

Jackson Park Advisory Council abbreviated Annual Report of Activities

2019: workdays, outreach, events, and improvements 1-13-19 GMO

Workdays. JPAC conducted or hosted 55 workdays of single or multiple activities giving many thousands of volunteer hours. From March through December monthly workdays were conducted by our area stewards and their teams of regular volunteers, often supplemented by large organized groups, servicing the Natural Areas-Bobolink Meadow, 63rd Beach Natural Area (with Shedd Aquarium), and Wooded Island. Several workdays were organized by the Columbia Basin steward. Activities included planting, removing invasives, shielding and mulching young and other trees, mulching and raising trails, doing cleanup, conducting educational tours or installing educational material. And a group from Open Lands TreeKeepers did regular pruning, and trained volunteers worked with contractors in the Japanese Garden and in replanted park sections under the GLFER ecological restoration. Other large groups of JPAC, school and college, corporate, and local or international community service groups worked in many parts of the park—playgrounds, new children's book "little libraries", or making and clearing wheelchair paths, etc. at the Iowa Building and LaRabida Hospital shores. Also mulching, trash pickup, and playground soft surface spreading projects and beach cleans were conducted. Most of our projects have an education tour or talk related the park's history and ecology and the importance of cooperative and individual stewardship.

We have set up and are growing a Teen Green Team in cooperation with schools, Scouts and expanding city and park district programs.

Several of our workdays were part of citywide initiatives—Earth Day and It's Your Park Day.

Also, several JPAC volunteers helped with planting, cleanup, stewardship and education in nearby parks.

Engagement, Advocacy, PAC Development. Worked with staff to develop and furnish new classes.

PAC members conducted or participated in inspection and documentation tours. These often involved CPD staff, contractors and elected officials, informing them of the grand history, potential, and needs of the park. Many work orders and capital or budget requests were generated from these that resulted in repairs or improvements or provided documentation of major problems such as shore erosion, park flooding, difficult access, paths, trees, and overgrowth.

JPAC helped plan and conduct, and learned from, seminars and conferences by the Park District, South Region, Chicago Parks Foundation, and others. And we participated in Jackson Park planning and review. JPAC and Friends of the White City conducted well-attended weekly park history tours, reaching people from all over the region and abroad and in a Flashlight Tour with FOTP and HP Historical Society.

Shedd Aquarium, Alliance for the Great Lakes partnered for beach and coast ecology and cleanup.

A major initiative launched was a partnership with Harris Community Action of the Harris School of Public Policy UC for a team and intern to survey park users, use of park spaces, community desires and needs regarding the park, and ways to engage youth, families and younger adults including for stewardship.

Worked with, celebrated the golf caddy program and sports teams including Wolf Pack football.

JPAC collaborated with several organizations, including hosting of learning and engagement events in the park. A few—On the Table with the Chicago Community Trust and Partners.

One Earth Film Festival/Green Community Connections for two environmental festivals and screenings.

The Obama Foundation and Southside Neighbors for Hope collaborated on ecology and other lectures.

Make Music Chicago, Night Out in the Parks, Apostolic Church, and Museum of Science and Industry for concerts, piano lessons, dancing, and movies.

Marched in 4th on 53rd Parade and Picnic and had a table with games.

Golf tournaments (Play for the Parks Chicago Parks Foundation fundraiser and Adaptive Golf) and celebrations of scholarship and player certification winners. Golf associations and alliances, yacht clubs, sports teams, La Rabida Hospital, MSI (mailing our Newsletters)

Participants in our International Migratory Bird Day Festival

Brown Paintbrush and others for the Little Libraries at 67th playgrounds, collaborating with block clubs, etc.

University of Chicago Police, U C Service Center. Community Programs Accelerator.
Chicago Bears and partners- programs and service in the park for their 100th. United Airlines for service.
Food provided for park kids camp graduations, competitions--a great chance to engage with kids and parents.
JPAC helped with 5K Dash and Black Men's Expo, had tables at environmental justice fairs and the Woodlawn Summit, and gave a lecture at Montgomery Place related to the adjacent Iowa Building.
Our membership and fundraising drives allowed us to engage with 29 monetary donors, several being new and givers of substantial donations in 2019, in addition to in-kind donations received. These enabled our activities.

Jackson Park and JPAC events in 2019

Monthly PAC meetings

Quarterly Day Camps for a wide variety of ages and interests. Quarterly graduations, Halloween, Turkey Trot, Holiday party.

Workdays. White City Tours Saturdays spring-October.

One Earth Film Festival March 3 including screening of "Home".

At Annual PAC Conference March 30, including presentation at session.

One Earth Film Festival April 27 "Before the Flood" and Discussion on ecology of the Obama site with partners and Earth Day activities.

International Migratory Bird Day Festival May 11.

On the Table community discussion with Memo to the Mayor. May 13.

Golf certification workshop and celebration. June 4.

State Services Fair at the fieldhouse. June 8.

Make Music Chicago concert with perf. companies (June 21); inauguration of Pianos in the Park, lessons.

5K Dash and fair- set-up help, tour of Japanese Garden. June 29.

Talk and Q&A with Ghian Foreman on community redevelopment and policing. June 29.

Annual Flashlight Tour with FOTP and HP Historical Society. June 29.

Chosen Few huge picnic in the park. July 6.

Annual JPAC Picnic at Iowa Building including reports on new initiatives. July 8.

Play for the Parks fundraising golf tournament. July 11.

Summer Dance. July 24 and another. 2 Movies in the Parks at MSI lawn (one moved inside)

Apostolic Church Youth Symphony performed at Day Camp. July 25

Installation of temporary sculpture at fieldhouse, with party. August 9.

Adaptive Golf Tournament. August 23

Reading for kids and cleanup at 67th playgrounds. August 24.

Chicago Bears 100 Huddle for 100 party, work activities. September 7.

Open Soccer Day. September 8.

Mid-late September- building, celebrating, reading Little Libraries 67th, Iowa Bldg chess tables instal./party

Chicago Peace Day celebrations incl. at Sky Landing. September 23

Artist Gary Keenan carving of dead tree at 59th Stony, The Green Lady started. November 10.

The big toy giveaway Dec. 22.

Improvements and Milestones 2019.

Completion-conclusion of the 5-year GLFER Ecological Restoration of major natural area and landscape.

Workdays (mulch trails, planting) made further improvements in natural and other areas of the park.

Completion of Lakeshore Bike Trail reconfiguration.

Iowa Building improvements including mulch wheelchair paths and chess tables.

Historic Ladies Comfort Station at 59th and Science Drive was given temporary roof, rebuild promised.

Temporary and permanent repairs at 59th, Marquette underpasses including for flooding and access.

Temporary sculptures and a dead-tree carving brightened and called attention to parts of the park.

Decisions on shore damage (and initial work) and on some other major issues, although not on all.