friends of the Chicago River 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.

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 Chicago 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

