

Friends of the Chicago River

FY 2016 Annual Report



INTRODUCTION

Friends of the Chicago River was founded in 1979 after an urban planner named Robert Cassidy published an article in *Chicago* magazine entitled “Our Friendless River” which questioned why the Chicago River was so polluted and ignored. Accompanied by a plan outlining how to improve it, the article spurred readers to action and they began calling Cassidy to see how they could help. Before the end of the year, Friends of the Chicago River was founded and Cassidy served as its first chair.

Friends’ mission is to improve and protect the Chicago River system for people, plants, and animals. Our organizational vision is to make the Chicago River one of the world’s greatest metropolitan rivers. We achieve our mission and strive for our vision through education and outreach programs that foster awareness, involvement, and a stewardship ethic; public policy and planning efforts that result in systemic, long term river improvements; and on-the-ground projects that physically improve the river and demonstrate what is possible.

The Chicago River is 156 miles long and its watershed encompasses 673 square miles extending well beyond Chicago into dozens of outlying municipalities, including large portions of Cook and Lake Counties. Friends defines the Chicago River system as all reaches of the Chicago River, its tributaries and canals, and the Little Calumet and Cal-Sag Channel.

Over the last 150 years, the Chicago River system and adjacent natural lands have been degraded and neglected and the river has been straightened, dredged, and reversed. Despite its legacy of abuse the river is rebounding because of the work, advocacy, and leadership of Friends, its many partner organizations and collaborators, as well as members and volunteers.

Today the Chicago River system is alive with activity in, on, and along the water and it is now home to over 70 species of fish and countless birds and animals including muskrats, beavers, turtles, and the occasional river otter. The water is cleaner and there are new protective water quality standards in place. The Chicago Department of Planning and Development requires a 30’ setback for public access in riverfront redevelopments. There are now dozens of places where people can access the river with paddlecraft. Municipalities up and down its lengths have embraced the river and villages such as Northbrook, Glenview, and Blue Island consider it among their strongest assets. There are also miles of river trail including the Chicago Riverwalk which was core to our founders’ vision for the river. The river now provides a wealth of economic and recreational opportunities and offers more potential for both. Friends began building a case and strong public base of support for the river system decades before it was generally recognized as a regional recreational, natural, and economic asset, and laid the foundation for the critical investments which are underway today.



A painted turtle suns itself on a rock in the Chicago River.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Great Rivers Chicago

Friends worked closely with the City of Chicago, Metropolitan Planning Council, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and other community partners to complete Great Rivers Chicago, an initiative to creatively reimagine the miles of the Chicago, Calumet, and Des Plaines rivers and riverfronts that flow through the City of Chicago. Friends' staff and board served on the Leadership and Resource committees and as subject matter experts for water quality, conservation, river-edge planning, public use and access and a host of other important topics. Released in August 2016, Our Great Rivers is a vision and action agenda that highlights ideas and strategies that will contribute to the continued improvement of these three rivers and how they flow through the City of Chicago. The report lays out a timeline and benchmarks for success that will help achieve many of the goals from Friends' mission and vision to ensure ours is one of the world's greatest metropolitan rivers.



Boats, kayaks, and pedestrians take in the sites along the Chicago Riverwalk. Photo courtesy of Adam Flickinger.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Chicago River Schools Network

The Chicago River Schools Network (CRSN) impacted over 15,000 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 2015/16 school year, we led 3,036 students on 70 field trips and engaged 1,118 students in the history of the river through 44 interactive classroom sessions. 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. In partnership with over 262 teachers from 165 schools, Friends is pleased to have exceeded our FY2016 goals for engaging students in local environmental issues and activities that solve everyday problems facing the river.



Taft High School Students learn about the relationship between macroinvertebrates and clean water.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

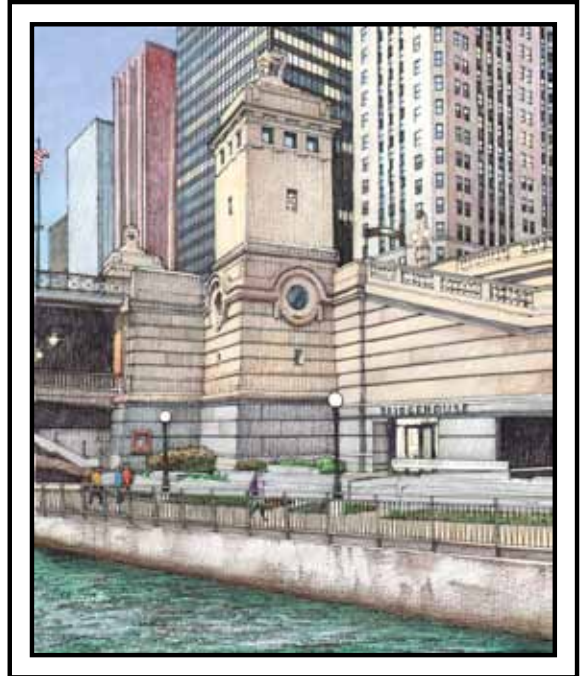
McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum

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 on the Chicago Riverwalk, intriguing physical space, and engaging exhibits help strengthen Friends' visibility and financial base as well as broaden the impact of river education. 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.

The Bridgehouse Museum has welcomed 162,000 visitors since its inaugural season in 2006 with more than 38,000 visitors in 2016 alone. We increased revenue by 41% through school visits, private and public tours, events, exhibits, rentals, and new merchandise. In addition to continuing our popular summertime lunch lecture series and mid-summer Asian carp grill, creative new programming included Brews-n-Views, 77 Beats, and Mini-Field Museum exhibits. As the cultural anchor of the newly expanded Chicago Riverwalk, our museum is an important landmark and critical partner with the City of Chicago.



Guests enjoy drinks, dinner and a beautiful night on the river at the museum's Eve of the Solstice Cruise.



The McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum celebrated its 10th Anniversary and 162,000th visitor in 2016. Illustration by Bruce Bondy, a member of Friends' Bridgehouse Committee.

Urban Canoe Adventures

Forty volunteer canoe guides provided on-the-water experiences for more than 2,000 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 and partner organizations include the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the Chicago Park District.



Families celebrate Father's Day with a paddle at the Chicago Botanic Gardens.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Overflow Action Days

In FY2016 Friends launched Overflow Action Days, a public awareness campaign intended to educate people that no matter where we are in the watershed, our homes and businesses are connected to the river and with some simple acts of conservation we can reduce water pollution to it. Based on the concept of Ozone Action Days, Overflow Action Days alerts people when there will be a storm that may cause a combined sewer overflow and reminds them to reduce the amount of water of any kind that goes down the pipe. Reducing inflows and stormwater runoff reduces the chance of combined sewer overflows, runoff pollution, and flooding.

This year Friends set the foundation for strong partnerships with the Office of U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), the Shedd Aquarium and several other key partners who are helping broadcast our message and build overall support.



Friends' new Think! Soap to encourage water conservation before, during, and after major rain events.

Clean Water Advocacy

Friends continues its work to ensure that the improvements in water quality standards and habitat that were negotiated with the MWRD and presented to the Illinois Pollution Control Board are implemented on schedule. During FY2016, staff focused on projects that will lead to the revitalization of Bubbly Creek and the Collateral Channel, served as a lead partner for the Great Rivers Chicago planning effort, and worked towards phosphorus and chloride reduction.

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 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. Friends is also working with its partners including the MWRD, to develop strategy to address stormwater.



A green heron fishes along the north branch of the Chicago River.

Stormwater Management

As a leader and advocate for green infrastructure and responsible stormwater management, Friends' 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. Our Overflow Action Days campaign also serves to diminish the impacts of stormwater and to educate the public and engage elected officials.

PUBLIC POLICY AND PLANNING

River-Edge Planning

What happens on the river's edge is fundamental to the health of the river system and as a result Friends works to ensure that developers and city officials consider people, water, and wildlife when they make plans. In FY2016 Friends' expert volunteer planning committee reviewed river-edge projects in the city and Friends built awareness and support for river sensitive design through our Chicago River Blue Awards. The 2016 award winners included:

- A Blue Ribbon to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Horner Park Ecological Restoration.
- Silver Ribbons to the Village of Glenview for the Downtown Glenview Streambank Stabilization; Riverside Investment for their development at 150 N. Riverside, Chicago; and Ross Barney Architects for the Chicago Riverwalk (Phase II).
- Green Ribbons to Structured Development for New City and hydrology improvements at Big Marsh; the Forest Preserves of Cook County for the Cal-Sag Trail (Western Portion), the MWRD for disinfection at O'Brien and Calumet treatment plants and the completion of Thornton Reservoir; and the Chicago Botanic Garden for their North Lake Shoreline Restoration Project.



Aquatic Nuisance Species

Faced with the threat of 29 identified aquatic invasive species from both the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins, Friends' commitment to finding a solution that prevents 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 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. At the same time, Friends also serves as a member of the federal Technical and Policy Working Group Committee to stay informed and advocate for solutions that protect and improve the Chicago River's water quality, viability, and habitat.



ON THE GROUND PROJECTS

Chicago River Day

Several thousand volunteers participated at 60 river-edge sites at Friends' 24th annual Chicago River Day. Through over 7,000 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 garbage, recyclables, and harmful invasive plants to paddling on the water to remove hard to reach trash. Each year Friends is overwhelmed by the dedication and willingness for so many people to come out and get involved.



A volunteer removing trash from Ping Tom Park on Chicago River Day.



A family volunteers at Gompers Park on Chicago River Day. The 2016 event was sponsored by Exelon.

Wildlife Reproduction Habitat

In FY2016, Friends' work to increase the reproductive success of turtles made the news when several snapping turtles mounted with tracking devices used the habitat cleared for them the winter before at one of Friends' five restoration sites. FPCC officials were astounded by the speed with which the turtles found the sites and everyone agreed it demonstrated that the need is terrific and more acres need to be cleared for turtle species to thrive.

In addition to the turtle work, Friends installed an osprey nesting platform at Whistler Woods, two bat maternity colonies, and we laid the groundwork for a new fish habitat project in the North Shore Channel where in 2017 staff and volunteers will improve the quality of the channel by planting native water willow and lizard's tail.

Friends also completed the Channel Catfish Constructed Habitat Project funded by the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund which included the installation of 400 nesting cavities and the release of 277,000 channel cats. The cavities mimic the natural habitat that would have been present before the river was channelized and natural banks were replaced by development. All of this work will contribute to the increased breeding success of these species and more.



A common snapping turtle was fitted with a tracking device as part of our turtle habitat project.

ON THE GROUND PROJECTS

Demonstration Sites

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 system, promote Best Management Practices (BMPs) 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 Eco Warriors (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' staff facilitated five mission-driven, fee-for-service River Action Days with a total of 105 volunteers participating.

In FY2016 Friends partnered with Friends of the Forest Preserves, FPCC, the Field Museum and Chicago Ornithological Society on our 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 river-edge sites located in the FPCC. The partnership began in May 2014 with Chicago River Day and continues with expanded sites and partners. Friends' staff in partnership with Friends of the Forest Preserves facilitated 315 Centennial Volunteer workdays with a total of 5,498 volunteers spread across nine locations this year.



Volunteers removing buckthorn and other invasive plants at Skokie Lagoons.



River Action Day volunteers. Photo courtesy of MWRD.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

Big Fish Ball

More than 500 members of our community gathered for the 11th annual Big Fish Ball on June 8, 2017 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel and raised more than \$250,000 for Friends' mission to improve and protect the Chicago River system. Every event sponsor, donor, volunteer, and participant contributed to a successful event that celebrated the Chicago River with friends new and old. Guests enjoyed cocktails along the river outdoors, elegant dining, river animal photo opps, the Blue Ribbon Awards for excellence in sustainable design, and an after-party boat cruise. 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.



Big Fish Ball guests get up close and personal with river critters at the Big Fish Ball.



FISCAL YEAR 2016 SUPPORTERS

The board of directors, staff, and volunteers of Friends of the Chicago River are grateful to all the individuals, partners, foundations, companies, and government agencies which supported our work between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016.

The Otter Society

Kenneth M. Arenberg and
Susanne Swisher
Cinda Axley
Judith Bassoul
Kent Brown and Jane Jacobsen-Brown
Craig and Kate Coit
Entertainment Cruises
Sally Fletcher
Peter and Ginny Foreman
Margaret Frisbie
Jonathan Lehman and Zachary Huelsing
Barbara Morse-Quinn and Barry Quinn
David Wong
The Wrigley Building

Chicago River Legacy Society

Kent Brown and Jane Jacobsen-Brown
Sally Fletcher
Margaret Frisbie
David Wong

Voice for the River Endowment

Kenneth M. Arenberg and
Susanne Swisher
Kent Brown and Jane Jacobsen-Brown
David Wong and Wai-Sinn Chan

Individuals

\$10,000 and above

Judith Bassoul
The Crown Family
Hank and Wendy Paulson

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Craig and Kate Coit
Sally Fletcher
Lawrence and Denise Kaplan

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Mike Alber
Anonymous
Kent Brown and Jane Jacobsen-Brown
Grant Crowley
The Fletcher Family
Thomas and Barbara Honn
Jack and Jennie O'Brien
Mariyana Spyropoulos
Sven and Julie Sykes
David M. Wong and Wai-Sinn Chan

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Anne Abramson
Fred and Cindy Acker
Kenneth M. Arenberg and
Susanne Swisher
Cinda Axley
Marjorie Brownstein
Mr. and Mrs. Henry T. Chandler
Peter and Ginny Foreman
Elvis Garcia and Christopher Saale
Norman and Cynthia Goldring
Stacey A. Hasenbalg
Farren and Oliver Ionita
Eugene P. Jarvis
Jeffrey Knipmeyer
David Loew
Jacqueline Loewe
James and Mary Kay Mark
George Mead
Xavier Palacios and Cindy Chestaro
David and Stacy French Reynolds
Connie and Ted Rigas
Norm and Kellie Siegel
Mary Strickland
Victor and Barbara Zaveduk

\$500 to \$999

Karen Alber
Robert and Quinn Delaney
Stephen Elkins
Le'Loni English and Gary Ponce
Philip Enquist and Joanna Karatzas
Ellen Feldman
Thomas and Cindy Fletcher
Simin Frazer
Margaret Frisbie and Matt Binns
Philip Garoon and Family

John Haslett
Joseph Hoerner
Thomas M. Jones
Thomas and Diane Judge
Lydia Kelley
Tom Kokinakos
Daniel M. and Pamela Loewenstein
Michael and Kim Moran
Ted Nelson
Lance and Helene Nogle
Kim Olsen-Clark and Ian Clark
William and Jean O'Neill
James Phillips and Patricia Armell
Bruce Sagan
Henrietta Saunders
Jeanine Sheehan
Debra Shore
Jane B. Stavoe
Ellen Stoner
Janet H. Taylor
Karl Vogel
Laurene von Klan and Sarah Kilpatrick
Lisa Warshauer
Presbury West
Richard A. Wilson
Joan Winstein

\$250-\$499

Lee and Lori Alber
Chuck & Marva Andrews
Anonymous
Walter F. Bandi, Jr.
Bruce Bondy
Michal Boyars and Jacob Boyars
Sara Buehler
John and Toni Burt
Robert W. Carton
Randall and Lynn Clark
Jeannine Colaco
Brian and Mary Faith Cook
The Honorable John P. Daley
Kristen Dolce
George Douglas
Archibald E. Fletcher
David Fletcher
Jay Franke and Pamela Baker
Charles R. Gardner
John Gilardi
Linda and Leo Gordon

Scott and Cindy Grau
Charley and Jill Gross
Elinor D. Hands
Brent A. Hoffmann
Debbie and David Hrobon
David Jennings
Liz & Robert Johnigan
Nancy Kalchbrenner
John Kallend
Marisa Kapinos
John T. Keefe
Mary E. Lambert
Donna LaPietra and Bill Kurtis
George Lopez
Mary Ellen Mitchanis
Marc Mozga and Holly Prindle
John M. O'Connell
Colleen O'Leary
Danny and Jennifer O'Shaughnessy
Michael Ring
Steve Saunders
Stephen Schlegel
Renee Schleicher
Glen and Barbara Shelly
Robert Sit
Michael Slajchert
Gary Snyder and Mary Lundberg
David M. and Rachel Solzman
David and Ingrid Stalle
The Honorable Larry Suffredin
Ron and Dee Tevonian
Michael J. Tobin
Reven Uihlein-Fellars
Gintaras A. Vaisnys
Louis (Skip) Weiss
Rick Whitney
R. Henry Zanarini

\$100 to \$249

The Aitchisons
Kenneth Albrecht
Christopher Allen and Ginny Holbert
Jill Allread
Anonymous
Cyd Archer
Ann Marie and Joe Arden
Megan Arlow
Katharine Baker
E.M. Bakwin
Cherie Balan
Henry W. Barkhausen
Peter Barrett
Tianne Bataille
Peter and Robin Baugher
Judith Bergen

Kathy and Paul Berghoff
Melisa Bernard
Tamara Biggs
Christopher J. Boebel and
Glenna R. Eaves
Jennifer and Marcus Bosch
Joan K. Bradbury and Jo Anderson, Jr.
Tim Bradford
Richard Breckenridge
Robert Brownstein
Pamela J. Brunstrom
Suellen Burns and Weston Morris
Brent Carstensen
Wendy Cartland
Mary Carvlin
Robert and Marsha Cassidy
Vince Cefali
Chuck and Jodi Cerny
Kate Chappell
Joan Cherry
Jessica Chethik
Ryan Chew and Lindsay Beller
Andy Chou
Elizabeth Cisar
Tom and Ann Cohrs
John and Dorothy Collins
Jason Crock
Stephen Daiger
Molly Day and John Himmelfarb
Nicole Dessain
Shari Diamond
Laurel and Charles Doherty
Lynn Donaldson and Cam Avery
Carlin Dorris
Tom Dziedzic
Mark Evans
Clairan Ferrono
Conrad and Carol Fialkowski
Thomas and Cindy Fletcher
Allison Fore
Patricia A. Fosmoe
Connie Foster
David W. Foster
Lisa Freeman and Heather Schmucker
Charles Frisbie
Thomas and Dorothea Frisbie
Timothy Frisbie
Lauren Frisch
Nancy L. Gajewski
Meredith C. George
Michael Gershbein
Nancy Gidwitz
Jason Gilbert
Timothy J. Gilfoyle and
Mary Rose Alexander

Steven E. and Linda Goldsher
Brian and Sophia Gray
Robert Grundstad
Heather Gustafson
Kathy and Jim Gysler
Michael Hans and Ellen Damlich
James and Carol Hansen
Kevin Hartman
Ashref Hashim
Sandra Honaker
Jon Horwitz
Stewart Hudnut
Timothy Huizenga and Family
David K. Jones
Paisly and Matthew Kauth
Mathew J. Keller, Jr.
Sasha and Eric Kerlow
Rob and Mary Khoury
Michael T. Kimmet
Ozana and Jim King
Bob and Ellen Kircher
Barbara Kissane
John Knoff and Eva Sullivan-Knoff
Douglas and Catherine Knuth
Nicholas Knuth
Carol Brindley Konagamitsu
Anne Ladky and Karen Fishman
Tom Lang
Susan Lannin
Rik Lantz
Bart Lazar
Jonathan Lehman and Zachary Huelsing
Pete Lekian and Debbie Albano
Michael Linneman
Glenn Longacre
Carol Longman
Marko Lucht
Dianne Luhmann
Jim Macdonald
Steven and Mary Macgregor
Karen Malhiot
Scott Martyn
Clark and Sari Maxfield
Vickie Mellema
Scott Miller
Dennis Minichello
Andrew Mitchell
Floyd Mittleman
Barry Mizock and Janice Benson
Kim and Tesla Moldofsky
William J. Mooney
Craig B. Mousin and Chris Inserra
Marshall and June Mussay
Nancy Fleck Myers
John Myers

Lawrence Myers
Thomas and Patricia Nelson
Thao Nguyen
Nancy L. Niemi
Jonelle Niffenegger
Kathleen O'Brien
Philomena Ohalloran
Tom and Mona Olsen
Paul and Sarah Ozinga
Miriam Palacios
Chelsea Parker
Chris and Nan Parson
Janet E. Pellegrini
Darlene Perez and Ana Avina
Ira Pilchen and Kathryn McCabe
Jeremy Pryor
Steven and Dianne Radtke
Arnold Randall
Wendy Raymer
Francis and Barbara Rechten
David and Marcia Rigg
Jeannine Ringland
Jim and Debbie Robinett
Thomas and Susan Rodell
Susan B. Rubnitz
Charles and Louise Saltzman
Laura Sanders
Mr. and Mrs. Saviers
John Scanlon
Sigrid M. Schmidt
Bob Schmit
Joanne Schmitz
Maureen M. Slavin
William A. Spence
Jeffrey and Nikki Sriver
Marilynn Stammich
David Stanford
Robert E. Stanley
Jerry T. Stevens
Petra Stieninger
Ursula B. Storb
Karen Straus
Leslie Streicher
Maureen Sweeney and
Stephen Zutovsky
Roger Tauchman
Charles A. Tausche
Susan Tennant
Bea Tersch
Leeann Tomas-Foster
Betsy Trevarthen
Kate Van Houten
Lisa Volesky
Edward Walsh
Brian Walsh

Diana Welch
Gail West
Cheryle Wittert
Virginia Witucke
Michael and Mary Woolever
Mark Wortsmann
Lisa Youngberg
Karen Zaccor
Jeanne Zasadil

\$50 to \$99
Nathan and Mayumi Aaberg
Terry Pink Alexander
Richard and Andrea Amend
Jeffrey Anderson
John and Jane Balaban
Deborah E. Bayly
Gershon and Suzanne Berkson
Jason Berry
Mrs. Bette Rose Blair
Donna Bliss
Alec and Sharon Bloyd-Peshkin
Cathy and Chris Breitenbach
Bill Brooks
Laurence and Kathleen Burd
Michael and Karen Burmester
Jenny Carney
Susan Carter
Anthony Cefali
Matthew Cohen and Julie Gordon
Cyndy Cordell
Paul and Diane Culhane
George and Diana Davis
Carla Dehmlov
Ariel Diamond
Rosalie Dixler
Doug Farr
Carol Fessenden
Paul and Susan Freehling
Richard and Margery Frisbie
Kent and Jeryl Fuller
Victor Galati
Les and Katrina Garner
Janet F. Gerske
Warren and Carey Gilford
William and Terry Gillespie
Joseph and Hillary Gliner
Margaret Goddard-Knop
Deborah Granato
Granpa Z
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Greenberg
Alan M. Gunn and Maria Pfister
Emily J. Harris
Dorothy and David Hawley
Will Heelan

Anne Heider and Steve Warner
Libby Hill
Sharon Hurn
David Jakubiak
Maggie Jaris
Craig and Diana Kaiser
Larry Kameya
Barry Katz
Sharon Kemerer
Lois Kimmelman
Robert and Brett Kittler
Timothy Knuth
Christine Kopec
Maja Adamski Kozak
Carol A. Krueger
Walter G. Larkin
James R. Larson, Jr.
Jill and John Levi
Charles H. Linhoff
Ruth Homer Mahru
Joseph Marconi
Pat Marshall
Betsy Martens
Holly McDonald
Charles and Alice McEnergy
Mona McNeese
Katherine F. McSpadden
Richard and Elizabeth Messersmith
Floyd and Elizabeth Miller
Carolyn Miller
Anthony Montag and Katherine Griem
Robert J. Moon III
Nancy Cambron Perez
Terry and Lynne Petersen
Jamie Phillippe
Edward and Elaine Pierson
Alan and Sigrid Pilgrim
Stewart and Evelyn Pinsof
Elizabeth A. Pinter
Terry and Chris Porter
Kristen Powers
John and Betsy Quail
Therese Radke
Jahed and Zeenat Rahman
Edward and Melanie Ranney
G. Benjamin Ranney
Maciej Redlinski
Pamela J. Reimann
Tony and Jose Reynes
Bill and Kathy Riordan
Andrew and Ruta Ripecky
Tena Rosner
Joseph Sabatello Jr.
Wayne Schimpff
Terry Schy

Benjamin Sexton
Guy and Barbara Shuman
Harvey and Susan Silver
Louis Slotkin
David and Barbara Sodac
Kris Sorich
Eric and Carrie Sussman
Symanski Family
Judy Thornber
Virginia Townsend
Joan and Trevor Turk
John and Norma Uhran
Jonathan Villegas
John Wallace and Kim Roll-Wallace
Jerry Wang
Dave Weber
Janice and Robert Weber
Daniel and Joanne Weinstein
Lyman Welch
Laura J. West
Ken Wexler and Kim Stone
Michelle Woods
Lisa Yondorf
Ed Zotti and Mary Lubben

\$25 to \$49

Anonymous
Bethany Barratt
Matthew C. Bergstrom
Beth Botts
Amanda Burns
Paul Ceisel
Robert Chleboun
Scott Cisek
Matt Cleaver
Gregory Cliff
Katie Coleman
Albert Dargiel
Al De Reu
Harlan and Jane Dellsy
Greg Denny
Ann Dillemath
Leo and Bonnie Dohogne,
 In Memory of David Jones
Erica L. Dolgin
Nathaniel and Estelle Fisher
Nona C. Flores
Nancy Freehafer
Rob Funderburk
Rebecca Fyffe
Cathy and Robert Geraghty
Terry and Deb Giannoni
Terry Glenn
Joel Goldberger and Marianne Quinn
Shelley S. Gordon

Gunilla M. Goulding
Eston and Sandra Gross
Michael Guzan
Sarah Hains
Matthew Hallett
Marguerite Harrold
Kelli Hicks
Dave Hicks
James L. Hogan, Jr.
Michael Hogan
Natalie A. Holden
Ted Hopton
Kerith Iverson
Irvin M. Jana
Linda Jenewein
Thomas Jensen
Lois M. Johnson
Norton Josephson
Ann Kaizerman
Hidetaro Kashima
Robert Kastigar
Paul and Vicki Kendall
Eugene E. Krell
Linda Leadbitter
Heidi D. Levin
Joe Linton
Dennis Luxion and Christiane Rey
Vladimir Lytchakov
Rose Marchuk
Laurie B. Marston
Jennifer McClure
Margaret McCurry
Benjamin McManamon
Steve McVeigh
Hon. Kathleen Therese Meany
Allan Mellske and Christina Ranvik
Amy Memis-Foler
Robert Menard
Rett Nelson
Erik Newman
Audrey Niffenegger
Pamela Nosse
John and Susan O'Connell
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Owens
Susan Pastin
Derek Peebles
Don Pitzen
Marta Purdy and Nick Purdy
Lisa Ryan
Virginia Schulte
Bruce Sents
Emily L. Seymore
Robert and Barbara Shmikler
Ray L. and Louise P. Short
Mike Sinner

Ronnie Jo Sokol
Gail Spreen
Dorr St. Clair and Andrew Herzog
Seth Stein
John T. Sullivan
Brad Suster and Hector Hernandez
Mark Swaya
Ross Sweeney, Jr.
Edward Tenner
Norman Victorson
Jane B. Wenger Living Trust
Josie Yanguas and Carl Rosen

**Foundations, Corporations, and
Other Organizations**

\$50,000 and above

Alphawood Foundation
Chi-Cal Rivers Fund, through a
 grant from the National Fish and
 Wildlife Foundation
The Crown Family
Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley
 Foundation
Grand Victoria Foundation

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Aon
The Boeing Company
The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
Chauncey and Marion D. McCormick
 Foundation
Oberweiler Foundation
Prince Charitable Trusts

\$15,000 - \$24,999

Exelon
McDermott Will & Emery
Metropolitan Planning Council
National Philanthropic Trust
PepsiCo, Inc.
Polk Bros. Foundation
REI

\$7,000 to \$14,999

American Endowment Foundation
 (AEF)
BMO Harris Bank
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
HERE, a Nokia company
MillerCoors
O'Briens Riverwalk Café
Ozinga Bros. Inc.

Peoples Gas
RBC Foundation USA
Shoreline Sightseeing and Charters
Siragusa Family Foundation
Two North Riverside Plaza JV LP
Wrigley Company

\$3,000 to \$6,999

Anonymous
Arcadis
Avison Young
Alvin H. Baum Family Fund
Beacon Capital Partners
The Bobolink Foundation
Chicago Botanic Garden
Chicago Electric Boat Company
CNA
Dr. Scholl Foundation
EarthShare of Illinois
Executive Construction, Inc.
EY
Fletcher Group, LLC
Kirkland & Ellis Foundation
Kirkland & Ellis, LLP
Leo Burnett
Loyola Academy
MWH Global
Nottage and Ward
Ogden Avenue Materials
Related Midwest
The River North Residents Association
Riverside Investment & Development
Company
The Seabury Foundation
Site Design Group, Ltd.
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, LLP
Sterling Bay
Vibes Media, LLC
William Blair

\$1,000 to \$2,999

Alliance for the Great Lakes
Allstate Foundation
Anonymous
Francis Beidler Foundation
Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella, P.C.
Cardno/Anngie Richter
Christy Webber Landscapes
Eastland Disaster Historical Society
Entertainment Cruises
Event - Connect Your Travel, LLC
Fuzzy Math, LLC
Gensler
Greater Horizons
Independence Junior High School

Jocarno Fund
Jones Lang LaSalle
Lakeshore Foundation, Inc.
Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC
Lincoln Park Zoo
Lincoln Park Zoological Society
Marin Community Foundation
McCormick Foundation
McGaw YMCA Children's Center
James McHugh Construction Co.
Mead Witter Foundation, Inc.
MetLife Real Estate Investors
Morgan Stanley
Openlands
Partners By Design
PBG Financial Services, Ltd.
The PrivateBank
Jack Ringer Family Foundation
Riverside Investment & Development
Roosevelt University
Schwab Charitable Fund
Louis and Nellie Sieg Fund
The Standard Society
Structured Development, LLC
United Way of Metro Chicago
University of Illinois - Chicago
V3 Companies
Vanguard Charitable
WealthPlanners, LLC
Weaver Consultants Group
Cynthia Weglarz Rountree Fund
Whole Foods Market, Sauganash
The Wrigley Building

\$300 to \$999

360 Destination Group, Chicago
American Bar Association
Automatic Mechanical Services, Inc.
Associated Colleges of Illinois
The Baila Foundation
Cactus Bar & Grill
Chicago Fair Trade
Colorado College
Continental Electrical Construction
Company
Continental Paper Grading
The Epiphany United Church of Christ
Facebook
Harborside Academy
Paul Hastings, LLP
Hebron Presbyterian Church
Linn-Mathes Inc.
Network for Good
W.E. O'Neil Construction Company
The Pizzo Group

Ross Barney Architects
Schulze & Burch Biscuit Co.
Sims Metal Management Midwest
Skender Foundation
SPACECO, Inc.
Thornton Tomasetti, Inc.
UC Davis - University of California
Veritatis Advisors, Inc.
Village of Glenview

\$25 to \$299

Amazon Smile
Anonymous
Chicago Cares, Inc.
Chicago City Day School
The Chicago Community Trust
Crum & Forster
DePaul University
Dixon Enterprise
Farr Associates
Friends of the Los Angeles River
Genesis of the Crossroads
Goethe-Institut Chicago
Illinois Institute of TechnologyPrassas
Landscape Studio, LLC
Loyola University
Queen of Peace High School
Schneider Electric North America
Foundation
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Society of Architectural Historians
Solomon CordwellBuenz
St. James Evangelical Lutheran School
UIC Biology
Urban Habitat Chicago
Urbis Realty Group, LLC
Wacker Bait and Tackle, LLC
Wendela Sightseeing Co., Inc.

Government Agencies

Chicago Park District
Chi-Cal Rivers Fund
Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Illinois Environmental Protection
Agency (IEPA)
Lake County Stormwater Management
Commission
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
State of Illinois, Dept. of Employment
Security

In-Kind Donations

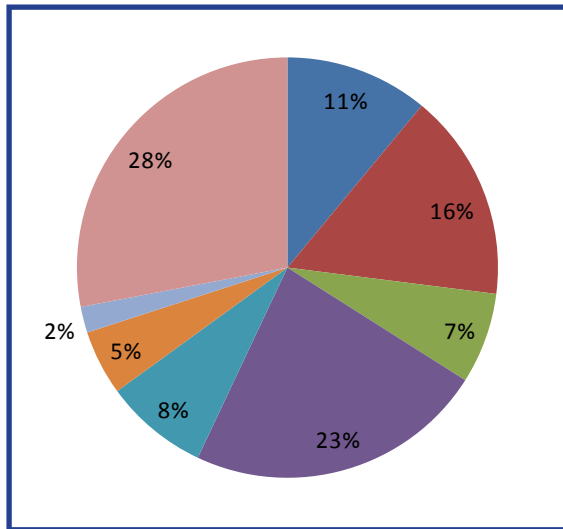
Anonymous
312 Chicago
Baetis Environmental Services, Inc.
Barnaby's Restaurant
Best Imaging Solutions
Binny's Beverage Depot
Bobby's Bike Hike Chicago
Boka Restaurant Group
Bottleneck Management
Marjorie Brownstein
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.
California Pizza Kitchen
Cardno Native Plants Nursery
Chicago Architecture Foundation
Chicago Beer Experience
Chicago Botanic Garden
Chicago Department of Transportation
Chicago Pizza Tours
Chicago White Sox
Chicago Zoological Society/
 Brookfield Zoo
Chicago's First Lady Cruises
Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurants
Corner Bakery Café
Grant Crowley
Eatly Chicago
Enzo Custom
FIG Catering
Fleur de lis Florist
Margaret Frisbie and Matt Binns
Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza
Hotel Julien Dubuque
The House Theatre of Chicago
IlGiardino Del Dolce
Inspired Catering & Events by
 Karen & Gina Stefani
Joffrey Ballet
Thomas and Diane Judge
Kamehachi Restaurant
Lawrence and Denise Kaplan
KOVAL Distillery
L. May Eatery
Lagunitas Brewing Company
Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, Inc.
Lookingglass Theatre Company
Lou Malnati's
Mario Tricoci Hair Salons & Day Spas
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
 of Greater Chicago
MillerCoors
Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
Odyssey Cruises
Old Town School of Folk Music

Kim Olsen-Clark
Mike Parker
Chris and Nan Parson
Pastoral Artisan Cheese, Bread & Wine
Patagonia, Lincoln Park
James Phillips and Patricia Armell
ProArc Electrical Construction
 Company
Pure Barre Chicago River North
The Radler
Ravenswood Media
The Redhead Piano Bar
Revolution Brewing
Rishi Tea
Shake Shack
Shedd Aquarium
Shoreline Sightseeing
Solo Salon
Todd Sones
Sullivan's Steakhouse Chicago
Hatch Werks, LLC & The Chicago
 Drawbridges documentary
William and Jayne Walsh
Wendela Sightseeing Company, Inc.
Wight & Company
Wow Bao - Hot Asian Buns

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 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT

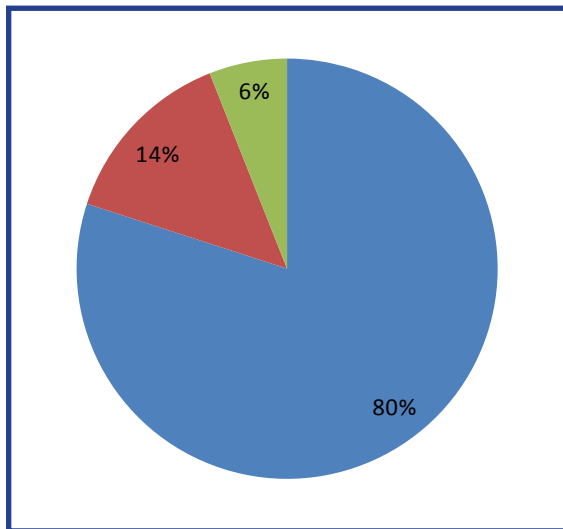
Audited Statements of Revenues and Expenses for the 12 months ending June 30, 2016.



REVENUES

Corporations	11%	\$162,876
Foundations	16%	\$295,229
Individuals	7%	\$116,054
Government	23%	\$362,279
Special Events	8%	\$126,295
Earned Income	5%	\$86,451
In-Kind	2%	\$21,413
Net Assets Released From Restriction	28%	\$434,199

Total **\$1,604,796**



EXPENSES

Program	80%	\$1,303,674
Fundraising & Development	14%	\$220,809
Administration	6%	\$95,838

Total **\$1,620,321**

Net Assets Beginning of the Year **\$779,191**

Change in Assets **\$15,525**

Net Assets at the End of the Year **\$763,666**

Please note: In order to sustain the Chicago River Schools Network, Friends' cornerstone education program that has impacted over 150,000 students since its inception, Friends' board of directors elected to spend a portion of our cash reserve to cover program expenses in FY2016. This strategic investment was precipitated by a change in timing for one grant maker and a change in funding focus for another. As a result Friends' FY2016 income was less than expenses for the fiscal year.



Encountering a downed tree while exploring the Chicago River by canoe.



*Finding a gravid (pregnant) crayfish on a school field trip.
Photo by Victor Harbison.*

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,
MLA2 Advisory and Consulting, LLC*

Judith Bassoul

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

Craig Coit

Grant Crowley
President, Crowley's Yacht Yard

Alex de Azcárate
*Director, IS Strategy and Architecture,
Molson Coors*

Paul Hagy
*SVP, Global Corporate Treasurer,
Aon Corporation*

Stacey Hasenbalg
Chief Compliance Officer, Avant

Lawrence M. Kaplan
CEO, Impossible Objects, LLC

Lydia R. Kelley
Partner, McDermott Will & Emery LLP

Directors (continued)

Jeffrey Knipmeyer
Partner, Nottage and Ward

David Lowe
*Executive Vice President,
Leo Burnett USA*

Richard A. Wilson
*City Design Director,
Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture*

David Wong
Vice President, Certare Ventures

John D. Ziesmer
Principal, Avison Young

STAFF

Margaret Frisbie
Executive Director

Kristin Avery
Development Manager

Josh Coles
Museum Director

Joanne So Young Dill
Director of Strategic Initiatives

Andrew Donakowski
Policy and Planning Associate

Marie Ellis
Development & Event Assistant

Mark Hauser
Ecology Outreach Manager

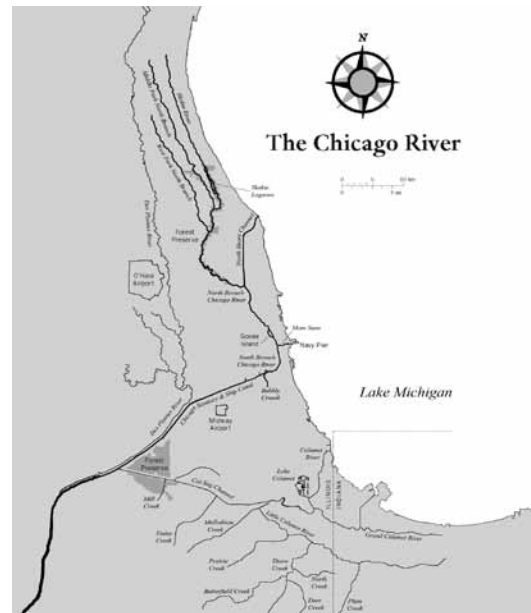
Maggie Jones
Conservation Programs Specialist

Kim Olsen-Clark
Director of Development

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.bridgthousemuseum.org