

Friends of the Chicago River
FY2022 Annual Report

Dear Friend of the River,

Considering the state of the river when Friends of the Chicago River was founded in 1979, its current condition seems nothing short of a miracle.

Yet the fact that our vibrant river system is alive with people, plants, and animals including nearly 80 species of fish, eagles, beavers, mink, muskrats, turtles, eels, and otters is not a miracle. It is the outcome of 43 years of hard work, innovative thinking, creative solutions, and community building. Our founders looked past the fences that prevented river access, and past the sewage that once haunted the river on average every three days. Instead, they saw a future for the river that included people swimming and enjoying it in all the ways we do today. They saw a river that provided social, economic, and environmental benefits, and they made great strides towards achieving it. They saw a river that could inspire people to become champions for equitable access and better water quality.

It has not been easy to wind the clock back to the days when the river was a pristine waterway surrounded by a mosaic of woodland, wetlands, and prairie. For 150 years, the river system was treated as a sewage canal and dumping ground for heavy metals, garbage, and anything else people could carelessly put in it. Today, the stressors of climate change, litter, and environmental injustice create constant threats. But Friends of the Chicago River is up for this challenge because our staff, volunteers, and supporters are devoted to the responsibility we collectively share to take care of our ecology and each other.

In this report on the successes of our 2022 Fiscal Year, you will see how our education and outreach, on-the-ground projects, and policy and planning activities are building a fantastic future for the Chicago-Calumet River system.

Consider how as late as 2017, swimming was still not encouraged or allowed in the river, we co-founded The Big Jump to change peoples' minds. Today there is our Summer Float Party, which started in 2021 and is now an annual tradition. The hundreds of laughing, smiling faces floating down the river each year are creating new relationships with the river and a change in how the people of our region perceive it.

When we think together, work together, and celebrate together, the impacts we create are not miracles. They are what the river has always deserved.

Sincerely,



Sally Fletcher, President



Margaret Frisbie, Executive Director

On the cover: Counterclockwise (starting in the top left corner):

Great horned owl. Photo courtesy of Matt Greenburger. / Chicago River Day 2022 volunteers at Big Marsh Park, a site sponsored by HESNI. / Girls 4 Science sampling Flatfoot Lake at Beaubien Woods / Student from Polaris Charter School testing water chemistry at River Park / Downtown Chicago boat cruise during the 2022 Big Fish Ball. / Birdwatching paddle along the North Branch of the Chicago River.

REASONS TO CELEBRATE

Friends was honored to receive the following recognition:

- For the second consecutive award cycle, Friends was named one of three global finalists for the Thiess International *Riverprize* by the Australia-based International River Foundation.
- Friends received a 2021 Dr. George B. Rabb Force of Nature Award for the 2019 “Reconnecting Mill Creek to the Cal-Sag Channel” project which removed limestone and concrete shelves blocking passage from the Cal-Sag Channel into the creek and added naturalistic rock and pool formations enabling fish to swim upstream.
- Friends received an Honorable Mention in the Sustainable Landscaping category from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago at their 9th Annual Sustainability Summit in October 2021.
- *Crain’s Chicago Business* named Friends’ executive director Margaret Frisbie a Notable Leader in Sustainability in June 2022.

After a two-year hiatus, hundreds of supporters, civic leaders, and partners gathered at the 15th Annual Big Fish Ball in June 2022, our largest fundraising event of the year. Revelers – including Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, numerous MWRD Commissioners, Illinois State Treasurer Mike Frerichs, and city leaders – celebrated the action and advocacy of Friends as the voice of the Chicago-Calumet River system.



The Big Fish Ball is one of Friends’ annual signature events.

A beautiful and festive fall evening on the Chicago River in October 2021 was enjoyed by more than 175 revelers who departed from the Wendella boat dock in front of the iconic Wrigley Building for the eighth annual river cruise benefiting the education and public outreach programs of the McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum. Guests enjoyed delicious food and drink, and were serenaded by a viola and violin duo from the Fifth House Ensemble as they traveled down the South Branch of the Chicago River



Autumn Cruise guests enjoy an incomparable view of Chicago from the river at dusk.



Toni Preckwinkle addresses a packed crowd at the Big Fish Ball.

AWARDS

Each year, Friends recognizes individuals who demonstrate an exceptional commitment to bringing the river to life. It takes collaboration to successfully address the river's legacy of abuse and to overcome the complex problems that remain. The many leaders, partners, and volunteers who work toward a healthy river system are critical, so we are pleased to recognize people instrumental in improving and protecting the Chicago River system.

Spirit of the River

Jeff Skrentny

River Champion

Matt Renfree

Volunteer of the Year

Katherine Tellock (pictured below, right)

Educators of the Year

Kimberly Marine and Zach Schroeder,
Skinner North Classical School



2021 Blue Ribbon Award

The Forge, Lemont Quarries



Brad Donati, Marketing & Community Director, The Forge: Lemont Quarries accepts their Blue Ribbon Award.

Friends' Chicago River Blue Awards returned in June 2022, with winners announced for the previous 12 months as well as a special 2021 Blue Ribbon winner. Since honoring the first awardees in 2010, Friends has recognized a total of 77 projects that represent both large-scale initiatives and individual actions of property owners and elected officials to improve and protect the Chicago-Calumet River system.

2022 Blue Ribbon Award

Ford Calumet Environmental Center,
Chicago Park District



Matt Freer of the Chicago Park District accepts the Blue Ribbon Award for the Ford Environmental Center at Big Marsh Park.

Silver Ribbon Awards

The Wild Mile Floating Park and Learning Platform,
Urban Rivers

African American Heritage Water Trail, Openlands

Green Ribbon Awards

Wolf Point East,
Bit Wolf Point East Investors LLC

Wetlands Restoration and Preservation Plan,
Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

Lincoln Village Pedestrian Bridge,
Chicago Department of Transportation

Riverview Bridge and Trail Connection,
Chicago Department of Transportation

Natalie Creek Flood Control Project,
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY

Elected officials, families, and friends came together at the inaugural Summer Float Party in August 2021 to build awareness for water quality standards that protect much of the river system for swimming and to celebrate the river's improved health. Participants set off from the Damrich Rowing Center in Skokie and floated along the North Shore Channel. Friends has since made this event an annual one, with more participants and a new Chicago location.



Fun in the river at the first ever Chicago Float Party.

Friends and the Greater Chicago Watershed Alliance began a catalytic pilot project at Indian Ridge Marsh – South, a Chicago Park District site in Chicago's South Deering community, to offset centuries of environmental injustice through pollution, as well as altered hydrology, climate change, and the introduction of invasive species. In addition to facilitating \$100,000 of restoration, Friends also engaged with the Southeast Youth Alliance (SYA) to activate the space and involve local residents in the restoration process. The Alliance is a grassroots community organization whose mission is to amplify opportunities for local youth on Chicago's Southeast Side and develop the next generation of community leaders.



Community members after a planting day with Friends' staff at Indian Ridge Marsh – South.

In December 2021, Friends published “Investing Together: Using the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.” To produce greater community participation, Friends held eight meetings with Friends' Water Quality Task Force, City of Chicago departments, 26 stakeholder organizations, and frontline environmental organizations. The resulting publication highlights community concerns about the river related to Chicago's legally enforceable NPDES permit which guides the continued improvement of the Chicago-Calumet River system's water quality.

Friends reinstated popular paddling events including birding tours and stops at river-edge breweries. To connect people to their local waterways, Friends supported free community paddles in the Little Calumet River for local residents, a rare opportunity for residents to get to know the waterway as a beginner, learn to paddle, and enjoy the mental and physical benefits paddling provides. Friends partnered with Openlands and the Forest Preserves of Cook County to train Friends of the Forest Preserves' interns to be able to present information on the African American Heritage Water Trail, safely and effectively from the water.



An African American Heritage Water Trail tour kicks off at Beaubien Woods.

Friends and The Trust for Public Land launched a process to co-create a multi-benefit green infrastructure project prioritization resource, called the Natural Solutions Tool, to help guide the work of the Greater Chicago Watershed Alliance and our partners. After completing a “Discovery Process” during which the core project team met with 80 key stakeholders from 35 organizations, Friends began gathering and refining baseline data advised by a Technical Advisory Team of 30 subject matter experts in public health, sustainability, and ecosystems, among other.

RESTORING AND PROTECTING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

On-the-ground projects directly improved the health of the river and its adjacent lands. Friends restored 77 acres of river-edge Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC) sites in the past year, including 49 targeting turtle habitat restoration. In addition, Friends conducted resprout follow up maintenance treatments on work in the Palos region, completing the restoration of nearly 214 additional acres since 2020 in partnership with the FPCC. After an unsuccessful nesting season in 2021 due to storm destruction, two chicks fledged out of the osprey nesting pole we installed at Beaubien Woods in 2022. Volunteer monitors also saw osprey nesting activity at the Erickson Woods pole next to Skokie Lagoons for the first time.



Before (on top) and after photos of forest preserve restoration in the Palos region.

Friends increased our leadership role in the City of Chicago's River Ecology and Governance Task Force and is now co-leading the effort with the Metropolitan Planning Council. Friends met with 13 river-edge development teams

to provide technical assistance and guidance on river edge site planning and urban design. Friends' staff have advocated for upholding the core components of the Chicago River Design Guidelines, emphatically stating that any river-edge casinos and music venues must embrace the river as a natural resource for people and wildlife, rather than a water feature to be exploited for entertainment. Friends also publicly expressed disappointment in the single-use plastics ordinance passed by the Chicago City Council in September 2021 because it fails to go far enough to curb plastic pollution and eliminate polystyrene used in foam takeout containers and drinking cups (see plastics and other pollution removed from the river). Friends continues to advocate at the state level for stronger legislation.



Friends' volunteers remove tons of plastics and other trash from the river each year.

In the fall of 2021, Friends published the Chicago River Habitat Connectivity Action Plan and has since presented it to a variety of stakeholders. The plan catalogues funding sources, priority site areas, and potential partners for expanding our land restoration work and multi-benefit green infrastructure work.

OUR COLLECTIVE WORK MAKES A DIFFERENCE

During the 30th annual Chicago River Day, Friends welcomed over 2,000 volunteers to participate at a record 77 locations across the watershed. Increased partnerships with traditional and digital media led to the event receiving 486 million media impressions, spreading the importance of a litter free river to a broad audience.



Family fun during Chicago River Day by the North Shore Channel.

As part of the Litter Free Chicago-Calumet River program, Friends held 29 river-edge cleanups, doubled the number of Canoe and Clean paddles to twice monthly, and in a new initiative, established six Litter Free Supply Stations housed by partner organizations which enable people to conduct work days on their own.



Removing litter by the Dammrich Rowing Center in Evanston, IL.

Friends increased the number of plugs of native water willow and lizard's tail plants in the river to over 10,000 since 2017, including at two first-time locations: 984 plants in the Little Calumet River, and 266 at the Lathrop Homes public housing community. These important species create fish habitat, spread naturally through rhizomes in their root systems, and are maintenance-free.



Volunteers install native plants along the Little Calumet.



A volunteer litter pickup day along the North Branch.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

A grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Studies allowed Friends to debut a new educational cart in front of the McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum in order to engage new audiences in 2022. In addition to live displays of water quality testing and how water moves through a watershed, the cart's vibrant signage attracts people to the museum's doors.



This vibrant educational cart attracts curious visitors to the Bridgehouse Museum.



The beautiful downtown Chicago Riverwalk, home to the Bridgehouse Museum.

Chicago River Schools Network (CRSN) educational programming was employed by 173 teachers during the 2021-22 school year. Friends took 1,374 students on experiential learning field trips to the river and had a total impact of 12,045 students taught.



The next generation of river advocates are getting involved cleaning up the watershed.

After a hiatus in 2021, the CRSN's Chicago River Student Congress returned as an outdoor event in 2022, to safely engage over 120 students in a celebration of environmental education, public land restoration, and water quality. The CRSN held a poster contest aligned with Chicago River Day, highlighting students' artistic talents and calls to action for a litter-free river. Winning posters were displayed at the Bridgehouse Museum during the entire 2022 season.



Student artwork displayed at the Bridgehouse Museum demonstrating the importance of a litter-free river.

Friends of the Chicago River

FY2022

7,218

Bridgehouse
Museum patrons

1,374

Students at
the river on
a field trip

896

Participants
in river paddling

**A Year
of Great
Impact**

8,503

People engaged
by Inside, Out
and About

1,467

Volunteer hours
through Centennial
Volunteers

10,000

People receiving water
conservation messaging in
Overflow Action Days

2,000

Chicago River Day
volunteers

1,250

Native plants
installed along the
riverbanks

156 Miles

of the amazing
Chicago-Calumet
River System

FISCAL YEAR 2022 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, 2021, and June 30, 2022.

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Sara Crow
Ms. Alice Da Cunha
George and Diana Davis
Marcia Dellenbach
Harlan and Jane Dellsy
Shari and Stewart Diamond
Laura DiPiazza
Dennis Dovidovich
Kevin Drewyer
Elizabeth Duffrin
Vivien Eisenberg and Samuel Dorevitch
Richard and Marjorie Ettlinger
Lydia Fahrenkrug
James Fairhall
Ingrid Faust

Carol Fessenden
Beata Fiszer
Adam Flickinger
Nona C. Flores
Jasmine Fong
Marvin Fournier
Lisa Freeman and Heather Schmucker
Maayan Friedland Domb
John Friedman
Thomas and Dorothea Frisbie
Kent and Jeryl Fuller
Les and Katrina Garner
Sherrie Gauley
Martha George
Andy Gersten
Brittany Gorski
Danielle Green
Eston and Sandra Gross
Alan M. Gunn and Maria V. Pfister
Michael Guzan
Peleg Halpern
Justin Hart
Mr. Michael Hartman
Rachel Havrelock
Jacqueline Hayden
Susan Hedman
John R. Hedrick
Will Heelan
Harry and Shar Heifetz
Gricelda Hernandez-Simler
Andrew Herrmann
Caroline Heyworth
Joe Hinton
Larry and Chris Hodak
Brooke Hofer
Paul Holdsworth
Nicola Hosking
Raymond Hunter
Sharon Hurn
Karin Jacobson and Robert Seeman
Linda Jenewein
Amy Jewel
Mark Jirik
Mary Ann Johnson
Kolin Jordan
Ben and Kate Julian
Craig and Diana Kaiser
Ann Kaizerman
Deanna Kalgren
Julie Kanak
Jim Kapustiak
Robert Kastigar
Colleen Keaveny
Jennifer Kiedaisch
Kathy and Ed Kilduff
Lois Kimmelman
Ellison Knapp
Jennifer Knapp

Bill Koenig
Jacob Koenigsberg
Addison Kontny
Christine Kopec
Michael Kormanik
Jason Kornbluth-Cohen and
Jodi Scarbrough
Lauren Kornutick
Robert Koys
James R. Larson, Jr.
Thomas Lau
Teegan Leonhart
Heidi D. Levin
Megan Lewis
Mary Oshana
Cate LiaBraaten
Charles H. Linhoff
Kristine Lorenzo
Howard Luecke III
Lt. Col. W. J. and Patricia Lundquist
Lisa Lux
Vladimir Lytchakov
Daniel Maloney and
Barbara Hetzer-Maloney
Cordelia Maloney
Jennifer Marchuk
Stephen and Lynne Marcus
Ben Mark
Laurie B. Marston
Donna McCluskey
Margaret McCurry
Alicia McNamara Grott
Kay McSpadden
Robert M. Menard
Helen Milgrom
Scott Miller
Cindy Miller
Gayle Mindes
Cheryl Mittman
Mike Mocerino
Gaben Moore
Ivory Morris
Simone Morris
Annie Morse
Janet Mota
Uncle Frank Fund
Sharyne Moy Tu
Marta and Nick Purdy
Rett Nelson
Erik Newman
Christopher Newman
Roy Ng
Paul Nishimura
Elizabeth Nishiura
Richard Noeller
Adam Norden
Sami Nordmark
Jovanka Novakovic

Individuals (continued)

Up to \$99

Rayn Nuckols
Sharon A. O'Donnell
Sean O'Leary
Margaret Olson
Lara Oppenheimer
Jerry Ostergaard
Raquel Perez
Brian Perkovich
Mark Perrine
Anne Peterson
Dina Petrakis
William L. Phillips
Amy Phillips
Edward and Elaine Pierson
Pam Pietrowsky
Don and Dorothy Pitzen
Joe Pixler
Kenneth J. Poje
Wendy Pollock
Roger Pomerance
Geoff Potter
Elizabeth Quinlan
Edward and Melanie Ranney
William Reichard
Pamela Reimann
Dilma Richardson
Jason Rigali
Evelyn Rocha
Debora Roessler
Eric Rothfeder
Luis Salces
Allen Salyer
Rosemary Sanders
Alfred Saucedo
Cheryl Sauter
Alexandra Schabel
Wayne Schimpff
Eric Schnabel
Katrin Schnabl
Virginia Schulte
Terry Schy
Beverly Serrell
Steven Shamrock
James Sharp
Rhonda Shives
The Honorable Debra Shore
Ann Shorey
Rachel Sinon
Cacia Sit
Lara Smetana
Emilie Smith
Kevin Snow
Hal Sprague
Gail Spreen

Seth Stein
Neal Stevens
Jen Stites
Kim Stone and Ken Wexler
Brad B. Suster and
Hector T. Hernandez
Ross Sweeny, Jr.
Jennifer Tackett
Katherine Tellock
Steve and Julia Timble
Elissa Tinajero
Ms. Elizabeth Todd
James Tokuda
Alex Tsebelis
John and Norma Uhan
Donald VanDeVoort
Maureen Verwiel
Ivar Vilcins
Janet Volk
Sarah Walsh
Elyse Warren
Anthony Watrobinski
Daniel and Joanne Weinstein
Matt White
Claudia Winkler
Mr. John Winn
Felix Wohrstein
Don and Carol Wolniak
Gregor Wolniak
Marjorie Woolard
Larry Yablong
Lisa B. Yondorf
Claire and Philip Zawa
Philip Zawa
Wendy Zeplin
Amy Ziegler
David Zinder

Foundations, Corporations, and Other Organizations

\$50,000 and Above

Crown Family Philanthropies
Carolyn Eleanore Damon
Family Foundation
The Knowles Foundation
Mars Wrigley Foundation
Abra Prentice Foundation, Inc.
Walder Foundation

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley
Foundation
The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation

Hunter Family Foundation
McDermott Will & Emery
Oberweiler Foundation
Prince Charitable Trusts

\$15,000 to \$24,999

Aon
Jim Beam Suntory
The Builders Initiative
Peoples Gas Community Fund
at the Chicago Community
Foundation
REI Co-op
WM

\$7,000 to \$14,999

G. Carl Ball Family Foundation
Chicago Botanic Garden
Exelon
Hines
Kirkland & Ellis, LLP
Metropolitan Planning Council
Molson Coors Beverage Company
Ozinga Bros., Inc.
Patagonia
Shoreline Sightseeing
The Siragusa Family Foundation
Sterling Bay
The Trust for Public Land
Waterton
William Blair
The Wrigley Building

\$3,000 to \$6,999

ARCO/Murray Design Build
Alvin H. Baum Family Fund
Beacon Capital Partners
Brunswick Foundation, Inc.
Chicago Waldorf School
CIBC
Dr. Scholl Foundation
Friends of the Forest Preserves
HDR Architecture, Inc.
JCCC Foundation
Lakeshore Foundation, Inc.
Loyola Academy
The Lumpkin Family Foundation
O'Brien's Riverwalk Cafe
Ogden Avenue Materials
Openlands
The Cynthia Weglarz Rountree Fund
Schwemm Family Foundation
John G. Shedd Aquarium
Louis and Nellie Sieg Fund

Foundations, Corporations, and Other Organizations (continued)

\$3,000 to \$6,999

site design group, ltd.
SPACECO, Inc.
Stantec
TRANSWESTERN
Two North Riverside Plaza JV, LP
WealthPlanners, LLC
Wight & Company

\$1,000 to \$2,999

Anonymous
Arcadis U.S., Inc.
Atrium Landscapes
Bailey Edward
Christy Webber Landscapes
City Cruises
CoreNet Chicago
d'Escoto, Inc.
Dixon Enterprise
The Cynthia Elkins Foundation
Euromonitor International, Inc.
Flusso Studios
Hapatune
Healthcare Engineers Society of
Northern Illinois
Illinois - Indiana Sea Grant and the
Center for Great Lakes Literacy
Irish Woods Foundation
Jocarno Fund
Lakeshore Recycling Systems
Lakeside Bank
McCormick Foundation
Moen Design Center
North Shore-Barrington
Association of Realtors
Jack Ringer Family Foundation
Schulze & Burch Biscuit Co.
Tanteo Spirits
Tarko Foundation
University of Chicago
Weaver Consultants Group
Wellington Avenue United Church
of Christ

\$300 to \$999

Anonymous
AbbVie, Inc.
Active Transportation Alliance
Bubbly Dynamics, LLC
Chicago Adventure Therapy
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.

Cogle Commission Company
Energy 350, Inc.
Essanay Studio & Lighting Co., Inc.
Everywhere Wireless
IMC
Inspire11
Johnson Ohana Foundation
The Joyce Foundation
Khecari
Lincoln Square Pottery Studio
Learning Center
Loyola University
Meeting Tomorrow
Mintel Group Limited
Mitchell School
Mount Carmel High School
North Branch Works
The Northman
Oil-Dri Corporation of America
Prassas Landscape Studio, LLC
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Up to \$299

19th Ward Youth Foundation
Abelson Taylor
Aka Associates
Amazon Smile
American Society of Landscape
Architects (ASLA) - IIT
Student Chapter
Bold Insight
Bowman
Conagra Brands Foundation
Constellation
The Disruption Society
EarthShare of Illinois
Engineering Resource Associates, Inc.
Fay's Point Marina
Google
Grace Place Episcopal Church
of Chicago
Graphic Purchasing Solutions, LLC
Guggenheim Partners, LLC
Hey and Associates, Inc.
Illinois Institute of Technology
Innovant
Nettelhorst School
North Park University
North Shore Country Day School
Northwestern Settlement -
Rowe Elementary School
Northwestern University
Ork, Inc. DBA Neighborly
Resource One Realty Group, Inc.
The River North Residents Association
Rosalie Dixler

Sharon and Alec Bloyd-Peshkin
TCA Health
Walks, LLC

Government Agencies

Chi-Cal Rivers Fund, a grant from the
National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation
Illinois Department of Natural
Resources' Coastal Management
Program through a federal grant
from the National Oceanic &
Atmospheric Administration, U.S.
Department of Commerce
Institute of Museum and Library
Services
Lake County Stormwater Management
Commission

In-Kind Donations

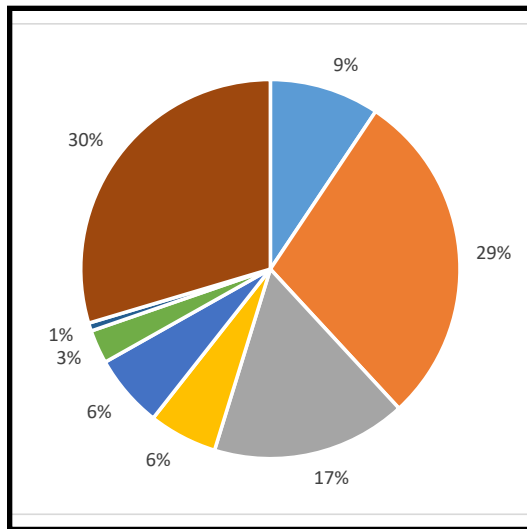
Anonymous
Ace Hardware Corporation
Neal Benish
Chicago Boat Rentals
Devenir Art & Design
Albert Ettinger and Sue Lannin
The Fletcher Family
Half Acre Beer Company
Winfred and Libby Hill
Thomas and Barbara Honn
Horse Thief Hollow
Illinois Institute of Technology
Jones College Prep High School
The Kennison
Daniel M. and Pamela Loewenstein
Molson Coors Beverage Company
The Northman
Kim Olsen-Clark and Ian Clark
Chris and Nan Parson
Patagonia, Inc.
Robert Campbell Fine Portraiture
Wendella Tours and Cruises

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.

*deceased

FISCAL YEAR 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

Audited Statements of Revenues and Expenses for the 12 months ending June 30, 2022.

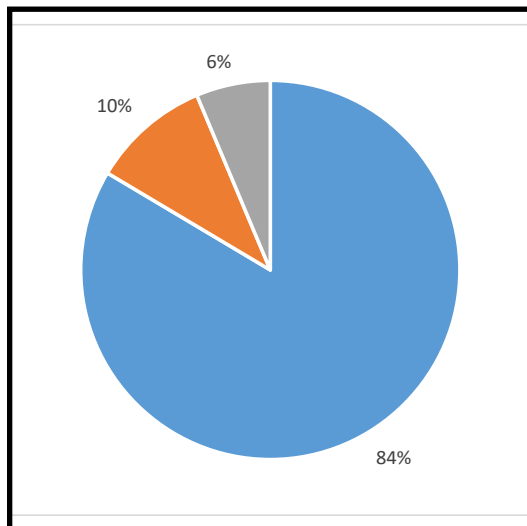


REVENUES

Corporations	9%	\$199,936
Foundations	29%	\$613,679
Individuals	17%	\$354,825
Government	6%	\$124,777
Special Events*	6%	\$132,950
Earned Income	3%	\$61,173
In-Kind	1%	\$14,769
Net Assets Released from Restriction	30%	\$631,625

Total		\$2,133,734
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*Special Events are listed net of expenses



EXPENSES

Program	84%	\$1,782,278
Fundraising and Development	10%	\$215,944
Administration	6%	\$135,088

Total		\$2,133,310
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Net Assets Beginning of the Year	\$1,207,486
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Net Assets at the End of the Year	\$1,207,910
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Change in Assets	\$424
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Josh Coles (right), director of the Bridgehouse Museum, during the filming of the Museum Access documentary episode about the museum.



Friends executive director Margaret Frisbie with Chicago Alderman Matt Martin on Chicago River Day.

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

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Sally Fletcher

Vice President

Cy H. Griffith

Vice President

James Mark, Jr.
*Chief Strategy Officer,
Wight & Company*

Treasurer

Daniel Kilduff
Partner, EY

Secretary

Jacqueline J. Loewe
*Founding Partner,
Sheridan Park Consulting*

Directors

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Cameron Brenson
Client Partner, Adobe

Aditi Chakravorty
JP Morgan Chase

Kathleen Chappell
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University Health System Foundation*

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*Chief Communications and Corporate
Affairs Officer, Molson Coors Beverage
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Janet Dawson
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Margaret Frisbie
*Executive Director,
Friends of the Chicago River*

Ryan Christopher Green
*Chief Operating Officer and General
Counsel, DL3 Realty*

Stacey A. Hasenbalg
Chief Compliance Officer, Opploans

Lydia R. Kelley

Directors (continued)

Harry Lamberton
President, Yellowstone Landscape

Dan Loewenstein

Michael Moran
Executive Vice President, Aon

John O'Connell
Director, CIBC

Brad Pollock
Area Vice President, Waste Management

Jo Trahms

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

STAFF

Annette Anderson
*Volunteer, Events, and Canoe
Program Manager*

Josh Coles
Museum Director

Amy Comstock
Business Office Manager

Adam Flickinger
Planning Director

Margaret Frisbie
Executive Director

Annie Hanrahan
Director of Development

Mark Hauser
Education Manager

Amy Heldman
Planning and GIS Specialist

Becky Lyons
Director of Equity and Engagement

Kathryn Mauery
Development Associate

John Quail
Director of Policy and Conservation

Matt Sudman
Assistant Director of Development

Tim Touhy
Director of Communications



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 wends its way past forest preserves, parks, industrial zones, and downtown Chicago where it provides a breathtaking natural vista that complements one of the world's most famous skylines.

While the Chicago River and Calumet rivers were once two prairie streams that flowed towards Lake Michigan, they are now hydrologically connected as the result of many human modifications including channelization and flow reversal, yet the river system still maintains its natural character and is an essential asset to all kinds of wildlife including more than 70 species of fish, countless species of birds as well as beavers, muskrats, snapping turtles, and the occasional river otter which call the river home.

Once considered a community detriment, the Chicago River system is now a symbol of ingenuity and progress, and has become a treasured natural resource that is shared and valued by business leaders, government officials, and the people who live here and visit.

Friends of the Chicago River

121 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1700
Chicago, IL 60601
T: (312) 939-0490
F: (312) 939-0931
www.chicagoriver.org
www.bridgehousemuseum.org