

# Friends of the Chicago River



FY 2017  
Annual Report



## INTRODUCTION

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Thank you for your support of Friends of the Chicago River and our continued efforts to improve and protect the Chicago River system for people, plants, and animals. An outstanding staff, deeply committed board of directors, and thousands of members, advocates, volunteers, and supporters like you make our award-winning work possible.

### Who is Friends of the Chicago River?

Established in 1979, Friends of the Chicago River has been at the forefront of the river's recovery and renaissance for nearly 40 years. Our organization's knowledge, perseverance, and ability to engage the general public, government agencies, corporations, students, elected officials, and other stakeholders in the river's care has been instrumental to the river's improvement—which can be measured in species of fish; miles of trail; and activity in, on, and along the water.

Friends' has been instrumental in a number of successes and built a strong, compelling case for support for the river system decades before it was recognized as a regional recreational, natural, and economic resource. Friends laid the foundation for many of the critical investments and ideas being implemented today.

We are proud that our work has dramatically transformed the river and the way that people recognize its value to the region.

### Need and Opportunity

The Chicago River system is 156 miles long and its watershed encompasses 673 square miles extending well beyond the City of Chicago into dozens of outlying municipalities, including large portions of Lake and Cook counties. Over the last 150 years, the river system and adjacent natural lands have been developed or neglected and the river has been straightened, dredged, and reversed. Natural habitat is fragmented, limited, or in poor condition, and in many locations the river is fenced off and inaccessible.

Despite these limitations the river is rebounding because of the work and leadership of Friends, its many partner organizations and collaborators. The City of Chicago has embraced the river and made a long term investment in it through the Chicago Riverwalk and neighborhood boathouses. The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) is disinfecting its sewage effluent and has begun critical work to reduce nutrient pollution. Agencies such as the Chicago Park District and Forest Preserves of

Cook County (FPCC) have committed to improving natural areas along the river and access to it. These efforts and improvements are the direct result of Friends' leadership and advocacy.

Yet we are still in the early phases of river recovery and to truly transform it from a neglected back alleyway into a healthy ecological system alive with people and wildlife, we must have support for our focused agenda which requires a regional effort to heal and renew the river through public policy and planning solutions that address complicated issues like climate change, combined sewer overflows, stormwater runoff, and land use as well as hands-on projects that create and connect habitat, repair the landscape, reduce water pollution and erosion, and increase biodiversity.



*More than 200 river supporters joined Friends in April for the Chicago River "photo bomb" in support of water conservation and Overflow Action Days.*

## PROGRAM INITIATIVES

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Friends' mission is to improve and protect the Chicago River system for people, plants, and animals. We achieve our mission through three program areas: education and outreach 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 river and demonstrate what's possible.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Friends' EDUCATION and OUTREACH programs cultivate awareness and build a broad base of popular support for the Chicago River.

#### Overflow Action Days

In 2017, Friends advanced our public awareness campaign around stormwater and its impacts on the Chicago River, including combined sewer overflows, runoff pollution, and flooding. In FY2017 our media campaign reached 1 million people and we declared April as Overflow Action Month, in partnership with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and Shedd Aquarium, which included 30 days of direct action and awareness to conserve and protect clean, fresh water. We will continue to build on this momentum.



*Senator Dick Durbin, Friends' Margaret Frisbie (speaking), MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos, and U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky announce Overflow Action Month.*

#### Chicago River Schools Network (CRSN)

The CRSN directly impacted 2,316 students during the 2016-17 school year and reached an additional 13,920 indirectly through training and outreach of active teachers for a grand total of 16,056. Nearly 250 students from 18 schools attended the 2017 Chicago River Student Congress. We also adapted our CRSN curriculum for Chicago Park District which was implemented to an additional 1,000 summer camp and Saturday program participants on the Chicago Riverwalk.

The CRSN provided teacher training workshops, curricula and lesson plans, service learning projects, field trip assistance, equipment loans, classroom presentations, and customized one-on-one assistance for engaging students in local environmental issues and activities as well as inspiring river-oriented advocacy.



*CRSN students from Chicago's Lane Tech High School sample dissolved oxygen levels to see how healthy the river is for fish.*



*Students learn about local wildlife by making river animal art at the 2017 Chicago River Student Congress.*

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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### McCormick Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum

The Bridgehouse Museum welcomed over 150,000 visitors since its inaugural season in 2006 – and our audience is ever-growing. Last season, approximately 38,800 people visited the museum, marking an increase of more than 10,000 over the previous season. The museum, located on the Chicago Riverwalk, annually participates in Open House Chicago and has been consistently listed in their top 10 most visited sites.



*CDOT landscape architect, Kris Sorich, discusses native landscaping on the Chicago Riverwalk at a Bridgehouse Museum summer lecture. Native plants provide habitat for Monarch butterflies, birds, and other wild creatures.*

### Paddling Programs

Thirty dedicated and experienced volunteer canoe guides provided on the water, educational experiences for more than 2,000 paddlers, including individuals and families as well as school, civic, and corporate groups. Daytime, full-moon, and customized trips provided the chance for paddlers to experience the improving Chicago River up close while learning about the issues it still faces.

Friends believes canoeing is, in a sense, a form of grassroots environmental activism. Paddlers depend on healthy water for a safe, enjoyable experience. Our canoeing program was an integral part of the process to raise the Chicago River's water quality standards.



*Every year Friends introduces thousands of people to the river in the quiet reaches away from downtown that are alive with wildlife and adventure.*

### PUBLIC POLICY AND PLANNING

Through PUBLIC POLICY and PLANNING initiatives, Friends works with government officials and key agencies to shape policies that have a systemic, long-term impact on the river's health. This work exemplifies how we mobilize supporters and provide a voice for the Chicago River on behalf of all those whose quality of life benefits immeasurably from it.

### Clean Water Advocacy

Friends continues our work to ensure that improvements in water quality standards and habitat continue to progress. During FY2017, we continued to collaborate with our partners and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) in developing a Phosphorous Reduction Planning Group to set phosphorous recovery goals, install technologies, and implement best practices.

We also continued to serve on the Chloride Task Force and have been actively recruiting the City of Chicago to partner with the MWRD to bring a chloride reduction workshop to Cook County. We continued to work with our partners along Bubbly Creek and the Collateral Channel (including the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization and the Great Rivers Initiative) to ensure that the improvement projects at those locations offer the most benefits when completed.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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### Chicago River Summit

In March 2017 Friends invited water quality experts, policy advocates, and urban swimming champions to explore the possibility of swimming in the Chicago River system. Hosted by MillerCoors, the annual Chicago River Summit featured speakers David Barra, New York Open Water; Jessica Dexter, Environmental Law & Policy Center; Willie Levenson, Portland's Human Access Project; David St. Pierre, MWRD; and John Quail, Friends of the Chicago River who shared their perspectives on the legal obligations and barriers to swimming in the river here, health of the river (good), and the value and possibility of swimming in urban rivers overall (excellent).

A Possibilities Panel followed, moderated by Elizabeth Bracket, WTTW, and featured Margaret Frisbie, Friends' executive director; MWRD Commissioner Josina Morita; Gavin Van Horn, director of cultures of conservation, Center for Humans and Nature; and Richard Wilson, City Designer, Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture.

This inspiring half-day event provided a forum for understanding the history and renaissance of the Chicago River system, while offering examples of successes in other cities and practical steps for advocacy. Q&As after each session enabled attendees to deepen their awareness and interact with a diverse community of river supporters.



*The 2017 Chicago River Summit explored what other cities do and why the metropolitan Chicago area should encourage and support urban swimming, improved water quality, and better access.*

### Aquatic Nuisance Species

Friends' staff continues to represent the interests of the Chicago River System through their participation in various work groups, namely the regional Chicago Area Waterway System Advisory Committee and the Asian Carp Coordinating Council Technical & Policy Committee. We strongly advocated for the release of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' study examining potential solutions at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam on the downstream end of the system which was finally released to the public on August 7.



*Belted kingfishers are seen perched above the water and swooping down to the water's surface to catch fish and a variety of other aquatic animals.*

### Stormwater Management

Friends continues to serve as a leader and advocate for green infrastructure and responsible stormwater management to reduce pollution to the river. We are working with a coalition of government agencies and non-profit partners to find innovative solutions to the urban impacts of stormwater, including the use of public land for green infrastructure. Our Overflow Action Days initiative also serves to diminish the impacts of stormwater and to educate the public and elected officials about how to minimize their impact on our water resources.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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### ON-THE-GROUND PROJECTS

Friends' ON-THE-GROUND projects physically improve the ecological health of the Chicago River.

#### Restoration Volunteers

Friends' staff, in partnership with Friends of the Forest Preserves and Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC), helped facilitate 238 Centennial Volunteer workdays for 3,701 volunteers who contributed 11,962 hours of work across nine FPCC river-edge sites. Workdays focused primarily on improving the biodiversity and overall quality of the worksites.

Friends' River Volunteer Stewardship Program volunteers successfully repaired five gullies at LaBagh Woods and Bunker Hill Woods and maintained an additional 10 at various sites along the North Branch and Calumet Region.

Restoration volunteer workdays continued at Kickapoo Woods through April 2017. After that, we changed our focus from the woodland to the open prairie due to safety concerns from fallen and near-fallen dead ash trees in the immediate area.



*Volunteers dig a trench to support a wattle, which will in turn control soil erosion during a gully fixing workshop at Bunker Hill Forest Preserve.*

### North Shore Channel Planting

Friends successfully installed over 4,500 native lizard's tail and water willow in the North Shore Channel in June and July. 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 to 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 and our volunteers, especially those new to restoration work. Without them it would have been impossible to get the work done.



*Volunteers help install native water willow and lizard's tail last June to improve habitat for fish and other aquatic life in the North Shore Channel.*



*Water willow, one of many planted by volunteers, in its new home in the North Shore Channel.*

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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### Chicago River Day

The 25th Annual Chicago River Day was a great success. We secured 57 sites across the watershed with 2,000 volunteers serving over 7,000 hours. While we had anticipated 2,500 volunteers this year, some local park district partners opened fewer worksites than in years past, resulting in fewer volunteer slots available. For safety purposes and to keep volunteers active, we limit the numbers of participants.



*A long time river advocate, the U.S. Congressman Mike Quigley is hard at work clearing up garbage at Clark Park on Chicago River Day 2017.*

Despite the lower number of sites, we want to highlight that the quality of the work and activities offered allowed volunteers at each site to participate meaningfully. An honorary committee of river supporters and enthusiasts from local leadership and political offices was established. Friends' canoe guides were on the water throughout the North Shore Channel collecting garbage and leading litter removal efforts. Other highlights include gully fixing, water quality testing, adding new sites such as the 16th Street Riverfront Development, and tackling the infamous Bubbly Creek.



*Chicago River Day and other Friends' activities provide opportunity for friends, family, and coworkers to work together on something that makes a real difference—improving the Chicago River system.*

### Wildlife Habitat

While we continued our work to install osprey nesting platforms and maternity bat colonies, weather hindered the completion of these projects in 2017 so work will continue into winter 2018. Finally, we cleared an additional 26 acres of turtle habitat, and this work won a 2017 Force of Nature Award from Chicago Wilderness.



*Workers raise a new bat maternity colony in the forest preserves. Bats suffer from habitat loss and struggle to find adequate roosting in the Chicago area.*

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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### OTHER ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS

#### Big Fish Ball

More than 450 people turned out to support Friends of the Chicago River at the Big Fish Ball. This stellar annual event, co-chaired by David Wong and Robert Sit, raised more than \$270,000 to support Friends' mission.

The Big Fish Ball is not only a chance to celebrate the many accomplishments over the year, but to look to the future. As Margaret Frisbie and Sally Fletcher, president, pointed out in their speeches, the river is cleaner and healthier than it has been in 150 years. It has improved because people cared and came together to drive change. The river still needs our support and Friends will be able to take our work to the next level through the power of community action and support from our partners.

Thank you to our sponsors, donors, auction bidders and attendees. The event could not have gone off as well as it did without the countless volunteers that made our gala an incredible success.



*Big Fish Ball guests got all dressed up to spend the evening with wild river animals including this skunk who was happy to pose. The gala event helps provide much needed funds for restoration, education, and in-it-for-the-long haul public policy efforts.*

#### Chicago River Blue Awards

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."



*Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel was on-hand to receive the Blue Ribbon Award for the Chicago Riverwalk which has been a hugely successful addition to the city which brings people right down to the river's edge and provides critical instream habitat.*



*Guests enjoy the brilliant Chicago skyline by night on the Big Fish Ball After Dinner Cruise.*



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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### A Continuous Chicago River Trail

One hundred and seven years after Daniel Burnham's "A Plan for Chicago" called for a river-edge promenade downtown, the third phase of the Chicago Riverwalk opened to acclaim. Completing the one-and-a-half mile long trail from Lake Michigan to the confluence of the Main Stem with the North and South Branches, the final three blocks add new under-bridge connections at LaSalle, Wells, and Franklin Streets and three new destinations east to west: The Water Plaza, The Jetty, and The Riverbank.

Friends of the Chicago River has been integral in river trail planning with the city for decades and drafted the first *Chicago River Corridor Design Guidelines and Standards*, which was approved by the City of Chicago in 1989 and remains in force, in considerably expanded form, 29 years later. The guidelines set a precedent for development in and adjacent to the Chicago River system by bringing the river to the forefront of the land-use decision making process.

One of its signature additions to project approval was a requirement for a 30-foot setback from the river to allow for public access and a continuous Chicago River trail, which was a goal of Friends' founders. The Chicago Riverwalk expands these miles of trail in the most visible location and adds a whole new dimension downtown, with the public walk leading right down to the water on many blocks. Friends was thrilled with the final execution which gets people right down to the water's edge and incorporates critical instream habitat at "The Jetty," which were first piloted downtown by our Fish Hotel from 2004-2012.



*The Chicago Riverwalk has brought people closer to the river and is a crown jewel in the downtown environment.*

### River Hero

In 2017, Friends' executive director, Margaret Frisbie was named 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, greater public access, advances in water quality, and a measureable increase in interest in the Chicago River system. Frisbie serves as secretary of the board of Friends of the Forest Preserves and in 2010, the Harvard Business School Club of Chicago named Frisbie as a Roman Nomitch Fellow.

### Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

In January 2017 the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (LCSMC) presented Friends of the Chicago River with its 2016 Education, Outreach, and Media Award, honoring public outreach activities in the Chicago River watershed. This award recognizes an individual, publication, website, or group for addressing topics related to stormwater and floodplain management. Significantly, it highlights the ways Friends' and LCSMC's missions intersect.

## CONCLUSION

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Friends plays a key role in enhancing the vitality of the Chicago River system for the people, plants and animals who call it home. Our FY2017 activities resulted in tangible and long-term improvement, changes in attitude, and increased public awareness that will engage people in the river's care. Thank you for making our work possible.

## FISCAL YEAR 2017 SUPPORTERS

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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, 2016, and June 30, 2017.

### The Otter Society

Anonymous  
Mike Alber  
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    Zachary Huelsing  
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Riverside Investment & Development  
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### Chicago River Legacy Society

Kent Brown and Jane Jacobsen-Brown  
Carolyn Eleanore Damon  
    Family Foundation  
Sally Fletcher  
Margaret Frisbie  
David Wong

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### Voice for the River Endowment

Kenneth M. Arenberg and  
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David Wong

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Jill Hackmaster  
Emily J. Harris  
Kirk Hartley  
Dorothy and David Hawley  
Ariel Hayward  
Susan Hedman  
Will Heelan  
Elizabeth Hibler  
Chris and Larry Hodak  
Karin Jacobson and Robert Seeman  
Laura Jansen  
Betsy Jenkins  
Craig and Diana Kaiser  
Mathew and Paisly Kauth  
Anna L. Kealy  
Colleen Keaveny  
Austin Kellogg  
Carol A. Krueger  
Anne Ladky and Karen Fishman  
Walter G. Larkin  
Pete Leki and Debbie Albano  
Joan Levergood  
Don Macdonald  
Robert Mathes  
Rachel Mayer  
Mark and Nancy McClelland  
Holly G. McDonald  
Mike and Evelyn McGowan  
Kelly McGuigan  
Ramona McNeese PhD  
Gail Merritt and Paul Brayman  
Robert J. Moon III  
Jim and Diane Moore  
Thomas and Cecilia Murphy  
Wendy Negron  
Caroline O'Boyle  
Angelica Orozco  
Leonard and Rosemary Palicki  
Rebecca Palmer  
Susan Pappas  
Terry and Lynne Petersen

Edward and Elaine Pierson  
Alan and Sigrid Pilgrim  
Stewart and Evelyn Pinsof  
Elizabeth Pinter  
Joe Pixler  
Phil and Gail Pollard  
Roger Pomerance  
Terry and Chris Porter  
Joshua Radinsky and Julia Rowe  
G. Benjamin Ranney  
Edward and Melanie Ranney  
Pamela J. Reimann  
Robert Reuland  
Tony and Jose Reynes  
Brian B. Roman  
Paul and Sarah Roots  
Karen Safran  
Charles and Louise Saltzman  
Gino and Jen Savarino  
Wayne Schimpff  
Barbara Silverman  
Andrew and Bethany Simmons  
Robert Sit  
Sharon Socoby  
Robert Stanley  
Laurie Stearn  
Robert Stine  
Nancy Struck  
Joseph Sullivan  
Ross Sweeny, Jr.  
Caroline Toren  
Tom and Merle Tresser  
Joan Turk  
John and Norma Uhran  
Gavin van Horn  
Matt Vanderzee  
Anne Vela-Wagner  
Kelly Villanueva  
Jennifer Wasik  
Jaclyn Wegner  
Daniel and Joanne Weinstein  
Laura J. West  
Charles White and Ellen Hunt  
Sara White  
Kimberly Xia  
Josie Yanguas and Carl Rosen  
Lisa Yondorf  
Granpa Z

**\$25 to \$49**

Noel and Sara Jane Abbott  
Gabriel Aguirre  
Ann Alexander  
Brian Andreotti  
Anonymous  
Leora Baumgarten  
Judi Beck  
Clark and Elizabeth Bell  
Thomas G. Besore  
Beth Beyer

Sharon Bielski  
David Bishop  
Richard Breckenridge  
Paula Brinkman Lowe  
Aaron Brown  
Mark Buettner  
Dennis J. Burmeister  
Mary Carroll  
Dominica Cece  
Elizabeth Chisholm  
Emily Clamp  
Dustin Clark  
Marcia Cleveland  
Lori Conley  
Janet Conlisk  
Lisa Cotner  
Sarah Coulter  
Harlan and Jane Dellsy  
William Derrah  
Luis Diaz  
Eric Dill  
Ann Dillemoth  
Ryan J. Dinelli  
Rosalie Dixler  
Erica L. Dolgin  
Andrew and Katie Donakowski  
K.C. Doyle  
Kevin Drewyer  
Katie Drommerhausen  
Julie Emerick  
James Fairhall  
Christina Faris  
James Filippini  
Nona C. Flores  
John Friedmann  
Wayne Galasek  
Amy and Sabrina Gavzy  
David and Carey Gelfand  
Terry and Deb Giannoni  
Terry Glenn  
Eston and Sandra Gross  
Michael Guzan  
Eric Hamblett  
Linda Harvey  
Logan Hawley  
Brit Hayford and Peter Skvara  
Gricelda Hernandez-Simler  
John Heroff  
Jason Hixenbaugh  
James L. Hogan, Jr.  
Natalie A. Holden  
Thomas Honzik  
Irvin M. Jana  
Linda Jenewein  
Eric Jennings Bruch  
Aaron Johnson  
Lois M. Johnson  
Jennifer Junk  
Ann Kaizerman  
Kaara Kallen

Robert Kastigar  
Martin Keesler  
Jill Kostel  
Eugene E. Krell, Craig E.S. Krell,  
and Ruth K. Wernis  
Ralph Kruse  
Chad Kruse  
Rob Lagorio  
James P. Lamb  
Heidi D. Levin  
Adrienne Lieberman  
Jayne Lilienfeld-Jones  
Phil Linduska  
Charles H. Linhoff  
Adam Loeding  
Mitchell Lopata  
Vladimir Lytchakov  
Shannon Madden  
Rose Marchuk  
Laurie B. Marston  
Edward Mazur  
Margaret McCurry  
Colleen McElroy  
Steve McVeigh  
Hon. Kathleen Therese Meany  
Robert Menard  
Stacy Meyers-Glen  
Priscilla Mims  
Floyd Mittleman  
Diane M. Morgenthaler and  
Jay Dembsky  
Friends of Josina Morita  
Marshall and June Mussay  
Peter Nagle  
Rett Nelson  
Mark Nightengale  
John and Susan O'Connell  
Michael M. O'Connor  
Layton Olson  
Tim Oravec  
Greg and Jessica Osborne  
Katherine Patton  
Derek Peebles  
Akilah Perry  
Katrina Phillips  
Sharon Phillips  
Don Pitzen  
Judy Pollock  
Sharon Porta  
Joel Porterfield  
Bryce Read  
Tonya Reedy  
Geeta Rijal  
Ron Rodriguez  
Ian Rose  
Jill Russell  
Lisa Ryan  
Annie Santoro  
David Schmidt  
Virginia Schulte

Terry Schy  
Bruce Sents  
Ann Shorey  
Mike Sinner  
Helen and Tom Snow  
Ronnie Jo Sokol  
Mike Staffeldt  
Michael Stavay  
Seth Stein  
Karen Straus  
Brett Strohl  
Brad B. Suster and  
Hector T. Hernandez  
Mark Swaya  
Sharon Sylvester  
Symanski Family  
Charles A. Tausche  
Edward Tenner  
Norman Victorson  
Claude A. Walker  
Lynn Walsh  
George Wendt  
Jane B. Wenger Living Trust  
Ken Wexler and Kim Stone  
Alex Wilkens  
William and Donna Wittert  
Lisa Youngberg  
Lee Zalban  
Don Zeilstra  
Ann Zerfas  
Claudia Zimmer

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## **Foundations, Corporations, and Other Organizations**

### **\$50,000 and Above**

The Crown Family  
Gaylord and Dorothy  
Donnelley Foundation  
Grand Victoria Foundation  
Wrigley Company Foundation

### **\$25,000 to \$49,999**

Alphawood Foundation  
The Boeing Company  
The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation  
Chauncey and Marion D. McCormick  
Family Foundation  
MillerCoors

### **\$15,000 to \$24,999**

Anonymous  
Aon  
Exelon  
Mars Wrigley Confectionery  
McDermott Will & Emery  
PepsiCo, Inc.  
Prince Charitable Trusts

### **\$7,000 to \$14,999**

Chicago Botanic Garden  
Chicago Electric Boat Company/  
Chicago Duffy  
Carolyn Eleanore Damon  
Family Foundation  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
Ozinga Bros., Inc.  
Peoples Gas  
RBC Foundation USA  
REI  
Shoreline Sightseeing and Charters  
Siragusa Family Foundation  
Sloan Valve Company  
Wight & Company

### **\$3,000 to \$6,999**

Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill  
Architecture  
Arcadis U.S., Inc.  
Arnstein & Lehr LLP  
Avison Young  
Beacon Capital Partners  
Burke, Warren, MacKay, &  
Serritella, P.C.  
Christy Webber Landscapes  
CNA  
Dr. Scholl Foundation  
Epstein  
Executive Construction  
Hines  
Leo Burnett USA  
Loyola Academy  
Morgan Stanley  
Nottage and Ward / Jeffrey Knipmeyer  
O'Briens Riverwalk Café  
Ogden Avenue Materials  
Patagonia  
Related Midwest  
Ross Barney Architects  
The Seabury Foundation  
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, LLP  
Sterling Bay  
Two North Riverside Plaza JV LP  
Walsh Construction  
William Blair  
Xylem Inc.

### **\$1,000 to \$2,999**

Anonymous  
Francis Beidler Foundation  
BMO Harris Bank  
Chapman and Cutler LLP  
CIBC  
Clark Construction Group -  
Chicago, LLC  
Dixon Enterprise  
Earth Share of Illinois  
Entertainment Cruises

Flood Brothers Disposal  
and Recycling Services  
Independence Junior High School  
The International Association of  
Lions Clubs  
James McHugh Construction Co.  
Jocarno Fund  
Lakeshore Foundation, Inc.  
Lincoln Clean Energy, LLC  
McCormick Foundation  
Meeting Tomorrow  
Patagonia, Lincoln Park  
Perkins & Will  
Jack Ringer Family Foundation  
The River North Residents Association  
Roosevelt University  
Royal Bank of Canada  
Schulze and Burch Biscuit Co.  
Louis and Nellie Sieg Fund  
Site Design Group, Ltd.  
The Standard Society  
Studio Gang  
Uncle Dan's Outfitters  
University of Illinois at Chicago,  
College of Education  
Wealth Planners, LLC  
Weaver Consultants Group  
Cynthia Weglarz Rountree Fund  
West Monroe Partners, LLC  
The Wrigley Building  
WSP USA

### **\$300 to \$999**

360 Destination Management Group  
Allstate Foundation  
Associated Colleges of Illinois  
BKL Architecture LLC  
Center for Neighborhood Technology  
Chicago Fair Trade  
Chicago Zoological Society/  
Brookfield Zoo  
Daily Planet Productions  
Evanston/Skokie School District 65  
Fuzzy Math, LLC  
Harborside Academy  
HESNI - Healthcare Engineers Society  
of Northern Illinois  
Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects  
International Association of Business  
Communicators - Chicago  
Jones Lang LaSalle  
Lawrence's Fisheries  
Linn-Mathes Inc.  
Law Offices of Alexander S.  
Michalakos, P.C.  
Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation  
The Oppenheimer Family Foundation  
Sims Metal Management Midwest  
Thornton Tomasetti, Inc.  
UC Davis - University of California

Veritatis Advisors Inc.  
Wolff Landscape Architecture, Inc.

### **\$25 to \$299**

Amazon Smile  
Bank of America Employee  
Giving Campaign  
Baxter & Woodman, Inc.  
Blue Star Properties  
Chicago City Day School  
The Children's School  
City Winery  
DePaul University  
Epic Burger  
GEMS World Academy  
Have Kayaks Will Travel  
iGive.com  
Lake Forest Openlands  
The Lakota Group  
Little Village Environmental Justice  
Organization  
O'Brien & Gere Engineers, Inc.  
Openlands  
Prassas Landscape Studio LLC  
Razorfish  
Roy Urban  
Seoul Taco  
St. Bede the Venerable Church  
Terracom Public Relations Inc.  
Tortoise Club  
University of Chicago,  
Alumni Association  
University of Illinois at Chicago,  
Department of History

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### **Government Agencies**

Chicago Park District  
Forest Preserve District of  
Cook County  
Friends of the Forest Preserves/  
Chi-Cal Rivers Fund  
Illinois Environmental Protection  
Agency  
Lake County Stormwater Management  
Commission  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Village of Niles

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### **In-Kind Donations**

Ace Bounce  
Adler Planetarium  
Art de Triumph & Artful Framer  
Studios  
Bare It All Pet Foods

Beacon Tavern  
Begyle Brewing  
Belmont Yacht Club  
Bobby's Bike Hike Chicago  
Boka Restaurant Group  
Bottleneck Management  
Marjorie Brownstein  
CH Distillery  
Chicago Architecture Foundation  
Chicago Cubs  
Chicago Distilling Company  
Chicago Electric Boat Company/  
Chicago Duffy  
Chicago Helicopter Experience  
Chicago Pizza Tours  
Chicago White Sox  
Chicago Zoological Society/  
Brookfield Zoo  
Chicagoline Cruises  
Chicago's First Lady  
Classic Carriage Works  
Craig and Kate Coit  
Comedy Sportz  
Corridor Brewery & Provisions  
Crain's Chicago Business  
Steven Crissey  
Dry Hop Brewers  
Eataly Chicago  
Entertainment Cruises  
Enzo Custom Chicago  
Epic Burger  
The Field Museum  
Sally Fletcher  
Frontier Airlines  
Dario and Chiara Fusato  
Goodman Theatre  
Kevin Greene  
Hatch Werks LLC & the Chicago  
Drawbridges Documentary  
Hines  
The Historic Hotel Boulderado  
Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza  
Thomas and Barbara Honn  
Hotel Julien Dubuque  
The House Theatre of Chicago  
Inspired Catering and Events by  
Karen and Gina Stefani  
The iO Theater  
Jewell Events Catering  
Joffrey Ballet  
The Kitchen Upstairs  
KOVAL Distillery  
L. May Eatery  
Lagunitas Brewing Company  
Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, Inc.  
Lodge Management Group -  
Redhead Piano Bar  
Lookingglass Theatre Company  
Lou Malnati's Pizzeria  
Luckyprints

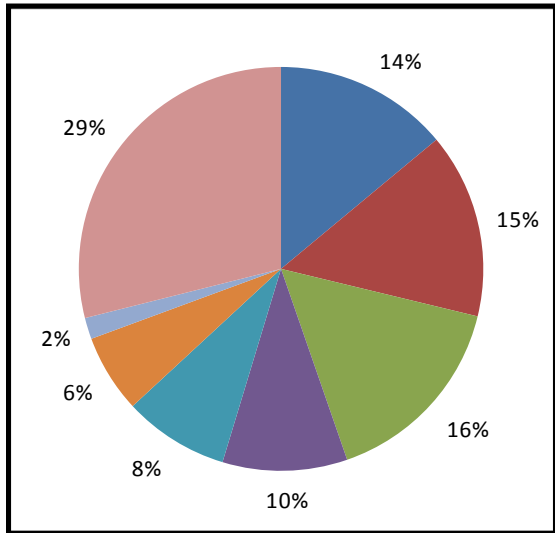
Mario Tricoci Hair Salons & Day Spas  
Mercury, Chicago's Skyline Cruiseline  
Metropolis Coffee Company  
Metropolitan Farms  
MillerCoors  
National Mississippi River Museum  
& Aquarium  
O'Briens Riverwalk Café  
Old Town School of Folk Music  
Palmetto Carriage Works  
Mike Parker  
Patagonia, Lincoln Park  
Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum  
James Phillips and Patricia Armell  
Pooch Hotel West Loop  
Pro Arc Electrical Construction  
Company  
Proxi Restaurant  
The Radler  
Eamon A. Rago  
REI  
Revolution Brewing Co.  
Rhine Hall Distillery  
Rishi Tea  
The Second City  
Seoul Taco  
Shake Shack  
Shedd Aquarium  
Sheffield's Beer & Wine Garden, Inc.  
Shoreline Sightseeing and Charters  
Six Flags Great America  
Solo Salon  
Southwest Airlines  
Stan's Donuts and Coffee  
State Restaurant  
Swedish Bakery  
Theater Wit  
Wagstaff Worldwide  
William and Jayne Walsh  
Wendela Sightseeing Co. Inc.  
The Westin Chicago River North  
Wow Bao  
Frank Lloyd Wright Trust  
Writers Theatre

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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 2017 FINANCIAL REPORT**

Audited Statements of Revenues and Expenses for the 12 months ending June 30, 2017.

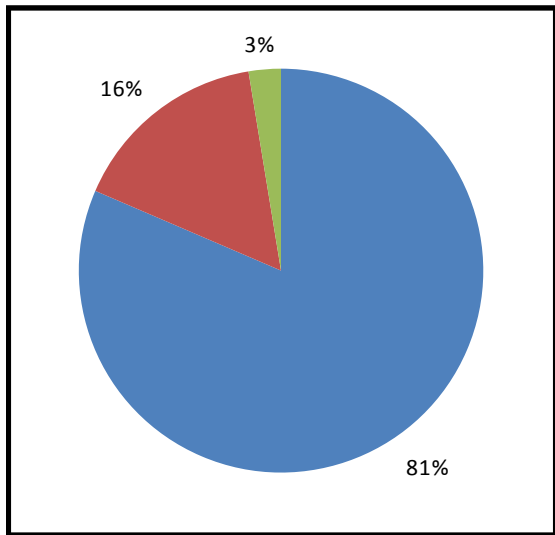


**REVENUES**

Corporations	14%	\$198,185
Foundations	15%	\$210,860
Individuals	16%	\$218,924
Government	10%	\$141,871
Special Events*	8%	\$119,819
Earned Income	6%	\$89,090
In-Kind	2%	\$24,251
Net Assets Released From Restriction	29%	\$410,952

**Total** **\$1,413,952**

\*Special Events are listed net of expenses



**EXPENSES**

Program	81%	\$1,053,662
Fundraising & Development	16%	\$204,916
Administration	3%	\$33,170

**Total** **\$1,291,748**

**Net Assets Beginning of the Year** **\$763,666**

**Net Assets at the End of the Year** **\$885,870**

**Change in Assets** **\$122, 204**



*Diners at the Asian Carp Grill learn about the progress made to prevent the spread of silver and bighead carp and other aquatic invasives while enjoying Asian carp sliders with remoulade courtesy of Dirk's Fish & Gourmet Shop.*



*A prescribed burn at Chipilly Woods promotes native growth.*



*A great blue heron flying along the Chicago River.*



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*

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*

Jeffrey Knipmeyer  
*Partner, Nottage and Ward*

Dan Loewenstein  
*Counsel, Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP*

David Lowe  
*Executive Creative Director,  
Ogilvy & Mather*

### Directors (continued)

John O'Connell  
*Director, CIBC*

Marco Ugarte Irazarri  
*Sustainability Manager, Molson Coors*

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*

Annette Anderson  
*Volunteer and Events Associate*

Cara Burke  
*Development and Events Assistant*

Josh Coles  
*Museum Director*

Joanne So Young Dill  
*Director of Strategic Initiatives*

Andy Donakowski  
*Policy and Planning Specialist*

Mark Hauser  
*Ecology Outreach Manager*

Andrew Herrmann  
*Director of Communications*

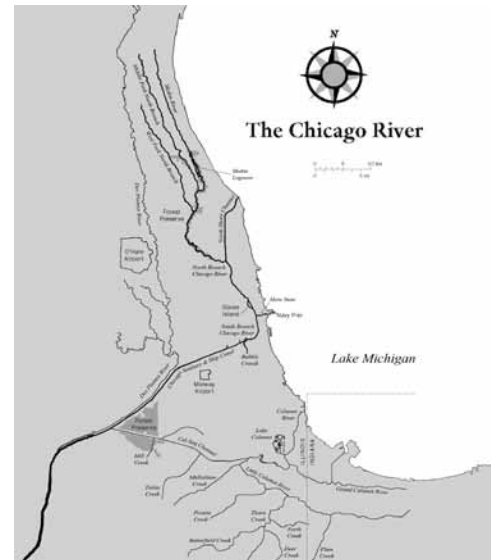
Maggie Jones  
*Conservation Programs Specialist*

Kim Olsen-Clark  
*Director of Development*

John Quail  
*Director of Watershed Planning*

Jeremiah Smith  
*Development Associate*

Matt Sudman  
*Development Writer and Grants Manager*



## 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



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