



**FRIENDS OF  
GARFIELD  
P A R K  
INC**

**MISSION  
STATEMENT**

**The mission of the Friends of Garfield Park, Inc. is to ensure the preservation and continuation of the public benefits of Garfield Park through enhanced funding, the application of effective advocacy and expanded stewardship.**

**BRIDGES is published by the Friends of Garfield Park, Inc.**

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# BRIDGES

FALL 2008

WWW.GARFIELDPARKINDY.ORG

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## FRIENDS OF GARFIELD PARK LEAD TO COMPLETION OF “PARTNERS” BRIDGE PROJECT

Over the past three years the Friends of Garfield Park, Inc. has been working to raise funds to replace the Bean Creek Bridge in Garfield Park.

The \$120,000 project culminated with the installation of a state of the art handicapped accessible bridge on Tuesday, Sept 23 in the park. The new bridge, located to the west of the Sunken Gardens, connects to already existing trails in the park and will ease foot traffic between the Sunken Gardens, and the MacAllister Center for the Performing Arts.

“For over a decade the Garfield Park community has desired that this bridge become a reality,” stated D. Mark Bowell, Senior Development Consultant for the Friends of Garfield Park, Inc. “Indeed the bridge will link the park together in a new way. I am thankful to our many donors in our “Bricks for the Bridge” effort, as well as, the Efroymsen Fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation, Indy Parks and the Marie Schoch Memorial Fund.”

The Friends of Garfield Park, Inc. wishes to thank Midwest Concrete Pumping Construction, Foresight Engineering, First Class Lawn & Landscape, Inc., Excel Bridge Co. and Indy Parks and Recreation Construction Land Stewardship for project and construction leadership.

### “PLANNED GIVING MOVES BRIDGE PLANS FORWARD”

The Friends of Garfield Park (FOGP) over the years has benefitted from many forms of giving. Membership, sponsorships, partnerships and individual gifts have fueled our success. In total, over \$2 million has been raised for Garfield Park in the past ten years. However, estate planned gifts have accounted for our largest percentage of giving through this period of time. In particular, a recent large gift from the Marie Schoch estate put the finishing touches to our “Bricks for the Bridge” efforts for the new Bean Creek Bridge. The FOGP wishes to thank the Schoch estate and encourages those looking to make a “Legacy” planned gift, to think of Garfield Park.



## OVER THE GARDEN GATE

By Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp

Garfield Park staff and supporters have transformed a vacant gravel lot into a Children's Garden, rich with a bounty of fruits, vegetables and a haven for wildlife.

At an open house late this summer, Glen Schroering showed off his raised bed garden to his parents.. Glen, 11, a second-year Junior Master Gardener, harvested an heirloom watermelon called 'Moon & Stars,' and fingerling potatoes. "I like planting seeds and watching the plants grow," he said.

Amy Dirks, an environmental educator at the park, said about 22 children grew produce this year. Other children and volunteers helped plant specialty gardens, which are part of the park's environmental education program.

The children also have a compost pile and Dirks arranged with a local beekeeper to keep a hive in the northeast corner of the garden to help with pollination of fruits, vegetables and flowers. Extra produce was shared with a neighborhood soup kitchen.

For the gardens, Dirks and her Garfield colleagues garnered donations of money, materials, plants or labor from local and national businesses and not-for-profit groups, including the Friends of Garfield Park Inc.

For more information about volunteering or supporting the garden, contact Dirks, (317) 327-7580, or [adirks@indygov.org](mailto:adirks@indygov.org)



*Starting young — Glen Schroering, 11, harvested 'Moon & Stars,' an heirloom watermelon at Garfield Park's Children's Garden.* © Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp

Get2  
Garfield

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

### AUTUMN ART FAIR

November 22 - Garfield Park Arts Center  
FREE

### POINSETTIA SHOW

November 28 - December 28 - Conservatory  
Extended Hours to 8pm December 20 -23  
\$3 adults \$2 seniors and youth \$5 families

### FAMILY DAY - December 13 - 10 - 3pm

There will be a visit from Santa at the Burello Center  
FREE

### CANDLELIGHT CROSSING AT THE

**CONSERVATORY** - December 19th - 6-8pm  
\$5 individual \$15 family

Visit [garfieldparkindy.org](http://garfieldparkindy.org) and [indygov.org/indyparks](http://indygov.org/indyparks) for more information on activities being held at Garfield Park!

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## LIGNUM-VITAE

This past spring the Conservatory was able to use funding from the Friends of Garfield Park Inc. to acquire a shipment of plants from Florida nurseries. It's hard for a self-confessed plant nerd like me to find just one plant to highlight here. However, there is one specimen that I have a particular affinity for and I think you might enjoy learning about. This is the lignum-vitae or "tree of life".

What a great name for a tree! The name "tree of life" was given to honor its medicinal properties by the people of the Caribbean regions where it grows. Today this tree is very rare in its native range due to logging and land clearing. In fact this tree was once common in the Florida Keys but is now listed as an endangered species by the State of Florida. Despite the tree's long history as a healing agent you are unlikely to find it sold at your local pharmacy.

The physical properties of the wood produced by the Lignum-vitae are quite amazing. The wood is reputed to be the hardest wood in the world, it is so dense it will sink in water and it contains high amounts of natural resins. People have found many uses for this "hardest of woods" (4 times harder than oak). It has been used in sports to make bowling balls and cricket balls. In the kitchen it has seen uses as cutting boards and mortars and pestles. Courtrooms around the world make use of Lignum-vitae gavels but it's the combination of the wood's durability and self-lubricating properties that made it particularly valuable for maritime applications. In fact it was used in WWII submarines for gears and shafts where metal rubbing together would have been detected by enemy sonar.

Our Lignum-vitae tree takes a propionate spot in the front of the Conservatory because of its beauty and not just its interesting biography. It's still a small tree that might someday reach a height of 15 to 20 feet. It boasts bright green foliage and attractive tan bark that contrast well to the eye-popping red seeds. For me though, it's the dainty true blue flowers I find most alluring. Blue flowers are a rarity in trees and have long been symbolic of the Romantic era. The music of Beethoven, Chopin and Mozart might be the most familiar associations with romanticism but it was also the age when thinking might have sifted toward enjoying nature and away from trying to conquer it.

So, next time you stop by to visit please check out the Lignum-vitae for yourself and if you have the time ask one of the staff about the story behind a plant that catches your eye. I'm thrilled to have a Lignum-vitae planted in the Conservatory for everyone to enjoy but I know Garfield Park's real "tree of life" is the group known as the Friends that support our facilities and programs.

Thanks a million, Fritz

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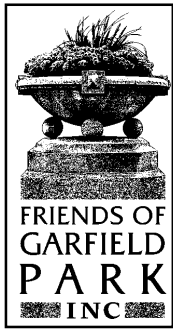
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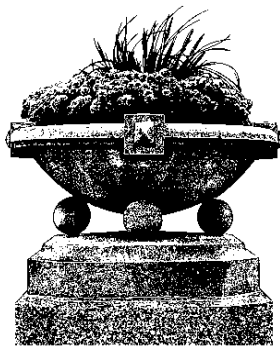
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## MEMBERSHIP INVESTMENT APPLICATION

Participants receive FOGP newsletter and invitations to FOGP events.

- I would like to be included as an annual member: (Circle one)  
Single - \$20    Senior\Student - \$15    Family - \$30  
 Corporate - \$300 annually

OR

- One time gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle one) Check enclosed or charge my: MasterCard, Visa, Discover, American Express

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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