



**From:** Mark Weber markweber@mac.com   
**Subject:**  Winnslie Parkway – Fundraising, Quick Survey + 5 Key Updates  
**Date:** May 9, 2025 at 4:41 PM  
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**Dear Friends of Winnslie Parkway,**

We've got several exciting updates to share this month — from a quick community survey and a new video to garden maintenance, fundraising progress, and upcoming events.

**1.  2025 Fundraising Drive – Help Us Reach Our Goal!**

A heartfelt thank you to our early 2025 donors — your support has brought us to **\$2,500**, or **62.5%** of our **\$4,000 goal**. While the economy remains uncertain, we kindly encourage both new and longtime supporters to consider contributing this year if able.

We've received a generous grant for the Parkway Expansion, but **those funds cover design and construction only** — not long-term maintenance. That's where your donations truly make a difference.

 This spring has brought a spectacular show of tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and flowering trees — including Juneberry, weeping cherry, and, for the first time, bonsai peach trees. Some are still in bloom — don't

miss the display!

### **Ways to Donate:**

- Online: ([link](#))
- By mail: FOWP, 5003 N Ravenswood Ave, Unit 1, Chicago IL 60640
- In person: [Eco Fest \(June 7\)](#) or [RNA Garden Crawl \(July 26\)](#).

Every gift helps sustain and grow Winnslie Parkway — thank you!

## 2. **Share Your Vision – Quick 2-Minute Survey**

Our landscape architect **David Bier** wants your input on how you and your family would like to use the new greenspace.

### **The survey asks:**

- How you'd use the space (walking, play, relaxing, volunteering, etc.)
- How often you'd visit
- Your name and email

### [Take the Survey](#)

 **Deadline: Monday, May 12**

Your ideas will help shape a space that truly reflects community needs.

## 3. **New “Chip the Parkway” Video Is Live**

We're excited to share the final video from this year's **Chip the Parkway** event — now available on YouTube. Many thanks to **Dan Bell** for producing his second fantastic video for FOWP!

### [Watch the 2025 Video](#)

#### 4. RNA & FOWP Meet at May 2025 “Walk the Trail”

Although we didn't send a reminder this month, **May's Walk the Trail** included a valuable meeting between **Michael Sewall** (President, Ravenswood Neighbors Association) and **Mark Weber** (President, FOWP).

#### **Garden Crawl Update:**

The [RNA Garden Crawl](#) is scheduled for **Saturday, July 26**. Winnslie Parkway will be a featured stop, requiring about an hour of hosting time.

 *To volunteer: email [winnslie@gmail.com](mailto:winnslie@gmail.com)*

#### **Expansion Maintenance:**


We also discussed the challenge of maintaining the new expansion area. While fully funded for construction through the **Chicago Open Space Impact Fee (OSIF)** program, these funds **cannot be used for upkeep**.

Originally, maintenance was intended to be managed by a local resident or sector-based organization. As no group has stepped forward, **FOWP is currently serving as the default caretaker**, a role that may require up to **\$4,000/year**.

We're in early discussions with **SSA31** and the **Greater Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce** about potential support. If your organization may be interested in helping — or claiming **naming rights or event programming opportunities** — please reach out!

#### 5. **Clip the Vines – Protecting Our Junipers**

On **Saturday, April 26**, volunteers **Roy Wesley** and **Mark Weber** began our annual vine removal project, cutting invasive Virginia creeper from **28 juniper trees** in the expansion area.

 These trees, planted as part of Alderman Gene Schuler's *Greening of Ravenswood* program in the 1990s, were at risk of being smothered. This essential project was initiated years ago by **Stephen Christy**, our landscape consultant

landscape consultant.

✅ With 95% of the area now cleared, we expect full completion within the week. Thanks to all who've helped protect this legacy over the years!

## 6. 🌿 Grant Application in Progress

FOWP has applied for a **\$30,000 Union Pacific grant** to support improvements along Winnslie Parkway, including:

- New group seating areas
- Additional native plantings
- Replacement of lost trees
- A birdwatching perch at the north end

⚠️ Please note: like OSIF, these funds **cannot be used for routine maintenance**. We'll share updates as we learn more.

## 7. 👕 New Winnslie Parkway Tee Shirts Coming Soon?

Rumor has it that **Tim Gillengerten**, Vice President of FOWP and founder of [Transit Tees](#), is designing a new **Winnslie Parkway T-shirt** for the 2025 season — with a potential debut at **Eco Fest on June 7**.

Huge thanks to Tim for donating both his creativity and materials. We'll keep you posted on availability as production progresses.

**Warm regards,**  
**Mark Weber, Tim Gillengerten, and Roy Wesley**  
*Board of Directors, Friends of Winnslie Parkway*

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