



Carl Schurz Park Conservancy | Spring 2022

# Park Notes



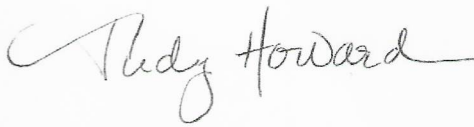
*Thank  
You  
Volunteers!*

## Chairperson's Letter

While back, as I was entering the Midtown Tunnel, an inscription caught my eye — *E PLURIBUS UNUM* — the Latin phrase meaning, “Out of Many, One.” It struck me as an apt description for so much of what we as humans accomplish, and a perfect description of our Conservancy.

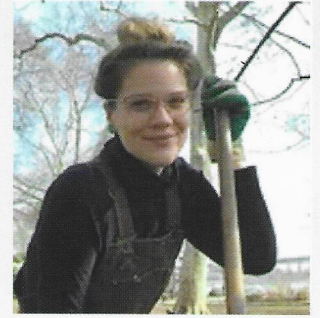
Our one Park has been transformed by the devotion and sweat equity of our many volunteers. True, individuals can be capable of doing great things, but more often, we see that the galvanized efforts of many can “move mountains”.

This edition of Park Notes is dedicated to arguably the best volunteer force anywhere. It is a pleasure and a privilege to work with them maintaining and improving our local greenspace which brings such joy to all who use it.



Judy Howard  
Chair, Board of Directors

## Breeana George Promoted



After four years on the ground, our much-loved horticulturist Breeana “Bee” George has been promoted to Horticultural Manager to more closely reflect the depth of her responsibilities.

From fencing to lawns, from tree pruning to rat abatement, Bee is there executing or overseeing the great amount of work being done in our park. With her efforts, we continue to move ever closer to our goal of maintaining, restoring, and revitalizing all our planted areas.

Bee started her career in Seattle, Washington, where she was born and raised. She interned for four years doing restoration in the Duwamish Greenbelt, Seattle’s last standing forest. While working for the Nature Consortium, she attended South Seattle College to obtain her Associates Degree in Horticulture. Bee studied in Ireland to learn traditional European gardening practices, as well as here in the US to learn plant merchandising, floral design and landscape management.

We look forward to a very green future with her at the helm.





# Conservancy Volunteers:

## Caring for the Park, for Nature, and for the Community

**Diantha Schull**  
Board Secretary

Some call Carl Schurz Park “the beating heart of the community.” That statement may not be an exaggeration.

We can look to the health benefits of the Park and its plantings, the scope of community use, the variety of educational and recreational activities, and the affection demonstrated by neighborhood residents and long-time donors. However, that statement is not enough to capture the relationship

between the park and its community; a heart does not beat by itself.

A vital heart depends on the quality of support within the overall organism, in this case, the community itself. There is a reciprocal relationship: the community nurtures and cultivates the Park, while the Park improves our health, our lives, and our community.

Whether the need is for hands to weed and plant, organizers of special events, experts to lead tours, people with the skills and experi-

ence to set policies, manage budgets, or carry out fundraising, there are neighbors who are willing to provide the labor and the time to get it done. While each brings different experiences and skill sets to Carl Schurz Park Conservancy, there are certain motivating factors shared by all that help to explain their loyalty.

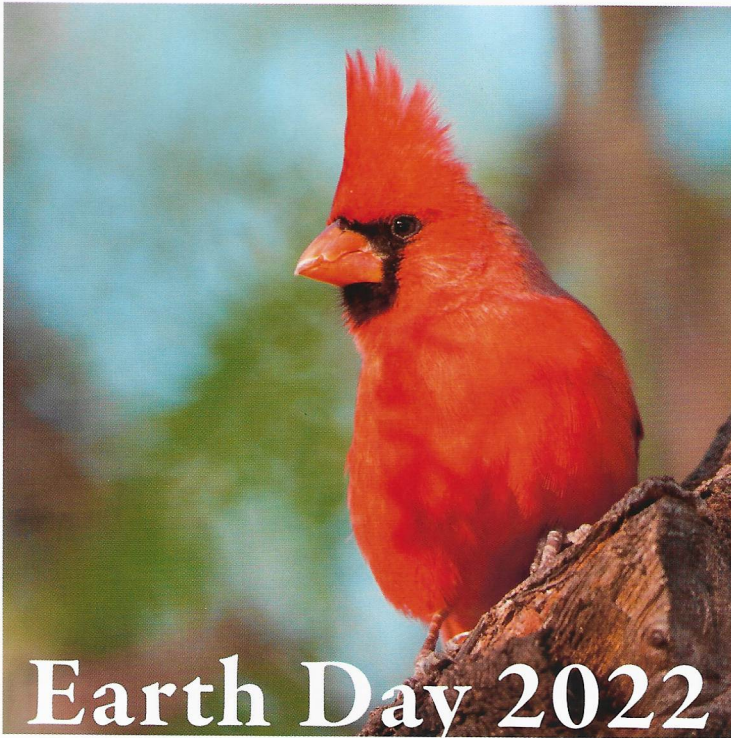
The first is the close physical connection with the Park. Most volunteers live nearby and use the Park regularly. They may be devotees of the out of doors,

horticultural buffs, exercise enthusiasts, retired professionals, bird watchers, or simply neighbors seeking to work in “their backyard”. For these volunteers, caring for the Park is a personal issue and one that gives them great satisfaction.

Many of our volunteers have a strong sense of civic responsibility and the desire to be a part of something important and meaningful. Quite a few of them are also involved with other not-for-profit organizations

... continued on page 4





# Earth Day 2022

## Conservancy Launches First Earth Day Celebration

After more than two years of cancelled programming, Carl Schurz Park Conservancy is proud to inaugurate the 2022 season with **Every Day is Earth Day**. This self-guiding, interactive outdoor exhibit will invite visitors to learn about park ecosystems and the Conservancy's role in ensuring the park's long-term health and sustainability.

**The exhibit, to open on April 23rd, will be accompanied by a park-wide event from 1-4 p.m.** which will include activities for all ages and special projects for children. Participants will discover aspects of our fascinating worlds above and below ground. Experts will be on hand to discuss topics such as birds,

pollinating insects, fungi, lichen, and native plants and trees. In addition, one of our Earth Day partners, the Billion Oyster Project (BOP) will host demonstrations of oyster cage monitoring at the ferry dock adjacent to the North Lawn.

**The Every Day is Earth Day** initiative is an exciting opportunity for the Conservancy to promote a deeper understanding of the park. The exhibit, which will remain up through the summer, will allow neighbors, visitors, and school groups alike to learn about the value of this environmental asset and gain insights regarding the benefits of urban greenspaces.

Conservancy Volunteers, from page 3

throughout the city. The wish to connect, to make a difference, to be helpful, is at the forefront.

Another aspect is the quality of the relationships formed between CSPC volunteers. These relationships, some developed over decades, create a framework for sharing responsibilities, learning together, and solving problems.

They provide the gratifying feeling of being part of a group dedicated to a common cause. The Park is more than a meeting place for volunteers—it offers the foundation for becoming part of a network of colleagues and friends who have joined forces to improve a beloved park.

In recent years, as environmental issues have become a priority and the benefits of greenspace and nature recognized, our group has responded with renewed vigor. Many volunteers are working to make the park's ecosystem healthier, more resilient, and more beneficial to wildlife. The results have proved to be inspiring—sounds of life and vitality abound within the Park proper.

Whatever the reason for different volunteers' involvement, the results are manifest in all areas of the Conservancy's work. Essential functions and public programs would be greatly diminished without such dedicated and talented people. It is a privilege to have so many who assume responsibility for countless activities and routine tasks, who do not seek individual recognition but work diligently behind the scenes and who show up no matter the weather or the season. They may be volunteers, but no group is as serious about their mission or is as devoted to their work. They keep our community's heart strong, season after season and year after year.

We salute them for all they do!



# Beyond Caring for the Park

## Breana George

Horticultural Manager

**G**inger Holton and Dianne Weisheit-Olenick have been volunteering with Carl Schurz Park Conservancy for decades. Ginger has a very active role in recycling the neighborhood's holiday trees at Mulchfest and helps spread much of the Christmas tree mulch every year. Clearly, she is attracted to heavy lifting! Dianne is one of our Zone Gardeners with a gorgeous flower bed on the Esplanade and is on the Gardening Committee. Clearly, she enjoys organizing and managing. For both, civic responsibility is high on their list of priorities. However, for these two, community service doesn't stop at Carl Schurz Park.

For over a decade, Dianne and Ginger have been working with other non-profit organizations geared towards helping homeless animals. Their shared love for these creatures brought them together in the park where they bonded while dragging trees for Mulchfest. At any given time, you might find them working at the ASPCA, the ACC (the city's Animal Care Center) or The Washington Heights Cat Colony. They have had an enormous impact on the lives of countless displaced and discarded animals.

Dianne's love for animals came naturally as her father was a veterinarian. Over the years, she has worked primarily with cats and opens her home to fos-

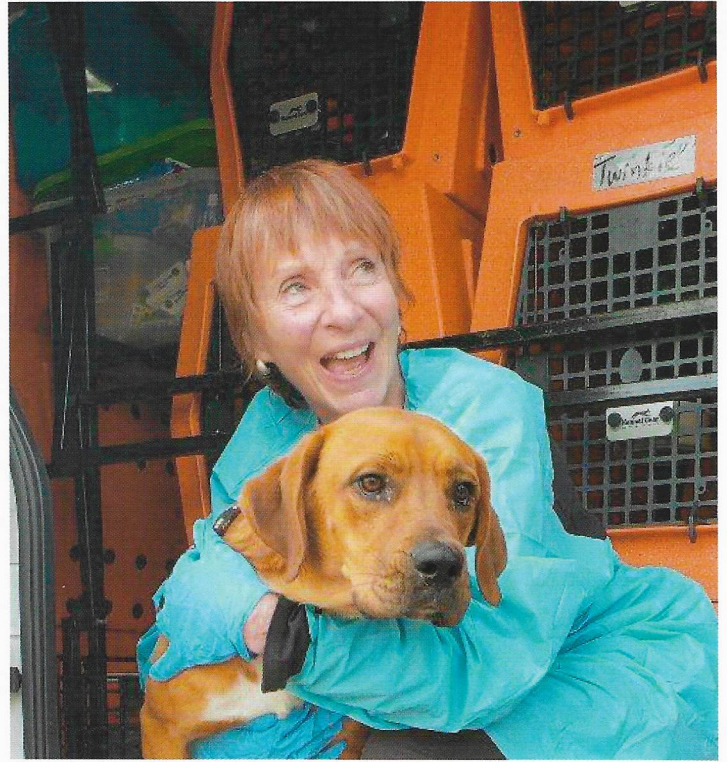
ter when the shelters become overwhelmed. Fostering kittens is particularly demanding as they must be bottle fed around the clock. Her own adopted cats help socialize the orphans although sometimes Dianne will need to spend hours at a time comforting them in a quiet space.

Ginger has great experience working with shelter dogs and, through the years, has adopted several. She was lucky enough to have her last pup for 16 years and continues to work at the shelters in honor of him. Working with larger dogs comes easy to her as she grew up with Shepherds and Huskies. You can often find Ginger in the park walking and acclimating newly rescued dogs.

Ginger has also driven around the country on emergency rescue missions to help transport dogs from overcrowded shelters to shelters where chances of adoption are high. On one occasion, she co-piloted a van with 40 pups from Alabama to Wisconsin where they were all adopted within the month!

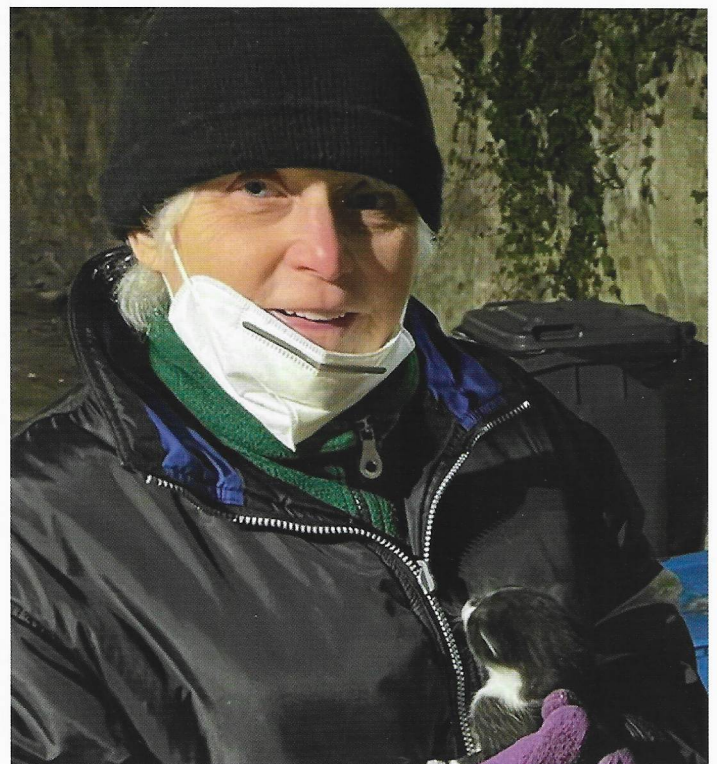
Recently, a large contribution was made to Carl Schurz Park Conservancy in honor of Ginger and Dianne by a fellow animal lover who knew how much the park meant to them. They were so touched to have inspired such a meaningful gift.

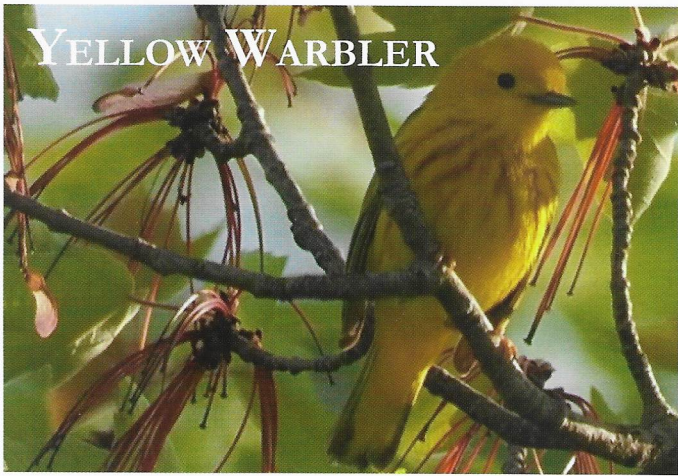
Clearly, on the ground or in the shelters, these two represent volunteerism and humanity at its best!



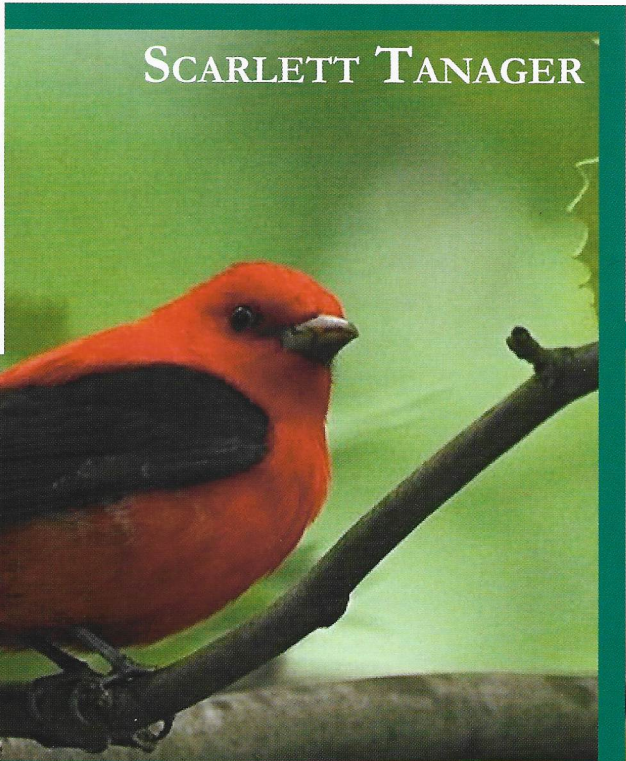
Above: Ginger Holton

Below: Dianne Weisheit-Olenick





YELLOW WARBLER

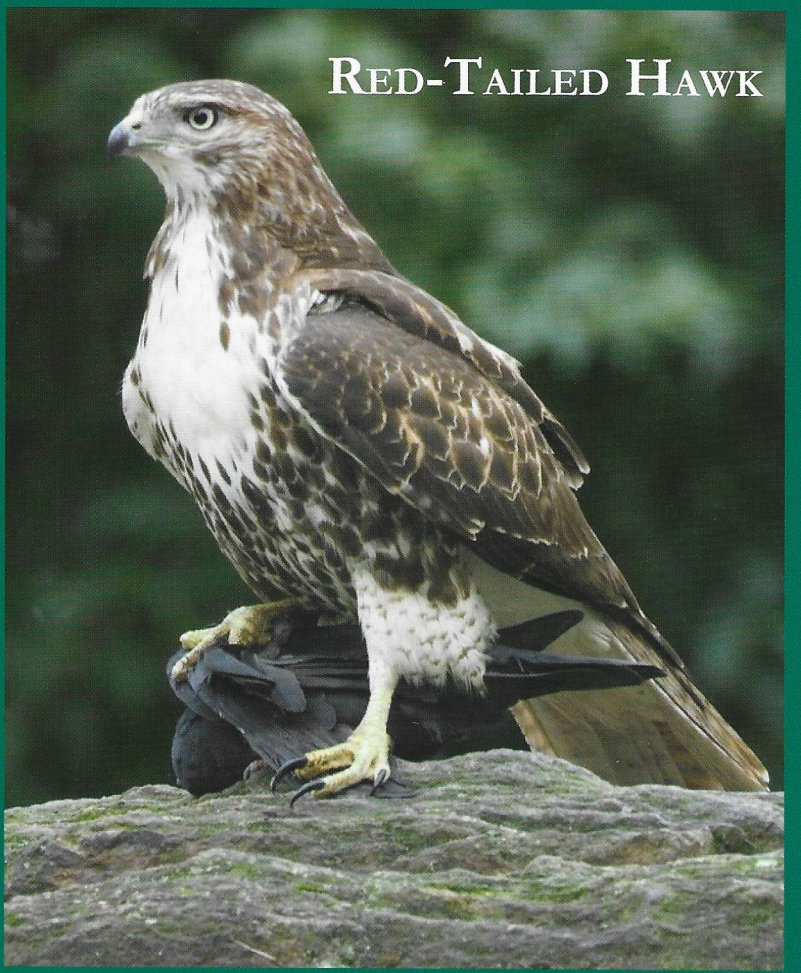


SCARLETT TANAGER

Carl  
14



BLUEJAY



RED-TAILED HAWK

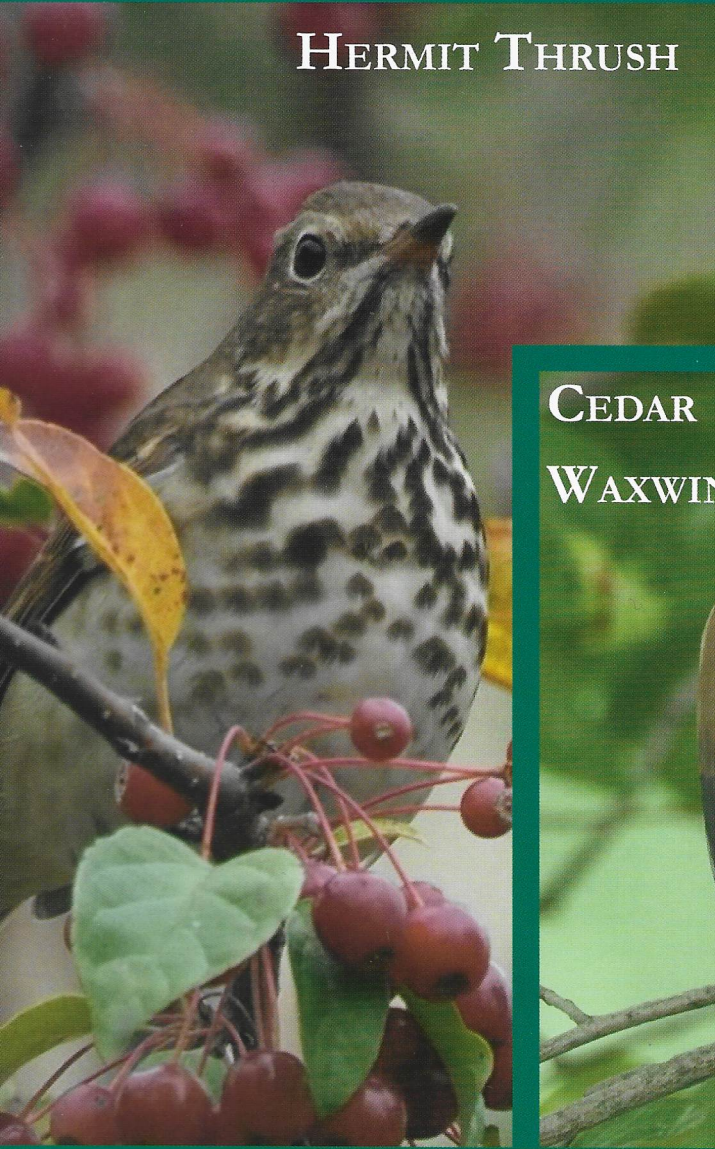


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Photos by Jay Zeman

# Schurz Park: A Birding Hotspot 3 Species Identified!

HERMIT THRUSH



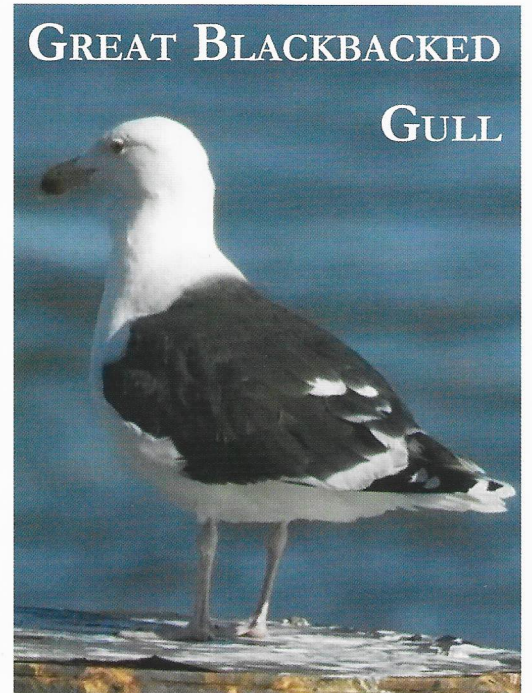
CEDAR  
WAXWING



MOCKINGBIRD



GREAT BLACKBACKED  
GULL



Using Cornell University's popular eBird app, the park has been designated a hot spot for birding. These photos were taken in the park and represent a small portion of the 143 bird species documented there so far. To learn more, visit eBird.org and search for Carl Schurz Park. You can even download a checklist and see how many birds you can find next time you visit.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

Carl Schurz Park Conservancy is grateful to all those who made a contribution between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021. Without your vital support, our efforts at improving the park would be greatly diminished.

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**Our deepest gratitude to our neighbors  
Nancy Harrow and Jan Krukowski  
for their inspired generosity to Carl Schurz Park Conservancy.**

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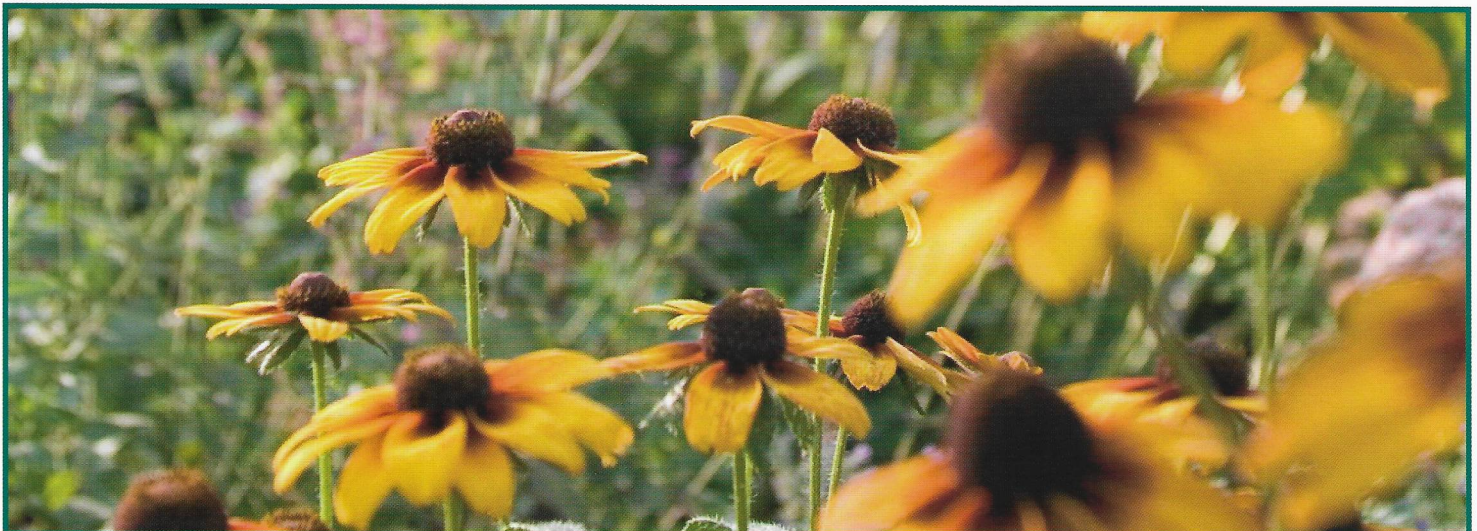
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*And over 375 contributors whose donations of \$1 to \$249 totaled more than \$31,494.*

\*Deceased

# VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION!



# Carl Schurz Park Conservancy Event Calendar 2022

## Volunteer Days

June 11  
September 17  
October 15  
November 12  
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
*East End Ave.  
at 86<sup>th</sup> Street*

*Advance Registration  
Required*



## Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 23  
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
*Throughout the park*



## Annual Plant "Sale"

Saturday, May 14  
9:30 a.m. to  
4:30 p.m.  
(Rain date May 15)  
*East End Ave.  
at 86<sup>th</sup> Street*



## Summer Sounds Open-Air Concerts

**Chuck Braman Quartet**  
Wednesday, July 13  
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
*John Finley Walk at the  
top of 86th St. staircase.*

**Steve Shaiman and  
Swingtime Big Band!**  
Wednesday, July 20  
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
*John Finley Walk at the  
top of 86th St. staircase.*



## Sunset Films

*Babe*  
Wednesday, August 3  
Sunset  
*Basketball/Hockey  
Court at 84th St.*

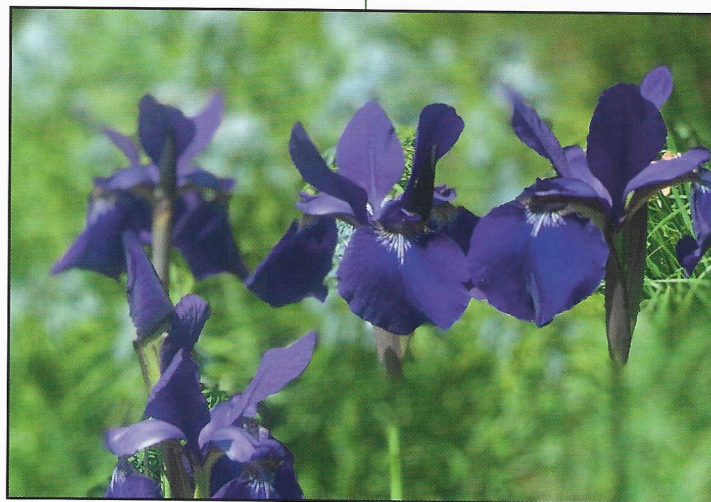
*Encanto*  
Wednesday, August 10  
Sunset  
*Basketball/Hockey  
Court at 84th St.*



## The 48th Annual Gracie Square Art Show

Saturday and Sunday,  
September 10 and 11  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
*East End Avenue  
from 84<sup>th</sup> to 88<sup>th</sup> St.  
(Rain or shine)  
www.gsasnyc.org*

**Harvest Festival**  
Sunday, October 16th  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
*Playground at  
84th St. and  
Peter Pan Walk  
(Rain or shine)*



## Halloween Howl and Healthy Hound Fair

Sunday, October 23  
12 noon to 3:00 p.m.  
(Rain date October 30)  
*Basketball/Hockey Court  
at 84th St. and  
John Finley Walk*

**Holiday  
Tree Lighting**  
Sunday, December 4  
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
(Rain, snow or shine)  
*East End Ave.  
at 86th St.*



## HOW TO DONATE

### Donate Online

For online donations, visit [www.carlschurzparknyc.org](http://www.carlschurzparknyc.org)

### Please mail your gift to:

Carl Schurz Park Conservancy  
1483 York Avenue, #20523, New York, NY 10075  
212-459-4455

### Matching Gifts

If your employer matches gifts, please follow their matching gift protocol to initiate the match; we will complete the process to multiply your support.

### Planned Giving: Peter Pan Society

Please consider including the Conservancy as a beneficiary of your estate by joining our Peter Pan Society. You may call our office to speak with us.

### Stock Gifts

For instructions on how to donate stock to CSPC, please call or e-mail our office.

Printer Jim Ayers, [www.ayersco.com](http://www.ayersco.com)

This publication and its mailing materials are recyclable.

### Carl Schurz Park Conservancy Mission Statement

The mission of Carl Schurz Park Conservancy is to restore and beautify Carl Schurz Park, complementing the efforts of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Our goal is to enhance the public's enjoyment and involvement in the Park. The Conservancy organizes volunteers to execute its projects and sponsors community events that are open to all.

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