

the river REPORTER

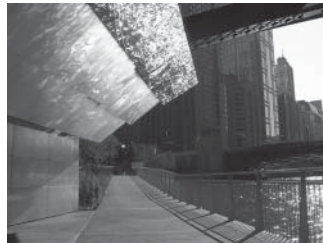
The New Chicago Riverwalk

by Cathy Breitenbach,
Chicago Park District

If you haven't been to visit the Chicago Riverwalk lately, you've got to do so before the 2009 season winds down.

The Chicago Department of Transportation recently completed a beautiful new walkway that expands the Riverwalk underneath the Michigan Avenue and Wabash Avenue bridges. Visitors can now stroll along the water's edge from the Lakefront all the way to State Street and the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, and this stretch of riverfront is now accessible to wheelchairs and strollers. As you pass under the bridges, the new walkway is protected by stainless steel canopies that shimmer with the reflection of the river water below. Pockets of native plants provide lush color, while concrete benches and boulders quarried from native limestone provide seating along the river's edge.

The new walkway extends up to 17 feet into the former river channel, and the progression of its construction was a show in and of itself during the winter months. It was constructed by using barge-mounted cranes to drive steel sheeting 50 to 60 feet down into the river bed. Approximately 12,000 cubic yards of gravel, 4,000 cubic yards of concrete, and 12,000 pounds of steel rebar were then used to fill in the space behind the sheeting, thus creating the new walkway.



The Chicago Park District has also expanded programming and concessions to fill every block along the main branch of the Chicago River, and there is something for just about everyone to see and do. East of Columbus Drive, Mayor Daley's River Fishing Festival provides free fishing instruction for kids on weekdays. After you're done fishing, you can rent a bike from Bike and Roll and

(story continued on page 5)

Photos left to right:

The protective canopy that shields the new walkway underneath the Wabash Avenue bridge was designed to reflect the water, bringing a sense of light and movement to the space. Photo: Chicago Park District

The new Riverwalk winds past O'Brians Riverwalk Café and under the Wabash Avenue bridge. Photo: Chicago Park District

Mayor Daley's River Fishing Festival provides free fishing gear and instruction for kids on weekdays. Photo: Chicago Park District

(top of page) The new Chicago Riverwalk includes a series of seating walls that provide a place for people to gather in front of the McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum, just west of Michigan Avenue. Photo: Chicago Department of Transportation

Greening the 2016 Olympic Games

On June 26, 2009, 40 volunteers from HSBC North America and staff from Friends created a native plant rain garden at Ryan Field on the campus of Northwestern University in Evanston. This project is a part of the Forward Chicago initiative to "green" the potential competition sites in anticipation of the 2016 Olympic Games. Friends' staff designed the rain garden and created the planting plan in conjunction with the staff from Northwestern that will be responsible for the garden's maintenance. The volunteers arrived early in the



morning to find hundreds of native grasses and flowers waiting to be planted. Eight hours later and a new rain garden had sprouted. The new garden will help to infiltrate and filter rain water, and because the garden is in a highly traffic area of the campus it will serve as an example, educating the community about the benefits of native plants.



WADING IN

Swimming in the Chicago River? - Disinfection is the Key Issue

I had a bit of scare last week while reading an article about new park land along the river on the North Branch. The article quoted a young man who said that when the kids from the neighborhood wanted to go swimming he took them to River Park.

If not for the fact that it is just three miles downstream of the North Side Wastewater Treatment Plant, River Park seems like it would be a great place to go swimming. The neighborhood surrounding the park is a solid mix of apartments/condo buildings and single family homes. Park land surrounds the river in River Park where the Upper North Branch tumbles over a “waterfall” to merge with the North Shore Channel. People fish there all the time. The river is also really easy to wade into because of its gradual banks and the public canoe launch constructed there just a few years ago.

But swimming, or even wading for that matter, isn't safe at River Park. Every day approximately 245,500,000 gallons of water (or effluent) full of bacteria and other pathogens from human sewage is pumped into that section of the river from the North Side plant, located upstream. The water then flows past River Park, Clark Park, and dozens of docks and backyards where people are often fishing, wading, paddling, and hanging out on the banks.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD), which operates the treatment plant, is not currently required to disinfect the plant's effluent, thus ridding it of bacteria, but the issue is being reviewed right now by the Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB) at the recommendation of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The Illinois EPA, as we have written before, has recommended better water quality standards Chicago and Calumet systems, including disinfection.

Fortunately for everybody, I leapt to the wrong conclusion about where the kids were going swimming. It was so easy to imagine them in the river that we called the group right up and said don't swim there – only then we realized there was a swimming pool at River Park.

That we were in such a panic over the water in the Chicago River seems disturbing to me. The technology to disinfect the water exists and the real possibility for clean water is right before us. Every major city in the United States and even many of our neighboring cities like Gary, Milwaukee, and Peoria all disinfect their effluent. In fact, disinfection is a standard practice employed across the country to manage wastewater from sewage and to protect public health.

Even if the river isn't ready for swimming, we shouldn't have to worry about everyday activities such as wading, getting our hands wet while skipping rocks, or wondering if we rubbed bacteria into our eyes after releasing a fish. People today are using the river and they are getting wet doing it.

Like Governor Pat Quinn, Attorney General Lisa Madigan, as well as Congressmen Jesse Jackson, Jr., Mark Kirk and Mike Quigley, Friends is supporting the Illinois EPA's call for disinfection.

We hope you will, too.

Margaret Frisbie
Executive Director

If you would like to support clean water, visit Friends' website at www.chicagoriver.org to find out how to send a letter of support to the Illinois Pollution Control Board.

STAFF & BOARD

The *River Reporter* is published by Friends of the Chicago River, located at 28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1800 Chicago, IL 60604-2272. Phone: (312) 939-0490 E-mail: friends@chicagoriver.org Web site: www.chicagoriver.org

Friends' mission is to preserve, protect and foster the vitality of the Chicago River for the plant, animal and human communities within its watershed.

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Governor Quinn Appoints New Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner

Governor Pat Quinn announced the appointment of Mariyana Spyropoulos to the Board of Commissioners at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD). As a commissioner, Spyropoulos will be involved in creating and maintaining policies affecting flooding, stormwater management, rivers, and conservation.

“Mariyana Spyropoulos is an environmentalist, attorney, and entrepreneur. I am proud to appoint her to this important position,” said Governor Quinn. “She will protect our waterways, which are among the Land of Lincoln’s most vital natural resources.”

Spyropoulos received her J.D. from John Marshall Law School and served as a criminal prosecutor before opening her own law firm. She also has a master’s degree in business from Loyola University.

Spyropoulos joins eight other elected commissioners including President Terrence O’Brien, Vice President Kathleen Therese Meany, Chairman of Finance Gloria Alitto Majewski, Frank Avila, Patricia Horton, Barbara J. McGowan, Cynthia M. Santos, and Debra Shore. The MWRD was established in 1889 and treats wastewater from domestic, commercial, and industrial sources in Chicago and surrounding communities, releasing over 1.2 billion gallons of effluent into the Chicago River each day. The MWRD is also responsible for stormwater management for Cook County.



MWRD Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos

RIFFLES & CURRENTS

ECOMYTHS CHICAGO

Is the Chicago River too dirty for fish? - Does clear water equal clean water? - Myths about the Chicago River can be found everywhere. Have you sneaked a peek at the latest Ecomyths? Find out the truth - Don't miss out! The last three monthly "postcards" have busted myths about rivers, with information specifically about the Chicago River. Test your science savvy and check out www.ecomythschicago.org today and throughout the year, as some common myths about lakes, rivers and wetlands are explored.

CHICAGO BANS 14 INVASIVE PLANTS

Invasive plants, with no natural enemies, like to take over - often at the expense of local habitats and the animal communities they support. The City of Chicago is fighting back, banning the sale and possession of 14 plants within city limits that are classified as invasive. The most prevalent of these banned plants include chocolate vine, wild chervil, Oriental bittersweet and privet.

Many of these intruder plants were brought over from Europe or Asia to be ornamental plants for landscaping. Unfortunately, they grew a little too well.

“[Invasive plants] overtake the natural plants because [there is] no competition and the native wildlife is lost,” said Wayne Vanderploeg, lead forestry ecologist from the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. “The city needs to be commended for this attempt to prevent the spread of invasive plants.” Information on the banned and discouraged plants, as well as a list of non-invasive alternatives, can be found at cityofchicago.org/invasivespecies.

RIVERS CURRICULUM WORKSHOP

Nine teachers from all over the watershed recently completed a workshop on using the Chicago River as an integrated context for learning. The river provides teachers and their students with a real-world laboratory for their scientific investigations, a local example of the relationship between the natural world and society, and an opportunity for participants to become actively engaged in local issues through service learning.

The workshop was presented by Friends of the Chicago River in partnership with the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum and DePaul University. It is offered every July to teachers teaching seventh to twelfth grade. To learn more about this workshop and others provided by Friends visit www.chicagoriver.org/education/workshops.

HARPER HIGH SCHOOL LAUNCHES RIVER PROJECT

Students at Harper High School on Chicago's south side have created their own online resource to share their experiences at the Chicago River with the world. The website content is student-created and includes movies and pictures from the river as well as water quality data collected from various sites.

The project has expanded to include Tonti Elementary and Fulton Elementary, two schools that feed into Harper High School, and a summer program that engages students from other schools around Chicago. The diversity of the project reflects the variety of experiences that the students have had.

“The river project provides me the opportunity to learn about the city’s water, its history, what’s in it, and its future,” says Bariana Beltran, a freshman at Lincoln Park High School as she toured the downtown riverwalk with some of her fellow students. The project can be viewed at www.harperriverproject.com.

Friends also has an online resource for water quality data collected by students from schools within the Adopt A River School program. It can be viewed at www.watershed.chicagoriver.org.

HIGH Water Marks

Friends of the Chicago River recognizes the generous contributions and support of members, donors, program partners and participants at \$150 and above between March 1, 2009, and August 5, 2009.

FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENT

\$40,000 and above

The Boeing Company Charitable Trust
Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
McCormick Foundation
NAVTEQ Corporation

20,000 to 39,999

Aon
The Boeing Company
NAVTEQ Foundation
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10,000 to 19,999

ACE USA
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The Siragusa Foundation
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Alvin H. Baum Family Fund
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INDIVIDUALS

\$2,500 and above

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Fred and Cinda Axley
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Kelly Smith
Sven and Julie Sykes
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1,000 to 2,499

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Barry Katz
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Sonya Duchak
Albert Ettinger
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IN KIND

\$10,000 and above

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Phil Stefani Signature Events

5,000 to 9,999

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Gensler
Bruce B. Jefferson
Stellar Productions, Inc.

2,500 to 4,999

Conscious Choice Magazine
Pactiv Corporation
ProArc Electrical Construction Company
Shoreline Sightseeing

1,000 to 2,499

Goose Island Brewpub – Clybourn
Goose Island Beer Co.
Sausages by Amylu

500 to 999

Graphic Arts Studio
K + K Hotels
Sound Investment

250 to 499

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150 to 249

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We apologize if any names have been omitted, misspelled, or otherwise incorrectly listed. Please contact us at friends@chicagoriver.org so that we can correct our records. Thanks so much, again.

A New Way to Give

Friends of the Chicago River has signed up with iGive.com to bring you a new way to contribute to our award-winning work.

At iGive.com you can make purchases online from over 650 stores like Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, and PETCO, just to name a few, and a percentage of every purchase you make will be donated to Friends.

No tricks, no catch, no hidden fees, just a few minutes out of your day to sign up. Simply go to iGive.com, follow the steps and feel good about your online shopping splurges knowing that you're making a difference in creating a healthier future for the Chicago River.



iGive.com™

Corporate Workdays in Edgebrook Woods

Beginning in the spring of 2008, Friends began working in collaboration with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County to implement a planting, restoration, and monitoring plan



along the North Branch of the River in Edgebrook Woods. This project allows Friends to showcase restoration techniques that can be utilized in large natural areas like parks, forest preserves, or even backyards.

Employees of Harris Bank plant native vegetation.

Much of the work at this site involves replacing invasive vegetation, such as buckthorn and garlic mustard, with native plants. Native plants have evolved over a long period of time to peacefully coexist along with the local ecosystem and are well adapted for filtering and infiltrating stormwater, something that has a positive benefit on water quality and habitat for the wildlife of the river.

Almost all of the work on this project has been done by volunteers at our workdays. Since this program was started in 2008, organizations like AON, Harris Bank, HSBC, Loyola University, and REI have participated in workdays at Edgebrook Woods. If you are interested in organizing a workday for your company please contact Cynthia Fox at cfox@chicagoriver.org.

(cover story continued from page 1)

explore the area, hop on a water taxi to Navy Pier or the Willis Tower (formerly known as Sears Tower), take an architecture cruise, or stop at one of the nearby Riverwalk cafés for a bite to eat. There are seven cafés lining the Riverwalk this year which provide a variety of choices. Cyrano's Café and Wine Bar, O'Briens Riverwalk Café, and Diosa Sushi & Grill also have liquor licenses, making them hot spots for the after-work crowd. Friends' Bridgehouse Museum now serves as the information center for the Riverwalk, where visitors can pick up a map and more information about all of the attractions available to enjoy. The summer season officially ends after Labor Day, but most Riverwalk venues will stay open well into October.

All of this activity on the Riverwalk is just the beginning. Future plans call for extending the promenade under bridges all the way to Lake Street, with space for permanent concessions, places to gather, and open greenery to soften the river-edge. The project will improve vertical access between Upper Wacker Drive and the Riverwalk, including fully accessible ramps and elevators at key locations along the walkway. The City is expecting to award a contract over the coming winter for design of the next phase of construction between State and Lake Streets. Construction money has not been identified yet, but the design and engineering work will get the project shovel-ready so work can begin quickly when funds are identified.

I took a walk along the Riverwalk this afternoon, just to see how things were going. It was a gorgeous summer day, and there were people lounging on the rocks, sitting at café tables, and waiting for their architecture cruises to depart. A group of kids decked out in life jackets and fishing gear were squealing over the fish they had just pulled out of the river. I heard a dozen different languages spoken in just three blocks, as I passed tourists from around the world. The Riverwalk is a great way to introduce them to our wonderful city, and a real treasure for those of us lucky enough to live here.

Step Inside the Bridgehouse Museum and Meet Our Team!

Friends' McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum is having a vibrant summer - and Anthony Bronkella, Zoe Olson and Patrick Wozny are a big part of its success. The trio has returned for a second season as the on-site museum team, and together they help visitors delve deeper into the history and significance of the Chicago River. As veteran greeters, Anthony, Zoe and Pat welcome each guest, help interpret the exhibits on the museum's five floors and inside the bridge gear room, and make sure the museum experience is enjoyed by guests of all ages. They also spend a lot of time visiting neighboring businesses and hotels to raise our museum's visibility.

Their commitment to the Chicago River extends beyond the museum. Since the Bridgehouse Museum is also the official Riverwalk Information Center, the team helps locals and tourists alike learn more and take advantage of this wonderful new river-edge amenity. Anthony is also the Fish Hotel steward, which keeps him busy cleaning, monitoring, and leading tours of Friends' showcase habitat project located on the river between State and Dearborn Streets.



Zoe Olson is one of the Bridgehouse Museum staff waiting to greet you on your visit.

"The new Riverwalk has brought a lot more visitors to the Bridgehouse Museum so far this summer," observed Zoe on a recent sunny morning. "Yet one thing has not changed since last year: visitors still rave about how unexpected and cool this museum is!"

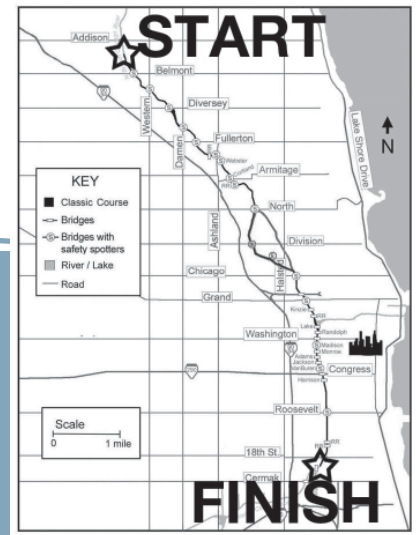
We hope you can stop by and let Anthony, Zoe and Pat welcome you to the Bridgehouse Museum, located inside the southwest tower of the Michigan Avenue bridge. For more information, check out www.bridgehousemuseum.org.

10th annual chicago river FLATWATER CLASSIC Sunday, October 4, 2009

Presented by
NAVTEQ

Join Friends and hundreds of paddlers for our 10th anniversary of the Chicago River Flatwater Classic. Be amazed at the natural and manmade beauty that lines the banks of Chicago's namesake river.

The Flatwater Classic is a 7.25 mile canoe and kayak race from Chicago's north side (3400 N. Rockwell) through downtown and finishing at the beautifully landscaped Ping Tom Memorial Park in Chinatown (300 W. 19th St.). Every participant receives a commemorative T-shirt and a lifetime of memories!



Event Details

Time

10 a.m. start with mixed heats of ten boats launching every four minutes.

Fees

Pre-register online at www.chicagoriver.org

- \$25 each Adults (members of Friends of the Chicago River)
- \$30 each Adults (non-members)
- \$15 each Participants under 15 years old

Register the day of the race at the starting line

- \$35 each All ages

Registration can be done online at www.chicagoriver.org or over the phone with a credit card by calling (312) 939-0490, ext. 10.

Parking and Shuttles

As of the time of printing ALL parking for the Flatwater Classic will be located at the FINISH line.

Please allow enough time in the morning to drop off your boat at the START, drive to the FINISH and hop on the shuttle. Please keep an eye on our website for parking information and changes.

*NEW
in
2009!*

Goose Island Brewpub – Clybourn is offering ONE FREE DRINK (beer or soda) to anyone who comes to their location (1800 N. Clybourn, Chicago, 60614) on the day of the race wearing their 2009 Flatwater Classic T-shirt! I can think of no better way to unwind after a long day spent on the river than with an ice cold Goose Island beer! Like last year, Goose Island will also be providing lunches at the finish line for those who pre-order online.

The Dance COLEctive will be performing along and bringing attention to the unusual spaces along the race route. Racers, fans and passers by become momentary audiences and all will be surprised to see what is happening along the edges of the Chicago River. This TDC project is supported by a special project grant from the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation.

Special thanks to our partners and sponsors including the Chicago Park District, City of Chicago, Erehwon, Goose Island Brewpub – Clybourn, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, and REI.



Hello friends and paddlers!

It is with great joy that we are planning this year's Chicago River Flatwater Classic. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the Flatwater Classic has brought together countless individuals, friends, families and co-workers for a fun, challenging and enlightening day paddling the Chicago River. What makes the Flatwater special for me is the opportunity to introduce the Chicago River to so many new paddlers and to provide an invigorating and safe experience for our veterans, but there is more.

The Chicago River has experienced a renaissance in recent years and no one knows that better than paddlers. Many of you have first hand accounts of how the river used to be and often marvel at how it is now. When once buildings turn their backs to the river and only industrial traffic parted its waters, the river is now replete with canoes and kayaks, new construction and riverfront restaurants, not to mention numerous birds, fish and other critters now calling the Chicago River home. Friends of the Chicago River continues to work hard to further these advancements and we are asking for your help!

We need to raise \$1,600 in this year's Paddle-a-thon! This money helps to fund Friends' advocacy work for a cleaner, healthier and more accessible Chicago River. I'm confident we can meet our goal this year! If each paddler gets one person to sponsor his or her race at \$5 a mile (\$36.25 total) then we will certainly meet our goal. The top fundraiser will win a tandem kayak and paddles courtesy of Erehwon. Please ask your friends and family today! Forms can be downloaded from Friends' website.

Myles Hasty, 13, raised \$165 in 2008 to win the prize. When asked why he participated in the Paddle-a-thon he said that "the Chicago River is a great asset to the city and the people who live here. It allows for everyone to experience the great outdoors while living in the city. It is close, convenient and such a great resource for of us, and to not support the efforts to clean it up would be a big mistake." Thank you, Myles! We could not have said it better ourselves!

Kim Bevan, event coordinator

See you on the river!



2008's top fundraiser
Myles Hasty

What do some Flatwater Classic participants have to say about the event...

"I love the Flatwater Classic. The scenery along the Chicago River offers changes and surprises at every turn. What a thrill to be paddling through the Loop's skyscraper canyon and have an elevated train roaring overhead!"

Melissa Luebbe,
three year veteran

"I'll never forget the feeling of racing my kayak on the river, passing Chicago's skyscrapers and industry, only to startle a couple of blue herons from their riverside perch, in turn, startling me."

Eliot Ephraim,
six year veteran

"I always approach the Flatwater Classic race as if it had three legs. In the starting leg I just let everything go mindless as I paddle through the wooded riverbank areas. The downtown leg is all nerve and concentration. It feels like coming back from nature into the real world and I feel like an ant in the water compared to everything around. In the final leg to Chinatown I push my endurance, strength and speed. The finish line always comes as a surprise even after five years of competing."

Sixto Linares, five year veteran

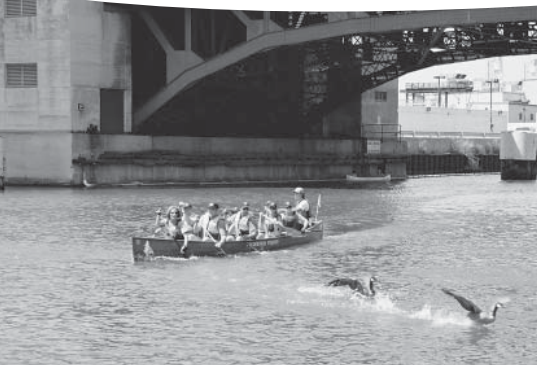
"I do believe the Flatwater Classic is the ultimate in urban paddle trips. The view of downtown from the water at Wolf Point is spectacular."

Tom Earley, seven year veteran

Join us this year!

We would love to hear and share your favorite moments of the Chicago River Flatwater Classic.

Photo credits: Friends' files,
Matt Binns, Rob Lagorio, and
Dave Rigg.





chicago 2009 RIVER DAY REPORT

Friends' 17th annual Chicago River Day was a tremendous success with over 3,800 volunteers participating in activities at 60 locations across 18 suburbs and towns plus dozens of Chicago neighborhoods. School and community groups, religious congregations, scout troops and corporate teams collected 28 tons of garbage and recyclables and over 200 bags of harmful invasive plants. In addition, 352 visitors visited the McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum as part of the event's new educational component. "Even with a chilly morning, River Day volunteers were able to accomplish so much. People were able to work together to improve the health of the river," said Cynthia Fox, Friends' manager of community, volunteers and leadership. "It's always great to hear stories from excited volunteers about what they saw and accomplished at their site on River Day." Join us next year on Saturday, May 8, 2010.

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH (Northfield)

Thirty-seven volunteers from St. Philip's Church and other Northfield residents removed invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle from the banks of the North Branch. These two gentlemen investigate the large stump of an invasive buckthorn right next to the water.

LATHROP WETLAND (Chicago)

Led by a particularly adventurous crew, volunteers (including U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley) removed garbage from shallows in the corner of the Diversy Turning Basin located adjacent to the Julia C. Lathrop Homes. This crew of returning volunteers focuses on removing debris from the North Branch from canoes donated by a local livery.

RONAN PARK (Chicago)

Education sponsor, HSBC North America, sent over 40 volunteers to Ronan Park – West to help repair the river edge nature trail. Volunteers moved two truck loads of woodchips along the entire nature trail that stretches from Lawrence Avenue to Argyle Avenue on the west side of the Chicago River.

The descriptions above correspond to the photos at the top of the page left to right.

2009 Chicago River Day Site Captains

Friends' extends its warmest thank you to our volunteer site captains. Without their hours of hard work, River Day would not have been possible.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Steve Arnam | Jim Macdonald |
| Bill Barnes | John Mueller |
| Frank Bellucci | Hannah Nelson |
| Rob Blomquist | Tom Nelson |
| Mary Busch | John O'Connell |
| Chris Chenworth | Sheila O'Neill |
| Stephanie Chambers | Al Pilgrim |
| Alex Curry | Mike Piskel |
| Bill Donahue | Marianne Preker |
| Jim Doiyakos | Barry Rogers |
| Rachel Driver | Henrietta Saunders |
| Aaron Durnbaugh | Wayne Schimpff |
| Sally Evans | Larry Scinto |
| Chris Fisher | Sean Shaffer |
| Sally Fletcher | Robert Shcoltes |
| Laura Foley | Marian Sinkus |
| Jerry Garden | Jonathan Sladek |
| Doug Gerleman | Gail Slowinski |
| Sue Grabowski | Tom Smith |
| Steve Greenberg | Bob Snediker |
| Michael Hahn | Isaac Sporrang |
| Cassandra Hatzfeld | Jeff Sriver |
| Nina Hike-Teague | Marion Thill |
| Joe Hmieleski | Michelle Uting |
| Debra Hoffman | Miguel Vallejo |
| Kathleen Jones | Ron Valvick |
| Diana Krug | Jose Vilella |
| Rik Lantz | Tony Watrobinski |
| Barb Laucius | Tiffany Wilson |
| Pete Leki | Ken Wojcik |
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Friends of the Chicago River would like to thank the following partners and additional supporters: Black & Veatch, Essanay Studio and Lighting Company, Hu Friedy, and Sausages by Amylu.

Goose Island Handcrafted Sodas was the official soda of Chicago River Day 2009.

River Corridor Development Standards

When Friends of the Chicago River was founded 30 years ago, among our core objectives was protecting and restoring habitat while promoting the concept of a continuous Chicago River trail. At the time people thought we were crazy because the river was fenced off and polluted, but today the Chicago River is emerging as one of Chicago's finest features with millions being spent by the public and private sectors to recapture the wild beauty that this historic river brings to our urban and suburban communities.

To address the new enthusiasm and protect the river from its new attention, in 2008 Friends of the Chicago River launched an initiative to develop design guidelines that promote river-sensitive redevelopment. The project, whose working title is River Corridor Development Standards (RCDS), is intended to educate developers and planners about responsible riverfront design and reward them for employing best management practices (BMPs) that protect or improve habitat while promoting great public access. RCDS will also help change Friends' own public oversight dynamic from a reactive Chicago-only focus to a proactive watershed-wide focus that will complement national environmental initiatives such as LEED and recommend technologies that specifically result in a cleaner, healthier, more accessible Chicago River.

To start the process, Friends developed a task force of volunteer subject matter experts who attended a series of meetings where we discussed the potential for and value of riverbank naturalization, habitat, stormwater management, trails, and public access. The goal was to incorporate what really works into a tool that will make participation in RCDS efficient and useful, while considering business needs and economic implications.

Together we determined that there should be four main objectives and that Friends' program should focus on promoting and rewarding:

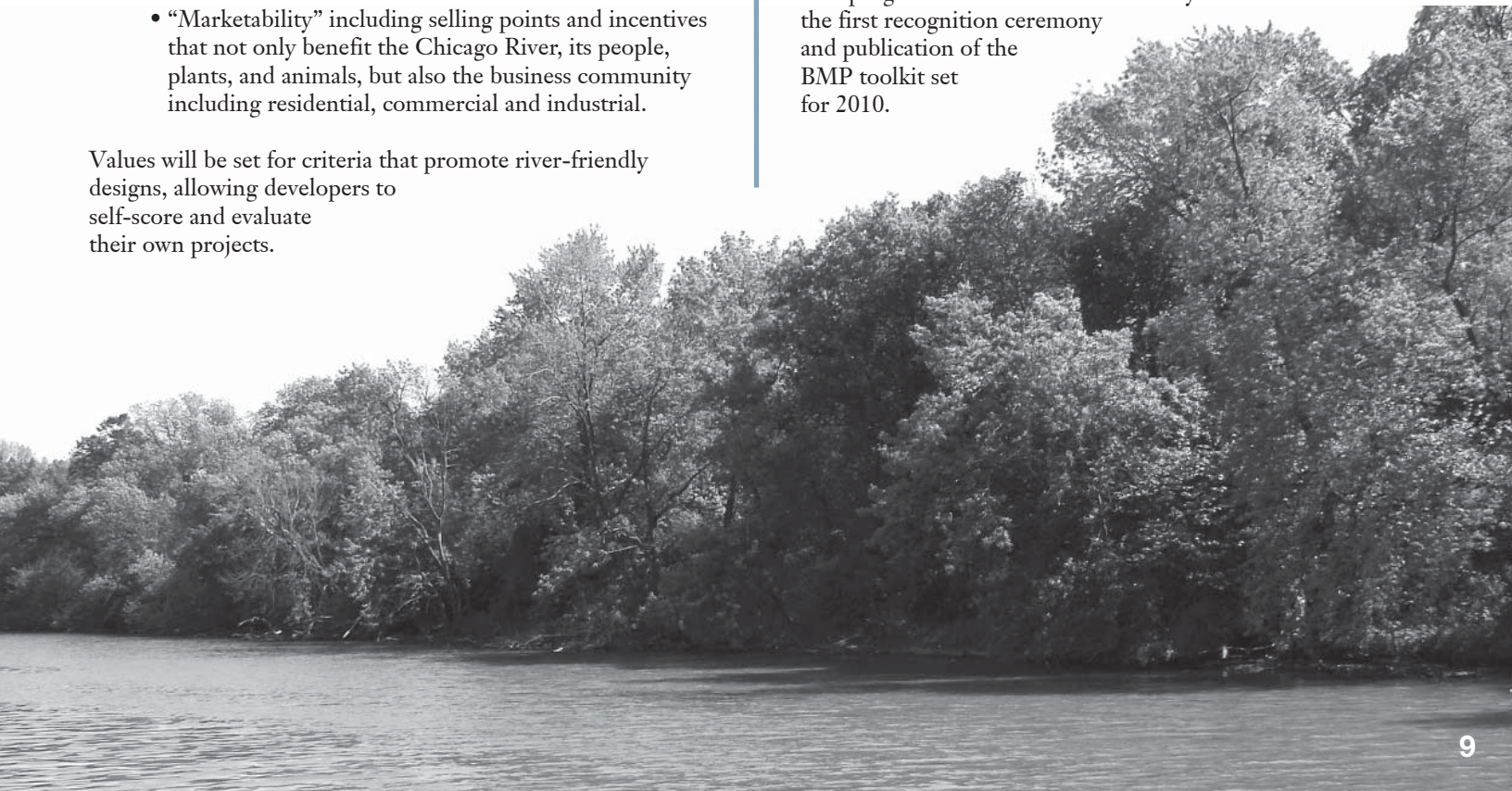
- Hydrologic functions that address the impacts of stormwater including flooding and water quality degradation.
- Ecologic functions that include protecting and enhancing both in-stream and upland habitat.
- Quality of life functions which result in public areas that provide a connection with nature, safe sanctuaries, and green open space.
- "Marketability" including selling points and incentives that not only benefit the Chicago River, its people, plants, and animals, but also the business community including residential, commercial and industrial.

Values will be set for criteria that promote river-friendly designs, allowing developers to self-score and evaluate their own projects.

In addition to the criteria that provides impact and understanding of appropriate BMPs, RCDS will include other incentives to promote it use.

- An award program that publicly recognizes those who choose a river-friendly design.
- An online river wiki where professionals can update and share information on what really works.
- Protocols for long-term site management.
- Professional certification for river-sensitive design experts.

The program is set to launch informally this winter with the first recognition ceremony and publication of the BMP toolkit set for 2010.



Jewish Child & Family Services Therapeutic Day School by Tom Cosgrove

Over the past six weeks the students at Jewish Child & Family Services Therapeutic Day School have pulled garlic mustard, observed severe river bank erosion, mulched riverside trails and engaged in other activities as part of a school-sponsored community service learning project. "The river flows right across the street from our school," says Tom Cosgrove, a middle school teacher at JCFS, "and our Chicago River Restoration Project not only heightens student awareness about pollution, habitat degradation and river stewardship, it also gives the kids a chance to learn about and appreciate nature."

Lindsey Lopatin, project co-organizer, notes that many of the school's students not only knew virtually nothing of the river flowing through their neighborhoods, but also had few opportunities to interact with nature. "It was fascinating to see the students point out things we studied such as trees with beaver bite marks or scrapes from rutting white-tailed deer" says Lindsey.



In addition to trail mulching and local plant and animal identification, project activities included learning about the disruptive role invasive species play in ecosystems, learning about the impact of human settlements on natural communities, and learning about how the students themselves can have a positive impact on the environment.

Students planted more than 100 hardy mums, donated by Home Depot, along the side of the school facing the river. The flowers have created habitat by attracting butterflies, like the mourning cloak, and other insects. "It was a very good experience for staff and students to work together to give back to the community," says Andy Schomburg, physical education instructor and project co-organizer.

Mourning cloak butterfly
by LaJean Easley

river LIFE

Splash! Something just jumped into the river from the bank. You look at widening ripples, but whatever it was is gone.

There are eight frog species common to the Chicago River watershed, an area encompassing about 600 square miles of Chicagoland. Most prefer bogs, fens, floodplain wetlands or ephemeral (seasonal) ponds. They have easy access to both water and land and provide greater shelter from predators such as birds and fish. Just two are large enough to be the one you saw jumping into a large body of moving water like the Chicago River. The bullfrog and the green frog.

The green frog, unlike the bigger bullfrog, is a medium-sized olive, brown, or green frog with darker spots on its back. For this reason it is sometimes called the bronze frog. It also has a very large tympanum (the circle behind the eye) which is used to transmit sound waves to the frog's ear, located under its skin.

Tadpoles hatch from a large mass of 2,000 to 7,000 eggs. It can take tadpoles anywhere up to two years to begin metamorphosis into full grown

frogs. Adults burrow into the mud during the cold winter months, but tadpoles will go into hibernation and wait until the following spring to begin growing again. Green frogs don't reach their full size until they are four years old. They can live to about seven years of age.

Green frogs produce as many as six different kinds of vocalizations. Males attracting a mate give a high-intensity advertisement call. This advertisement call can sound like the pluck of a loose banjo string. Male frogs defending a territory from an intruding male usually give aggressive calls like a growl.



Green Frog
Rana clamitans
Illustration by
Jen Pagnini

Green frogs have an excellent sense of vision and use this to detect and capture prey. They are primarily carnivores and eat a variety of insects and other invertebrates from both land and water, such as slugs, snails, crayfish, spiders, flies, caterpillars, butterflies, and moths. They also eat vertebrates, such as small snakes and even other frogs. Green frogs practice opportunist hunting and will sit and wait, eating whatever comes within reach.

Frog Facts

- Frogs absorb water through their skin so they don't need to drink.
- Frogs swallow their food whole.
- Frog bones form a new ring every year when the frog is hibernating, just like a tree. Scientists can count these rings to discover the age of the frog.
- Frogs don't see color - they only see in black or white.
- A frog's skin reflects the same amount of ultraviolet light as its immediate surroundings. This way it can protect itself from predators like snakes, who detect heat.
- Some frogs can survive in conditions well below freezing. They do this by making their own "antifreeze," which stops their body from freezing completely.

2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND TOURS

CHICAGO RIVER CANOE TRIPS

Saturday, September 12 - **Loop the Goose**
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Learn about the industrial history of the Chicago River while paddling around this man-made island. This trip will encompass wooded riverbanks that slowly transform into concrete and steel embankments. This trip welcomes paddlers of all skill levels.

Saturday, September 26 and October 10 - **Moonlight on Skokie Lagoons**
6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

This trip will take you to serene islands during twilight before landing on a remote beach where Friends will have a bonfire set up with s'mores and tales of the Lagoons' origins. This trip welcomes paddlers of all skill levels.



Saturday, October 24 - **North Branch Adventure**
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This trip will take you through the beautiful and natural areas of the northern forest preserves. Meant for intermediate to advanced paddlers only.

RESTORATION WORKDAY

Saturday, September 19

9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Volunteer Resource Center

Do you care about the Chicago River and want to help us improve habitat in a vital top quality area? Friends' has adopted a long-term site in order to monitor and restore a stretch of river along the North Branch of the Chicago River - RSVP required.

CHICAGO RIVER FLATWATER CLASSIC

Sunday, October 4

Join Friends and hundreds of paddlers for our 10th annual canoe and kayak race. Perfect for pros and first-time paddlers alike, the Flatwater Classic is an ideal way to see many of the neighborhoods that surround the Chicago River. Paddlers have spotted a variety of wildlife and gazed in awe at the panoramic view of downtown as seen from water level. Learn about all of our paddling opportunities at www.chicagoriver.org/paddle.

McCORMICK BRIDGEHOUSE & CHICAGO RIVER MUSEUM

The Bridgehouse Museum will be open for the season through October 31, 2009.

Starting September 19, the Bridgehouse Museum will open at 8:30 a.m. on select

Saturdays to accommodate visitors who would like to watch the bridge gears at work.

For more information about bridge lifts and other museum details, please visit

www.bridgehousemuseum.org.

FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

5:15 p.m. to 7 p.m., location to be determined

Join us for Friends of the Chicago River's annual meeting. Attendees will include staff, engineers, environmental consultants, environmental groups, and other Chicago River stakeholders. Call for meeting location - RSVP required.

..... YES! I want to help ensure a boundless future for the Chicago River!

I'm pleased to make a membership contribution to Friends of the Chicago River in the amount of:

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 | Watershed Steward | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | Bridge Tender |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 | Wetlands Restorer | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | River Guardian | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | Stream Keeper | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$156 | 156-Mile Club (river's length) | | |

Name _____

Company (if applicable) _____

For recognition purposes, list my name as _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Daytime phone _____ Email _____

- My check made out payable to Friends of the Chicago River is enclosed.
 Charge my credit card (circle one) American Express Discover Mastercard Visa

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ 3-4 digit security code _____

Cardholder's name and billing address if different than above _____

- I want to double my support through my company's matching gift program!
 Matching gift form enclosed. Please contact me about how to arrange this.
 Please contact me about a stock contribution, Friends' endowment fund, planned giving, and/or tribute and legacy gifts.

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

- The best way to reach me is by Email Daytime phone Old fashioned mail
 Please do not add me to your email communications list.

Your contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law. Please send it to Friends of the Chicago River at 28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1800, Chicago, IL 60604-2272 or make your gift online at www.chicagoriver.org/get_involved/.

All Friends of the Chicago River members receive:

- A subscription to Friends' River Reporter newsletter filled with important information on issues that affect the Chicago River plus a calendar of river-related events
- Volunteer bulletins, email action alerts, and other opportunities for hands-on involvement
- Invitations to Friends' special events like Chicago River Day, the Big Fish Ball, and Chicago River Flatwater Classic
- Discounts on Friends' canoe trips
- Listing in Friends Annual Report

And most significantly...

- The reward of knowing that your membership contribution has a direct impact on improving the health and vitality of the Chicago River

Donors of \$250 and above are also eligible for additional recognition opportunities and more! Please contact Suellen Burns at (312) 939-0490, ext. 19, or sburns@chicagoriver.org for more information.

Friends of the Chicago River is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization.

Friends of the Chicago River



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BE A FRIEND OF THE CHICAGO RIVER!



Paddle with Friends!

Why travel afar when you can experience rich wildlife and urban adventure in your own backyard? Friends of the Chicago River offers guided group tours of several sections of the Chicago River. Experienced and knowledgeable river guides, paddling skills training, shuttle service (when needed), and equipment (canoes, paddles, personal flotation devices and dry bags) are provided by Friends of the Chicago River.

Call Kim at (312) 939-0490, ext. 15 to learn more about private trip options.



Chicago River Flatwater Classic

Join Friends and hundreds of paddlers on Sunday, October 4, 2009, for our 10th annual canoe and kayak race. Perfect for pros and first-time paddlers alike, the Flatwater Classic is an ideal and fun way to see many of the neighborhoods that surround the Chicago River. Paddlers have spotted a variety of wildlife and gazed in awe at the panoramic view of downtown as seen from water level.

Registration for this event can be found at www.chicagoriver.org/events/flatwater_classic/

Learn about all of our paddling opportunities at www.chicagoriver.org/paddle/

