

SPRING ISSUE | PUBLISHED BY LINCOLN CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

Call goes out for LCA residents to help keep parks in top-notch shape

By Dave Varnerin

Special little jewels are the neighborhood parks of LCA. Maintaining their glitter, though, dictates an on-going investment of equity... both sweat and dollar versions. Your association has determined that Lincoln Central Park and Bauler Park are in need of some dedicated caretaking this spring and summer.

Lincoln Central Park

Situated at the northwest corner of Lincoln and Dickens, the park affords a tranquil setting for socializing or simply sitting and relaxing. Revamped some 10 years ago at a cost of \$700,000, the park is showing its age. Its needs include: new plantings in certain areas, pruning and sculpting of evergreen trees that are over grown, concrete repair near one of the park's metal benches, and replacing soil with crushed stone or pavers around a fountain. Also, a proposed new park sign would be installed as replacement for the bronze plaque some culprit made off with two years back.



New sign to replace bronze version (above) that went the way of a midnight shopper.

The project 's estimated cost is \$5,000. And while the association has earmarked some funds in its coffers for Lincoln Central Park refurbishing, LCA is hoping contributions from residents in the surrounding neighborhoods to cover a shortfall. Solicitations will take place over the next few months.



New pavers in store for fountain.

Currently, park maintenance is the responsibility of the City's Department of Transportation. It outsources the work. There is widespread feeling that quality of upkeep would be substantially improved if responsibility for the park were shifted to the Chicago Park District. Discussions of the move have been held with Alderman Vi Daley and continue. LCA residents are urged to contact Daley's office to voice support for the move.

If you have ideas for other park improvements, please pass them along to us. And if you want to take an active role in the park project, kindly contact either Deirdre Graziano (312 787-8257, e/ graz.21stcentury@rcn.com) or David Varnerin (312 751-0057, e/davidvarnerin@aol.com).

Bauler Park



Bauler Park benefits from deft gardening touch of Elizabeth Samuels, Dave Varnerin.

It's a tot lot. A kiddie playground. The perfect place for neighborhood moms and dads to visit while their offspring romp and giggle in secure, safe surroundings. A modern-day village center if you will. That's Bauler Park and its magical, magnetic lure.

Last summer, the park basked in the television limelight as it provided the perfect setting for a Harris Bank television commercial. The spot played witness to a young boy exploding in ecstasy as he sights his lost dog near the swings in Bauler Park. Then in the fall, a Halloween event attracted hundreds of costumed children with their adult escorts.

The park's emergence as an outdoor showcase is a story of neighbors giving generously of their dollars and their time. Year-in, year-out.

Over the past several years, more than \$55,000 has been raised for new plantings, new benches, a sprinkler system and the restoration of the Wisconsin Street parkway. The 2008 campaign raised \$6,175, which provided for the replenishment of mulch in plant beds, tree trimming, cleanup following a severe storm (several small trees were lost), and general maintenance to supplement work down by the Chicago Park District. \$1,945 remains in the Bauler Park fund.



Swings 'n slide get lots of play.

For 2009, the Advisory Council has set a goal of \$5,000, which will fund additional plantings and maintenance. Some new plants are required to fill in areas where plants have died. The scope of the maintenance efforts will be dictated by the success of this campaign.

The more funds raised, the more improvements can be made. All contributions are tax deductible.

