Along a Modern River: Managing Open Space

Once upon a time, the mouth of the Chicago River emptied into Lake Michigan and the slow moving, meandering stream was surrounded by vast expanses of open land. It was a confluence of prairie, woodland, wetland, savanna and riverine ecosystems that supported a great variety of plants and animals.

Humans settled in the watershed about 2,000 years ago. In just the past 200, the region has transformed into a major center of trade, commerce and culture. Today the confluence of river and lake is dominated by people, buildings, and mile after mile of paved roads. Now the river flows away from Lake Michigan and its banks seem separate from the urban jungle, far removed from the natural landscape that once teamed with wildlife.

Yet despite its urban character, Northeastern Illinois still exhibits incredible biodiversity: meadowlarks and bobolinks fly freely between oaks and maples, foxes roam wild among tall native prairie grasses, and turtles and muskrat can be found in and along our waterways. The Forest Preserves provide refuge for these animals. The City of Chicago sits in the middle of the flight path for hundreds of migratory birds not to mention monarch butterflies. Still, between 1990 and 2010, the Chicago area added nearly 900 square miles to its urban footprint, covering over what could have served as habitat and as natural open space.

Protecting, improving, and increasing natural open space is more important now than ever. Climate change is expected to further impact wildlife habitat by changing the very conditions of that habitat and possibly altering once-suitable environments into un-suitable ones, as well as disturbing migration routes. Conversely, open space has been shown to reduce the urban heat island effect, cooling our cities. Open space also absorbs stormwater that otherwise results in flooding. These are crucial ecological functions that provide enormous benefits to urban inhabitants.

So how did the landscape become like this, paved over and built up? To understand this problem, it is important to understand how we got here, what we are doing about it, and what still needs to be protected.

URBAN SPRAWL
After World War II, the United States, and the Chicago region in particular, experienced an incredible growth in urban population, both from the baby boomers and newly arriving

Story continued on page 5...
WADING IN

It’s Their Home Too

The Chicago River system is alive with wildlife—in, on, and along the water. Except for when it isn’t.

In June there was an enormous fish kill in the North Shore Channel and in July and August dozens of dead ducks were found in the North Shore Channel down to Goose Island.

The thought of dead wildlife in the river fills me with horror. It also makes me wonder how far we have come. The dead fish were most likely the result of hot weather, low flow, and heavy rains which caused a combined sewer overflow (CSO) conspiring to deplete dissolved oxygen which fish need to breathe. The ducks died from a Botulism C outbreak which has its foundation in low flow as well. Calls to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Hazardous Waste Dump Hotline and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Urban Waterfowl team triggered the collection of dead and dying birds to break the cycle, and post mortems to confirm the cause.

Not everybody is aware how much healthier the river has become and how wildlife can be harmed by CSOs, low flow, stormwater runoff, road salt, and garbage. These are complex problems that we and our core partners are working to combat.

Yet, it is important to note that compared to just a few decades ago, the river system is doing well.

Over 70 species of fish have been identified in the river. Hundreds of species of birds, turtles, beavers, muskrats and the occasional river otter have been seen. Mink, foxes, coyotes, snakes, salamanders, bald eagles, and osprey are regularly sighted. At the same time the river is reemerging as a much needed haven for wildlife, it is becoming one for people who need natural respite and places to recreate.

It is hard to remember when you see people out on the water or experience the thrill of an osprey overhead that the Chicago River was long considered a toxic afterthought—part of Chicago’s sewer system. Still, not everybody is willing to spend the money or do the difficult work needed to overcome the issues we face.

Having a healthy river is good for our communities. As we proved with “Our Liquid Asset: The Economic Benefits of a Clean Chicago River,” investing in clean water and healthy habitats is investing in people as well. We continue to work to build support —moral, physical, and financial—and we hope you will, too.

Margaret Frisbie
Executive Director

STAFF & BOARD

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Our mission is to improve and protect the Chicago River system for people, plants, and animals.

Our vision is to make the Chicago River one of the world’s greatest metropolitan rivers.

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**A River Hero**

Friends’ executive director, Margaret Frisbie, was named a 2017 River Hero by the national advocacy group, River Network, which recognizes leaders from river and water conservation organizations for their exceptional personal and professional achievements in support of river and water protection and restoration.

Passionate about protecting and restoring the health and vitality of urban communities both for people and wildlife, Frisbie has spear-headed numerous initiatives that have resulted in new and improved wildlife habitat, good public policy, and a measureable increase in interest in the Chicago River system. At present Frisbie serves as secretary for the board of Friends of the Forest Preserves and on the Great Rivers Chicago Leadership and Implementation Committee. In 2010, the Harvard Business School Club of Chicago named Frisbie as a Roman Nomitch Fellow.

River Network created the River Heroes Award in 2001 to recognize and celebrate people whose efforts to protect and restore their local waters have been extraordinary in scope, scale, impact and heart. This annual award is unique within the conservation community given its focus on water, local champions, and peer recognition. Frisbie received letters of support from U.S. Senator Dick Durbin; acclaimed clean water attorney, Albert Ettinger; and Janet Pellegrini, an environmental scientist in the NPDES Division of USEPA. Frisbie is joined by fellow award winners: Angie Rosser of Charleston, W. Va.; David Sligh of Charlottesville, Va.; David Deen of Westminster, Vt.; and Denny Caneff of Madison, Wis.

“As a voice for the river, Margaret Frisbie has made a difference in its health and vitality. Her knowledge, innovation, and commitment to making the Chicago River one of the world’s greatest rivers has undoubtedly contributed to its renaissance and recovery.”

*Stacy Meyers, staff attorney, Openlands, who nominated Frisbie for the award.*

**Planting in the North Shore Channel**

Friends successfully installed over 4,000 native aquatic plants along the North Shore Channel in June and July. Thanks to our volunteers, especially those new to restoration work, we installed lizard's tail and water willow. Ideal planting conditions call for low river levels and plenty of sunshine, both of which we had.

These plants will grow into colonies along the riverbank, help provide habitat for small fish and other aquatic life, provide protection against flooding, and improve channel aesthetics. Special thanks to our partner, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, for their support and direction in planning and planting days.

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Chicago River Blue Award Winners

Friends of the Chicago River was pleased to recognize winners of our 2017 Chicago River Blue Awards at the Big Fish Ball in June.

The awards recognize the many designers, architects, landscape architects, planners, and others who make the Chicago River one of the world’s greatest metropolitan rivers. The top prize, the Blue Ribbon Award, was bestowed upon the Chicago Riverwalk which has become one of the hottest destinations in the city and provides people an opportunity to enjoy the river from close up.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel was on hand to accept the award, saying, “I would like to thank Friends of the Chicago River for the Blue Ribbon Award… the City is grateful for the recognition and continued partnership of Friends in our efforts to revitalize the Chicago River.”

Blue Ribbon Award

Chicago Riverwalk (Chicago)  
Award Winner: City of Chicago and Ross Barney Architects

Silver Ribbon Award

Wolf Point West (Chicago)  
Award Winner: BIT Wolf Point West Investors LLC

Green Ribbon Awards

Riverline (Chicago)  
Award Winner: Perkins + Will

Wescott Park Stormwater Storage Facility  
(Northbrook, Ill.)  
Award Winner: Village of Northbrook

Calumet & Southeast Chicago Lakefront Region Wayfinding Concept (Chicago and Northwest Indiana)  
Award Winner: The Lakota Group

Calumet Corridor Rain Ready Plan (Chicago)  
Award Winner: The Center for Neighborhood Technology

Force of Nature

Friends of the Chicago River is honored to have received a 2017 Chicago Wilderness Force of Nature Award for our turtle restoration project. Over the past three years Friends has cleared 78 acres along the river system so turtles could find new places to nest. Some of these sites had documented nesting the following year. The speed of the turtles’ response is highly unusual in wildlife restoration work.

The award recognizes those who “extend above and beyond the ordinary and are inspirational examples for others.” It was accepted by Craig Coit, a Friends’ board member and past president.
immigrants: in 1940, 43.5% of the U.S. population lived in urban areas, by 2010, that number was 81%. With increased population came an expanding urban footprint as cities accommodated growth in population by growing in size—spreading out to create low-density urban areas and suburbs. The “American Dream” of owning a single-family home and a car (or two or three...) became a reality for many during the post-war economic boom.

Creating and protecting open space is important no matter where it is, including the urban areas. While it’s true that increasing urban densities is a positive strategy to protect open land, we can’t lose sight of the critical importance of maintaining open space connections through urban corridors, nor can we afford to ignore the stormwater benefits provided by preserving and increasing urban land as open green space. All of these benefits are on top of the health and recreation benefits for the surrounding communities, and the inherent beauty and worth associated with natural areas.

Unfortunately, the benefits of preserving open space in land use planning all too often gives way to profit-driven development. Many people recognize the aesthetic, environmental, and health benefits of incorporating meaningful open space into plans and designs, but are unable to make these visions a reality when faced with the pressure to maximize profits.

Our work
Throughout Friends’ history, we have repeatedly engaged in proactive projects that seek to prioritize open space for the benefit of people, plants, and animals in land use decision making. In the 1990s we led the development of Chicago’s Chicago River Corridor Design Guidelines resulting in an ordinance requiring the addition of a public 30-foot setback each time a river-edge site redevelops. In the 2000s we were a key partner in creating the North Branch of the Chicago River Open Space Plan, developing an inventory of existing open space and creating strategies to preserve it. In 2014, Friends and Openlands, released a study which evaluated land owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) which is now being used as a tool to connect these valuable open spaces with the people and organizations who can manage and maintain the land to provide habitat, recreation, and stormwater benefits for all.

By creating low-density developments for residential, business, and other purposes, we paved over a lot of open space, including land that previously served as habitat for animals and provided benefits to everyone in the region.

Density and open space
Today, planners, developers, and environmentalists understand the harmful effects of urban sprawl, and advocate for denser, more compact urban areas that contain the sprawl’s effect on the surrounding landscape. Dense housing in cities like Chicago can mean fewer single-family homes popping up over open habitat.

From 1840 to 1940 over three million people settled in the City of Chicago.
Thank you for being a part of the 2017 Chicago River Day

In May Friends held our 25th annual Chicago River Day. That’s 25 years of community involvement in bettering the Chicago River system. Volunteers all across the watershed picked up litter, removed invasives, and planted native species to ensure that the Chicago River system is healthy, more inhabitable, and an enjoyable space. It was a great day to get outside and celebrate one of our greatest natural resources.

Highlights from 2017:

• On-the-water litter pickup launched from the Dammrich Rowing Center in Skokie. Volunteers like Dave Rigg (pictured below) used Friends’ fleet of canoes or brought their own watercraft to help clean and restore the North Shore Channel.

• An honorary committee of local leadership and government officials dedicated to the environment was formed in support of this event.

• Our site captains did another tremendous job this year. Some have helped with this event for over 20 years. This event isn’t possible without their hard work.

• Wildlife sightings included great blue herons, black-crowned night herons, American toads, red-tailed hawks and chicks, garter snakes, crayfish, snapping turtles, muskrat, and cormorants.

Friends wants to thank our sponsors for making Chicago River Day 2017 possible.

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Wolff Landscape Architecture
Commonly spotted along the Chicago River system, the Virginia opossum is the only marsupial (pouched mammal) found in the United States. Astoundingly adaptable, they have existed for the past 70 million years and are one of Earth’s most successful and oldest surviving mammals.

Opossums can thrive in a wide variety of habitats and are remarkably well-adapted to the environments found around Chicago and they are an essential part of a healthy system. As opportunistic omnivores, opossums consume a wide variety of plants and smaller animals like insects, worms, snails, slugs, ticks, amphibians and rodents. Their teeth are perfectly designed to eat just about anything, and they have a lot of them (50), more than any other North American land mammal. They have sharp incisors, large canines, and tricuspid molars made for grinding.

As solitary nocturnal animals, Opossums forage at night, never straying far from their sources of food and clean water. Families will group together in burrows or occasionally under houses. They prefer dark, secure areas whether above or below ground.

Opossums stand with their feet flat on the ground. To say they are unskilled runners is an understatement. They might dash over a short distance, but, when threatened, they generally feign death, or “play possum.” They lay very still; legs and tail rigid, mouth open, and breathing almost undetectable. Predators think the opossum is dead and go away. The opossum typically regains consciousness after just a few minutes and is unharmed by the experience.

Opossum Fun Facts:
• Opossums have an opposable thumb on each of their four feet.
• Opossums have 13 nipples.
• Opossums exhibit partial to total immunity to the venom of rattlesnakes and their relatives.
• Opossums are about eight times less likely to carry rabies than other mammals, most likely because they have lower body temperatures than most placental mammals.
• Opossums are excellent groomers and consume 95% of the ticks that attempt to feed on them, thus limiting the spread of Lyme disease.


This fall Friends of the Chicago River is embarking on a new effort to better understand opportunities for wildlife habitat and corridor connections on public lands along the entire Chicago River system.

This initiative will capitalize on our current work to identify best practices for creating a continuous Chicago River trail that connects people to the river and establishes a safe and healthy corridor for wildlife. The information gathered will result in a better understanding of land owners, land types, parcel sizes, river-edge character, forest cover, plants and wildlife present, habitat threats and opportunities, and connectivity. It will serve as the foundation for a master plan for river corridor improvement and restoration, as well as provide a strong baseline for monitoring change.

Friends’ goal is to carefully craft our efforts to accommodate people and wildlife based on a regional understanding of the river-edge landscape. We also hope to contribute valuable information to all trail planning and design across the region.
A Warm and Heartfelt Thank You

Core to Friends’ success are the over 5,600 volunteers who were willing to come out and get wet and muddy, lift canoes, count turtles, fix gullies, wear waders, apply stamps, or get dressed up and come downtown in the last year. Friends celebrates their service and their commitment to supporting Friends’ mission. We couldn’t do it without them.

Planning Committee: For decades, Friends’ Planning Committee has been a force for good and positive influence on developments along the Chicago River. Starting with our founders fighting a heliport at Wolf Point near 40 years ago to providing insight to Chicago’s Urban Rivers Edges Ideas Lab just a few weeks ago, these volunteers have joined us in shaping the present and future of the Chicago River system.

Wildlife Monitors: After attending a detailed training of how to find what species, our wildlife monitors head out into the field to observe and report their observations. Braving wind, rain, and hot summer days the wildlife volunteers are our on-the-ground eyes and ears as we measure and monitor the impact of our efforts to help osprey, bats, and turtles reproduce more successfully.

Centennial Volunteers: Dedicating thousands of hours to the health of the river corridor each year, skilled work day leaders and volunteers are restoring nine river-edge sites in the Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC). Working almost weekly, the Centennial Volunteers (named for the partnership between FPCC, Friends of the Forest Preserves, Chicago Ornithological Society, and the Field Museum) have dramatically impacted the river and adjacent lands.

Chicago River Day: Volunteers across the watershed join Friends on the second Saturday of May each year to help free the river of trash and debris. Dedicated volunteer site captains provide leadership and guidance. They and their volunteer crews now participate in a host of activities which have expanded to include riverbank restoration, trail building, and education activities as the river has improved. (See page 6 for more).

North Shore Channel Plantings: This summer volunteers from across the watershed joined us to install 4,500 aquatic plant plugs into the North Shore Channel to increase habitat for fish and other aquatic creatures. Wearing waders, hats, and sunscreen, over just a few days these intrepid folks installed plants in the water, all for the price of lunch and a cookie. (See page 3 for more).

River Action Days: Friends’ River Action Days attract hundreds of corporate citizens each year who work together on river-edge restoration activities that improve the river. Action Day teams are always supported by at least one volunteer in the field with expertise in the area. Together they contribute to Friends’ mission and learn to better appreciate the flora and fauna along the river.

Canoe Guides: Our canoe guides are top class ambassadors of the river. From carrying canoes and coaching novice paddlers to providing engaging tours of the waterways, for over 20 years the canoe guides have been introducing people to the magic and needs of the Chicago and Calumet rivers. They are on the water almost more than anyone and have seen firsthand how their efforts have transformed the river.
A Warm and Heartfelt Thank You (Continued from page 8)

Special Events: Throughout the year volunteers join Friends at special events that educate kids, build awareness, and raise funds for our work improving the Chicago River. Among the events we couldn’t do without them are the Big Fish Ball, Summer Cruise, Asian Carp Grill, and the Chicago River Student Congress. Their hospitality and service contribute to making events great and increases Friends’ capacity.

Board of Directors: Friends’ board of directors is dedicated to the health and vitality of the organization. They are a strong independent voice for the Chicago River system. Directors work with staff on strategic planning, financial health, ensuring best management practices, and as subject matter experts and advocates on topics from accounting and law to landscape design.

Bridgehouse Museum Committee: The museum committee is dedicated in its work in assisting Friends’ Bridgehouse Museum. Ostensibly a fund-raising body, volunteers consistently escape their job description and paint floors, clean dust, and pretty much pitch in where ever it is needed.

Gala Committee: Since 2006 Friends’ gala committee has been an essential part of the Big Fish Ball. They provide guidance, moral support, and enthusiasm while working to sell tables, tickets and creatively raise funds to ensure Friends can meet its mission.

**RIFLES & CURRENTS**

**N’OUBLIEZ PAS VOTRE SERVIETTE**

The city of Paris has opened a section of the Canal de l’Ourcq for swimming in a new temporary facility that opened after advocates and enthusiasts started swimming there anyway. Hugely popular, the new amenity signals Paris’ intent to create more places for swimming along the canal and the Seine itself.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, who came to Chicago for Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s Urban Waterways Forum, set a target of swimming in the Seine by 2024 when the city hopes to host the summer Olympics. At the l’Ourcq inauguration, Hidalgo called swimming in the city’s waterways “a dream come true.”

**LIMIT THE USE**

In August, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) announced the result of one of the most extensive assessments of pesticide pollution in streams across the Midwest finding an average of 52 kinds of pesticides per stream.

One hundred streams were tested in 13 states during the 2013 growing season and found to contain 94 pesticides and 98 pesticide by-products, and at least one pesticide was at toxic levels for aquatic insects in at least half the streams. While levels were not toxic to fish, they can affect stonefly and mayfly larvae which are critical to stream health as they play an essential role in the food web.

**SHEDD THE STRAW, #LOSETHELITTER**

This spring the Shedd Aquarium launched Shedd the Straw, a public action campaign designed to reduce the amount of plastic waste that ends up in our lakes, rivers, and oceans. Plastics can be devastating for wildlife entangling animals such as turtles and whales or luring fish and birds into thinking it’s food which can block the digestive system and cause death.

According to the Shedd, Americans use an estimated 500 million straws a day. They are nearly impossible to recycle. Complementing Friends’ Litter Free North Shore Channel (#LosetheLitter), Friends encourages everyone to Shedd the Straw.

Friends of the Chicago River is a proud member of...
HIGH Water Marks

From membership to River Action Days to the rental of the McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum, Friends is honored to recognize the generous contributions and support of members, donors, program participants, and partners which supports the Chicago River system. Friends is grateful to everyone for their generous support. Listed below are those who made contributions of $250 and above from March 14, 2017, to August 14, 2017.

THE OTTER SOCIETY
The Otter Society is Friends’ giving society and recognizes individuals, businesses, and foundations that contribute $1,500 or more annually to the General Operating Fund or the Voice for the River Endowment. Chicago River Legacy members, who are thoughtfully providing for Friends in their estate plans, are also recognized as Otter Society members.

Anonymous
Mike Alber
Ken Arenberg and Susanne Swisher
Cinda Axley
Judith Bassoul
Alvin H. Baum Family Fund
Kent Brown and Jane Jacobsen-Brown
Craig and Kate Coit
Carolyn Eleanore Damon
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Kent Brown and Jane Jacobsen-Brown
David Wong

Chicago River Legacy Society
Kent Brown and Jane Jacobsen-Brown
Carolyn Eleanore Damon
Family Foundation
Sally Fletcher
Margaret Friebie
David Wong

INDIVIDUALS
$5,000 and above
Judith Bassoul
Craig and Kate Coit
Lawrence and Denise Kaplan
$3,500-$4,999
Grant Crowley
Stacee Hasenbalg
Sven and Julie Sykes
$1,000-$3,499
Karen Alber and Mike Santoro
Mike Alber
Ken Arenberg and Susanne Swisher
Cinda Axley
Michael Boys
Kent Brown and Jane Jacobsen-Brown
Sally Fletcher
Ginny and Peter Foreman
Paul and Kerri Hagy
Zachary Huelsing and Jonathan Lehman
Robert and Liz Johngian
Stephen and Lydia Kelley
Dave Loew
David Reinisch and Julie Kiefer
Connor and Ted Rigas
David Sawyer
Kelley and Norman Siegel
Maryana Spyropoulos and
Paul Vasiliakos
Richard Wilson
David Wong
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Peter Bator
Neal Benish
Justine Cabaj
Christine Carlyle
Robert Carone
Anne Cotter
Kathleen Deane and Herb Schepel
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Jill and Lou Raizin
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Bruce Bondy
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Epstein
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Family Foundation

Big Fish Ball - Many Thanks!

This year marked the 12th annual Big Fish Ball which shattered our previous record and raised more than $270,000 for Friends’ mission. We hope everyone had a good time and enjoyed the food and prizes. Save the date for next year’s event: June 5, 2018.

Thank you to Co-Chairs David Wong, Robert Sit, and the entire Gala Committee.

Friends’ canoe guide, Dan Lowenstein (on the far right), enjoying the sunshine at Big Fish Ball with, from the left, David and Carey Gelfand, and his wife, Pam.
By becoming a member, you are making a strong statement that you want a healthier river for people, plants, and animals. We encourage you to participate in our many activities and to invite others to join. Gift memberships are also available.

- $1,500+ The Otter Society
- $1,000 Wild Mink
- $500 Great Horned Owl
- $250 Yellow-headed Blackbird
- $156 Black-crowned Night Heron
- $250 Blanding’s Turtle / Business
- $100 Tiger Salamander / Family
- $75 Chorus Frog / Individual
- $35 Prairie Dropseed / Volunteer, Teacher, or Student

Many employers will match your membership and annual donations. Contact your employer’s Human Resources department today to find out if they have a matching gift program.

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Company (if applicable)

For recognition purposes, please list my name or company as ________________________________

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City, State, Zip ________________________________

Preferred phone ________________________________ Email ________________________________

☐ My check made payable to Friends of the Chicago River is enclosed.

☐ Charge my credit card (circle one) American Express Discover MasterCard Visa

☐ Yes, please charge the 3% credit card transaction fee to my card so that 100% of my membership/donation goes to Friends.

Card # ________________________________ Exp. Date ________________________________ Security code ________________________________

Cardholder’s name and billing address (if different than above) ________________________________

☐ I/we wish to only make a donation at this time.

☐ I/we wish to be anonymous. Please do not list my/our name.

☐ I am curious about: ☐ volunteering ☐ sponsorship ☐ planned giving

☐ Please DO NOT add me to your email communications list.

Your generous support directly impacts Friends’ efforts to improve the Chicago River’s health and vitality in three important ways: education and outreach; on-the-ground programs; and public policy and planning.

Members at the $35 level and above receive:

- Free general admission plus discounts on bridge lift, four tickets, and merchandise at our McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum,
- Discounts on our canoe trips,
- A subscription to The River Reporter newsletter,
- Volunteer bulletins, email alerts, and other opportunities for hands-on involvement,
- Invitations to special events such as Chicago River Day, Big Fish Ball, and Summer Cruise, and
- A listing in Friends’ Annual Report.

Business members of $100 and above, as well as individual/household members of $250 and above, receive additional benefits.

Otter Society members represent Friends’ most important philanthropic partnership. In appreciation of their generous support, they enjoy unique benefits at three levels of giving. To learn more about how you can participate as an individual, household, or business, please contact kolsenclark@chicagoriver.org or call (312) 939-0490, ext. 19.

Interested in joining our monthly giving club? Support Friends year-round through automatic monthly contributions as small as $10 per month. Contact membership at friends@chicagoriver.org or call (312) 939-0490, ext. 10.

Friends of the Chicago River is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. Please send this form and payment to: Friends of the Chicago River at 411 South Wells Street, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60607, or join online at www.chicagoriver.org/get-involved/membership.
Friends’ Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Event: You’re Invited!

Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Whether you are a member, partner, or volunteer, Friends invites you to join us for a celebration with our board, staff, and incredible members and volunteers. The event will take place at a convenient downtown location with an extraordinary river view. Details and location disclosed at time of RSVP, for contributors and volunteers only. Contact Joanne So Young Dill (312) 939-0490, ext. 23, or jdill@chicagoriver.org.