

# Friends of Schuylkill River Park



## Fall 2011

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

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### Announcements

**October 15, 11am-3pm:** Friends of Schuylkill River Park Fall Festival. Please join us at Pine and Taney Streets for Fabulous Family Fun.

**November 5, 10am-2pm:** Fall 2011 LOVE Your Park, Schuylkill River Park Work Day. Come volunteer to help us improve Schuylkill River Park. Sweeping, painting, weeding, and more!

**November 19:** Friends of Schuylkill River Park Tree Tenders Planting Day. Please come and help us plant trees around the neighborhood. We need volunteers.

### FSRP Board of Directors

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## The 2011 Fall Festival— Oct 15th

The FSRP Fall Festival site at Pine and Taney is intact, and we're preparing for the annual onslaught of neighbors, students, and kids (and dogs!) who flock to the FSRP Fall Festival!

Please come!... on Saturday, October 15 from 11a.m. to 3p.m. as your community celebrates Schuylkill River Park with food and music...fun for kids *and* pets... an eclectic mix of vendors, demonstrations, a fabulous silent auction, and enticing raffle prizes!

Meet neighbors, visit a variety of vendors, take in the crisp autumn air, and feast on hot dogs, hamburgers, popcorn, cotton candy, and delicious veggie fare – and satisfy your sweet tooth at the ever-popular bake sale. The crowd-pleasin' Signature DJs, spinning at the FSRP Festival since 2009, will once again energize kids and grownups alike, with dancing and contests to the latest pop hits.

The 4-H Petting Zoo, which made it's FSRP Fall Festival debut last year, returns to a day that's chock-full of kid activities. Among other fun stuff: super moon bounce, face painting, cupcake decorating, games, fingerprinting by a Philadelphia police officer, costume dog parade by [thephillydog.com](http://thephillydog.com) with prizes going to the most cutest and most scariest and more!

The CHOP Safety Van, newcomer to the

fall festival, offers (at cost) safety products like infant and booster seats. CHOP health educators will be on hand as well, to give advice on child safety.

And be sure to enter the Raffle and bid in the Silent Auction! Many more to come no doubt, but these items are committed at press time:

Artworks by: Michael Biello (Biello Martin Studio), Paul Davis Jones. Gift certificates to: Dmitri's (dinner for 2), 4 Sisters Nail Salon, Nook Café, Metropolitan Bakery. Tickets for: Opera Company of Philadelphia, Arden Theatre Company, Landmark (Ritz), Philadelphia Flower Show. Items from: Bicycle Therapy, Prince Tennis, Buyenlarge (canvas prints). We also thank generous donors (at press time) who help to offset event costs: Dmitri's, South Square Market, PepsiCo, [studio:christensen](http://studio:christensen), and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

The FSRP Fall Festival is indeed a growing neighborhood tradition. Bring family and friends and see why! Enter the festival at Pine and Taney just west of 26th. Free admission. Rain date is Sunday October 16.

Interested in donating a raffle or silent auction item, being a vendor, or volunteering for the 2011 festival? Please email us at [fsrporg@gmail.com](mailto:fsrporg@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.fsrp.org](http://www.fsrp.org). River Park.



*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.*

## Playground Landscape Renovation

As of this writing the Friends of Schuylkill River Park has almost completed a major transformation to the Children's Playground Landscape. The transformation began in late July with some much needed tree care and the planting of a new honey locust tree. With approval from the City, we contracted with our irrigation vendor to bring both perennial planting and turf sprinkler heads into the area providing the requisite moisture to grow a healthy lawn and Garden. At the same time, the hills in front of Schuylkill Pocket Veterans Memorial Field were irrigated to help us reduce weeds in this area and the consequent proliferation of these weeds onto the newly renovated playing field.

Many of you will recall that last year, funded by a grant from the McLean Contributionship, we installed an iron fence around the Playground Gardens and added a substantial amount of perennial plant material to improve the Gardens. This year, with turf irrigation in place, we began laying sod in September to improve the turf areas of the Play-

ground. If you have not yet stopped by to see the magic of this almost overnight transformation, please do so. Please help the sod root in a healthy manner by staying clear and keeping your kids clear of the turf for several weeks.

This project is yet another improvement to our Park funded by your donations. Only with your continued support can we continue to improve Schuylkill River Park for us all.

*Installation of Turf in Progress*



## Schuylkill River Park Community Garden Wins First Place in City Gardens Contest

The Friends of Schuylkill River Park would like to congratulate the Center City Residents' Association managed Schuylkill River Park Community Garden for winning first place in this year's PHS Sponsored Citywide Gardens Contest. An email to Gardeners, reproduced here by permission, noted the following:

It is our pleasure to inform you that the Schuylkill River Park Community Garden won first place in the 2011 PHS Sponsored City Garden's Contest.

This is a testament to the time and effort we dedicate to gardening and community as well as a reflection of the high standards we apply to both. It is a tribute to our dedication to the environment through the use of 99% recycled plastic as replacement for our rotting plot borders, our 100% commitment to organic gardening, our composting efforts, and our numerous other related initiatives. It is equally an endorsement of our significant involvement outside the Garden through programs such as City Harvest (several hundred pounds of produce donated to those in need thus

far), our partnership with The Philadelphia School Children and Trinity Playgroup, our Ladybug Release Party for Gardeners and the community at large, as well as the numerous tours and other interactions we have with the world that surrounds us. We are part of it and it is equally part of us.

Community gardening is not about stratifying people into winners and losers but instead a process of bringing them together, yes to Garden, yes to affect each other for the better, yes to become involved in the world around them, and yes to generate something beautiful both in the physical reality of plantings but also in the sense of togetherness that forms where none before existed.

This is a win; it is a win that brings us together will all those trying to realize the same, not one that sets us apart. We should be proud of everything we have accomplished. Keep up the good work.

The SRPCG Steering Committee

## Pedestrian Bridge Update

It is easy to see the amount of disruption the Pedestrian Bridge is causing to our Park. Though it is interesting to watch from afar we recognize that the usable area in our Park is significantly reduced for active and passive activities. We love our Park as much as you do and it is difficult to see how strained this wonderful resource is during the construction process. We appreciate the patience of all Park users as the work coordinated and managed by the Philadelphia Streets Department continues.

The good news is that the Pedestrian Bridge is currently on schedule. Despite the slight speed bump at the beginning with the reconfiguring of the staging area, the contractor is still on schedule to be completed by the end of Fall 2012. The recent flooding along the Schuylkill River did not slow the contractor down. Despite the damage upriver the flood waters did not rise above the top of the bulkhead in the project area. The severity of the winter season may determine how well the project remains on schedule. So far the contractor has installed the proposed caisson foundations on both sides of the railroad. They are now constructing the piers and columns that will support the ramps and the bridge. After the piers are installed the contractor is hoping to erect the bridge over the railroad tracks. Stay tuned!



## BoConcept Arts Program

The BoConcept Arts Program will be coming back to Markward this Fall. Stay tuned for more information.

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## No Babies, Toddlers, Children up to 10 Year of Age in the Dog Run—The Rationale

Dogs' natural instinct is to form into "packs". While a dog, be it a German Shepherd or a Golden Retriever is in its pack he is not thinking about "his human". They are thinking back, instinctively, to pack mentality. Dog packs wrestle, bite, nip, run at exceeding speeds and crash into trees, benches, and humans! While some adults huff and wipe the mud from their own bottom, children don't always bounce as well in these situations. While **you know your dog**, many dogs were not brought up around children? Do you know that when a dog is in its "pack mentality" a downed human can look as much like fallen prey as an injured deer? Adults know to stop running when being chased by a dog. A child will run according to their own instincts. And the pack may take up chase. This is as true for small dogs as it is for larger ones.

Children move differently and sound differently than adults. By mere size children do not appear to carry the confidence of an adult. While you know your dog will stop dead in its tracks with a firm "No!" children's voices are not able to conjure up that deep and firm command. The squeal of a child sounds like the squeal of prey. Many dogs, though true, not all, will seek out where that squeal came from. Some breeds of dogs will attempt to "herd" children nipping at their bums and bare legs. To a child, they are being bitten; to a dog, the wild screaming only insights more of the herding instinct.

Dog parks and dog runs are NOT petting zoos! While there are many areas available to children to run and play, the city has few places where we are allowed to let dogs off leash to run and be dogs. In a dog park, the socializing of one dog with others is encouraged. Running at crazy speeds and wrestling among themselves is encouraged. And

yes, sometimes there are fights which break out. When you bring your dog to the park along with your child your attention is split between the child and the dog. Have you thought about what would you do if your dog is involved in the fight? You may say that your dog won't fight but what if another dog decides it wants to bully your dog? Do you abandon your child or your dog? Do you want your child to witness a real dog fight where there can be blood and frightening injuries?

While it's true that not all dog bites are serious physical injuries they can still emotionally scare a child, instilling a fear that cannot be reversed. Dog parks are not "anti-child". They are "pro-dog." Many dog owners get few opportunities a week to really let their dogs burn off some energy but most will not bring their dog into a dog run with children present. They know too well that their dog has instincts and they know their dog could hurt a child. So a dog doesn't have the chance to stretch out and be a dog because you wanted your child to be in the dog park at the only time a dog owner could bring their dog to the park.

Responsible dog owners do not want a confrontation between themselves and you or your child. They came to the one safe place where they can allow their dog to be a dog. The clearly marked signs at the dog run entrances are there for your protection. Rules are not created to inconvenience people. They exist because often people are not aware of hidden dangers. It is the dog and dog owner's rights to have the dog park without the worry of having a negative interaction with a child. Please understand that we want Schuylkill River Park to be safe and fun for everyone including the dogs!

### 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. For more information and to download an application, visit: [www.fsrp.org/treetenders](http://www.fsrp.org/treetenders)

# We Appreciate Our Supporters

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Woven Treasures

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