

Friends of Schuylkill River Park



Spring 2012

www.fsrp.org

PO Box 30246
Philadelphia, PA 19103
fsrporg@gmail.com

Announcements

April 14, 9am-2pm: Philly Spring Cleanup. Volunteers needed. Meet at Markward Recreation Center.

April 21, 10am: Spring Tree Planting. Meet at 21st and Kater Street at 9:30am.

May 12, 10am-2pm: Love Your Park, Spring Edition. Volunteers needed. Meet at Markward Recreation Center.

May 23, 7pm: FSRP Annual Meeting. Markward Recreation Center.

June 9, 7pm-11pm: Friends of Schuylkill River Park "Eat, Drink, and be Green" Fundraiser.

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Why Should Your Kids Have All the Fun?

For the third year Friends of Schuylkill River Park is hosting our Eat, Drink and be Green fundraiser. The event will take place on June 9th from 7-11 pm. Held under a tent in the middle of the park, this party has become one of the most exciting park fundraisers in the city.



Once again Screaming Broccoli will headline the event; if you haven't heard this band before you will find it hard to resist

getting up on the dance floor.

We'll have food catered by Bacchus and Moore Brothers will bring wines to complement the fare. Philadelphia Brewing Company will be on hand with a selection of local brews and a signature green cocktail is being created just for this event by Macs Tavern.

For those of you that like to shop, a silent auction with lots of great items from local businesses will be available. All of the proceeds from the event support the park.

Thanks to the success of last year's fundraiser, we installed an environmentally friendly irrigation system throughout the park which will enable us to keep our green spaces green. Tickets are available online at www.eatdrinkandbegreen.org or by sending a check to FSRP at PO Box 30246, Philadelphia, PA 19103. If you would like to donate an item to our silent auction, please contact us at fsrporg@gmail.com.

FSRP Receives \$150,000 Grant

Over the past several years the Friends of Schuylkill River Park has worked with the Community Design Collaborative (we received a grant for design services from them), community members and the City to re-design and improve the courtyard outside the Markward Recreation Center. The conceptual products from this process were presented to Council President Anna Verna last year along with a funding re-

quest. This request was approved in the amount of \$150,000 to support the initial phases of the Courtyard Renovation Project. We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to Previous Councilwoman Anna Verna and to Councilman Kenyatta Johnson for their tremendous support during this process. More information forthcoming.

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.

Pedestrian Bridge Update

The overall pedestrian bridge project is still on schedule with an anticipated completion at the end of fall 2012. The contractor has placed the concrete decks on both sides of the railroad, as well they have completed the installation of the lower ramp retaining walls on the river side. The contractor continues to install the lower ramp retaining walls on the park side next to the basketball courts. They will continue to place formwork atop these walls. Once the formwork is installed expect the contractor to place the concrete for the coping and ramp sidewalks. The contractor will also start excavation for the serpentine walls in the

proposed dog park. The electrical subcontractor will install light pole foundations throughout the park, including those located near the community garden.

The bridge is the next step. It is being fabricated offsite but the contractor expects to see it delivered and erected by the middle or late April. If we hear of the specific plans for the bridge delivery and what-if anything-to expect in the neighborhood we will keep you informed.

Spring Cleanup Events in Schuylkill River Park

On Saturday, April 14 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. the City of Philadelphia will hold its 5th Annual Philly Spring Cleanup. Schuylkill River Park is participating in this citywide event, and FSRP could use your help with general park cleanup tasks such as weeding, planting, sweeping pathways, and picking up debris. Join us for some fresh air and neighborhood beautification! Please bring your own work gloves, if possible.

Philadelphia region will participate in greening and cleaning activities at their local parks. Come on out and show Schuylkill River Park some love! A limited number of LOVE Your Park t-shirts and work gloves will be available while supplies last.

Saturday, May 12 is LOVE Your Park Day. From 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. hundreds of volunteers from across the Greater Phila-

Volunteers should meet at the Markward Recreation Center at 26th and Pine streets at the dates and times listed above. Light refreshments and the fashionable new FSRP t-shirts will be available at a discounted price to all volunteers.



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Arts Textile Studio at Markward

Visitors to Markward Rec Center on Friday afternoons lately have likely been surprised to find the back room home to something completely different: children in the afterschool program, surrounded by baskets of yarns, chatting away as they weave scarves and tapestries on numerous floor looms, small table looms and Clementine box looms. Since last autumn, Markward has been sheltering much of the equipment of Arts Street Textile Studio (ASTS): handmade with the homeless, an independent community textile project started by artists Kathryn Pannepacker and Leslie Sudock that works to reduce the stigma of homelessness by bringing together homeless neighbors and the larger community through fiber art.

ASTS grew out of the fiber studio that developed in the city's 8th Street Café homeless shelter in 2009 in conjunction with the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, producing both the unique, woven Finding Home mural at 13th & Ludlow Streets, and a community of artists and neighbors committed to continuing to work together to make textile art with city's homeless population. ASTS joined the Arts on South program in September, 2010, and continued its work in donated storefronts on South Street. This open studio setting enabled ASTS artists and community volunteers to teach a variety of fiber arts (weaving, quilting, knitting, crochet, felting and sewing) to members of the city's homeless population, others in drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, as well as many members of the general community. ASTS participated in the artistic life of South Street, functioned as a gallery that featured exhibits of work by local homeless, transitional artists of note, and participants in ASTS projects, and helped them all produce and sell their work.

In September, 2011, ASTS lost its temporary home on South Street and returned to the street, taking mobile mini-textile studios to drop-in centers, food lines, shelters, and rehab programs and community centers. Shortly thereafter, Markward Supervisor Patty McCole offered ASTS the chance to bring some of the studio equipment to Markward to share with the after-school program.

So Friday afternoons have become "weaving afternoons" at Markward, open to any of the after-school kids interested in spending some time with the yarn and looms. They've been busy weaving scarves to share with local homeless neighbors on the wooden looms, and small tapestries on the many Clementine boxes obtained from Trader Joe's to decorate the building or take home. Weaving Fridays start at 4 p.m., and within an hour the kids are working side by side, or in pairs, or in trios, helping one another to warp the box looms or choose colors, winding bobbins and shuttles,

and working the big loom treadles and beater bars. Sometimes the weaving is accompanied by music, or a story read aloud. Visitors to the park occasionally stop in to watch the art in action; neighbors sometimes lend a hand at the art table or loom, providing inter-generational fun.

Opening its doors to ASTS for after-school weaving has enabled ASTS to further enrich the artistic life at Markward by offering adult quilting classes last autumn, cinnamon ornaments-making with the kids in December, adult knitting lessons this winter, and a continuing kids' eco-art program on



Wednesday afternoons. Signs of art- and textile-making are everywhere, and additional community art projects are being planned for the spring and early summer. Anyone interested in learning new fiber arts should feel free to make suggestions or inquiries at the rec building.

While ASTS continues its work with local homeless neighbors in center city shelters on a much smaller scale, the project also continues to look for a home base. Anyone able to offer short- or long-term storefront space in center city (between Bainbridge and Vine Sts, and the two rivers) should contact Leslie Sudock, ASTS Coordinator – and the resident weaving/eco-art teacher. ASTS has a non-profit fiscal sponsor in the arts community, Fractured Atlas, welcomes tax-deductible donations of any size, including the cost of rent, to support our work in the community at: <https://www.fracturedatlas.org/site/contribute/donate/3986>.

Please contact ASTS for information about volunteering with us in the community, purchasing ASTS weavings, or sponsoring workshops and private events.

Contact information:
Leslie Sudock lsudock@gmail.com

Spring Bulbs Everywhere!

Last Fall the Friends of Schuylkill River Park planted several thousand spring bulbs around the Park, concentrating in the hill around Schuylkill Pocket Veterans Memorial Field—planting daffodils around the signage and crocus in bunches near the street. These flowers are now in full bloom and we have received many positive comments. We appreciate the feedback!



Similar plantings were done, although on a smaller scale, in the Playground Gardens and around the new FSRP Bulletin Board between the Markward Recreation Center and the Basketball Courts. We plan to plant more in Fall 2012.

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Did you know?

Following the Friends of Schuylkill River Park renovation of Schuylkill Pocket Veterans Memorial Field, FSRP invests about \$10,000 per year into continual maintenance of the field—keeping sprinklers running, seeding, fertilizing, and preventing weeds.

The 2012 Annual Meeting for the Friends of Schuylkill River Park will be held on May 23rd 7pm at the Markward Recreation Center. All current members are invited to attend.

Advertise in the Friends of Schuylkill River Park Newsletter

Our Newsletter is published four times a year: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Below rates are per issue.

	Member	Non-Member
Full page	\$135	\$150
1/2 page	\$90	\$100
1/4 page	\$67	\$75
B-Card	\$45	\$50

For information, inquiries, or submissions, please e-mail us at fsrporg@gmail.com



A Few FSRP Past Project Include:

- Recondition 50+ Park Benches
- Paint Fencing and Bathrooms at O'Connor Pool
- Renovate and Maintain Schuylkill Pocket Veterans Memorial Field
- Replace All Markward Playground Equipment
- Coordinate Improvements to 25th and Delancey
- Invest more than \$50,000 into the Park's Urban Forest
- Renovate and Maintain Playground Landscape
- Install Drinking Fountains
- Plant Thousands of Spring Bulbs
- Plan major improvements to the courtyard outside Markward

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Spring Street Tree Planting

On Saturday, April 21st, Friends of Schuylkill Park Tree Tenders will be planting 13 street trees in and around Center City West. Volunteers are needed to help plant. No experience necessary. Meet at 21st and Kater Street at 9:30am. Please RSVP to fsrptreetenders@phillyparks.org

*The trees planted will count towards **Plant One Million**, a regional partnership led by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) with a goal to plant one million trees throughout 13 counties in southeastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. The goal is to restore the "tree canopy cover"—the area of land shaded by trees—in the Greater Philadelphia Region to 30 percent*

Reasons we need trees:

- Trees help purify the air we breathe by absorbing pollutants.
- Trees improve neighborhood appeal, attracting businesses, shoppers, and homeowners.
- Trees cool our cities and towns by reducing heat generated by buildings and paved surfaces.
- Tree shade, properly placed, can save an average household up to \$250 annually in energy costs.
- Trees reduce the amount of pollutants in sewer systems, saving communities millions of dollars in water treatment costs.
- Trees soften harsh building lines and large expanses of pavement, making urban environments much more pleasant.
- Trees reduce the amount of water-borne pollutants that reach streams and rivers.

Street Tree applications are taken year round with plantings twice a year (spring and late fall). Information can be found at www.fsrp.org/treetenders.

Sponsor Dog Run Biodegradable Poop Bags

For the past three years, FSRP has been providing free of charge biodegradable poop bags at the dog run. This service was enabled due to a grant from Representative Babette Josephs and in partnership with Schuylkill River Alliance. 150,000 bags have been used.

FSRP would like to continue this service, but we need your help. Funding for this project is no longer available. One month of bags cost \$155.00. A year's worth of biodegradable poop bags cost \$1900. (This is based on refilling the dispensers once a week.)

Let's consider how many bags, we use in a month or a week for that matter; how about the convenience of having the bags at the park – when oops we have forgotten to bring our own bag.

Consider sponsoring a month or more of biobags. With your sponsorship, you will receive acknowledgement above the biobag dispenser for that month. For more information, contact dogrun@fsrp.org.

We Appreciate Our Supporters

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