

THE PACT:

THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER



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THE DUNHAM PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL: BUILDING PARK COMMUNITY IN THE SPIRIT OF RECYCLING

Dunham Park, 4638 N. Melvina Ave., Chicago, IL. 60630. Submitted by Bea Novak, President.

We recently had a Baseball & Softball Equipment Swap Sale. We coordinated with our two leagues: the Dunham Boys Baseball and Dunham Park Girls Softball. Our park has six baseball diamonds and is very busy every day during baseball and softball season. To help kids get started, we organized a collection of hand-me downs and these were then sold or swapped for something else. This event helped get the word out about our organization (a year old), we were able to benefit the young kids starting out by defraying the cost to start up a sport, and we also made a little bit as a fundraiser.

To extend that to the greater park community,



BASEBALL & SOFTBALL EQUIPMENT SWAP & SALE

**SWAP SALE
DATES
MAR 18
MAR 19
Main Dunham
Fieldhouse
FROM 11-2**

it translates easily to any other summer clean out event like baby gear swaps/sales, strollers or wheel exchange, tennis, soccer, lacrosse, whatever is big in your local park. My advice is to have a collection date prior to the day of the sale, and to be clear about what equipment you are collecting and the dates you will put it out for sale or swap. The most satisfying thing was when a parent walked away and

purchased a baseball bag donated by one family, cleats handed down from another player, a helmet from someone else, and a mitt used by an older boy in the league.

This was an excellent opportunity to build community and recycle used equipment and get the kids ready to play, and we look forward to our future endeavors in Dunham Park in 2017.





TOP: (Left to right) President of Waste Management, Inc., Phillip Rooney, Friends of the Parks President, Cindy Mitchell, and Mayor Richard M. Daley kicked off Earth Day 1990 in Grant Park. BOTTOM: Clean up in Sun-Yat Sen Park with Dragon Athletic Association members. RIGHT: Waste Management, Inc. employees and their families stand behind filled bags of debris from the Museum of Science and Industry grounds.

FOTP ARCHIVES: Great Precedent from Earth Day 1990

On Sunday, April 22, 1990, Friends of the Parks partnered with the Chicago Park District, neighborhood park advisory councils, community organizations and individual volunteers to clean 55 parks across Chicago. Now, in 2017, 125 parks, beaches and preserves will participate in our annual Earth Day event exactly 27 years



later. Though the events will take place 27 years apart, both engage neighbors, businesses and volunteers in connecting to our community gems. It is too late to register new parks for 2017 Earth Day, but you can still volunteer at one of the 125 sites. Visit <https://fotp.org/events-page/earth-day> to find your local park!

FOTP ARCHIVES: Netsch's Call for Public Input

This month's archive comes from the October 1986 Trust (To Reshape Urban Systems Together), Inc. newsletter. In September of 1986, the then newly appointed Chicago Park District Board President, Walter Netsch, and then Friends of the Parks executive director, Erma Tranter, spoke together at the Trust Inc.'s forum on the future of Chicago's parks. In a moderated discussion, both Netsch and Tranter spoke about a variety of topics.

Netsch, who was appointed by Mayor Harold Washington, announced policy declarations at the September 18, 1986 forum, including a "promise to restore community control over neighborhood parks with a system of three park areas (North, South and West) with a 'host' park in each area to serve as a gathering point for input from Chicago neighborhoods. 'There will be no more 'downtown' advisory boards,' the park district president pledged, 'and all meetings will be open to the public, not just to those who have been 'appointed' by park officials.'" Netsch also spoke in reference to the Park Board of Commissioners, that "'Meetings will always be open,' he promised, 'and anyone can attend just by signing in. Ideas should come to us, as they have come from Friends of the Parks for the past 11 years.'"



Above: Then Chicago Park District Board President, Walter Netsch, and then Friends of the Parks executive director, Erma Tranter on Trust, Inc. panel.

Citation: Netsch, Tranter Call for Public Input About Parks and 'Parkness' in Chicago. (1968, October). *Trust Inc.*, pg. 4-5.

THE FOTP
TREE
SAYS...



...not to belabor the point, but we can never say this enough: people receive information in different and in multiple ways. So adopt a holistic approach to outreach for advertising local park and park partner programs and events, meaning utilize each of these methods in tandem:

- **Make fliers.** Post them in public places and ask neighborhood organizations, local businesses and elected officials to share them as well. You can even do a rotation around the park neighborhood and leave fliers on stoops.
- **Utilize your social media.** Post your event or meeting fliers, or even a variety of teaser posts getting your community pumped for the event!
- **Share info in email blasts.** Send in your own weekly or monthly emails, or ask your Alderman's office to share in theirs.
- **Advertise in local newspapers.** Either place an official advertisement or send a press release to your small, community papers.
- **Never doubt the power of word-of-mouth.** Ask anyone and everyone you can to help spread the word!