


**From:** 'Mark Weber' via 47th Ward Green Council leaders greencouncil47@googlegroups.com   
**Subject:** Community and Infrastructure Updates: Final Expansion Meeting, Garden Crawl, and New Collaborations  
**Date:** July 18, 2025 at 2:15 PM  
**To:** Mark Weber markweber@mac.com

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**Dear Friends of Winnslie Parkway,**

We're excited to share some important updates! By the way, the Parkway is looking especially nice these days, thanks to the recent rains and to our head gardener, **Keith Clauson**, for his new plantings.

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1. 📢 **Ravenswood Infrastructure Update from the 47th Ward – July 17, 2025**



*"The Ravenswood Collector Resurfacing is moving forward well. The contractor is currently doing concrete work (fixing and replacing curbs) on the west side of the street."*

*"North of Lawrence, this involves building curb extensions, as well as moving out the curb farther east – this makes space for the expansion of the [Winnslie Greenway](#) community garden south from Ainslie to Lawrence, with parking switching from diagonal to parallel parking."*

*"This concrete work has been delayed a bit, and the contractor now expects to have 3 more weeks of concrete work ahead of them. Once that is done, crews will be able to start repaving the street."*

*— Joshua Mark, Chief of Staff, 47th Ward Office*

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2. 🌿 **Final Community Meeting on the Parkway Expansion & August “Walk the Trail” Event**

Please join us for the **third and final community meeting** for the Winnslie Parkway Expansion Project:

**Date:** Wednesday, August 6th, 2025

**Time:** 5:00 PM

**Location:** 5003 N Ravenswood Ave, Unit 1 (Garage)

**David Bier**, the project's **landscape architect**, will present a final update on the design and development of the Expansion Area. The meeting will be followed by a **walkthrough of the site**, which will also serve as our **August “Walk the Trail” event**.

**Videos of the previous community meetings** can be found here: [[Expansion Updates](#)]

We hope to see you there and hear your input as we shape the final plan.

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### 3. 🌻 **New Collaborations: GRCC/SSA31 & NeighborSpace**

We're excited to announce two new collaborations that will greatly enhance our ability to care for the Parkway:

- [Greater Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce](#) and [SSA #31](#) have partnered with FOWP to support the **Expansion Area** with:
  - Litter abatement services
  - Landscaping work, including regular mowing and trimming

SSA #31 will be providing these services to the **lower half of the Expansion Area**, from **Lawrence Avenue to the north end of the Joe Hayes parking lot**. Their involvement ensures this portion of the trail remains clean, safe, and beautifully maintained throughout the growing season.

The **upper half of the Expansion Area**, from the Joe Hayes lot to **Ainslie Avenue**, will remain the responsibility of **Friends of Winnslie Parkway**. We will need to raise funds independently to maintain this area.

- [NeighborSpace](#), Chicago's nonprofit land trust for community-managed open green spaces, is expanding its support for FOWP as we work toward long-term protection of both the **Expansion Area**—made possible in large part thanks to NeighborSpace's involvement—and the **original Winnslie Parkway green space**.

NeighborSpace is currently negotiating a **lease agreement with Union Pacific Railroad** to help secure and steward the original Winnslie Parkway site. The **Expansion Area**, by contrast, is **owned by the City of Chicago** and is being incorporated into the Parkway through our ongoing collaboration with NeighborSpace, the **47th Ward**, and other partners.

As a member organization, FOWP now benefits from:

- Legal site agreements and liability insurance
- Access to grants and gardening resources
- Technical support for stewardship
- Long-term sustainability for the Parkway's future

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### 4. 🌸 **Garden Crawl – Saturday, July 26 Noon to 1pm**

FOWP will be participating in the [Ravenswood Garden Crawl](#) on **Saturday, July 26 from 12:00 to 1:00 PM**. We'll be hosting an **information table** and selling **Winnslie Parkway T-shirts**.

**Volunteers welcome:** If you can help staff our table, please reply to [winnslie@gmail.com](mailto:winnslie@gmail.com)—we'd love your help!

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## 5. 🌿 Upcoming Volunteer Event – Invasive Vine Removal

We're considering organizing another **volunteer day** to cut back **invasive Virginia creeper** along the top fence line of the Parkway. These vines are beginning to damage several evergreen trees and need to be trimmed back soon.

If you're interested in helping, let us know at [winnslie@gmail.com](mailto:winnslie@gmail.com)—we'll follow up with details.

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## 6. 🐾 A Quick Note for Dog Walkers

We've received a request to **avoid using the trash bin at Ainslie & Ravenswood** for dog waste, especially when it's full or creating odor issues.

We know this isn't an easy issue to solve, but we kindly ask dog walkers to consider using a different bin when possible. We're grateful for everyone who helps care for the Parkway and keeps it free of litter. We're always open to ideas for improving this shared space.

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**Thank you**, as always, for your commitment to Winnslie Parkway. With your support, we can keep Winnslie Parkway a unique neighborhood space for all to enjoy.

### Warm regards,

Mark Weber, Tim Gillengerten, and Roy Wesley  
Board, Friends of Winnslie Parkway

 [www.winnslie.org](http://www.winnslie.org) |  [winnslie@gmail.com](mailto:winnslie@gmail.com)

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