



THE PACT:

THE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL TRIBUTE NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PAC Highlight: Montrose Dog Beach (MONDOG) 1

FOTP Archives: Great Lakes Beach Sweep 2

The FOTP Tree Says...Take Advantage of Grant Writing Workshops 2

Noteworthy Dates 2

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MONDOG: THE MONTROSE DOG BEACH PAC



Montrose Dog Beach, Between Wilson Dr. and Lawrence Ave. on the lakefront. Submitted by MONDOG.

The guardian and sponsor of the Montrose Beach Dog Friendly Area (DFA), MONDOG's mission is to ensure Chicago and Cook County residents, and their canine friends, have a fun, clean, and safe beach experience. A completely volunteer organization, MONDOG endeavors to represent the dog beach community with an emphasis on owner participation and responsibility. MONDOG is committed to the ongoing preservation and improvement of Montrose Dog Beach through owner education, volunteer support, and community partnerships.

Montrose Dog Beach is dedicated to Susan Kimmelman who, with a small group of dog-lovers, worked with the city to create the first legal off-leash dog beach in the city. They proposed using a boat launch, which was

rendered unusable by the receding lake. The group petitioned the Chicago Park District (CPD) in 2000 for permission to create a DFA. After 2 years of patience, persistence and compromise, CPD granted permission for this groundbreaking endeavor. Unfortunately, Susan had passed away before she could see the fruition of her vision.

Keeping the Montrose Dog Beach safe and in excellent condition involves a partnership between MONDOG and the Chicago Park District. The CPD maintains the fences and collects refuse within the beach area. MONDOG is responsible for collecting donations in order to provide dog waste bags, and doing routine cleanup of the property. Quick cleanups and refreshing dog waste bags are done on a daily basis. Larger more extensive cleanups are performed during the prime season (April - October) in cooperation with the Alliance of the Great Lakes and Earth Day volunteers. No food is allowed in the DFA at any time, and all dogs must be current

on all vaccinations.

Montrose Dog Beach is blessed and challenged by the natural boundary, to wit, Lake Michigan. The lake rises and falls, the sand blows, floods and shifts. The waves alternately recede from the fence and twist them to rubble. The lakeshore freezes to beautiful but treacherous ice sculptures in the winter, the grass and bamboo grow knee-deep in the launch area in the summer, and the algae collect in the autumn. Therefore, dogs must be trained to recall and be social with each other, and owners have a special → **page 2**

Want your PAC featured in the PAC Highlights section?

Please give us a little history about your PAC and the great work your PAC has done. Why did you start? Was there a hurdle that you overcame? Is there a great project you'd like to share? Please include 1-2 pictures and no more than 300 words. Send submissions to Nicole at machucan@fotp.org.

DATES OF IMPORTANCE

- September 6th:** Friends' Webinar— Park District Budget
- September 14th:** Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting, 541 N. Fairbanks @3:30
- September 17th:** Alliance for the Great Lakes Adopt-a-Beach Clean-Up
- September 21st:** Chicago Park District Public Budget Hearing at Fosco Park 5:30pm registration, hearing begins at 6pm
- September 24th:** National Public Lands Day
- September 27th:** Fall PAC Quarterly Networking Meeting
- September 29th:** Friends' Netsch Lecture, Topic The Obama Presidential Library
- September 30th:** Friends' Volunteers in Parks (VIP) nominations due to machucan@fotp.org
- October 5th:** FOTP & Revolution Brewery Fundraiser
- October 6th:** IEPA Riverfront Clean-up grant workshop
- October 19th:** Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting, Ellis Park @3:30
- October 23rd:** Friends of the Parks' 20th Annual VIP Awards Reception
- November 3rd:** Friends and The Law Project 501c3 Info Meeting to PACs
- November 17th:** Friends' Annual Gala



Continued from page 1: responsibility to keep a constant eye on their dogs and control or remove them when problems arise. MONDOG is not an enforcement agency, but strives to educate dog owners of rules and their rationale, as well as collecting funds used to provide dog waste bags. All funds collected are used directly on supplies. Over 55,000 dog waste bags are provided by donations to MONDOG. Donations are always welcome, and the major fundraiser is Santa Paws, which will be on Saturday, December 3, 2016 on the Beach.

Open all year, Montrose Dog Beach DFA is located on the lakeshore at Wilson Avenue, just

northwest of Montrose Beach. We have been recognized in local and national publications as one of the best dog parks in the country, and one of the cleanest, most beautiful parks in the city.

MONDOG looks forward to partnering with a local entrepreneur who will open a paid dog-wash station in the coming year. Since there is no water and sewer currently in the vicinity, once again, persistence and compromise has enabled this improvement to be on the horizon.

More information and photos are available at MONDOG.org. Follow us on Facebook at "Montrose Dog Beach."

FOTP ARCHIVES: GREAT LAKES BEACH SWEEP

Twenty years ago, Friends of the Parks and the Lake Michigan Federation (now Alliance for the Great Lakes) recruited several hundred volunteers for the 5th annual Great Lakes Beach Sweep. The Sweep was part of the International Coastal Clean-Up, with volunteers across all 50 states and 80 countries participating. This month marks the 25th year of Chicago's participation the International event. Now known as Adopt-a-Beach, the Alliance is excited to engage hundreds of groups and volunteers in cleaning Chicago's precious coast for another year.



Right: Volunteers untwisting plastic and paper at 76th Street Beach. **Above:** A few of the 100-plus volunteers from the Japanese Chamber of Commerce at 12th Street Beach.

THE
FOTP
TREE
SAYS...



...take advantage of grant opportunities, especially those that allow you to work on an application with the funder. If you are a group along a river, the lakefront, or stream, you are eligible for an upcoming Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) grant. Friends of the Parks is partnering with Great Rivers Chicago and the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) on a grant writing workshop to help local organizations prepare their applications to the IL Environmental Protection Agency SCALE program — maximum grants will be \$3,500 towards streambank, lakeshore or riverfront cleanup events in 2017. If your organization has a track record of cleanup volunteer work, you are eligible to apply for the grant, which has a November 30, 2016 deadline. But take the upcoming opportunity to meet MPC, IEPA, and other corporate volunteers on October 6th at Ping Tom Memorial Park to review your application, answer any questions and meet other residents excited about taking action to ensure clean, healthy and safe parks — one of the goals in the newly released 'Our Great Rivers' vision! **I, the FOTP Tree, recommend that you come to the meeting with a draft application completed beforehand.** For any questions about the October 6 grant writing workshop or the IEPA SCALE program, please email Sarah Cardona at scardona@metroplanning.org.