

Friends of Schuylkill River Park



Spring 2010

www.fsrp.org

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Announcements

March 15th: Markward Summer Day Camp Registration Begins.

April 10th, 9am - 2pm: Philly Spring Cleanup. Meet at the Recreation Center.

May 8th, 10am: *LOVE your Park* Work Day. Meet at the Recreation Center.

June 5th: Eat, drink, and be Green. Friends of Schuylkill River Park evening fundraiser held in the park.

FSRP Board of Directors

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Calling All Donors

Last year around this time the Friends of Schuylkill River Park began exploring the possibility of renovating Markward Field, the large athletic field that runs adjacent to Taney Street. The field surface has degraded over the years and now, unfortunately, there is more bare soil and weed coverage than actual turf. The surface has become uneven, posing a hazard to players and becoming the site for otherwise preventable injuries.

We have spent the past 12 months meeting with field turf experts, irrigation installers, arborists, fence specialists, and other contractors to develop a plan for improving the field and helping to ensure that the improvements are long lasting. The plan, which has grown since its original inception, now includes laser grading the infield and outfield, adding topsoil and organic matter to assist in this process, aerating and possibly tilling the field to reduce compaction, and re-planting grass seed from scratch. The optimal design also includes the installation of an irrigation system, improving fencing, cementing the "dugout" areas to prevent the muddy messes that arise on wet days, and possibly installing simple roofing structures over these areas to keep our community's children dry.

Beyond improvements to the actual turf, the Friends of Schuylkill River Park has contracted close to \$5,000 worth of tree work in the Markward Field Area over the past 12 months including trimming dangerous trees, reducing trees poking

through the South Fence along the field (you will find this a drastic improvement), and planting new Okame Cherries along the open tree pits that span Taney Street. These cherries will bloom for the first time in our park this spring.

A good athletic field is not a one time investment that perpetuates itself. Once the field infrastructure is improved as outlined, it will require yearly maintenance, such as fertilization and over-seeding, to keep the turf in top shape.

Of course, capital improvements and the ongoing maintenance of them cost money. The Friends of Schuylkill River Park has raised \$25,000 of the \$50,000 required to undertake the list of field improvements - a special thank you to Senator Farnese for providing a large portion of this sum. We are appealing to you the community, as individual and corporate stewards of the Park, to help provide the remaining \$25,000.

We are very fortunate to have an athletic field on public land in our community, an amenity not afforded to many. We now have the opportunity to drastically transform this amenity from a community disappointment into a community treasure. It is a transformation that only your generosity can help us to realize. To contribute, send a check to the Friends of Schuylkill River Park. We have many opportunities for onsite recognition available to corporate sponsors. Please contact us for more information.



Please Support Markward Field

What to Do When There's a Dog Fight

Ok, so you're at the park and you see two dogs about to face off. Or worse yet, a full fledged fight is underway. What do you do? How can you minimize injuries? How can you keep the peace?

"All of a Sudden"

It's rare for dogs to instantaneously fight. 99% of most altercations have several 'warm up' arguments prior to an actual fight. Look for repeated humping or "lean overs" - one dog placing it's chin over another dog's back repeatedly. As arousal levels increase, dogs that appear to be "boxing" with the back feet on the ground and the front feet off the ground, are often approaching the tipping point.

Easy Targets

Adolescent males are the dogs that are most likely to fight. Intact or not, adolescent males have more testosterone at the age of 10 months than at any other time in their life. So, older males may bully or target them. Similarly, young or sensitive dogs that are showing all the "right" calming signals (showing their belly, getting low to the ground, slinking) may also be overly corrected or ganged up on by insecure dogs.

FIGHT!

You're chatting with your dog park folks and there's a fight.

What to do.

- If your dog isn't fighting, restrain your own dog and grab his collar. This is to prevent secondary fights, which are often worse.
- Yell, "HEY!" A loud yell can often be enough to break up a fight.
- If yelling doesn't work- toss or throw objects- kick mulch, pea gravel, throw a trash can lid, a water bottle, etc.
- If you have to intervene to separate the dogs, try to pull them apart by pulling their back end. If a dog is attached and shaking another dog, pulling them will increase the damage, pour water on the dogs, squirt bitter apple in the dog's mouth, or Direct Stop (canned citronella spray). Grabbing a dog's genitals - in a moment of desperation- has also been known to interrupt the aggression.

The Dogs are separated, now what?

Your dog is aroused and just rehearsed being aggressive. After a fight breaks out, there is NO TRAINING OPPORTUNITY. You should go into damage control mode. That means, the best thing to do is pull the dog out of play and giving the dog a break, pack it up and go home. At this point, you want to DECREASE arousal.

Pinning is about the worst thing you can do. What you are essentially doing is putting your already aroused, adrenaline charge dog in a vulnerable position, while other dogs prance around off leash. And if you think pinning is a good "correction"- get over it! Your dog ALREADY REHEARSED being aggressive; to your dog the "fun" has already been had. "Correcting", sadly, often has the opposite affect- and can often cause a dog that is known to be questionable around dogs to develop full-blown aggression, with more intense damage causing fights

Fighting (over and over and over)

Once a dog has fought, their cortisol levels (stress hormones) are higher for the next THREE days. What does that mean to you? Once a dog has a fight, he/she is much more likely to fight for up to 72 hours. If you had a fight, take some time away from the dog park. And if your dog just fought, it's common courtesy to leave the park.

Dogs Bite, Dogs Fight

Fighting is normal dog behavior. To expect our dogs to go through life without fighting is to expect you to live on this planet for 100 years and never get in an argument- it happens. That being said, most fights are just lots of noise, teeth flashing and no bleeding. If your dog is regularly fighting and doing damage, this is a dog that is either beginning to be less tolerant or is on his/her way of "aging" out of the park. Please remember that your dog's behavior affects the behavior of the other dogs in the park. Be responsible and play safe.

By Leigh Siegfried
CPDT & Behavior Consultant
Opportunity Barks Behavior & Training

Eat, drink and be
GREEN:

Save the Date
June 5, 2010

Mark your calendars!

On the evening of June 5th, the Friends of Schuylkill River Park is holding a cocktail party to benefit park improvements and programming. The event will be a magical evening in the park, a time to celebrate park improvements and those that make them possible, to raise funds for work that has yet to be done, to promote and support community greening, and to socialize with neighbors and friends.

We hope you will attend. It will be a great time for a great cause.

Invitations forthcoming.

Seeding
"The Bowl"

We will be conducting a minor seeding of "the bowl" this spring to temporarily address the bare spots until the Connector Bridge construction begins. We greatly appreciate the many dog owners who keep their dogs leashed outside of the dog run and in the process help allow this damaged area to recover.

MARKWARD RECREATION CENTER

Summer Day Camp

After School Program

Women's Volleyball

Softball

Ceramics

Tennis

Arts Programming

O'Connor Pool



Our Community's Recreation Center

Meet Joe Fagan, Recreation Leader, and Judy Crossan, Assistant Recreation Leader, the two dedicated professionals who work to develop and run recreation programming at Markward (Pine and Taney Streets). Joe and Judy fill a number of roles, including issuing permits for the use of recreation facilities such as the athletic field, working with the city to improve and maintain the recreation infrastructure, running O'Connor pool when it is open, and overseeing all recreation programming. The center hosts a variety of programs for children and for adults, including a Summer Day Camp, After School Sessions, Women's Volleyball, Softball, and ceramics classes.

Summer Day Camp

The day camp runs each year, this year from July 6th through August 13th and costs approximately \$100 per week for 9am – 5pm days or \$70 per week for 9am – 1pm days. Children can easily attend one week and not another or the entire session. Campers play in the pool, on the playground, in the gargoyle fountain, engage in games and art activities in the recreation center and go on field trips to Dorney Park, the movies, bowling, roller skating, and other places. Registration begins on March 15th. The camp usually fills up quickly to a capacity of about 125. Please register early to reserve your child's place.

After School Program

The after school program is a core service of recreation centers citywide. Markward staff pickup children from Greenfield and Independence Charter School as classes end and bring them back to the recreation center where they work on homework, practice computer skills, and play cards and other games. Light snacks are provided. The program runs each school day from 3pm – 6pm and costs \$20 per child per week.

Women's Volleyball

This past year, Joe and Judy introduced a women's volleyball program, which proved tremendously successful with over 120 participants. This year, the program will be held on Tuesday nights from 6:30pm until 9:30pm starting in May.

Softball

A softball league plays on the athletic field between baseball and soccer seasons. The league includes about 150 players and runs Monday through Thursday nights 8:00pm

until 10:00pm starting in April.

Ceramics

For many years, the recreation center has held a ceramics program (there are two kilns on site) in which kids and their parents prepare, glaze and stain pre-molded ceramic items. The date and time have varied. The program will next be held weekday nights in the fall from 6:30pm until 8:30pm.

Tennis

Joe and Judy are planning to start a tennis program for kids this summer. Stay tuned for more details.

Supporting Arts Programming

The Friends of Schuylkill River Park is currently working with the Markward Recreation Center to develop and fund increased arts programming for the center. In particular, with the opportunities that may be provided by outside funding, Joe and Judy are building an arts program to be held this upcoming fall for children with a genuine interest in art. Depending on funds, the program may include a series of 6-8 week arts classes from which children can choose, the study of a single medium over several weeks, or a class that mixes mediums from one meeting to the next. We would love to hear from community members regarding the classes your children would like. We would also be interested in learning about sponsorship opportunities for such a program. Email fsrporg@gmail.com if you have any thoughts regarding the arts program.

During the fall, winter and spring (roughly while school is in session), the recreation center is open Monday through Friday, 1pm – 9:30pm and 10am – 2pm on Saturday. During the summer, the center is open Monday through Friday 9am – 9:30pm and Saturday 10am – 2pm. More information regarding any of these programs can be found on Markward's Website www.markwardplayground.com, by calling the center at 215-685-6649, or via email at markwardrec@comcast.net

If you have a minute, stop in and say hi to Joe and Judy. They'll be happy to talk with you about the programs that are available. We are sure you will find them wonderful stewards of our community.

We Appreciate Our Sponsors

Capital Investments

Senator Larry Farnese
Representative Babette Josephs
Krista and Rich Pinola

Fall Festival 2009

Event, Entertainment, & Public Service

Center City Residents' Association (CCRA)
Dmitri's
Dominic Dallago (Ask-The-Vet)
Dorothy Kogan (cupcakes)
Helen Whatnell (silent auction)
John Lane of The Weekly Press
Kevin Francis Polarity Sound
Lora Hemphill (Mums)
Maureen Chambley (Dog Behaviorist)
Moore Brothers
Opportunity Barks
Paul's Paper Goods
Philadelphia Firefighters
Philadelphia Police
PSPCA
Rebecca Shandler (raffle)
Schuylkill River Park Alliance (SRPA)
South Square Market
The New Andrews Sisters Revue
The Philadelphia School
Volt Sports Energy Drink

Fall Festival 2009

Silent Auction Donors

Blick Art
BoConcept
Bulb
Cornerstone B&B
Ed Bronstein
Eye Candy
Helen Whatnell
Lauren Dawson Photography
Marianne Conheim
Marriott Downtown Hotel
Opera Company of Philadelphia
Philadelphia Theatre Company
Phoenix Salon & Spa
Prince
Rittenhouse Women's Wellness
Sweat
Woven Treasures

Fall Festival 2009

Raffle Donors

1812 Productions

4 Sisters Nail Salon
Ants Pants
Arden Theatre
Baby Loves Disco
Betty's Speakeasy
Bicycle Therapy
Blick Art
Buyenlarge
CCRA House Tour
Deluxe Hair Salon
Eastern State Penitentiary
Fido's World in Philly
Girl/bike/dog
Landmark Theater (Ritz)
Melograno
Metropolitan Bakery
Penn Center Bookstore
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)
PhilaPets.com
Please Touch Museum
Pooches Choice
Pure
Rittenhouse Hardware
Rittenhouse Pet Supply
Schuylkill River Development Corporation
Seafood Unlimited
Sidecar
Sue Frank
Sweeties Pie Diner
terra Restaurant
Trader Joe's
Whole Foods

Free Street Trees

Would you like a free tree in front of a property you own - 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

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.

Connector Bridge Update

Consultants for the SRDC are finishing up their drawings for the connector bridge as you read this. There may be one or two meetings with the full Design Concept Team to review the work scope soon afterwards-this spring. The SRDC has requested the meeting with the Art Commission (their second visit) at the beginning of May. They will also submit the drawings to PENNDOT for their review and comment at the beginning of the summer. Tentative schedule is that bidding on the work will occur in July this summer. Construction will start in September 2010. Construction is expected to take a little over a year with the completion of the bridge hopefully in November 2011.



PHILADELPHIA'S
PARK SYSTEM