

Green Scenes

A Fond Farewell

It has been an tremendous honor to serve as President of the Springfield Parks Foundation this past year. This was my first experience serving in a capacity such as this and I am very humbled and thankful for the opportunity to experience first hand the committed and caring nature of the Springfield community.

As my time as President has come to an end, so has the service of several dedicated long time members of the Parks Foundation. Carolyn Dungan, Wes Barr, and Paul Palazollo have each played a vital role in growing the Foundation into what it is today. Each has brought a unique energy and dedication to our community which will be dearly missed. On behalf of this year's Board of Directors, I would like to thank Carolyn, Wes and Paul for their many years of service, countless hours of dedication, and the lasting impact each has provided to the Springfield community.

Probably the most unique factor in contributing to the Springfield Parks Foundation is the lasting impact one person can make. Planting a tree, donating to the Lincoln Park lagoon restoration, or contributing to Southwind Park all impact our community for a lifetime. I would like to thank each and every donor for making such a lasting contribution. Although this past year was a very tough one financially, support for the foundation continued to grow. Springfield should be excited about the number of people and businesses which are committed to making our community a better place for years to come.

I look forward to continuing to serve on the Foundation, as next year will bring more excitement, more projects, and more volunteers to to our parks and to our community. There is not a better person for the job than next year's President Doug Reynolds. We are all lucky to have him on the Foundation Board and I wish him the best of luck. Again, thank you everyone for all of your effort, dedication and commitment to our community. Take care and best wishes to you and yours!

Andrew Griswold

So many great ways to give



There are great opportunities for citizens to donate to Springfield parks and leave a legacy for the benefit of future generations through the Springfield Parks Foundation. All gifts are tax deductible and allow individuals or groups to designate donations for improving our park system. Donations can be made to honor an individual or group, celebrate a birthday, celebrate the birth of a newborn, recognize the date of a wedding or anniversary, remember a loved one, or for any special occasion when gift giving is appropriate. Look for our giving symbol throughout this month's newsletter for many different giving options for you to choose from. Please visit our website at www.Springfieldparksfoundation.org if you need additional information.

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Springfield Parks Foundation

Bunn Park
2500 South 11th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
217-544-1751

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From the New President

It is an honor to be writing my first article as President of the Springfield Parks Foundation. Our theme for this newsletter is volunteerism and how fitting that just about three years ago I answered that call to volunteer. Then President Cathy Schwartz in her newsletter article urged people to get involved in THEIR parks. She asked for individuals to call her if they were interested in joining the Foundation and I made that call.

I would like to continue this call for volunteerism, a call that promotes stewardship of OUR parks. As everyone knows, money is tight, budgets are smaller and staffing is down. It is up to you and organizations like ours to step up and help out. Volunteering your time and talents is something that should come natural, not forced, nor should it be just a square filler. We as a Foundation will make a concerted effort to promote volunteerism and stewardship within our parks and I hope you will join us. It has already begun with the establishment of committees like Friends of Washington Park with the mission of preservation and conservation of Washington Park's prairie style design and landscape. The Friends of Lincoln Park Committee has also been established and we will work to put this concept in place in other parks throughout Springfield. Furthermore, Southwind Park would not be possible without the time and effort of countless volunteers. We want to make it easy for you to get involved, which is why we have established programs like the Volunteer Tool Wagon and our "Friends of" committees. Our goal is to build a strong relationship between the Springfield Park District, our Foundation and the volunteer groups who can truly make a difference.

Along with our call to promote stewardship, we will continue our fundraising efforts to support much needed repairs and improvements within our parks. These efforts will focus on completing previous commitments such as the Washington Park Playground and the Lincoln Park Lagoon Restoration. We will also pledge our support to Southwind Park and assisting in seeing it to completion. In addition, our fundraising efforts will hopefully involve some new projects such as the reconstruction of the Washington Park Boathouse, the Iron Spring restoration, and the preservation of the old light columns that used to grace the Lincoln Park Bridge. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and do make a difference in our parks and our community. We will follow up this newsletter with a year-end letter identifying our specific goals for next year and how you, our dedicated patrons, may help us reach those goals.

Sincerely,
Doug Reynolds



Generations Tree Program



The Generations Tree program offers a unique and green gift for your loved ones. This living gift is tax-deductible and will support our parks by ensuring the health of Springfield's vibrant urban ecosystems and tree canopy. You may select from a list of native trees to be placed at the park location of your choice. Please contact Carolin Faulkner 217-725-6732 or the Springfield Park District's Arborist Chuck Smith at 217-753-6212 to learn about available trees and to order a gift to last a lifetime.

Volunteer Effort Continues in Washington Park

The volunteer effort in Washington Park continues to increase. Our regular volunteer group “Friends of Washington Park” has been very busy with several projects from the boardwalk to the playground and everywhere in between. Our group held the first annual “Split for the Park” event in May. This event provided volunteers and neighbors a list of plants they could split from their own gardens and donate. The response was outstanding with over 70 plants donated. The rest of the plants were purchased at a local nursery with funds raised through Memorial Brick sales, other donations, and our first place gift certificate from last year’s Springfield in Bloom contest. Thanks to this very dedicated group of volunteers, the three main planting beds at the playground were cleaned up and over 125 donated and purchased plants were split with over 350 plants planted. Mulch donated by Chapman Stone finished out the project. All this was accomplished in just a little over three hours. WOW!!!!!!! In total, the Friends of Washington Park volunteer group and the Springfield Parks Foundation contributed approximately \$1800.00 in plants and materials to the Park District. The project placed second in this year’s Springfield in Bloom contest. The volunteers were also responsible for planting the entrance sign areas throughout the park along with the flowers around the band shelter. Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of individuals like Chuck Smith, Chad Scaife and their staffs at the Springfield Park District.

Several other coordinated volunteer efforts also took place within the park. A hard working group of interns from the Illinois EPA spent the day near the old Iron Spring continuing our effort to restore the wooded areas to their natural form. This was made possible through the collaborated effort of the Park District and Friends of Washington Park. Another wonderful group of volunteers were the members of Delta Church who committed to volunteering



1 day a month for 3 straight months. They would hold their Sunday service in the main picnic shelter followed by their volunteer work and then lunch. They were able to mulch most of the main walking trails within the woods along with cleaning up and weeding the playground area. It was truly a pleasure meeting and working with this group. It goes without saying that without passionate, dedicated park patrons like these volunteers and contributors, projects like these would not be possible. The Friends of Washington Park volunteers have been supporting efforts within the park for over two years now. If you would like to be a part of the Friends of Washington Park volunteer effort, please contact Doug at 217-553-1329 or email f16ratt@mac.com. You may also visit the Foundation’s website for updates and scheduled workdays in Washington Park.



Washington Park Giving
Opportunities



Washington Park offers donation opportunities through the Generations Tree program as well as the purchase of Memorial Bricks which are located at the beautiful Washington Park Playground area. Please visit www.Springfieldparksfoundation.org for an order form or contact Doug Reynolds at 217-553-1329.

Sprucing up Lincoln Park



"Friends of Lincoln Park will be important participants for the planning and execution of the Lagoon dedication now scheduled for the Spring of 2010."

Friends of Lincoln Park and the Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association banded together this year to help spruce up parts of Lincoln Park. Through work days, several volunteers set out to clear the volunteer trees, weeds, brush and poison ivy away from the beautiful waterfall nestled into the side of the hill next to Lincoln Park's lagoon. Special attention

Lincoln Park Lagoon

The final phase for the Lincoln Park Lagoon started this fall. The area to the south of the bridge, affectionately called the amphitheater, is getting re-graded and proper drainage will be installed to reduce the erosion currently affecting the lagoon area. Once this is complete, the areas with rotting railroad ties will be replaced with landscape brick to match the stone of the bridge. The walkways around the lagoon will be restored as will the beautiful stone work that has fallen into the lagoon along the edge. The memorial bricks will be placed to the north of the bridge with the decorative lighting and benches strategically installed around the lagoon. Evans-Mason is the contractor for this final phase and will work as weather permits. We are confident the area will be pristine by the May 2010 dedication. Please contact Jen Aholt at Jenniferra74@yahoo.com or 725-3228 for more information.

was given to the sign boxes this year in anticipation of the "Springfield In Bloom" contest. In addition to red tulips, they were splashed with color and received special recognition in the competition. Volunteers also met with the Park District to help identify the perfect location for the re-installation of the historic bridge pillars. These pillars will be placed in the 5th Street plantings for all to enjoy. The Friends of Lincoln Park will be important participants for the planning and execution of the Lagoon dedication now scheduled for the Spring of 2010. The bricks, lamp posts and benches will soon be placed around the Lagoon area so make sure to get your memorial orders in soon. For more details on how to participate in Friends of Lincoln Park, please contact Jen Aholt at Jenniferra74@yahoo.com or by calling 217-725-3228.



Lincoln Park Giving Opportunities



Memorial opportunities at Lincoln Park include tree planting through the Generations Tree program and the Memorial Brick program which offers various sized bricks for personalized inscriptions. Another unique opportunity lies in the sponsorship of the limited decorative light posts and benches soon to be added in the final phase of the lagoon restoration. Please visit www.Springfieldparksfoundation.org for an order form or contact Jennifer Aholt at 217-725-3228.

Sensory Gardens at Southwind Park

One of the many features that will make Southwind Park so unique is the five sensory gardens. These gardens have been a work in progress over the last two years. The design team met with many different community organizations over a six month period to survey how the sensory gardens could be used to meet the user's needs. The gardens have been funded by a grant provided by the National Recreation Foundation and two private donations.

The Enabling Garden is designed to give special needs individuals the opportunity to garden with raised planters that allow for gardening from a chair.

The Tranquility Garden is developed for people who have Alzheimer's or dementia. It includes a grove of 22 white birches, low lighting & five different seating areas promoting a peaceful setting.

The Fragrant Garden provides park visitors the opportunity to interact with plants up close. The focal point of this garden will be a waterfall that cascades through the wall and empties into a reflecting pool.

The Children's Garden has a variety of fun plants that include a vegetable garden for children to plant and harvest, a mini butterfly garden, a native plant area, a bird attracting garden, and many different paths and whimsical items to interact with while playing throughout the garden.

The Butterfly Garden was designed with the Illinois State Museum staff. The two types of plants and trees in this garden attract butterflies or support the

caterpillars' habitat requirements. There will be interpretive signage, seating areas, and a water feature to enjoy.

Over 3,000 flowers and ornamental grasses that will be planted in these gardens have been planted and maintained weekly by students from The Hope Institute. This summer, twenty students from the Opportunity GreenWorks and YouthBuild programs, both sponsored by the Springfield Urban League, assisted with the construction and planting of these gardens. Senior Services of Central Illinois' RSVP volunteers have been busy planting over 1,000 of these perennials and ornamental grasses the last few Wednesday mornings. Youth from Chatham Presbyterian and St. Elmo's First Church of God have mulched trees and helped with weeding. Groups from the University of Illinois at Springfield have helped plant trees. Students and faculty from the Capital Area Career Center assisted in pouring concrete as well as miscellaneous greenhouse upkeep. As you can see, our gardens have been nurtured by many volunteers from throughout our community. We look forward to continued stewardship and progress through volunteerism.



"The design team met with many different community organizations over a six month period to survey how the sensory gardens could be used to meet the user's needs."



Southwind Park Giving Opportunities

Current memorial opportunities at Southwind Park include the Generations Tree and Memorial Brick programs as well as unique opportunities to be on the Legacy Wall or to provide a Tree Grove. Please contact Diane Mathis at the Springfield Park District at 217-544-1751 or go to www.southwindpark.org.

Coming soon...
the Southwind
Park Grand
Opening.

Have you heard the News?

We REALLY are progressing with building Southwind Park

Our unique 80 acre state of the art park will serve as a national model providing a new dimension of inclusion for all people "without boundaries."

Beyond full compliance with the American Disabilities Act, special emphasis and attention has been given to individuals

with physical and cognitive needs. The park also supports several sustainable designs including natural habitat areas, bio swales and rain gardens. In addition, a wind energy integration system,

photovoltaic applications and recycled materials are also targeted to be included in the overall design of the park features.

The first building in the park, "Erin's Pavilion", will serve as an informational center as well as a building to facilitate recreational, interpretive and educational programs, services and special events. The pavilion design has a focus on sustainable energy, demonstrating our commitment to environmentally sound methods of energy production. Erin's Pavilion certification

goal is to achieve LEED platinum utilizing renewable and sustainable resources. LEED Platinum certification is the highest level

of certification of which only 80 buildings have achieved under the New Construction rating system WORLD WIDE.

Progress:

With an unusual wet spring/summer, our park construction schedule was delayed. BUT the work continues and our opening date for the park is Spring 2010. Delays are disappointing; however, the wait in time will provide rewards! The plants will be larger and in full bloom, the grass will be greener and our park guests will be eager to have a pleasurable experience. Southwind Park will be ready for everyone to come and spend time enjoying the outdoors.

What you will enjoy when you visit this Spring...

- Erin's Pavilion offers stunning panoramic views of the lake and amphitheatre hillside. Serving as the nucleus of park-wide activity and information, Erin's Pavilion also has several large and small rooms for programs, rentals and special events.
- Six picnic shelters equipped with lights, ceiling fan and nearby grill.
- Bocce Ball & shuffleboard courts, horseshoe pits and life size chess game
- Eight acres of open green space
- Springfield's LARGEST playground climber and musical instruments
- Gazebo on the lake
- 2 ½ mile concrete urban trailway
- Three fishing piers
- Over 2,000 trees
- Five special garden areas

We are STILL on TRACK with building an ALL INCLUSIVE park that will provide a fun and relaxing place for people to enjoy their leisure time.

For updated information please call 544-1751 or www.southwindpark.org



Southwind Park Partnerships

Community support of the Southwind Project continues at an overwhelming rate. In addition to financial donations, in-kind donations of time, materials and volunteer help, numerous partnerships have also been established that allow us to add many features to our entire project. Some examples of the benefits of our partners include the Sangamon County Community Foundation and the Park District being awarded grant funds from the Kellogg Foundation's "Access to Recreation" grant that finance a park-wide navigation system for our park guests. The funds will purchase three trams to transport people around the eighty acre park, GPS hand held devices that offer way finding, an educational tour of the environmental methods of energy production, emerging renewable technologies, and sustainability features included throughout the park. UIS is also partnering with us to produce the walking portion of the educational tours as well as signage throughout the park and a system for staff to communicate

with individuals that have hearing/speech challenges.

There are MANY MANY more partnerships that have allowed us to add features and contributed to the success at the park. This truly demonstrates the meaning of Springfield Community Support!



Springfield Parks Foundation Scholarship Program

In years past, the Springfield Parks Foundation and Springfield Park District, along with several sponsors from area businesses and neighborhood organizations, have proudly brought the Springfield community the Music & Movies in the Park series. Under the stars and in Springfield's stunning parks, local musicians and family friendly movies entertain us at dusk while bringing Springfield citizens together. In 2010, the Springfield Parks Foundation will renew it's commitment to this wonderful program. Our organization will be reaching out to local businesses, organizations, and individual patrons for sponsorship support.

The funds raised from these sponsors will directly support the Springfield Parks Foundation Scholarship Program. This is a joint program between the Foundation and the Park District which provides much needed scholarships for hundreds of Springfield youth. The scholarships allow the youth to attend various Springfield Park District recreational programs at no cost to their families. This is a valuable program for our youth, our families, and our community. For more information on becoming a 2010 sponsor please, contact Candice Trees 217-622-5882 or visit our website, www.springfieldparksfoundation.org.



Springfield Parks Foundation

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Springfield Parks Foundation Gala



Each Spring, the Springfield Parks Foundation Gala serves primarily as a fundraiser for one of our many desperately needed capital projects within our park system. Some of the past projects benefiting from the Gala were Southwind Park, the Washington Park Playground and the Lincoln Park Lagoon Restoration. Look for information regarding our upcoming Gala to participate in building a lasting project for our parks while enjoying the night's entertainment and fellow park supporters. For more information on the Spring Gala please contact Karen Conn at 217-523-4469.

If you no longer wish to receive Springfield Parks Foundation mailings please contact Debbie McKinely at dmckinely@springfieldparks.org or call 217-544-1751 to remove your name from our mailing list. Thank you.

Mission Statement

The Springfield Parks Foundation is a not-for-profit fundraising organization dedicated to enhancing the use, growth and preservation of our parks.