INTRODUCTION

Friends of the Chicago River is very proud that we finished FY2015 successfully with a positive balance and a record number of 28,000 visitors to our Bridgehouse Museum. In addition, we cleared 10 acres of turtle nesting habitat, installed one osprey nesting platform, and two maternity bat colonies that can house thousands of bats. We also released 140,000 one-year-old channel catfish and installed 250 nesting cavities into the river. A hard-working staff, a deeply-committed board of directors, and thousands of members, advocates, volunteers, and contributors made these strategic initiatives possible.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Starting in April 2015 Friends of the Chicago River joined in Great Rivers Chicago, a partnership with the City of Chicago and Metropolitan Planning Council established to develop a vision and action agenda for the rivers in Chicago, which includes the Chicago/Calumet river system and a portion of the Des Plaines. The partnership presented an excellent opportunity to advance Friends’ mission and vision in partnership with City agencies, the Chicago Park District, the Forest Preserves of Cook County, and many other critical river partners and stakeholders.

As a partner, Friends served as subject matter expert on the leadership and resource committees and facilitated experiences, focus groups, and one-on-one in-depth interviews. The river experiences were an integral component for gaining input from Friends’ supporters and river enthusiasts. By experiencing the wonders of the Chicago River first hand, participants reflected on their hopes and vision for the region’s waterways. The focus groups, river experiences, and interviews are vital to affirming the importance of conservation and the benefit of open spaces and wildlife to our urban area. The Great Rivers effort continues into FY2016.

A boat tour passing under the Wells Street Bridge and taking in the sites of the newly opened Chicago Riverwalk.

CRSN students take a break from identifying macroinvertebrates to watch a deer crossing the river.

An Osprey nesting platform at Skokie Lagoons. Thanks to a generous environmental funder Friends will install three additional nesting platforms in FY2016.

The east side of the Michigan Avenue Bridge overlooking the beautiful Chicago Riverwalk and riverfront habitat.
**PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

**EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

**Chicago River Schools Network**

Our emphasis on stewardship, even for the youngest students, demonstrates that even one person’s action can make a difference in the river's health. The Chicago River Schools Network (CRSN) impacted over 16,000 students through field trip assistance, classroom presentations, and service learning projects, as well as through training workshops, curricula and lesson plans, and customized assistance for teachers. During the 2014-15 school year, we led 3,736 students on 85 field trips to the river and engaged 1,449 students in the history of the river through 50 interactive classroom sessions. We also launched a pilot program to train former educators to become CRSN volunteers. We had three CRSN volunteers who completed training in the early spring. During the spring season, they assisted us on seven field trips, which further allowed our education staff to spend more time training and mentoring teachers in river-based lessons. In partnership with 280 teachers from over 150 schools, Friends is pleased to have exceeded our FY2015 goals for engaging students in local environmental issues and activities that solve everyday problems facing the river.

![Young scientists learn about the relationship between macroinvertebrates and clean water.](image1)

**Urban Canoe Adventures**

Thirty volunteer canoe guides provided on-the-water experiences for more than 1,400 paddlers in our most successful year yet. Canoe program participants come from a variety of backgrounds, ranging from individuals and families as well as school, civic, and corporate groups. Our trips took place throughout the river system, from the Skokie Lagoons in Northfield to the Little Calumet River in Riverdale. Our partner organizations include the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the Chicago Park District.

![Paddlers at the Chicago Botanic Garden enjoy beautiful afternoon ride.](image2)

![CRSN students find a damselfly larvae at Miami Woods which helps them gage water quality.](image3)
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum

Friends’ Bridgehouse Museum celebrates the Chicago River and its world-famous movable bridges, and offers visitors a one-of-a-kind opportunity to explore a historic landmark bridgehouse. The museum’s prominent location, intriguing physical space, and engaging exhibits help strengthen Friends’ visibility and financial base as well as broaden the impact of river education. Additionally, the museum serves as a gateway to Friends’ other resources and programs, which include take-home informational materials, river-based curricula, and river trips for thousands of school children, educational paddling trips, volunteer opportunities for hands-on river clean-up, riverbank restoration, and much more.

In FY2015 we welcomed our 100,000th visitor and enjoyed a 25% increase in attendance with over 28,000 visitors for the summer season. We expanded our creative programming to include a summertime lunch and lecture series, a mid-summer Asian carp grilling event, and “Requiem in Water,” a commissioned musical performance. Additionally, we also added Spanish language guided tours to the weekly schedule. As the cultural anchor of the newly expanded Chicago Riverwalk, our museum is an important and vital landmark and critical partner with the City of Chicago.

Overflow Action Days

Friends is in the planning stages of a new pilot public awareness campaign called Overflow Action Days to educate the public to reduce water use before, during, and after major storm events, and ultimately, reduce stormwater impacts the river. Our goal is for Overflow Action Days to become a recognized catch phrase and for the media in the Chicago metropolitan area to share the information when weather conditions dictate a risk to the river from stormwater pollution and combined sewer overflows. Learn more at www.chicagoriver.org/get-involved/take-action/overflow-action-days.
Clean Water Advocacy

After 13 years of advocacy, new aquatic life water quality standards for the Chicago River system were approved by the State of Illinois in August and are now in effect. These standards continue the progress towards a Chicago River that is healthy for the people, plants, and animals that use it. Friends will continue to monitor the implementation of the new standards to ensure we stay on path to a cleaner river. During FY2015, staff also focused on work around the development of the Bubbly Creek/Collateral Channel project that was spurred by our work on the water quality standards for Bubbly Creek.

Our progress over the last few years has reaffirmed that people value clean water and that advocacy, even if the odds seem stacked against you, is a valuable tool to invoke positive change. Friends is constantly assessing how to utilize these shifts in momentum to drive positive change and further river improvements. Friends’ success on these fronts has demonstrated the tremendous value of long-term strategic planning to focus our efforts and better leverage partnerships and collaborations to multiply the effectiveness and impact of our efforts.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Faced with the threat of 29 identified aquatic invasive species from both the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins, Friends commitment to being part of the ongoing discussion on identifying and promoting a solution to prevent the transference of aquatic invasive species, with a focus on Asian carp is as strong as ever. Through our engagement with the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) Advisory Committee we interact with pertinent federal, state, and local agencies to advocate for solutions that protect and improve the Chicago River’s water quality, viability, and habitat. Staff continues to represent the interests of the Chicago River System through their participation in various work groups, namely the regional Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) Advisory Committee and the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Council Technical & Policy Committee.

Stormwater Management

Friends continues to serve as a leader and advocate for green infrastructure and responsible stormwater management to reduce pollution to the river. Our current priority is to work with a regional coalition of government and non-profit partners to advance policies that reduce stormwater impacts on the river system. Overflow Action Days will help mainstream the message that rain water must be treasured and protected before it collects pollution and drives it to the river.

The Chicago River is the backdrop to the city and a catalyst for economic growth.

Photo courtesy of Larissa Rolley.
ON THE GROUND PROJECTS

Chicago River Day

Several thousand volunteers participated at 60 river-edge sites in Friends’ 23rd annual Chicago River Day. Through over 12,000 hours of volunteer action, Chicago River Day resulted in both immediate and long-term improvements to the ecological health of the river. Event activities ranged from repairing river edge trails to removing tons of garbage and recyclables as well as harmful invasive plants to paddling on the water to remove trash.

![Chicago River Day volunteers prepare to pick up litter at Gompers Park.](image1)

Gullyfixing

Building on our Gullywalking identification and documentation efforts from FY2014, Friends’ staff and volunteers began the restoration process by clearing five gullies at Kickapoo Woods. These gullies will be revegetated with native plants and maintained with volunteer support. Friends is developing a Gully Guidance Manual to build awareness and provide assistance for gully fixing throughout the forest preserves.

![Volunteers fixing a gully under the guidance of Sean Moloney and Josh Coles.](image2)

Wildlife Reproduction Habitat

Friends, in partnership with Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and FPCC staff, identified several species that can directly benefit from the creation or restoration of habitat suitable for reproduction. During FY2015, we cleared 10 acres of turtle nesting habitat, installed one osprey nesting platform, two maternity bat colonies that can house thousands of bats, and released 140,000 one year old channel catfish and installed 250 nesting cavities into the river.

![Osprey pole and nesting platform being installed in spring 2015.](image3)
ON THE GROUND PROJECTS

River Volunteer Stewardship Program

The River Volunteer Stewardship Program (RVSP) forms the backbone of Friends’ volunteer and restoration efforts. RVSP emphasizes restoration and engagement - complementary in nature these two ideals enable Friends to better restore and improve natural lands along the Chicago River, promote Best Management Practices (BMPs) both at and beyond the river’s edge, and increase public support of the Chicago River and open space in general. RVSP utilizes volunteers to restore river-edge forest preserves to show what is possible along the river’s banks. In addition, participants learn about what they can do to help the river and mitigate climate change impacts. On-site activities also focus on educating and empowering local stewards to maintain improvements for long-term impact.

There are three components that fall under the umbrella of RVSP: Chicago River EcoWarriors (CREW), Centennial Volunteers, and River Action Days (formerly “corporate workdays”). CREW is designed to further engage volunteers to ultimately become multipliers of our mission. Through CREW, we track volunteer participation across all Friends’ programs and activities, rewarding volunteers for their service and commitment to the river. CREW members represent Friends’ most dedicated and active volunteers, engaging in a variety of volunteer activities including restoration, assisting at Friends’ sponsored events, taking action on river issues, serving on committees, and leading paddling trips.

Friends partnered with Friends of the Forest Preserves, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC) and Chicago Audubon Region on a multi-year volunteer engagement project called “Centennial Volunteers.” Named in recognition of the important legacy of the FPCC and its centennial celebration, this project will leave in place dedicated stewards to manage and monitor five pre-selected river-edge sites located in the FPCC. The partnership began in May 2014 with Chicago River Day and will continue until the end of 2018 with expanded sites and partners. Friends’ staff in partnership with Friends of the Forest Preserves helped facilitate 162 Centennial Volunteer workdays with a total of 3,161 volunteers participating at our Edgebrook Woods and Kickapoo Woods demonstration sites.

The third component of RVSP are River Action Days, which provide business and community groups with customized volunteer restoration experiences throughout the Chicago River system. During FY2015, Friends’ staff facilitated five River Action Days (seven corporate groups and four CREW workdays) with a total of 337 volunteers participating at our Edgebrook Woods and Kickapoo Woods demonstration sites.

People of all ages from all over the watershed volunteer with Friends including this family team at Kickapoo Woods.

River Action Days offer corporate teams the opportunity to support the river financially and by rolling up their sleeves to improve it.
OTHER ACTIVITIES

Big Fish Ball

On June 4, 2015 Friends had another successful Big Fish Ball raising $230,000. Many of Chicago’s leaders in the civic and corporate communities were among the 430 guests.

The festivities included elegant outdoor dining outside along the river, Blue Ribbon Awards for excellence in sustainable design, river-inspired performances, and an after-party boat and concert. The downtown city skyline, Chicago’s iconic bridges, and Chicago River views provided a breathtaking backdrop to a spectacular evening along, on and for the river.

Asian Carp Grill

One of the Chicago River’s most notorious potential aquatic invaders is the Asian carp. This invasive species has started quite an economic and cultural debate in recent years about the future of our waterways. In order to learn about this invasive fish as have some fun at the same time, Friends sponsored an Asian carp grill and tasting this past summer. This fun and informative event was held on the Riverwalk at the Bridgehouse Museum.

Summer Cruise

Friends held its third Chicago River Summer Solstice Cruise this past year. The cruise is a festive evening of wildlife, food, and drinks while cruising along the river. The event supports Friends’ Bridgehouse Museum and has helped us keep entry to the museum FREE on Sundays. This ensures that everyone has a chance to discover the Chicago River!
FISCAL YEAR 2015 SUPPORTERS

The board of directors, staff, and volunteers of Friends of the Chicago River are grateful to all the individuals, partners, foundations, and companies who supported our work between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015.

Individuals

$10,000 and above
Judith Bassoul
The Crown Family
Sally Fletcher

$5,000 to $9,999
Craig and Kate Coit
Lawrence and Denise Kaplan
Henry and Wendy Paulson
David Wong and Wai-Sinn Chan

$2,500 to $4,999
Karen Alber
Kenneth M. Arenberg and Susanne Swisher
Kent Brown and Jane Jacobsen-Brown
Michael and Kim Moran
Sven and Julie Sykes
Arthur and Elaine Wong

$1,000 to $2,499
Cinda Axley
Carl and Cheryl Belles
Marjorie Brownstein
Mr. and Mrs. Henry T. Chandler
Grant Crowley
Greg Flowers
Ginny and Peter Foreman
Norman and Cynthia Goldring
Cy and Maria Shay Griffith
Stacee A. Hasenbalg
Thomas and Barbara Honn
Ken Hubbard
Eugene P. Jarvis
Jeffrey Knipmeyer
David H. Loew
Barbara Morse-Quinn and Barry Quinn
William and Jean O’Neill
Gregory Palmer
Denice Gustin Piazza
David Reinisch and Julie Kiefer
David and Stacy French Reynolds
Paul and Helen Weaver
Bryan Whitehead

$500 to $999
Lee and Lori Alber

$250-$499
Joe and Ann Marie Arden
Christopher Begy
Brian Binder
Donna Bliss
Michael A. Bryson
Karen Case
Robert and Quinn Delaney
Philip Enquist and Joanna Karatzas
Mike Frerker and Allison Park
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Garoon and Family
Kevin E.A. Hartman
Joseph Hoerner
Howard Isenberg
Thomas Jones
George Kinsella
Tom Kokinakos
David Koropp
Jacqueline J. Loewe
Robert D. LoPrete
Patrick T. McBriarty
Thomas McGuire
Patricia Armell and James Phillips
Clare Ranalli
Megan Rooney
Stephen Schlegel
Mary Southard
Douglas Spale
Keith Stolte
Ellen Stoner
Laurene von Klan and Sarah Kilpatrick
John D. Ziesmer

$500 to $999
Lawrence Banasiak
Neal Benish
George and Ellen Benson
David Berten
Aaron and Nicole Block
Jennifer and Marcus Bosch
Suellen Burns and Weston Morris
Robert Carton
Elizabeth Cisar
Randall and Lynn Clark
Jeannine Colaco
Vernita Cole
Aaron Dannenbring
Kathleen Deane
Joe and Paula Dempsey
Archibald E. Fletcher
Patricia A. Fosmoe
Marvin Fournier
Jay Franke and Pamela Baker
Margaret Frisbie and Matt Binns
Charles R. Gardner
Leo and Linda Gordon
Scott and Cindy Grau
Cynthia Ann Gray
Kathy and Jim Gysler
Rob Hannah
Thomas and Rita Hefty
Dennis Henry
Timothy Huizenga
Hana Ishikawa
Jayne Lilienfeld Jones
Thomas and Diane Judge
James Kallas
John T. Keefe
Michelle Kelly
Martin J. and Susan B. Kozak
Mary E. Lambert
Myron and Marilyn Maurer
Laurel Meissner
Julie Mokdessi
Victoria Noonan
John M. O’Connell
Alexander Oliver
Jenn O’Shaughnessy
Paul Ozinga
Kelli Paige
Bill Pappas
Chris and Nan Parson
Tom Petermann
Jordan Plofsky
Jennifer Roche and John Svolos
Jeanine Sheehan
Debra Shore
Louis Slotkin
Gary Snyder and Mary Lundberg
David M. and Rachel Solzman
David and Ingrid Stalle
Diane Tecic
Michael J. Tobin
Shahram and Kelly Tousi
Reven Uihlein-Fellars
Gintaras A. Vaisnys
Timothy Wank
Emily Wank
Louis (Skip) Weiss  
Richard Whitney  
Claire Williams  
Michael Willian

$100 to $249

Nathan and Mayumi Aaberg  
Jill Allread  
Vince and Sally Anderson  
Brett Anderson  
Paul and Nancy Armstrong  
Geoffrey Baer and Amelia Kohm  
Katharine Baker  
Cherie Balan  
Ozana and Jim King  
Henry W. Barkhausen  
Dave Barnett  
Peter Barrett  
Bill Bartolotta  
Peter and Robin Baugher  
Kelly Behn  
Judith Bergen  
Robert and Barbara Bevan  
Christopher J. Boebel and Glenna R. Eaves  
Kelly Bolger  
John A. Bosco  
Tony Bosley  
Joan K. Bradbury and Jo Anderson, Jr.  
Carol Brindley Konagamitsu  
David Brown  
Robert Brownstein  
Pamela J. Brunstrom  
R.G. Burns  
Clare Butterfield  
Carolyn Byerly-Dean  
Robert and Marsha Cassidy  
Chuck and Jodi Cerny  
Kathleen Chappell  
Lindsay Beller and Ryan Chew  
Andrea Cline  
Kent Coit and Gail Mazzara  
Daniel D. Coleman  
John and Dorothy Collins  
Brian and Mary Faith Cook  
Arnold Craine  
Tiffany Danielle  
Catherine Dillon and Suzanne Ashby  
Douglas and Dorothy Dirks  
Charles and Laurel Doherty  
Kristen Dolce  
Antonette Donahue  
Lynn Donaldson and Cam Avery  
Thomas and Theresa Drouillard  
Tom Dziedzic  
Edwin Espinosa  
Albert Ettinger and Susan Lannin  
Rachel Evans  
Victoria Fennell  
Carissa Finn  
Robyn Flanke  
David Fletcher  
Adam Flickinger  
Connie Foster  
Lisa Freeman  
Teresa Frisbie and Brian Lantz  
Patrick and Mona Frisbie  
Ellen Frisbie and Steve Quast  
Timothy Frisbie  
Nancy L. Gajewski  
Les and Katrina Garner  
Meredith C. George  
Michael Gershbein  
Matt Gibbons  
Harry Gibson  
Nancy Gidwitz  
Timothy J. Gilfoyle and Mary Rose Alexander  
Michelle F. Gillette-Murphy  
Dennis and Kelly Gilroy  
Deb Gohr  
August Greidanus  
Charley and Jill Gross  
Paul Hagy  
Claire Halpin  
Heather Hanahan  
Elinor D. Hands  
Mick Hans and Ellen Damlich  
James G. Hansen  
H.G. Hawes  
Victor Herrera  
John Himmelfarb and Molly Day  
Michael Hoffman  
Brent A. Hoffmann  
Christopher Allen and Ginny Holbert  
Mary Sue Honigschmidt  
Stewart Hudnut  
Heather Ingraham  
Diana Jacobs  
Laura Jansen  
Jason Jennings  
Andrew Kelly  
Eric and Sasha Kerlow  
Rob and Mary Khoury  
Ellen Kircher  
Linda Knibbs  
Douglas and Catherine Knuth  
Nicholas Knuth  
Carol Krueger  
Anne Ladky and Karen Fishman  
Jay Lamble  
Bart Lazar  
Angie Lee  
Daniel M. Loewenstein  
Brian Lutey  
Jim Macdonald  
Meredith Mack  
Steve Majerus  
Sandep Malik  
Michael and Anne Malone  
Cathleen Marine  
Mark and Theresa Materna  
Clark and Sari Maxfield  
Mike and Evelyn McGowan  
Kathleen McGuire  
John and Joan McLane  
Katherine M. Miletich  
William J. Mooney  
Annie Morse  
Thomas and Cecilia Murphy  
Sue Murray  
Tom and Patricia Nelson  
Nancy L. Niemi  
Jonelle Niffenegger  
Chris Nosko  
Kathleen O'Brien  
Colleen O'Leary  
Geoffrey A. Parson  
Susan A. Peckham  
Janet Pellegrini  
Terry and Lynne Petersen  
Stewart and Evelyn Pinsof  
Roger Pomerance  
Marjorie H. Pries  
Shane Ramsey  
Francis and Barbara Rechtien  
Chad and Kimberly Rice  
David and Marcia Rigg  
Cameron Robbins  
Tom Rodel  
Katie Rooney  
Jarrod Routh  
James Rowe  
Jeff Rowen  
Jill Russell  
Ira Salafsky  
Rafael Sandoval  
Alfred Saucedo  
Andrew and Cathy Sehman  
Renee Schleicher  
David Sirvzen-Young  
Glen and Barbara Shelly  
Dave Shuck  
Julie Smith  
Sheena Smith
Daniel Somers
Edward J. and Rita Sova
Mary Beth Sova and Peter Handler
William A. Spence
Megan Spitz
Jeffrey and Nikki Sriver
Dorr St. Clair and Andrew Herzog
Marilynn Stammich
Robert E. Stanley
Kathy Starek
Jane B. Stavoe
Jerry T. Stevens
Petra Stieninger
Ursula B. Storb
Jon and Mollie Stromberg
Janet H. Taylor
Cynthia Terrell
Bea Tersch
Ryan Tolley
Jennifer L. Tremblay
Georgina Valverde
James Vrshek
Claude A. Walker
George Wehrle
Mark Wight
Kristie Willis
Melanie Witt
Michael and Mary Woolever
Lisa Yondorf
Karen Zaccor
Fritz Zimmermann

Katherine M. Dwyer
Jerome Eberle
William Eismont
Darcy Evon
Frank P. Falzone
Carol Fessenden
Daniel Fisher
Robert J. Fragen
Louise Frank
Nancy Freehafer
Thomas and Dorothea Frisbie
Richard and Margery Frisbie
Kent and Jeryl Fuller
Furnari Dustin
Nancy Gerrie
Janet F. Gerske
William and Terry Gillespie
Paul Grossberg
Alan M. Gunn and Maria Pfister
Emily J. Harris
Rachel Havreluck
Dorothy Hawley
Will Heelan
Marlene Hodges
Nancy Holihan
Judith Holley
Jon Horwitz
Juliet Huang
Rosemary Janczak
Betsy Jenkins
Barry Katz
Bryan Keyt
John and Eva Sullivan-Knoff
Timothy Knuth
Emily Lambert
Walter G. Larkin
Richard Levins
Charles H. Linhoff
Stephanie Lipka
Pamela Madigan
J. Peter and Maija B. May
Margaret McCurry
Holly McDonald
Charles and Alice McEnery
Mona McNeese
Katherine F. McSpadden
Wilhelm Meisinger
Bill Mildice
Carolyn Miller
Andrew Mitchell
Floyd Mittleman
Anthony Montag and Katherine Griem
Barbara Moore
Spencer Moore
Colleen Morrison
Craig B. Mousin and Chris Inserra
Barbara Mroz
Nick Mullikin
Retr Nelson
Vadeam Nemad
Lance and Helene Nogle
Thomas O’Connell
Caroline O’Boyle
Vince Oleszkiewicz
Tim Ozinga
Jessica Peterson
Jamie Phillippe
Ira Pilchen and Kathryn McCabe
Alan and Sigrid Pilgrim
Jill Pollack
Terry and Chris Porter
Edward and Melanie Ranney
G. Benjamin Ranney
Pamela J. Reimann
Tony and Jose Reynes
Andrew and Ruta Rippecky
Holly Rowe
Charles and Louise Saltzman
Larry Salus
Laura Sanders
Wayne Schimpff
Joanne Schmitz
Skyler Schrempff
Stephen Schuster
Elizabathed Schwartz
Terry Schy
Sarah Shirk
Robert and Barbara Shmikler
Daniel J. Slattery
Maureen M. Slavin
Suzanne Smyth
Gail Spreen
Devin Sprinkle
Joshua Stanaszek
Henry and Judith Straus
Jeff Stubler
Richard Sturm
John T. Sullivan
Merle and Tom Tresser
Joan Turk
Matthew and Jennifer Tyler
John and Norma Uhran
Kate Van Etten
Anne Heider and Steve Warner
Lisa Warshauer
Dan and Joanna Weinstein
Laura J. West
Dana White
Bradley Winick and Janet Settle
George and Barb Zima

$50 to $99
Anonymous
Richard and Andrea Amend
Mark Appell
Allegra Atkinson
Joakim Backstrom
John and Jane Balaban
Deborah E. Bayly
Jason Berry
Mark Bettin
Christopher Blum
Michal Boyars
Josh Brickman
Brendan Carson
George Cole, Jr.
Richard and Mary Lee Corrin
Paul and Diane Culhane
George and Diana Davis
Alex de Azcárate
Stewart and Shari Diamond
Rosalie Dixler
Erica L. Dolgin
Liz Duffrin

$50 to $99
Anonymous
Richard and Andrea Amend
Mark Appell
Allegra Atkinson
Joakim Backstrom
John and Jane Balaban
Deborah E. Bayly
Jason Berry
Mark Bettin
Christopher Blum
Michal Boyars
Josh Brickman
Brendan Carson
George Cole, Jr.
Richard and Mary Lee Corrin
Paul and Diane Culhane
George and Diana Davis
Alex de Azcárate
Stewart and Shari Diamond
Rosalie Dixler
Erica L. Dolgin
Liz Duffrin
$25 to $49
Ders Anderson
Maureen McDonald Apostol
Bethany Barratt
Simon Belisle
Clark W. Bell
Gershon and Suzanne Berkson
Lenore Beyer-Clow
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Blair
Russell and Miriam Bonham
Elizabeth Botts
Gant Bowman
David and Kathryn Brock
Hannah Byck
Patrick Carlson
Mary Carroll
Sandy Carter
Scott Cisek
Roger and Ann Cole
Katie Coleman
Janet Conlisk
Steven and Cindy Crescenzo
Sophie Crone
Liz Dafoe
Albert Dargiel
Sue Davenport
Velda Davino
Luciano DellaRovere
Harlan Dellsy
Ann Dillemuth
Karen J. Dimond
Andrew Donakowski
Gail Donnelly
Nona C. Flores
Karen Genelly
Cathy Geraghty
Terry and Deb Giannoni
Terry Glenn
Thomas E. Goldblatt
Gunilla M. Goulding
Eston and Sandra Gross
Michael Guzan
Barbara Hill
Natalie A. Holden
Leah Holloway
Sarah Howe
Irvin M. Jana
Norton Josephson
Kaara Kallen
Robert Kastigar
Colleen Keaveny
Madalyn C. Kenney
Barbara Krause
Eugene E. Krell
Joanna Leahy
Heidi D. Levin
Jessica Lind
Edna Lorenz
Dennis Luxion and Christiane Rey
Christina Mackenzie
Margaret Mahan
Gregg Malicki
Amy Mans
Stephen Marcus
Marlee McConnell
Stephen McVeigh
Sarah Meyer
Patricia Monaghan
Salvador Morales
Nancy Fleck Myers
Peter Nagle
Marta Nelson
Nicholas Norris
John O’Connell
Michael O’Connell
A. S. Paintal
Kassia Perpich
Greg Pranski
Bill and Sue Quinlan
Mike Repkin
Bill and Kathy Riordan
Theresa Salus
Susan Schabowski
Samantha Scheck
Marianne Schenker
Virginia Schulte
Jill Selingor
Bruce and Margaret Sents
Beverly Serrell and James DesJardins
Jennifer Sheffield
Archita and Nagen Singh
Annapurna Singh
Robert Sit
Ronnie Jo Sokol
Jennifer Spaulding
Karen Straus
Brad Suster and Hector Hernandez
Mark Swaya
Michael Sweeney
Ross Sweeney, Jr.
Edward Tenner
Nancy J. Thornton
Norman Victorsen
Ted Villare
Wagner Family
Jennifer Wasik
June Webb
Paul A. Welsh
Julie Welter
Jane B. Wenger
Guy Williams
Michelle Woods
William Ziemann

Foundations, Corporations, and Other Organizations

$50,000 and above
Alphawood Foundation
The Crown Family
GMR Marketing
Grand Victoria Foundation
Wrigley Company Foundation

$25,000 - $49,999
The Boeing Company
Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
Prince Charitable Trusts
REI
The Wrigley Company

$15,000 - $24,999
Exelon
Metropolitan Planning Council
MillerCoors
Oberweiler Foundation
Ozinga Bros., Inc.

$7,000 to $14,999
ARCADIS US Inc.
Avison Young
Beacon Capital Partners
The Bobolink Foundation
EarthShare of Illinois
Executive Construction Inc.
EY
GoodWorks Chicago
HERE, a Nokia company

$3,000 to $6,999
BMO Harris Bank
Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella, P.C.
Clune Construction Company
Dixon Enterprise
Hines
Harold M. & Adeline S. Morrison Family Foundation
Peoples Gas
The Siragusa Foundation
Shoreline Sightseeing
WRD Environmental
Kirkland & Ellis Foundation
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Leo Burnett USA
Notage and Ward
Ogden Avenue Materials
Dr. Scholl Foundation
Skender Foundation
STS Foundation
Thomas Interior Systems
VOA Associates Incorporated
Christy Webber & Company
Wendella Sightseeing Company, Inc.
Wight & Company

$1,000 to $2,999
Analytical Instruments, Inc.
Anonymous
Aon
Francis Beidler Foundation
Center for Neighborhood Technology
Chapman and Cutler LLP
Clark Construction Group - Chicago, LLC
Eckenhoff Saunders Architects, Inc.
Encap, Inc.
Equity Group Investments, LLC
Fuzzy Math
Gensler
Goldman Sachs
Jocarno Fund
Lakeshore Foundation, Inc.
Lincoln Park Zoological Society
Loyola Academy
James McHugh Construction Co.
Pepper Construction Company
The PrivateBank
Jack Ringer Family Foundation
Roosevelt University
Louis and Nellie Sieg Fund
Site Design Group, Ltd.
Studio Gang Architects
Weaver Consultants Group
Cynthia Weglarz Rountree Fund
William Blair & Company
The Wrigley Building
Xylem Inc.
Zeller Realty Group

$300 to $999
Associated Colleges of Illinois
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
The Baila Foundation
Body Dynamics Inc.
Cardno, Inc.
Chicago Quantitative Alliance
Continental Paper Grading
Henry Crown and Company
Erehwon Mountain Outfitter
Girl Scout Troop 23002
Harborside Academy
Healthy Schools Campaign, Inc.
Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects
Independence Junior High School
Nathan Kipnis Architects Inc.
Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Lawrence’s Fisheries
McDermott Will & Emery LLP
Misa Tours International
Natural Resource Technology, Inc.
W.E. O’Neil Construction Company
Openlands
Francis W. Parker School
Ross Barney Architects
Sims Metal Management Midwest
SPACECO, Inc.
Storystudio Chicago
Thornton Tomasetti, Inc.
Urban Habitat Chicago
Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc.
Washington Square Liquors, Inc.
The Wild Foundation

$25 to $299
Alfred Benesch & Company
Altamano Inc.
Barreto Boys & Girls Club
Chicago City Day School
Chicago Zoological Society
Chiropractic for Life
CNA
CSI, Chicago Chapter
Discover Financial Services
Golden Apple Foundation
Illinois Institute of Technology
Intrinsic Landscaping, Inc.
Loyola University
mc2 Communications
Robert R. McCormick Foundation
Mead Witter Foundation, Inc.
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
Native Foods Holdings Corporation
Network for Good
Northeastern Illinois University
Northern Illinois University
Joel Oppenheimer, Inc.
Prassas Landscape Studio LLC
Public Building Commission of Chicago
Razorfish

Rightpoint
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Softerware, Inc.
V3 Companies
Village of Niles
Wacker Bait & Tackle LLC

Government Agencies

Chicago Park District
CPS Office of Service Learning
Chi-Cal Rivers Fund
Forest Preserves of Cook County
Friends of the Forest Preserves
(Centennial Volunteers)
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Illinois Department of Natural Resources’ Coastal Management Program through a federal grant from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Dept. of Commerce

Endowment Gifts - Voice for the River

Kenneth Arenberg and Susanne Swisher
Kent Brown and Jane Jacobsen-Brown
Laurene von Klan and Sarah Kilpatrick

The Otter Society

Kenneth M. Arenberg and Susanne Swisher
John Baird +
Judith Bassoul
Kent Brown and Jane Jacobsen-Brown
Craig and Kate Coit
Entertainment Cruises
Sally Fletcher
Margaret Frisbie
Barbara Morse-Quinn and Barry Quinn
David Wong
The Wrigley Building
+ deceased
Chicago River Legacy Society
Sally Fletcher
Margaret Frisbie

In-Kind Donations

AMC Theatres
Auditorium Theatre
Balihoo Productions
Barnaby’s Restaurant
Bartlett Tree Experts
Judith Bassoul
Beatrix
Donna Bliss
Blueberry Moon Salon & Spa
Bobby’s Bike Hike
Boka Restaurant
Brass Monkey
Bridgehouse Tavern
Broadway in Chicago
Alderman Edward M. Burke
Canal Street Marina and Yacht Yard
Cardno Native Plants Nursery
Chicago Architecture Foundation
Chicago Beer Experience
Chicago Department of Transportation
Chicago Electric Boat Company
Chicago Entertainment Cruises
Chicago History Museum
Chicago Pizza Tour
Chicago White Sox
Chicago’s First Lady Cruises
Chuck’s: A Kerry Simon Kitchen
ClassPass
ComedySportz Chicago
Corner Bakery
DesignLab Chicago
Dick’s Last Resort
Drury Lane Theatre
East Bank Club
Einstein Bagels
Josh Engel
Entertainment Cruises
Fairfield Inn and Suite
FASTSIGNS
FEW Spirits
FIG Catering
Joel Fink
Fish Bar
Finch’s Brewery
Food For Thought Catering Prof. LTD
Margaret Frisbie and Matt Binns
Grayline Tours
Hard Rock Hotel Chicago
Brittany Harthan
Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza
Hotel Felix Chicago
The House Theatre of Chicago
Hyatt Regency
Il Giardino Del Dolce
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Joffrey Ballet
Journeymen Distillery
KOVAL Distillery
Labriola Ristorante & Café
Lagunitas Brewing Company
The Langham Hotel
Toby Lindo
mc2 Communications
Nina and Bob Mariano
Gilmore-McPherson
Dennis McLennand
Metropolitan Water Reclamtion District of Greater Chicago
The Night Ministry
Oak Park Core Power Yoga
Joel Oppenheimer, Inc.
Ed Paschke Art Center
Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
Pooch Hotel West Loop
PRP Wines
Public Communications Inc.
The Redhead Piano Bar
Redmoon Theatre
REI
Revolution Brewing
RPM Italian
Seasons 52
Second City
Shake Shack
The Sheraton Hotel
John G. Shedd Aquarium
Sheffield’s Beer & Wine Garden, Inc.
Shoreline Sightseeing
Adam Smith
South Branch
Spritzology
Stage Right, Inc.
Stella Barra
Steppenwolf Theatre Company
Summer House Santa Monica and Stella
Barra Pizzeria
Target
Thomas Interior Systems
Trunk Club
Two Brothers Brewing Company
Urban Kayaks
Wendella Sightseeing Company, Inc.
Willis Tower Skydeck
The Wit Hotel
Wow Bao - Hot Asian Buns
Writer’s Theatre
YellowBox Advertising

We apologize if any names have been omitted, misspelled, or otherwise incorrectly listed. Please contact us at (312) 939-0490, ext. 10, or friends@chicagoriver.org so that we can correct our records.
FISCAL YEAR 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

Audited Statements of Revenues and Expenses for the 12 months ending June 30, 2015.

### REVENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>$204,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>$159,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>$149,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>$318,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>$115,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earned Income</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>$81,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Kind</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>$15,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>$3,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets Released From Restriction</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>$368,754</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: $1,415,963

### EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>$1,109,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising &amp; Development</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>$204,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>$87,330</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: $1,401,119

Net Assets Beginning of the Year: $764,347
Change in Assets: $14,844
Net Assets at the End of the Year: $779,191

---

*Taking the Chicago River as part of a River Action Day.*

*Milkweed is an important native plant in our parks and prairies.*
Friends of the Chicago River is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President
Sally Fletcher
Vice President, Fletcher Group, LLC

Vice President
Cy H. Griffith
Marketing Director,
Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella, P.C.

Vice President
James Mark, Jr.
Vice President, Director of Chicago Office,
Wight & Company

Treasurer
Daniel Kilduff
Senior Manager, EY

Secretary
Jacqueline J. Loewe
Founding Partner, Sheridan Park Consulting

Directors

Mike Alber
Principal,
M/LA2 Advisory and Consulting, LLC

Judith Bassoul

Kent Brown
Kraft Foods (retired)

Kate Chappell
Director of Planned Giving, NorthShore University Health System Foundation

Craig Coit
Deputy CFO, Aon Risk Services

Grant Crowley
President, Crowley’s Yacht Yard

Alex de Azcárate
Director, IS Strategy and Architecture

Paul Hagy
SVP, Global Corporate Treasurer,
Aon Corporation

Kevin E.A. Hartman
Head of Analytics, Google

Lawrence M. Kaplan
CEO, Impossible Objects, LLC

Lydia R. Kelley
Partner, McDermott Will & Emery LLP

Jeffrey Knipmeyer
Partner, Nottage and Ward

David Lowe
Executive Vice President, Leo Burnett USA

David Wong
Vice President, Certare Ventures

John D. Ziesmer
Principal, Avison Young

STAFF

Margaret Frisbie
Executive Director

Kristin Avery
Development Manager

Joanne So Young Dill
Director of Strategic Initiatives

Andrew Donakowski
Policy and Planning Associate

Janice Hampton
Office Manager

Mark Hauser
Education Manager

Sean Moloney
Conservation Programs Specialist

Kim Olsen-Clark
Director of Development

Holly Prindle
Museum Manager

John Quail
Director of Watershed Planning

Claire Snyder
Conservation Programs Specialist

Kadeja Tyler
Development Assistant

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Friends of the Chicago River is to improve and protect the Chicago River system for people, plants, and animals. Friends achieves our mission through: education programs that foster awareness, involvement, and a stewardship ethic; public policy and planning efforts that result in systemic river improvements; and on-the-ground projects that physically improve the Chicago River.

ABOUT THE CHICAGO RIVER

Extending from northern Lake to southern Cook County, the 156-mile Chicago River system is an interesting and complex series of waterways, which are inextricably linked to Chicago’s history and the development of the region. Flowing through dozens of communities, the river winds its way past forest preserves, parks, industrial zones, and downtown Chicago where it provides a breathtaking natural vista that compliments one of the world’s most famous skylines.

While the Chicago River was once a prairie stream that flowed towards Lake Michigan, over the last 200 years it has been subject to many human modifications including channelization and flow reversal, yet it still maintains its natural character and is an essential asset to more than 70 species of fish, countless species of birds as well as many other species including beavers, muskrats, snapping turtles, occasional river otters, and many more.

Once considered a community detriment, the Chicago River is now a symbol of ingenuity and progress, and is becoming a treasured natural resource that is shared and valued by business leaders, government officials, and the residents of our watershed.

Friends of the Chicago River

411 South Wells Street, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60607
T: (312) 939-0490
F: (312) 939-0931
www.chicagoriver.org
www.bridgehousemuseum.org