



April 21, 2021

Contact: Abigail Johnston
Friends of the Parks
Policy and Communications Associate
(312) 857-2757 ext. 4
johnstona@fotp.org

Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friends of the Parks' 37th Annual Earth Day Parks & Preserves Celebration & Clean Up

What: For the past 37 years, Friends of the Parks has organized the largest Earth Day Parks & Preserves Celebration & Clean-Up in the Midwest. Although COVID-19 safety conditions have scaled back this year's efforts, volunteers will be deployed to provide in-kind support to the Chicago Park District and the Cook County Forest Preserves to pick up trash, plant gardens and improve the playgrounds in more than 30 of Chicago's neighborhood parks and forest preserves in honor of Earth Day. With safety as a top priority, and in accordance with Chicago Park District, Forest Preserves of Cook County, and Friends of the Parks requirements and capacities, we will be formally hosting fewer clean-ups than previous years but will support a limited number of Park Advisory Councils (PACs) and park partner organizations while focusing most of our organizational efforts at one main hub site at Garfield Park in support of the Garfield Park Advisory Council. Some partners have asked us not to advertise their clean-up to avoid overcrowding, so those clean-ups will not be listed here. The annual event is presented, planned, and organized by Friends of the Parks with sponsorship from Target, Magid, and Wells Lamont.

When: The event is being held on – Saturday, April 24, 2021, Chicago, IL

Who: Friends of the Parks is a 45-year-old non-profit parks advocacy group whose mission is to inspire, equip and mobilize a diverse Chicago to ensure an equitable park system for a healthy Chicago. We envision a well-balanced Chicago park system, protected by Chicagoans for Chicagoans, to advance the individual, community, public, ecological, and economic health and well-being of our city. To learn more about Friends of the Parks, visit www.fotp.org.

Where: The annual Earth Day Celebration will be held in parks and preserves across the City of Chicago. The main hub site this year will be at Garfield Park, hosted by the Garfield Park Advisory Council and other community volunteers with support from Friends of the Parks. Other key sites include Palmer Park where the Palmer Park Advisory Council will receive a boost from My Block My Hood My City; the Montrose Beach Dunes supported by the natural area stewards and additional volunteers; and Grant Park with Rotary Club volunteers supporting the Grant Park Advisory Council. Other large parks that are organized to safely support significant gatherings of volunteers within COVID-19 safety guidelines include Humboldt Park and Riis Park. The Forest Preserves of Cook County also offer volunteer opportunities throughout Earth Week, including a clean-up at Beaubien Woods on April 24. For a complete list of sites that can accommodate outside volunteers within COVID-19 social distancing guidelines and for other Earth Day Celebration and Clean-Up updates visit www.earthdaychicago.org.

Garfield Park: 100 N Central Park Ave, Chicago, IL 60624

There will be two shifts, one from 10am-12pm and one from 12pm-2pm. There is a 50-person limit for each shift due to COVID-19 constraints. Volunteers should meet at the Golden Dome Field House. Sign up on www.earthdaychicago.org.

Friends of the Parks Staff contact: Abigail Johnston, (708) 925-6368 (mobile)

Montrose Beach Dunes: 900 W Montrose Harbor Dr, Chicago, IL 60640

There will be one shift from 9am-12pm with a limit of 40 spots. Spots are currently filled.

Friends of the Parks Staff contact: Andrea Dennis, (513) 349-5836 (mobile)

Grant Park: Columbus Dr, Chicago IL, 60601

There will be one shift from 10am-12pm. All participants must register. Visit www.earthdaychicago.org to sign up.

Beaubien Woods: W Doty Ave S, Chicago, IL 60827

All participants are required to register, visit www.earthdaychicago.org to sign up. The Forest Preserves will provide bags and gloves.

Palmer Park: 201 E 111th St, Chicago, IL 60628

There will be one shift from 10am-1pm. There will also be air and water filter collections for donation to Roses in Roseland. Sign up on www.earthdaychicago.org.

###