

FRIENDS OF THE CHICAGO RIVER
2008 Annual Report



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

PUBLIC POLICY AND PLANNING

Water Quality Debate

As the water quality debate for the Chicago River wages on, it is critical that Friends remains at the forefront of this discussion. In FY2008 we continued to support the water quality standards proposed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for the Chicago Area Waterways. These standards, currently being considered by the Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB), have become the main focus of our policy work related to improving the water quality of the Chicago River. We have a historic opportunity to set the course for a cleaner, healthier Chicago River through our participation in this process.

Friends staff actively participated in IPCB hearings during FY2008 and also coordinated the coalition of environmental groups that support the water quality standards proposed by the IEPA. Friends facilitated outreach for this effort, including an informational meeting about disinfection at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) in October 2007, building support from individuals, families, user groups, and public officials. Our activities included a public meeting in June with more than 100 attendees, online outreach, a river user survey, and three published letters to the editor.

We completed the UAA fact sheet in January 2008. An excellent tool for educating stakeholders, we mailed it to hundreds of local elected officials and



This monarch caterpillar was spotted one week after the rain garden was planted.



Volunteers creating a downspout garden at Friends' volunteer stewardship demonstration site at Edgebrook Woods.

other interested parties and posted it on our website as an informative but easy to understand tool for the general public. Friends' staff and board have also distributed the fact sheet at river related events and speaking engagements. It is available on Friends' website, www.chicagoriver.org/projects/clean_water_and_healthy_fish/

ON THE GROUND

Demonstration Site at Edgebrook Woods

In FY2008, Friends established a new program called the River Volunteer Stewardship Program to engage more people in hands-on stewardship of the Chicago River. One of the key elements of the program is a new demonstration site at the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's Volunteer Resource Center adjacent to Edgebrook Woods, along the North Branch in Chicago.

This pilot project is a hands-on, year-round site where Friends and volunteers work together to implement best management practices (BMPs) such as stream bank restoration, that directly benefit the river. The program educates volunteers about how to be good stewards and how what they learn on-site can be

applied at home. Friends' staff members serve as site stewards, managing restoration workdays for community groups, corporate teams, and students from Chicago area schools. FY2008 work included rain garden installation, water quality testing through monitoring activities, and invasive plant removal.

Ongoing activities include monitoring plant communities, participating in mussel and macroinvertebrate surveys, and conducting habitat assessments. These activities illustrate how improving natural areas is part of the ongoing and long-term effort of improving the Chicago River.

The project was designed to strengthen our volunteers' relationships with Friends, get them excited about the river, and help them develop a sense of ownership by keeping them involved. The ultimate goal is to build on this sense of pride, to empower volunteers to act as the voice of the Chicago River and that these enthusiastic and active volunteers become advocates for the improvement and protection of the Chicago River in perpetuity.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

McCormick Tribune & Chicago River Bridgehouse Museum

The Bridgehouse Museum reveals the inextricable relationship between the Chicago River and the development of our city and region. Furthermore, our exhibits detail how the growth of the city affected the health of the river. They celebrate how, through community organization and inter-sector collaboration, the Chicago River is on a path to recovery that includes the return of many wildlife species and increased use of the river as a civic amenity and economic engine.

During FY2008, which includes part of our calendar 2007 season, we welcomed 3,661 visitors – a 13 percent increase in daily average attendance over our inaugural season in 2006. Friends opened the Bridgehouse Museum on May 1 for our 2008 season and welcomed 2,505 visitors in May and June alone. On May 10, 2008, the museum celebrated Chicago



The Bridgehouse Museum offers the public an environmental and historical experience, all about the Chicago River.

River Day by waiving admission, and the results were astounding: the museum welcomed a record 882 visitors in one day. Our regular daily attendance in June 2008 registered a 70% increase over June 2007.

We focused on fund diversification projects that were leveraged by McCormick Foundation's generous challenge grant. We launched the Bridgehouse Museum Corporate Club, inviting membership as another means to increase revenue.

Friends continued increasing our museum's visibility and attendance by launching several new partnerships and events in 2008 that we expect will become part of our museum's annual programming. To mark our season opening on May 1, Friends partnered with the Chicago Park District for a fish liberation ceremony symbolizing the return of wildlife to the river. More than 75 people joined Friends' staff and Park District fish wranglers at the Bridgehouse Museum to adopt baby bluegills for \$5, name them and release them into the river.



Bridgehouse fish liberation day, Spring 2008. A baby bluegill ready for release, celebrating the revitalization of the Chicago River!

Between June 19 and June 29, the Bridgehouse Museum hosted Working Boats of the Chicago River in partnership with the Chicago Police Marine & Helicopter Unit, Chicago Department of Streets & Sanitation, Chicago Fire Department, MWRD, Chicago River Rowing & Paddling Center and Friends' own Canoe Program. Working Boats educates visitors about the many agencies that work to keep our river clean, safe and vibrant by allowing visitors to view the boats up close and talk to the crews about their work on the river.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

In addition to our 2008 highlights, Friends' program activities included:

POLICY AND PLANNING

North Branch Watershed Project Planning Committee

Friends provided leadership, community organizing, advocacy and funding strategies for research projects, real estate development proposals and education and stewardship activities. The committee met six times in FY2008 and approved eight total projects for funding to improve the North Branch sub-watershed.

ON-THE-GROUND

Chicago River Day

Chicago River Day, our annual watershed-wide clean-up effort, was a tremendous success again on May 10, 2008. Over 3,800 volunteers worked at 58 sites



River Day 2008 volunteers pulling invasive garlic mustard plants.

throughout the Chicago River watershed, cleaning and restoring sites along the river. School and community groups, religious congregations, scouting troops and corporate teams collected 28 tons of garbage and recyclables and over 200 bags of invasive plants. Additionally, we welcomed 882 visitors to our McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum as part of the event's new educational component.

North Branch Open Space Council

Friends, as part of the North Branch Open Space Council, continued ongoing work with municipalities to preserve open space in our headwaters (Gurnee, Libertyville, Mettawa) and upper regions of the watershed, contributing to better water quality.

North Branch Dam Modification

Friends continued to lead the North Branch Dam modification project team to provide fish passage for healthier aquatic habitat. In FY2008, MWRD funded the design and construction of a model that will replicate recommended solutions for dam modification, as proposed by Friends, based on findings of our 2006 feasibility study. Also, Friends' staff laid the groundwork with other dam owners to begin review of their dams in FY2009.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Chicago River Schools Network

Through field trips, service learning, Student Congress, classroom presentations and support for teachers, Friends continued to impact hundreds of Chicago school teachers and thousands of students in K-12 grades in FY2008. We developed and printed three different Chicago River Action-Adventure Pocket Guides. These age-appropriate guides are filled with environmental information, visuals, and activities for use by teachers, students and their families. Development of our online data collection website began, which is yet another resource to support teachers and students, who can contribute data about the river, as well as learn from data collected from other student and teacher contributors.

Michigan Avenue Fish Hotel

Based on what we have learned in previous seasons, Friends spent spring FY2008 enhancing the fish hotel's structural design and planting palette to enhance the project aesthetically and as habitat. Staff produced new Michigan Avenue Fish Hotel interpretive materials to educate visitors about the function and structure of the pilot habitat project. Additionally, we installed several interpretive sign boards that reported



Gage Park High School students investigate the Chicago River on a Chicago River Schools Network field trip.



A young Flatwater Classic canoe and kayak race paddler enjoys a day on the Chicago River.

water quality reports daily to inform the public of information such as dissolved oxygen rate, pH, temperature, E Coli presence, and turbidity. Friends also ran guided tours from the bridgehouse museum.

Canoe Program

Through our annual Chicago River Flatwater Classic canoe and kayak race, our educational urban canoe trips, and an agreement with the Chicago Park District, we engaged over 800 paddlers in FY2008. Friends continued with our ongoing priority of introducing people to the Chicago River through on-the-water experiences.

OTHER INITIATIVES

Big Fish Ball

The third annual Big Fish Ball on June 26, 2008 was spectacular! Friends of the Chicago River raised over \$185,000 and grew event income by 23%.

The summer evening festivities included cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a sumptuous al fresco dinner; live Chicago River animals; and a gospel performance by Chicago Mass Choir that brought down the house. Remarks by Mayor Richard M. Daley and Chris Kennedy were among the other highlights. Our backdrop was the spectacular city skyline and Wolf Point, where the North Branch,

Main Stem, and South Branch of the river converge.

Some of Chicago's most prominent and diverse leaders in the civic and corporate communities were among the nearly 450 guests who attended, including presenting sponsor Crain's Chicago Business as well as 31 additional sponsors.

New Five-Year Strategic Plan

Utilizing our *Action Plan for the Chicago River: Getting Specific*, Friends completed a new five-year strategic plan in the second quarter of FY2008. The invigorating planning process renewed board and staff members' commitment and enthusiasm. Friends' strategic goals, values and vision statements now guide our annual process of planning of goals, strategies, tactics, and measurable outcomes and will do so through 2012.



The Big Fish Ball was a resounding success in 2008. A live performance by the Chicago Mass Choir brought down the house.

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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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Brian Lounsbury
Karen M. Luckritz
Melissa H. Luebke
Dale Luitjohan
Veronica Luth
Patricia D. Lydon
Brian and Martha Lyke
John Macdonald Jr.
Jean Madigan
Joseph Mak
Dean T. Maragos
James C. Mark Jr.
A. J. and Charlotte Marks
Jamie Marshall
Derrick Martin
Diane Masuda
Jeffrey May
Jim Mayhercy
Scott McCausland
Scott McGarvey
Barbara McKenzie
Neil McNamara
Simone McNeil
Allan and Linda Mellis
Rita Meltzer
Robert Menard
Deb Mikasser
Dennis and Cynthia Miller

Laura Beth Miller
Alicia Misna
Sara Mooney
John D. Moore
Colleen Moroney-Maia
Lisa Murphy
Christopher Myers
Paul Nagel
Rett Nelson
Marta Nelson
Irwin F. Noparstak
Mike Norris
Nicholas Norris
Peter Nowakowski
James Nuesslein
Leslie Oberholtzer
Christina Ochs
John and Susan O'Connell
Sharon O'Donnell
Lindsay Olson
Julie Olson
Charles and Vicki Otis
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Amreek Paintal
Nancy Patton
Susan A. Peckham
Joan Perneck
Jerry Peterson
Carl and Carri Peterson
Jamie Phillippe
Jennifer Pietka
Elizabeth A. Pinter
William Pomerantz
Kenneth Porrello and Sherry McFall
Bill and Sue Quinlan
Jim and Catherine Quirke
Christine Rascati
Jay Scott Readey and Lisa Diane McGill
Patricia Reed
Alane A. Repa
Carlton and Barbara Resnick
William and Gail Riggs
Bill and Kathy Riordan
Elaine Robbins
Susan Roberts
Donald M. Robinett
Samuel Rosenberg
Elizabeth Rucker
Luis and Natalia Salces
Richard and Irene Sandler
Kenneth Schenatzki
Ben and Marianne Schenker
Wayne and Gail Schimpff
David Schmid
Steven Schmitz
Jim Schnatterly
Virginia Schulte
Harry Schuster

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Kelly M. TePastte
Nancy J. Thornton
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Joseph Trenker
Rachel Urquhart
Michelle Uting and Miguel Vallejo
Marguerite Vercillo
Norman Victorson
Co Vuong
Claude A. Walker
Lawrence E. Weaver
David R. Weber
Rose Wehner
Paul Welsh
Jane Wenger
Laura West
Robert L. White, Jr.
Marilyn Williams
Sharon L. Williams
Michael Zudonyi

\$5 to \$24

Kristen M. Adomovicz
Steve Albertson and Jody Reeme
Santo Albright
Thomas Allabastro
Blaine Ashley
D. Harlean Barth
John and Ina Beierle
Catherine E. Bellario
Janet Lee Berent
Matthew Boch

Abraham Brustein
Michael T. Chirchirillo
Tom Connors
Eva Cribbs
Harold Davis
Gary Friedlander
Larry N. Gillard
Joel A. Goldberger
Steven Gould
Timothy S. Grant
Daniel Haumesser
Brian Hettinger
Rokko Jans
Stan Johnson
Tom Joyce
Vida Kazlauskas
Sasha and Eric Kerlow
Sixto Linares
Pat Marchese
Annie McAdoo
Howard and Judy McCue
Terrence McGuan
Diane M. Morgenthaler
German Nobile
Mike Olson
Mary D. Plunkett
Linda Rizza
Nancy H. Roate
Steve Rodgers
William and Lucille Rossberger
Michael D. Scarpino
Mark A. Scheunemann
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Demetrios D. Skias
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Karl and Christine Teske
Pamela J. Tsatsis
Robert A. Ulaszek
Chris and Juliane Van Meter
Freddie Walker
Robert and Donna Weinstein
Brian Wetmore
Stephen and Linda Wimbourne

FOUNDATION, CORPORATIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

\$75,000 and up

The Boeing Company
EcoMedia LLC

\$20,000 to \$74,999

Alphawood Foundation
Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley
Foundation
Robert R. McCormick Foundation
McDougal Family Foundation
NAVTEQ Corporation
Polk Bros. Foundation
Prince Charitable Trusts
Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company Foundation

\$10,000 to \$19,999

ACE INA
Bank of America Foundation
The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
General Iron Industries
Hines
Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family
Foundation
Col. Stanley R. McNeil Foundation
Nuveen Investments
Oberweiler Foundation
Ozinga
Relations Foundation
Dr. Scholl Foundation
Tom's of Maine

\$1,000 to \$9,999

AECOM Environmental
The Alter Group
Aon Corporation
Aon Risk Management
Francis Beidler Foundation
The John Buck Company
Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella, P.C.
The Care of Trees
Chicago Park District
CNA
ComEd
Crain's Chicago Business
Earth Share of Illinois
Earthwatch Institute, Inc.
Two North Riverside Plaza
Erehwon Mountain Outfitters
Fay's Point LLC
Jamee and Marshall Field Foundation
Firestone Complete Auto Care
General Growth Properties
Gensler
Great Lakes Kayak
Greater North Michigan Avenue
Association
Haffner Foundation
Hitchcock Design Group
HOK - Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum
Howard Gottlieb Living Trust
HSBC - North America
International Airport Centers

FISCAL YEAR 2008 SUPPORTERS

IPA Charities Inc.
The Edith B. and Lee V. Jacobs
Fund No. 3
JCCC Foundation
Jenner & Block
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Lawrence's Fisheries, Inc.
Lowis & Gellen
Magellan Development Group
McDermott Will & Emery
Midwest Generation EME
Morton Salt
O'Brien's Restaurant & Bar
Ogden Avenue Materials
The Oppenheimer Family Foundation
Peoples Gas
Pircher, Nichols & Meeks
PricewaterhouseCoopers
The Rise Group
SET Environmental, Inc.
Shelbourne Development Group Inc.
Shoreline Sightseeing
The Siragusa Foundation
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
Square Care
Stellar Productions, Inc.
Sun Trading LLC
The Trust for Public Land
USG Foundation, Inc.
V3 Companies
Christy Webber Landscapes
Wight & Company
WRD Environmental

\$150 to \$999

20/10 Engineering Group
Andes Capital Group, LLC
AT&T
Belgravia Group Ltd.
Chicago Academy of Sciences
DAI Environmental, Inc.
EAC Enterprises Limited Partnership
Eastland Disaster Historical Society
Engineering Resource Associates
Essanay Studio & Lighting Co., Inc.
Finkel Martwick and Colson PC
Flood Brothers Disposal and Recycling
Service
Friedman Properties Ltd.
Graphic Converting, Inc.
John Charles Midwest, Inc.
Katten Muchin Zavis Rosenman
Kenny Construction Company
Kraft Foods Matching Gifts Program
Lohan Anderson Architects
Lunar Media
Maine South High School
McBride Kelley Baurer

McCaffery Interest Inc.
Mead Witter Foundation, Inc.
Mercury Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
MWH
OWP/P Architects Inc.
Ozinga
Pioneer Engineering and Environmental
Services
Reor Viridis
River North Residence Association
Serena Sturm Architects
Sidley & Austin
Solomon, Cordwell and Buenz
SpaceCo Inc.
Stellar26

\$25 to \$149

Alliance for the Great Lakes
Allstate Giving Campaign
James Anderson Company
Art & Linda's Wildflowers
Baetis Environmental Services, Inc.
Barnes and Thornburg, LLP
BBDO Chicago/Worldwide
Chicago Interactive Marketing Assn.
Chicago Jesuit Academy
Chicago Wheelers, Inc.
Chicago Wilderness
Collins High School
Fund Inc.
Glenbrook North High School
Grayslake North High School
Hitchcock Design Group
Houghton Mifflin Company
IPM Consulting LTD
Jewish Council for Youth Services
Jones College Prep
Kabbes Engineering, Inc.
Richard Knorr International, LTD
Lemont High School
Lino's Restaurant
Living Waters Consultants Inc.
The Loevy Consulting Group
McCaffery Interest Inc.
Morton Grove Woman's Club
North Cook County Soil & Water
Conservation
North River Commission
The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
Ogden Avenue Materials
Queen of Peace High School
Reising Son Kayaks
Rubloff
John G. Shedd Aquarium
SpaceCo Inc.
Takeout Taxi
The Care of Trees

The Nature Conservancy
The Northwest Passage
Tilton, Kelly & Bell, L.L.C.
United Airlines
Verizon Foundation
Wolff Landscape Architecture, Inc.
Young Women's Leadership Charter
School

Government Grants and Contracts

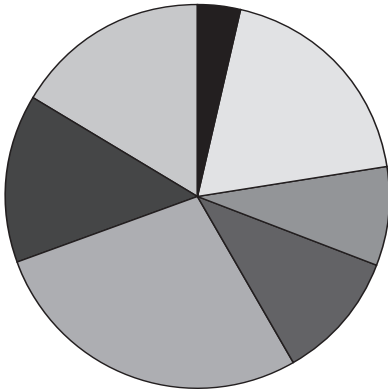
Chicago Public Schools
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Illinois State University
University of Illinois

In-kind

A to Z Offset Printing
Cinda and Fred Axley
Austrian Airlines
Central Beverages—AriZona Beverage
Company
Chris Breitenbach
Crain's Chicago Business
De La Costa
DuPage Forest Preserve District
The Fairmont Chicago
Fulton's on the River
Goose Island Beer Company
Goose Island Handcrafted Sodas
Japonais
Jewel-Osco
K+K Hotels
Tom and Colleen Keaveny
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McCormick and Schmick's
Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc.
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Rivers
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Schulze and Burch Biscuit Co.
Sixteen
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Sommers & Fahrenbach
Stellar Productions, Inc.
Phil Stefani Signature Events
Strack & Van Til
VIP Sports Marketing, Inc.
William and Jayne Walsh
Wristband Specialty

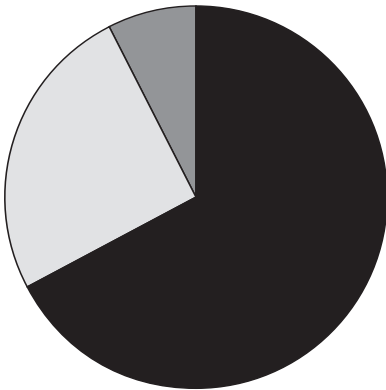
FISCAL YEAR 2008 FINANCIAL REPORT

Audited Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the 12 months ending June 30, 2008



Revenues

● Government	4%	\$44,908
○ Foundation Grants	19%	\$227,645
● Individuals	8%	\$101,136
● Corporations	11%	\$128,577
○ Special Events	28%	\$336,500
● Other	14%	\$167,895
○ Net Assets Released from Restriction	16%	\$196,818
Total		\$1,203,479



Expenses

● Programs	68%	\$785,572
○ Fundraising & Development	25%	\$295,445
● Administration	7%	\$85,188
Total		\$1,166,205

Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$790,067
Change in Net Assets	-\$159,545
Increase in Endowment	\$4,195
Net Assets at End of Year	\$634,717



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Craig Coit, president
Deputy CFO, Aon Risk Services

Cy H. Griffith, vice president
Marketing Director, Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella, P.C.

David Reynolds, treasurer
Senior Department Manager, AECOM Environmental

Lois Morrison, secretary
Executive Director, Harold M. and Adeline S. Morrison Family Foundation

Directors

Kenneth M. Arenberg
River-Edge Resident

Fred Axley, president emeritus
Partner (retired), McDermott Will & Emery

Kent Brown
Consultant, Kraft Foods

Kate Chappell
Vice President of Development, Chicago Youth Centers

Grant Crowley
President, Crowley's Yacht Yard

Daniel Drew
Owner, The Drew Group, Inc.

Joel Fink
President, Allied Metal Company

Sally Fletcher
Vice President, Fletcher Chicago, Inc.

Robert Friedman
River-edge resident

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Executive Vice President and General Counsel, NAVTEQ Corporation

Jacqueline J. Loewe
Vice President/Partner, Hitchcock Design Group

Jim Mark
V.P., Director of Chicago Office, Wight & Company

David Rosen
President and CEO, The Competence Group, Inc.

David Solzman

Raymond Wambaja
Engineer, Sims Metal Management, Inc.

Max West
Senior Vice President, Willis

Bryan Whitehead
Business Development Manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers

David Wong
Vice President, Certare Ventures

STAFF

Executive Director
Margaret Frisbie

Museum Director and Program Manager
McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum
Ozana Balan

Outreach Program Coordinator
Kim Bevan

Watershed Project Coordinator
Caitlyn Bolton

Director of Development
Suellen Burns

Development Assistant
Kasi Cooper

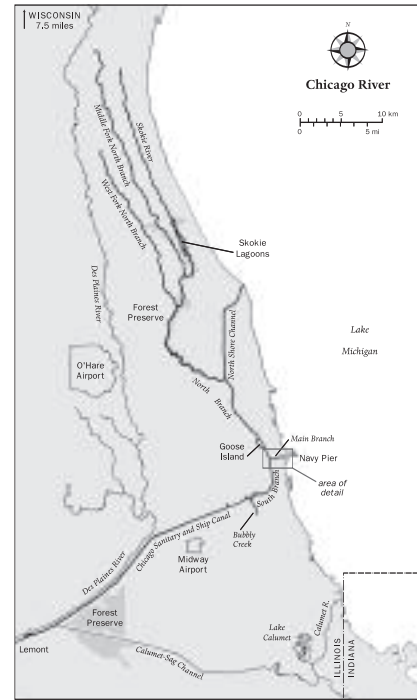
Manager of Community, Volunteers, and Leadership
Cynthia Fox

Education Coordinator
Mark Hauser

Director of Education and Outreach
Dana Murphy

Director of Watershed Planning
John Quail

Development Manager
Jill Taylor



MISSION STATEMENT

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 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