

# Friends of Schuylkill River Park



## Spring 2011

[www.fsrp.org](http://www.fsrp.org)

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### Announcements

**April 2, 2011, 9am:** Mayor's Cleanup. Meet at 400 S. Taney Street (Markward Recreation Center)

**April 16, 2011: 10am:** LOVE Your Park Cleanup. Meet at 400 S. Taney Street (Markward Recreation Center)

**May 21, 2011, 10:30am** Bicycle Safety Lesson and Rodeo

**June 4, 2011, 7pm:** Eat, Drink, and be Green Cocktail Party Fund-raiser

### FSRP Board of Directors

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## Schuylkill Pocket Veterans Memorial Field to Open

After several years of planning and fundraising, a greatly renewed Schuylkill Pocket Veterans Memorial Field (located at the intersection of Pine and Taney Streets) is about to open to the baseball, t-ball, softball, soccer and other groups that utilize this community resource. This first phase of the project is complete and included improving trees around the field, installation of a sprinkler system, laser grading and tilling the field, adding over 200 tons of compost, and laying sod across the entire field's surface — all inclusive the expense was over \$60,000. The funding for this phase was lead by \$20,000 contributions from each of the At&t Foundation and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources via Senator Larry Farnese, as well additional funds from the Friends of Schuylkill River Park, CSX Railroad, the Markward Advisory Council, and the Dolfiner-McMahon Foundation.

The field will open in early April with removal of the temporary fencing, which ends the first capital phase and begins our maintenance plan to keep the field in top condition. The maintenance plan is estimated at

\$10,000 per year, but it will be difficult to gauge exact costs until we are able to assess the specific wear and tear patterns at the end of the season in Fall 2011. Funding for the maintenance phase was lead by \$3,500 contributions from each of The Philadelphia School and the Taney Youth Baseball Association, with additional funds from the Friends of Schuylkill River Park and the Markward Advisory Council.

We are also working with several partners on second phase improvements to existing fencing, benches, additional tree work in the field's vicinity, and many others concepts — the execution of which are all contingent upon raising additional funds. Remember to protect this investment in our community by keeping off the field when it is excessively wet or muddy and that the field is intended for human visitors only. Dogs may utilize other parts of the park on a leash and utilize the dog run off-leash,

but they are not allowed on Schuylkill Pocket Veterans Memorial Field under any circumstance. We hope you enjoy the new field and appreciate all the donors who made this project happen!



*Field Work in Progress Fall 2010*



*The Friends of Schuylkill River Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The official registration and financial information of The Friends of Schuylkill River Park may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*

## Bicycle Safety Lesson and Rodeo—May 21st 10:30am

Want to help your child become a safer bike rider? We can help! Safe Routes Philly ([www.saferoutesphilly.org](http://www.saferoutesphilly.org)) is hosting a FREE Bicycle Safety Lesson & Bicycle Rodeo! Our Bicycle Rodeo is a skill building obstacle course teaching children essential bicycle skills in a safe and fun learning environment. Children ages 8 -12 years old are encouraged to participate. Our Safe Routes Philly staff and volunteers will provide a complimentary safety check before kids participate in the rodeo. **Kids need to bring their own bike and helmet if they wish to participate in the Bike Rodeo! A parental**

**Consent Form must be signed. Must RSVP to reserve a space. Space is limited to 25 participants.**

Volunteers are needed to assist with the Bicycle Rodeo portion. Parents this would be a great way to interact with your child and learn. Volunteers need to arrive at 9:30am, with the event running from 10:30—12:30pm. RSVP to Carolyn Duffy at [cairoduffy@yahoo.com](mailto:cairoduffy@yahoo.com) - you may also contact Carolyn to obtain a parental consent form.

## Basic Tree Care

With the arrival of Spring, we start to think about cleaning up our gardens and outdoor spaces. At the same time, we begin to think about your street trees young and old.

Philadelphia had lots of snow this past winter. With the snow came lots of de-icing salt on the road and sidewalks. This salt is very detrimental to the roots of trees. The addition of organic matter such as compost, activated charcoal or gypsum to the tree pit can help flush the salt out of the soil.

Here are other things to think about in the care of your tree, courtesy of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society:

**Remove Stakes and Straps after the first year of planting.** Straps left on your tree for longer than a year may cut into the bark and strangle the tree.

**Weed and Clean.** Weeds and trash can prevent water from reaching your trees roots. Dog Urine is also toxic especially to very young trees.

**Cultivate.** Encourage water and air to enter the soil. If the soil around the tree is compacted, loosen the first few inches of soil and break up any clumps with your hands. Avoid damaging any of the tree roots.

**Mulch** helps to conserve water, control weeds and keeps roots cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter and prevents soil compac-

tion. Maintain a 2-4" layer of mulch around your tree. Do not pack the mulch against the trunk. Recommended mulches include aged wood chips, composted leave and pine needles.

**Protect Tree roots** require water and air for survival. Compacted soil and cemented pits prevent water and air from reaching tree roots. Avoid compacting the soil by piling trash, walking or driving around the tree's roots. Never cement over the surface of your tree pit when there is a tree there.

In addition, **the tree bark is necessary for protecting the tree trunk and maintaining tree health.** Keep car door and bicycles away from the trunk to avoid potential bark wounds. Do not lock bicycles to trees.

**Water, Water, Water.** Water is crucial of the survival of a young tree. Water the tree when the soil is dry beneath the mulch. Apply approximately 15-20 gallons of water once a week from March until the end of October, and as often as twice a week during hot and dry weather. Trickle water onto the soil surface using a hose, or allow water to seep from a bucket with small holes in the bottom.

## Pedestrian Bridge Progress and Follow-up

If you have been using us to update you on the status of the Pedestrian Bridge Overpass for the last year you know we keeping telling you it is going to start while nothing seems to change. As is common in a project this large, construction delays sometimes occur.

The latest news is that unforeseen underground conditions on the Schuylkill Banks side of the railroad tracks have caused the design consultants to revise the structural footings for the ramp and bridge. The changes have setback the construction schedule somewhat. The SRDC plans for the project to be advertised for bids in May, 2011. The bids will be delivered, contracts negotiated, and an a Notice to Proceed will most likely happen in June. Construction could take a year or more depending on the winter weather.

The Pedestrian Bridge could be open by the end of summer 2012. The City will soon start construction of the at-grade crossings at Race Street and Locust Street that will allow CSX to lock gates when a train is blocking the crossing.

(continued on next page)



## Spring Tree Planting Volunteers Needed

The Friends of Schuylkill River Park Tree Tenders planted 15 street trees in Fall 2010 and will plant another 21 street trees in Spring 2011 on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> with all volunteer help. The trees are planted in the Center City West area from the Schuylkill River to Broad Street between South Street and Walnut Street. Applications for street trees are taken on a continual basis.

### Some Benefits of Trees

- Increase property values
- Bring beauty and character to neighborhoods
- Save energy, cut heating and air-conditioning costs
- Shade and cool neighborhoods, reducing temperatures on the hottest summer days
- Clean pollutants out of the air and water
- Reduce stormwater runoff
- Buffer and reduce noise
- Promote community interaction and renewal

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## 2nd Annual Eat Drink and Be Green...June 4th

Last year's inaugural Eat, Drink, and Be Green proved to be a smashing success. As Executive Director of Fairmount Park, Mark Focht, who attends his fair share of events said, "EDBG was truly an outstanding evening, hard to believe it was a first time event." With just months to plan, the EDBG Committee thoughtfully executed a fabulous party in the park complete with a lavishly decorated tent, live music and a cozy lounge. It was a great high-energy celebration to raise money to support the important role that Schuylkill River Park serves in the life of Center City Philadelphia.

Please join us for the 2011 edition of EDBG, an exquisite evening of light fare, cocktails, silent auction, and dancing on Saturday June 4th at 7pm as we once again celebrate Schuylkill River Park.

Screaming Broccoli, the band that had everyone – yes, everyone – dancing last year, returns for an encore. And generous donors returning this year include: studio:Christensen and BoConcept, transforming the space with their design magic; Moore Brothers serving fine wine selections; and 4 Corners Management (Lucy's Hat Shop, Drinker's Pubs, No-Che) providing alcohol and specialty cocktails.

Admission includes food, drinks, and dancing throughout the evening so bring your friends and grown up family members! Purchase tickets by visiting the EDBG website <http://www.eatdrinkandbegreen.org>

Interested in becoming a corporate, family, or individual sponsor, donating a silent auction item, or volunteering? Please email us at [lkopper@fsrp.org](mailto:lkopper@fsrp.org)

## Pedestrian Bridge Continued from Previous Page....

There is news on other physical improvements close to the Park, courtesy of the Schuylkill River Development Corporation. The Walnut Street Bridge Enhancement Work will start this summer and last until spring 2012. It is intended to encourage traffic calming and will include reducing the number of travel lanes on the structure from 4 to 3 as well as adding wider sidewalks, replacement of overhead signs with parapet mounted signs, replacement of the cobra head high lights with Center City District lights and pergolas at the stairs to Schuylkill Banks.

As planned, the continuation of the river park will proceed as a boardwalk. Because of the limited land between the CSX rail tracks and the River's edge from Locust Street to South Street, a 2,050' long, 17' wide structure will be erected along the east bank of the River. Connections to the land will be made at Locust Street and just south of the South Street Bridge. This project won't start until autumn of this year and will take more than 2 years to complete.

### **Free Street Trees**

Would you like a free tree in front of a property you own - a home or business? The Friends of Schuylkill River Park *Tree Tenders* covers the area bordered by the Schuylkill River and Broad between Walnut and South. We work with TreeVitalize to plant trees for free, including cement cutting, within our bounds. Support from CCRA allows us to also grind stumps for free. For more information and to download an application, visit: [www.fsrp.org/treetenders](http://www.fsrp.org/treetenders)

# We Appreciate Our Supporters

## **CAPITAL INVESTMENTS**

At&t Foundation  
Senator Larry Farnese  
Representative Babette Josephs  
Krista and Rich Pinola  
CSX Railroad  
McLean Contributionship

## **EAT, DRINK, & BE GREEN 2010**

### **Diamond Sponsors (\$2000+)**

BoConcept Urban Design  
Fox Rothschild, LLP

### **Platinum Sponsors (\$1000 to \$1999)**

GPS Investment Group, LLC  
Krista and Rich Pinola  
Lauren Wylonis  
Brandywine Realty Trust  
PECO

### **Gold Sponsors (\$500 to \$999)**

Manning Street Capital Management  
Bruce Hopper, Jr MD  
Penn Medicine at The Tuttleman Center  
Bartlett Tree Experts  
Jay and Bonnie Eisner  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
David Bresch, MD and  
Christina Hanganu-Bresch

### **Good Neighbors (\$100 to \$499)**

SideCar Bar and Grille  
Becca Lewis & Benji Friedlaender with Caroline, Isabelle, Theodore, & Jack  
JtChristensen.com  
Amanda Whittenberger & Sudz Kar  
Susan Barr-Toman  
Fitness Works Personal Training  
Spool  
Loop  
Opportunity Barks Behavior and Training  
Susan Halpern, Esquire  
Center City Pediatrics  
CDA&I Architecture and Interiors, Ltd.  
Jennifer Selber  
HNTB  
Laurie and Thomas Malone  
Maureen and John Eagan

### **In-kind Sponsors**

Moore Brothers Wine Company  
Flying Fish Brewery  
Voila Design  
Day by Day Catering  
Bulb

Veg-N-Go  
Catering by Miles  
Healthy Bites  
Drinker's Philadelphia  
New Leaf Tea  
Susan Halpern and Ted Millstein  
South Square Market

### **Silent Auction Donors**

City Planter  
Picnic  
Roberto's Café  
Philadelphia Eagles  
Kimpton Hotels  
Audrey Claire  
20 Manning Grill  
Acupuncture Medical Practice  
Beatriz Garces, DMD  
Dos Funny Frogs  
Bruce Hopper, MD  
Philadelphia Marriott Downtown  
Blue Horizons Dive Center  
Dale Levy  
Four Seasons  
Prince Sports  
Philadelphia Chamber Music Society  
Pub and Kitchen  
More than Just Ice Cream  
Salento  
Healthy Bites

### **FALL FESTIVAL 2010**

#### **Entertainment**

MacGuffin Theatre & Film Co.  
Martial Posture Karate School  
Kid Relentless  
thephillydog.com

#### **Silent Auction Donors**

Biello Martin Studio  
BKK Fitness  
Bo Concept  
Bulb  
Cornerstone B&B  
Ed Bronstein  
Eye Candy  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
Holly Waters (Sweat Fitness)  
Jerome Lukowicz Photography  
Lucky Strike  
Marriott Hotel  
Nadine Biles (donated Toppers Gift Card)  
Opera Company of Philadelphia  
Paul Davis Jones  
Philadelphia Theatre Company  
Prince Tennis  
Rittenhouse Women's Wellness

Schuylkill River Dev. Corp. (boat tour)  
studio:christensen  
Thom Slaterbeck  
Woven Treasures

### **Raffle Donors**

1812 Productions  
4 Sisters Nail Salon  
Adarrel Fisher MOR Fitness  
Ants Pants Cafe  
Arden Theatre  
AsFit Inc.  
Bacchus  
Bicycle Therapy  
Blick Art Materials  
BoneJour  
BuyEnlarge  
Central Bark  
Children's Boutique  
Dmitri's  
Landmark Theatres (Ritz)  
Marathon Grill  
Melograno  
Nook Bakery  
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society  
Philadelphia Zoo  
Pizza Rustica  
Pooches Choice  
Pub and Kitchen  
Resurrection  
Rittenhouse Hardware  
Rittenhouse Women's Wellness  
Scoop DeVille  
Seafood Unlimited  
Sidecar  
Tastebuds  
Vietnam Café  
Window Box

### **Food, Drinks, Prizes, and Supplies**

Blick Art Materials  
Boutique Fancy Fluff  
Catering by Miles  
Dmitri's  
Gavin's Café  
Lora Hemphill  
Marathon Grill  
New Leaf Iced Tea  
Opportunity Barks  
Pepsico  
South Square Market  
Tall Pines  
Vita Coco