

# Friends of Schuylkill River Park



## Winter 2012

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

PO Box 30246  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
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### Announcements

**January 5, 10am—4pm** : Christmas Tree Recycling at Schuylkill River Park. Take your tree to Taney and Pine Streets. \$5 minimum donation.

### FSRP Board of Directors

Lynne Hopper, President  
Derek Freres, Vice President  
Sean O'Rourke, Vice President  
Carolyn Levine, Treasurer  
Susan Halpern, Secretary  
Carolyn Duffy, Membership  
Suzanne Reichwein  
Steve Slaterbeck  
Leslie Young

## Connector Bridge Dedicated — October 20, 2012

On October 21, 2012 two important events occurred, the Friends of Schuylkill River Park Fall Festival and the Dedication of the Pedestrian Connector Bridge, new dog run, and improvements to Schuylkill River Park. The below remarks were read at the dedication by FSRP board member Derek Freres and are reproduced here for those of you who missed the ceremony:

*FSRP has been a participant in this amazing project from the earliest design phases through execution, supporting the City while providing substantial input on Park usage patterns and functional design issues to help produce the product we see today. We've added to the project financially, allocation about \$10,000 in member donations to purchase additional benches and trash cans, trim trees, and worked with the City on a constant - sometimes daily basis during construction to help ensure that the dog run and park improvements best serve the community.*

*The principal participants in this process from FSRP have been Sharon Blumberg, Peg Connor, Sean O'Rourke, and Carolyn Duffy. In particular Sean O'Rourke donated many hours of his expertise as an architect during the numerous design concept meetings and Carolyn Duffy gave above and beyond what anyone would have imagined to help produce one of the best dog runs in the country. I extend my deepest gratitude to both of them for all they have given to this community. Carolyn was recently honored by the*

*City's Parks and Recreation Commission, receiving a "Park Star" Award – a fitting tribute for all she has done.*

*It is also important to thank everyone from the community who uses this park for your extraordinary patience during the construction process. We know it was taxing at times and long but look at the great things that have been produced.*

*I save my deepest appreciation for last and that goes to The City, particularly Mark Focht from Parks and Recreation. This project has been a national model for public – private, community – city collaboration – and this model was led by Mark. Before pencils were put to paper the public was involved in the design process. Literally dozens of meetings were held both with participants on the design concept team and the public at large. During construction regular tours and meetings took place with community groups to review every step of progress being made and to make on the spot adjustments when necessary. Mark went far above and beyond what anyone could have expected of him in his role as First Deputy Commissioner. For all you have done, Mark, I extend my deepest appreciation personally and on behalf of FSRP. The great things you see today happened because of him.*

*We look forward to a future in which FSRP will play it's most important role – working With the City to maintain everything we celebrate today.*



*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.*

## The 2012 FSRP Fall Festival ... Wow!

Here's a sampling of feedback:

"Thanks so much for organizing the festival. We had a fantastic time... (could the weather be more perfect?!). It's clear that a lot of work went into putting the festival together--you guys pulled it off beautifully!"

"... such an incredibly successful event. Our teachers who "womaned" one of the tables were kept busy all afternoon - although they weren't as popular as the moon bounce!"

"Great job on the Fest...You guys ROCK!" "What an amazing day!"

Grownups, kids, and pets came in droves to celebrate autumn, the much anticipated improvements to Schuylkill River Park, and the opening of the new pedestrian bridge at the annual FSRP Fall Festival!

Under perfect skies on Saturday October 20, kids lined up for perennial favorites -- bouncing in the Super Moon Bounce, decorating pumpkins and cupcakes, face painting, crafting, and enjoying the 4-H Club donkey cart rides and petting zoo.

Signature DJs kept everyone moving, hoola-hooping, and competing "Gangnam Style" to the latest pop hits. Just Dogs Gourmet hosted a dog costume parade with prizes for the cutest, scariest and most original. Students of MacGuffin Theatre & Film Company, a Philadelphia-based arts education program for kids, entertained with their harmonies and choreography. And Centre Court was a veritable beehive thanks to the United States Tennis Association and Prince Tennis who gave demonstrations, a few pointers, and encouragement throughout the day.

A whopping 38 vendors - almost double last year! - and many returning for the second, third or fourth festival - lined the

bustling walkways with an eclectic mix of wares. Civic, community and educational groups were well represented with: CHOP Safety Van, Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center, CCRA, PhillyPAWS, Bicycle Coalition, Masterman Robotics, and Temple K9 4 Life. The Fire Department gave away coloring books and invited wide-eyed boys and girls to climb aboard a glistening red Engine 43!

The food court featured the usual fun fare from FSRP including drinks, hot dogs, hamburgers, hummus, popcorn, cotton candy, and home-baked goods - all thanks to the generosity of major donors: Dmitri's, Pepsico, South Square Market, and Tall Pines. Gavin's Café and VegNGo also donated a portion of food sales.

The enticing Raffles and Silent Auction were made possible by local artists and businesses - many of them perennial donors. See a complete list at the end of this newsletter.

While the Fall Festival is a fundraising event (proceeds this year far surpassed previous years), it is also a celebration of our community. And it would not be possible without the vendors, raffle and silent auction donors, festival underwriting donors, entertainment donors, FSRP Board members, the patience and support of the Markward Recreation Center Staff, and last but not least, the volunteers who give generously of their time. All are essential to the success of the Fall Festival - a wildly popular neighborhood tradition!

Interested in donating a raffle or silent auction item, being a vendor, or volunteering for the 2013 Fall Festival? Please email us at [fsrporg@gmail.com](mailto:fsrporg@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.fsrp.org](http://www.fsrp.org).

## Sponsor a Bench

The Friends of Schuylkill River Park has a limited time opportunity for perpetual bench sponsorships. Sponsorships are available for \$2,000 - one sponsor per bench - and include a placard with wording of your choosing. The benches can be for dedication, appreciation, memorial of people or pets, and other uses. If you are interested in a sponsorship, please contact [fsrporg@gmail.com](mailto:fsrporg@gmail.com)

### 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)

# Interview with Heidi Rosen—Park and Dog Run User

**Q: Do you live in the neighborhood or do you come from a distance to use the park?**

Heidi: I live in the neighborhood, three and a half blocks from the park.

**Q: How often do you come to the park?**

Heidi: I try to get to the dog park at least five days a week.

**Q: What are your favorite features in the park?**

Heidi: The dog run is my reason for spending so much time there, but I love the idea of the community garden as well.

**Q: How do you think the dog run looks after the renovation? Does it suit your dogs' needs?**

Heidi: It looks beautiful and it is 100% improved. I truly appreciate the hard work that went into making it happen. If I could make a suggestion, I would love to see some additional shelter or shady places in the event of rain or excessive heat.

**Q: Are there any additions you'd like to see in the park.**

Heidi: Is there any way to install hanging trash receptacles on the fence? They might be easier to access and avoid people throwing their bags over the fence (and unfortunately, missing!).

**Q: Have you ever volunteered at the park? For which events?**

Heidi: I have volunteered for dog park clean up days, I have sold memberships to the dog park and I have worked the food concession stand as well as a table for the dog park during FSRP Fall festivals.

**Q: What is your favorite season in the park?**

Heidi: I truly enjoy all seasons in the park but my favorite is winter when we're lucky enough to have snow on the ground. That's when my dogs are happiest! However, with the new canine grass and the beautiful brick walkways I'm going to look forward to every season in the dog run.



Offering classes in Philadelphia at 25th/Locust, Azalea Gardens, and Front/South Street. First class is FREE! Come join us today!

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## 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](mailto:fsrporg@gmail.com)

## Winter Tree Care Tips

- Remove gator bags.
- Cultivate around the trunk – aerating the soil – please be careful not to damage the trunk or roots.
- Mulch around the roots – use the 3 - 3 rule. 3" of mulch, 3" away from the tree trunk. Recommend mulch – aged wood chips, pine needles, composted leaves.
- If your tree is more than a year old – remove any straps, ties that are stabilizing the tree. In addition, remove any other string etc that is around the trunk and any branches. These ties/string if left on may 'strangle' your tree.
- Keep road salts away from tree pits and any type of plantings.

Check out our tree care videos for more information at [www.fsrp.org/treetenders](http://www.fsrp.org/treetenders)

## Fall Festival Volunteers Shine

We were fortunate enough to have several Temple students from the Sigma Chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma lend a hand at the Fall Festival. These young men and women came ready to roll their sleeves up and get busy. Their enthusiasm was contagious!

The purpose of the Sigma Chapter of Gamma Iota Sigma is to encourage, establish and enhance the professionalism of students in the Risk Management, Healthcare Risk Management, and Actuarial Science programs. Sigma Chapter is part of an international fraternal organization which creates camaraderie among members by collectively challenging them to develop the practices, skills and industry contract they will need for a successful and sustainable career. In addition, personal development of members through acts of community service and charitable donations are encouraged.

## Dog Run and Park FAQs

We receive a number of questions in person or through email on a regular basis and thought it would prove helpful to provide answers to some of them in our newsletter.

### **Can we install trash cans inside of the new dog runs?**

This is most definitely a “frequently” asked question. Technically we could install trash cans inside the dog run, but Parks and Recreation staff by contractual agreement will not enter the dog run to empty the trash receptacles. Therefore we did not install receptacles that we have no way to empty. With the support of your membership contributions FSRP has purchased additional receptacles directly in front of the dog run to assist with the volumes of dog waste.

### **Can we install more seating in the small dog run?**

Yes, FSRP used your donations to purchase two additional benches (that have already been installed) in late summer 2012. Additionally, we just purchased two more benches that will be installed some time this winter. Your membership donations make possible projects like this and each bench costs us \$1,400.

A hearty thanks to Jessica Kearney and the students of Gamma Iota Sigma of Temple University for volunteering their time for the Fall Festival.

Also a hearty thanks to Marianne Charbonneau of Just Dogs! Gourmet for taking the time to judge our wonderful dog costume contest. Marianne also brought goodies for all of the contestants.

The day couldn't have been better largely because of the work of all of the volunteers and board members who make this event a special one for the families in our neighborhood.

In addition, thank you to all volunteers who have come out for the various clean-ups and street tree planting during the year.

### **Who supplies the dog poop bags?**

Originally (several years ago) the dog waste bags were purchased with a grant from Representative Babette Josephs. Over the last several years, FSRP has used your membership donations to purchase biodegradable dog waste bags. Your support makes this possible.

### **Why is there green fencing around the Great Lawn—Large Green Areas?**

This area was sodded as part of the connector bridge project. The sod needs time to knit to the ground before it can be used. The lawn will be opened in Spring 2013.

### **Why aren't the bathrooms open all the time?**

The bathrooms must be attended by a Parks and Recreation Staff Member or designee when they are open. In instances when the bathrooms were left open without staff present, severe vandalism has occurred. Due to chronic underfunding Parks and Recreation cannot pay staff to be present to keep the bathrooms open all day every day.

## Upcoming Activities at the Markward Recreation

**Yoga Mondays @ 7pm. (\$50 for 7 classes or \$10 drop-in rate)**

**Markward Children's Garden Club Fridays starting Feb 1st at 4pm. Membership fee is \$15 per person for Feb thru May.**

**Scrapbooking Series: Hand-crafted Valentines, Saturday, Feb 2, 12-3pm. Registration info at taragupta@me.com. Fee is \$15 per person, which includes materials.**

**Eco Art Thursdays 5:00-6:30pm starting January 10th. (fee is \$30 for 6 weeks)**

## Happy Holidays from FSRP

Happy Holidays from the Friends of Schuylkill River Park. You—our members—make our work possible. Thank you.

## Become Part of the Foundation of Schuylkill River Park—Buy a Brick



### FRSP Donor Brick Form

Show your support for Schuylkill River Park by purchasing a donor brick. The bricks will be installed at the 25th and Spruce entrance to Schuylkill River Park one time per year every summer. There are two sizes available, 4x8 (standard brick size) and double that size. Proceeds are used to improve and maintain Schuylkill River Park.

To purchase a brick, please read the below instructions and complete the below form. If you have any questions, please email us at [fsrporg@gmail.com](mailto:fsrporg@gmail.com)

- All engraving will be done in upper-case (CAPITAL LETTERS) regardless of how it is printed on this form.
- All engraving will be centered on the brick, you do not need to print it that way.
- Remember to count punctuation marks and spaces between words when you are deciding how much will fit on each line.

4x8 \$200 each

15 characters per line, 3 lines maximum:

8x8 \$500 each

15 characters per line, 4 lines maximum:

Please include a check payable to the “Friends of Schuylkill River Park” with your order. Thank you for making a difference in Schuylkill River Park!

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## Carolyn Duffy Honored by the Commission on Parks and Recreation

For the past several years Carolyn has been the caretaker of the Schuylkill River Park Dog Run, keeper of our membership lists and the force behind the thousands of pieces of membership mail we send each year. Under her leadership our membership has doubled, we communicate better with our constituents, and the dog run has been transformed into an amazing oasis for our K9 Friends. Her personality also endears her to all. She is truly a volunteer park star and we could not realize the vision for a maintained and improved Park without her continued efforts.

In fitting tribute for all she does the citywide Commission on Parks and Recreation recently honored Carolyn with their Park Star Award.

On behalf of FRSP, Thank You Carolyn and Congratulations on this well deserved honor.



## Did you know?

In Fall 2012 FSRP re-sealed the tennis court benches and installed new tennis court nets.

## Dane Decor

Big apology to Dane Décor for overlooking them on the sponsor list for EDBG. Drew and Jill Hamilton are great neighbors and supporters of this event for the last two years as silent auction donors and attendees.

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## A Few FSRP Past Project Include:

- Purchase Many New 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

FSRP is a partner of...

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## Holiday Hazards for Pets

With the Holiday Season coming up remember to safeguard your pets from the many hazards: of the season

- Chocolate, of course, but what about anything sweet with Xylitol
- Tinsel can get lodged in the throat and intestines.
- Ingestion of Holly and Mistletoe – can cause nausea, indigestion
- Lit candles should never be unattended.
- Wired items -- a chew into the electrical wire can give your pet an electrical shock.
- Human medications should be kept in a safe place. Top medications toxic to pets:  
Pain Relievers , Antidepressants, ADD/ADHD Medications, Sleep aids, Muscle Relaxants, Heart Medications
- Alcoholic Beverages are definitely not good for your pets
- With all the festivities, give your pet a place to retreat, with fresh water and something to snuggle into and possibly something to hide under.

Think about our furry creatures outside the home as well

- Anti- freeze is extremely toxic if ingested.
- Use pet friendly salts – standard rock salt hurts most pets feet, in addition it can give pets chemical burns.

## Trinity at 22nd

*A center for  
Spirituality • Compassion • Culture*

**Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church**  
*A place to encounter God. Relentlessly Hopeful*

**Community Outreach Partnership**  
*Volunteer opportunities for those inspired  
to serve those in need*

**Trinity Center for Urban Life**  
*Community Activities, Arts & Culture, Education*

### What's Going on at 22nd & Spruce this Winter

Sun., 12/2	3:00 p.m.	Astral Artists Concert
Sat., 12/8	10-3	Holiday Bazaar, Wreath Sale, Café Noël
Sun., 12/9	4:00 p.m.	Al-Bustan Concert
Sat., 12/15	11:00 a.m.	<i>The Nutcracker</i> for the Very Young
Sun., 12/16	Noon	Cookoff: Meals for the Hungry
Sun., 12/16	12:30-3:30	CCRA Sacred Spaces Open House/ Carol Sing
Sun., 12/16	6:00 p.m.	Liebesfreud Wintershelter Benefit Concert
Sat., 12/22	8:00 p.m.	Piffaro, The Renaissance Band
Mon., 12/24	5:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Concert
	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship, Reception
Sun., 1/6	10:30 a.m.	Worship, Christmas Story Pageant
Thu., 1/10	7:00 p.m.	Grid Alive
Sun., 1/20	Noon	Cookoff: Meals for the Hungry
Sun., 1/20	3:00 p.m.	Astral Artists Concert
Sat., 1/26	8:00 p.m.	Phila. Voices of Pride Choir
Wed., 2/13	Noon, 7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Liturgy with ashes
Sun., 2/17	Noon	Cookoff: Meals for the Hungry
Sun., 2/17	3:00 p.m.	Dolce Suono Concert
Fri., 2/22	8:00 p.m.	Piffaro & Orchestra 2001
Sat., 2/23	1:30 p.m.	Astral Artists Kids' Concert
Sat. 2/23	8:00 p.m.	Al-Bustan Concert

22nd & Spruce Sts. • 215-732-2515  
trinityat22nd.org

# We Appreciate Our Supporters

## **CAPITAL INVESTMENTS**

AT&T Foundation  
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Councilman Kenyatta Johnson  
Representative Babette Josephs  
Krista and Rich Pinola  
CSX Railroad  
McLean Contributionship

## **EAT, DRINK, & BE GREEN 2012**

### **Gold Sponsors (\$2,500)**

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Penn Medicine at Rittenhouse

### **Silver Sponsors (\$1000)**

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Krista and Rich Pinola

### **Bronze Sponsors (\$500)**

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Donna and David Gerson  
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### **In-kind Sponsors**

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### **Silent Auction Donors**

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Fare Restaurant  
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Hello World  
InterAct Theatre Company  
Just Dogs! Gourmet

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Picnic  
PJ Pancake House  
Prince Tennis  
Rittenhouse Women's Wellness Cente  
Salon on 4th  
Star Pilates  
Studio Christensen  
Thrive Pilates  
Treat Me Good Dog Bakery  
Waterworks Restaurant

## **FALL FESTIVAL 2012**

### **Food, Drink, Prizes, Supplies**

Dmitri's  
Just Dogs! Gourmet  
Sarah Hicks (cupcakes)  
Gavin's Café  
Pepsico  
South Square Market  
Tall Pines  
Veg-N-Go  
The Philadelphia School

### **Entertainment**

MacGuffin Theatre & Film Co.  
United States Tennis Association

### **Silent Auction Donors**

Biello Martin Studio  
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Opera Co. of Philadelphia  
Ozzie Perez Salon  
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## **Raffle Donors**

1812 Productions  
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CCRA House Tour  
Grace  
Fairmount Park Conservancy  
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Puptales  
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