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FRIENDS OF MITCHELL PARK

WINTER 2008

Friends of
Mitchell Park
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Betsy Santarlaschi
Marty Scherr
Pierre Wagner*

Contact:
*Abe Isenberg
265-8661
aisenberg@verizon.net*

EROSION CONTROL PLAN

Remember Mitchell Lake? The lake is long gone, but residual problems remain with drainage, erosion, mud and dust. Simply put, the field and the S Street embankment are a mess. Help, however, is on the way.

DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) acknowledges the situation and has committed to fixing it. Friends of Mitchell Park (FOMP) board members met on January 3, 2008, with representatives of DPR and DPR contractors Baker & Volkert, employed to develop a comprehensive erosion control and restoration plan. After completing an intensive analysis of the soil, grading, plantings and other conditions, the contractor was able to present DPR and FOMP with a comprehensive plan.

The proposed design includes a "bioswale," landscape engineering jargon for a system that will absorb most rainwater and provide an environmentally sound method to carry away any excess. The plan also takes into account the need to regrade and reseed the field, to move or replace some shrubbery and plants, and to protect any affected trees. A new coping or retaining wall will be constructed along the sidewalk on the S Street side.

While DPR could not provide a firm timetable, we were assured that the project is a priority, with a current target to start work as early as this spring. The project, including closing grassy areas and shrubbery beds to allow time for them to rejuvenate, could take six to nine months.

PARENTS: PLEASE HELP REPLACE PLAYGROUND TREE

Parents who have braved the recent snap of cold weather to take their children to the playground have likely noticed the absence of a welcome friend in Summer: the large ash tree in the middle of the playground. When the park was renovated in 2003-4, great care was taken to eke out a few more years from this dying tree. Unfortunately, its time came in October when the DC Urban Forestry Administration and an independent arborist agreed that it had to go.

Friends of Mitchell Park is soliciting contributions from families to replace the tree, which will cost approximately \$10,000 for the largest possible tree and a crane to install it. Kindly send your check to: Friends of Mitchell Park, c/o Treasurer Claire Wagner, 1909 23rd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. If you have any questions, please call Betsy Santarlaschi, 202-328-3821, or email betsy7@bellatlantic.net.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift to Friends of Mitchell Park of:

\$100 \$250 \$500 \$_____ Other

Name _____

Address & Phone Number _____

Kindly make out your check to "Friends of Mitchell Park" and mail to:

Holly Sukenik, Secretary
2401 Tracy Place, NW
Washington, DC 20008
202-265-6569

Mitchell Park Day - 2007

Mitchell Park Fall Fun Day 2007 was a great success. The weather helped significantly again this year. We added new activities and attractions, such as games for children and the visit of Mickey, Minnie and Goofy.

Thanks to all who contributed with their leadership and hard work.

Bill O'Brian and Abe Isenberg – food court
Abe Isenberg – Pumpkins

Audrey Nevitt – bake sale (again this year!)

Emily Madan and Nina Herrick - another successful year with the book sale

Mary and John McEachern – children's games and pumpkin carving party and flyers

Marty Scherr, Brent Goo and Sandy Berk (aka "Count Dracula") - Haunted House

Jeannett Yonemoto – volunteer coordinator

Lisa Schertler – moonbounce organizing and underwriting

Michael and Carol McCann – decorations including flower arrangements

Mai Abdo – sponsorships

Paul Williams and Looking For Lester Band - terrific as always!

THANKS to all of our corporate sponsors:

Principecha - professional face painting and Disney characters

Occasions and Perfect Settings – setup, gourmet cookies and coffee

Greenworks – beautiful decorations and flower arrangements

Cosi - delicious sandwiches and salads

Sette - yummy pizzas

Whole Foods- beverages

We could not have made it without our volunteers and sponsors!!!

Finally, THANK YOU to all who attended. We depend on you for the success of this annual get together in our neighborhood park. We are already looking forward to the next Mitchell Park Day, October 26, 2008!!!! Mark your calendars !



sack races and moonbounce



children with Disney characters from Principecha



Former FOMP President, Tracy Davis, Mitchell Park Day Chair, Mayra Addison; "Count Dracula", Sandy Berk; Games Chair & photographer, Mary McEachern

A Message from the President



2007 was a very active year for Mitchell Park as there appeared to be increased usage by individuals (adults and children) and school groups. New sponsored activities included a DPR supported Preschool Coop, and a FOMP hosted "Films in the Field". Plant and tree growth progressed as well, and in addition, the park's natural beauty began to display itself. Bright colorful flowers sprouted in the spring. Who can forget the brilliant oranges and reds of fall foliage ?

2008 will be an active year as well. We expect DPR to make the last major needed improvement with its announced Erosion Control Plan. FOMP will continue to supplement DPR's planting and maintenance efforts. We will also continue last year's events, while requesting from you new ideas on park activities.

On a personal note, I would like to thank outgoing president, Tracy Davis, and retiring FOMP Board members. We hope they will continue to give us their wisdom and guidance.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you all a healthy and happy new year; and express our thanks for supporting the park with your presence, your efforts and your contributions .

If you wish to contact me with ideas or thoughts, I can be reached at 202-265-8661, or email -- aisenberg@verizon.net.

Preschool Coop

Ever wonder about the cute little kids going in and out of the recreation building ?

The DC Department of Parks & Recreation Office of Educational Services runs a Cooperative Preschool in the recreation building at Mitchell Park. It operates weekday mornings from 9 AM to 12 noon for children 2 1/2 to 5 years old for a maximum of 12 children. Two parents at a time are scheduled to assist the professional teacher.

Films in the Field

On a balmy, breezy evening in early September, Mitchell Park became the site of an outdoor movie for the first time, when FOMP brought "The Wizard of Oz" to a great big inflatable screen at the park. The event inaugurated "Films in the Field," which FOMP would like to hold at least twice a year in the future.

Fliers had been distributed inviting our Kalorama neighbors to see the Wizard, enjoy the popcorn provided, and bring picnics if they wished. And close to 130 people of all ages did just that, arriving at the field with picnic coolers, thermoses, beach blankets, backrests, lawn chairs, even wheel chairs. Children of young parents toddled merrily from group to group, teenagers lounged in a row on their tummies, munching popcorn, "boomer" moms and dads could murmur every word of every song, while grandparents nodded to familiar tunes – or simply nodded off.

And when a sudden gust of wind buckled the big inflatable screen just as the Wicked Witch was screeching her last, half a dozen good neighbors leaped up to help our movie projectionist set it right again so we could see Dorothy safely back in Kansas. All together, it was an enjoyable "first," and FOMP hopes to see everybody again next time! "Ratatouille" anyone?

Nancy Carmichael and Claire Wagner, who arranged for "Films in the Field," want to thank all of you who volunteered to help us - and everyone else for being there.

Chinese Embassy Event

The Ambassador of China
Zhou Wenzhong
has offered to host a reception
for the neighborhood to benefit
Mitchell Park this Spring!
Stay tuned and
watch for your invitation!