



River North Residents Association

August 19, 2006

All River North Residents

Dear Neighbor,

We are writing to address an issue that has received a great deal of attention in our community recently, specifically, the proper care and use of our wonderful new park. The creation of a new public park is an expensive and complicated task that requires the collaborative efforts of many individuals in the public and private sectors over a long period of time. The result is a public amenity that is the envy of scores of less fortunate and less determined Chicago neighborhoods.

Now that it is finished (or nearly so), the last thing that anyone wants is for it to be ruined, either literally, through neglect and misuse, or figuratively, through the implementation of excessive regulation. We are hereby proposing a third alternative, which is nothing more than the exercise of personal responsibility and respect for the rights and preferences of others.

We are requesting that dog owners please make every effort to prevent their pets from urinating and defecating in the main section of the park, south of Erie Street. As you know, in addition to the onsite dog runs present in a number of the large condominium buildings, there is an officially sanctioned off-leash dog park on Ohio Street, as well as an unofficial, but commonly used off-leash area in the north section of the Erie Park, west of Larrabee. Together, these represent more dog-related facilities than exist in virtually any other Chicago neighborhood and we are respectfully asking pet owners to avail themselves of these resources rather than allowing their dogs to urinate and defecate in the main park area.

The RNRA supports and encourages responsible pet ownership and strongly believes that it contributes to a more complete, pleasant and welcoming neighborhood. We also believe that there must be an area in which citizens can relax outdoors with their families, have a picnic, read a book, or simply enjoy the riverfront in a safe, clean and comfortable environment.

We have recently initiated a brief and confidential online **Community Issues Survey** to capture your input about these and other River North issues. We strongly encourage you to participate by visiting our website at www.rivernorthresidents.com and clicking on the survey link. In the meantime, we sincerely hope that local pet owners will comply with our request. Please feel free to contact us anytime at info@rivernorthresidents.com. Your input is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

RNRA Executive Committee