

INBLOOM

President's Note

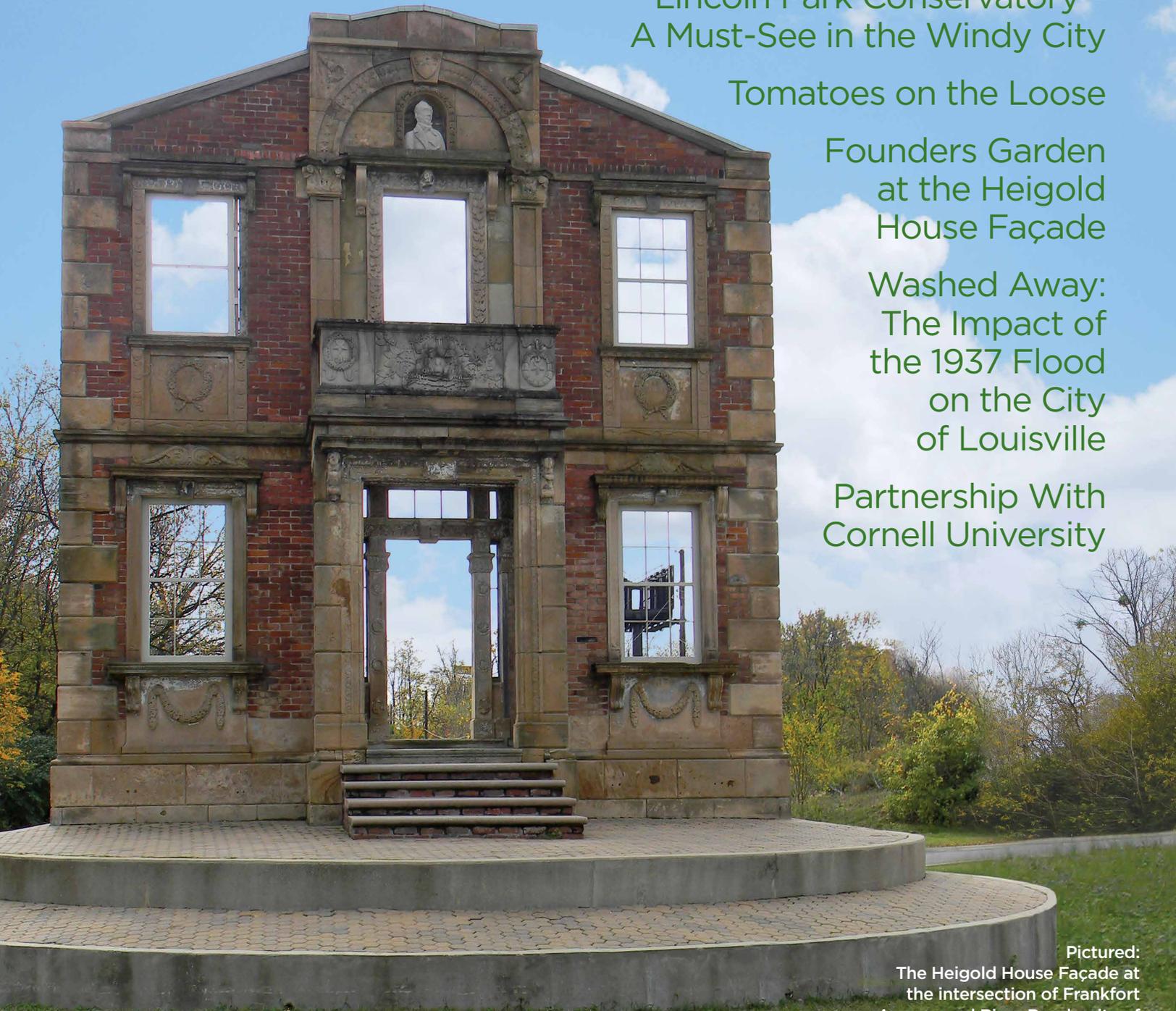
Lincoln Park Conservatory -
A Must-See in the Windy City

Tomatoes on the Loose

Founders Garden
at the Heigold
House Façade

Washed Away:
The Impact of
the 1937 Flood
on the City
of Louisville

Partnership With
Cornell University



Pictured:
The Heigold House Façade at
the intersection of Frankfort
Avenue and River Road - site of
our Founders Garden.

BOTANICA

OUR VISION

To create a botanical garden and conservatory of extraordinary beauty that engages, enlightens and inspires people about plants and nature.



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**GET INVOLVED
TODAY AT
WaterfrontGardens.org.**

BECOME A MEMBER

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MAKE A DONATION

PRESIDENT'S NOTE - SPRING 2013



Dear Friends,

Many of you have been by our side over the last several years as Botanica has continued our thoughtful, step-by-step approach toward creating the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. With spring upon us, I'd like to share with you where we've been, where we are today and where we plan to head next.

We've completed several major steps, including the feasibility study that helped us define what it will take to run the future gardens, and how many people we can expect to visit it. Our site selection pointed us to the 22-acre site at Frankfort Avenue and River Road as our future home. Finally, our recent title search of over 130 plots of land helped us plan for Botanica's ownership of the property.

Today, we are in the process of formalizing our site acquisition with Louisville Metro. We've made steady progress, and we are currently negotiating an agreement with the city. I can't stress enough what a huge step this is – and what a great achievement it will be once the deal is inked!

In the coming months, Botanica will be working on:

- **Site Assessment** – A site survey and environmental and geotechnical studies of the land to find out more about what building on the land will require in terms of structures and any possible environmental remediation that might be necessary.
- **Design Team Selection** – Reviews of qualifications and proposals from architects and landscape architects interested in being on our design team.
- **Conceptual Design** – A first look at the overall landscape and architectural design.
- **Design Development** – Determining the nuts and bolts of how to go from conceptual design to reality. This is when the detailed construction drawings are prepared.

Your support for the Waterfront Botanical Gardens project is essential to our continued success. If you haven't given already, I hope you'll consider supporting Botanica with a donation. Your gift will help us take the next step toward making the Waterfront Botanical Gardens a reality!

Happy gardening,

Brian Voelker
President, Board of Directors

LINCOLN PARK CONSERVATORY – A MUST-SEE IN THE WINDY CITY

BY DOMINIC GRATTO



Located just a few blocks from the shores of Lake Michigan and just north of the Loop, the Lincoln Park conservatory is a must-see Chicago destination. The conservatory is part of the Chicago Park District, and was built in stages between 1890 and 1895. This jewel of a botanical garden has the quintessential conservatory look, with its glass ceiling and walls.

The Lincoln Park Conservatory itself is actually quite small, sitting on just 3 acres. (The Missouri Botanical Garden, by comparison, is a whopping 79 acres!) The conservatory's traditional glass structure houses several different display rooms – the Palm House,

Fern Room, Orchid House and the Show House – used for four annual flower shows. Each room offers something different to enjoy, and several of the rooms contain water features and koi ponds.

The Palm House also displays the plants from which we get some of our favorite treats – coffee and chocolate. The quirky Fern Room even features several miniature dinosaurs mixed into the plant collection – a reminder that the great cycads accompanied the dinosaurs that once roamed the earth.

While the conservatory offers no sweeping views of the city, it houses everything to keep a plant-lover content for hours. The conservatory is open year-round, and admission is free. Docents offer free tours on the weekends – a perfect way to ensure that you get the full conservatory experience! Venturing outside the glass walls when the weather is pleasant gives visitors the opportunity to explore the surrounding gardens, lagoons and ponds. While in the area, be sure to check out the adjacent Lincoln Park Zoo, to which admission is also free.

Lincoln Park Conservatory, 2391 N. Stockton Drive, Chicago, IL 60614; chicagoparkdistrict.com.

TOMATOES ON THE LOOSE

BY BOB HILL

Just when you thought it was safe to come out of the kitchen, those wild and crazy gardeners at *Better Homes & Gardens* have come up with a bushel of new tomato cultivars for 2013. Here are just a few:

The Jasper Cherry Tomato – Yes, another cherry tomato. But the user-friendly Jasper promises not to fall off the vine before it ripens – and thus it will produce all the way to frost. Somebody bring out the salad dressing!

The Super Sauce Tomato – You already know where this is going. Super Sauce (it might even come with its own cape) is a seedless paste tomato that can get as big as 2 pounds. It also promises great flavor and big crops. Bring on the saucepan, pasta bowl and fork!

The Biltmore Tomato – We are not sure whether it's named for the Vanderbilt family's Biltmore Estate in North Carolina, but we do know that this hybrid offers bright-red, extra-large fruit with a "rich" flavor. All you'll need is a bank vault!

The Heatmaster Tomato – Some tomatoes, along with the rest of us, just don't do well in excessive heat and humidity. This scarlet-red beauty takes heat and humidity, and looks stunning while doing it. Full sun is the ticket!

The Debut Tomato – This compact showstopper will become famous because it's small enough that you can grow it in containers on a back patio or open porch. Then you can just lean over from your deck chair or rocker and eat it off the vine. Please, hold your applause.



FOUNDERS GARDEN AT THE HEIGOLD HOUSE FAÇADE

BY ALEX LUKEN

While we are not quite ready to start planting on the 22-acre site that sits atop the old neighborhood known as The Point, Botanica is working to create a Founders Garden adjacent to the site of the future Waterfront Botanical Gardens. The Founders Garden will be the first official garden of the botanical gardens, and will be located at the intersection of Frankfort Avenue and River Road at the base of the Heigold House Façade. This garden will present a chance to showcase our horticultural skills and demonstrate the transforming beauty of gardens to the larger community.



Back Yard



Front Yard

The Heigold House Façade

The façade is all that remains of the landmark Heigold House, completed by immigrant stonemason Christopher Heigold in 1853. The house featured a very detailed façade with the faces of early American leaders engraved on it. The house was destroyed along with the rest of the neighborhood once known as The

Point, and it offers just a glimpse of the splendor of the original home. The Founders Garden will be situated around the base of the house façade, creating both a front yard and back yard environment.

Design and Plant Selection

Our landscape design, created by Karen Bohannon, embraces the notion of establishing a front yard and a back yard for the home. Karen's design will bring four seasons of beauty to the site, using design elements and plants that would have been popular when the home was built in 1853.

The front yard includes the showiest plants, arranged in a formal layout around the home's entrance. The design includes a medallion centered in the walkway, flanked by rose standards that would have been typical of the time. The back yard has a more casual feel. Mondo grass will create a lawn that eventually leads to the "back 40" – a slightly wilder area filled with native grasses and wildflowers.

Plant selection includes species that would have been used at the time, but with modern cultivars, for better performance. Varieties have also been selected for their low water needs.

To learn more about the Founders Garden, including detailed design plans and a video featuring Bob Hill and Karen Bohannon, [visit waterfrontgardens.org](http://waterfrontgardens.org).

BECOME A FOUNDER – BUY A BRICK TODAY!

Help fund the Founders Garden by donating to our Buy a Brick program. Funds from the program will help make the Founders Garden a reality and help us toward our larger goal of creating the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. Bricks will be inscribed with your name, the name of your organization or in memory or honor of a loved one, and will be placed in the walkway at the Founders Garden.



FOUNDERS GOLD (\$250+)

Your name on a brick, and support for perennials and shrubs

FOUNDERS SILVER (\$150)

Your name on a brick, and support for perennials

FOUNDERS BRONZE (\$100)

Your name on a brick in the Founders Garden

Donate today! Use the donation form in this newsletter, visit us at waterfrontgardens.org or call 502-276-5404.

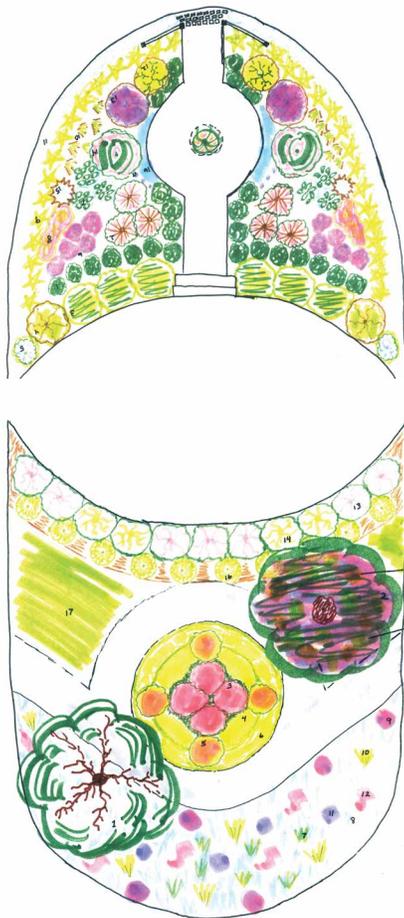
PLANT SPOTLIGHT: FOUNDERS GARDEN PLANT SELECTION

Staying true to the Heigold House's 1850s heritage, the Founders Garden, which will surround the house's façade, is to include plants that were commonly used during that period. Modern cultivars of these plants have been selected, to improve the performance and durability of the plantings.

To provide four seasons of beauty, we took into account blooming periods, and included winter interest. To ensure that the garden is easy to maintain, we selected

plants based on their size, upkeep requirements and disease resistance. And because we want our gardens to be sustainable, we've selected perennials that require less water.

If you're a native plant lover, you'll appreciate our garden's "back 40." This area of the garden is designed to reflect the native prairie grass and wildflowers that would have grown in the more distant, wild gardens of these historic homes in the 1850s.



Front Yard Plant List

1. Boxwood (*Buxus* 'Green Gem')
2. Peony (*Paeonia* Intersectional)
3. Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea* 'Henry's Garnet')
4. American Sweetgum (*Liquidambar* 'Slender Silhouette')
5. Blue False Indigo (*Baptisia australis*)
6. Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea* 'Kim's Knee High')
7. Garden Phlox (*Phlox paniculata* 'David' or 'David's Lavender')
8. Pink Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaries*)
9. Daylilies (*Hemerocalis*)
10. Iris (*Iris* 'Helen Harrigan')
11. Candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*)
12. Rose Standard (*Rosa* 'Radsunny' Knock Out)
13. Ninebark (*Physocarpus* 'Little Devil')
14. Oakleaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Ruby Slippers')
15. Lamb's Ear (*Stachy* 'Helen von Stein')
16. Woolly Thyme (*Thymus pseudolan*)
17. Lavender (*Lavendula angustifolia* 'Munstead')

Back Yard Plant List

1. Apple Serviceberry (*Amelanchier x grandiflora* 'Autumn Brilliance')
2. Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* 'Merlot')
3. Rose (*Rosa* 'Rainbow Knockout')
4. Shasta Daisy (*Leucanthemum* 'Banana Cream' or 'Broadway Lights')
5. Chrysanthemum (*Dendranthemum* 'Harmony')
6. Thread-Leaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam')
7. Prairie Grass (*Schizachyrium scoparium* 'Little Bluestem')
8. Blue Fescue (*Festuca glauca*)
9. Bee Balm (*Monarda* 'Pink Lace,' 'Gardenview Scarlett,' 'Marshall's Delight')
10. Goldenrod (*Solidago* 'Fireworks')
11. Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea* 'Kim's Knee High')
12. Hairawn Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)
13. Red Twig Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* 'Arctic Fire')
14. Yellow Twig Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea* 'Arctic Sun')
15. Lenten Rose (*Helleborus* 'Double Ladies')
16. Blue Star (*Amsonia heubrechtii*)
17. Blue Sedge (*Carex glauca* 'Blue Sedge')
18. Coral Bells (*Heuchera* 'Citronella' or 'Georgia Peach')

WARD-PUGH PLEDGES \$5,000 MATCHING GRANT

Ninth-District Councilwoman Tina Ward-Pugh has offered a \$5,000 matching grant from her Neighborhood Development Fund to help create the Founders Garden at the Heigold House Façade. That means that any donation made to support the Founders Garden will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$5,000!

"I am excited to support neighborhood volunteers and Botanica in their efforts to beautify the entrance to Frankfort Avenue at River Road, making it a grand 'doorway to the avenue,'" said Councilwoman Ward-Pugh. "This is also a great way to highlight the work that Botanica is doing to create a state-of-the-art botanical garden for Louisville."

WASHED AWAY: THE IMPACT OF THE 1937 FLOOD ON THE CITY OF LOUISVILLE

BY ALEX LUKEN

The city of Louisville developed around the Falls of the Ohio in 1778. Some early settlers arrived via the Wilderness Road from Virginia, while others came down the Ohio River on flatboats. The Falls of the Ohio were a natural barrier to an otherwise uninterrupted journey downriver, and required people to stop and transport their goods around the falls on wagon. A brisk business community developed in the rival towns of Portland and Shippingport downstream to handle the commerce created by flatboats portaging the falls.

In 1830, the Louisville and Portland Canal was completed, connecting the town of Louisville with the town of Portland by a two-mile, hand-dug canal. Finally, boats could bypass the falls! As the shipping and transportation industries grew, so too did the city. In fact, so much growth took place that lots were subdivided to satisfy the hunger for land. Original plans for the city had a block dedicated to each home, with lots large enough for a house, an orchard, a small garden and space for cows and horses.

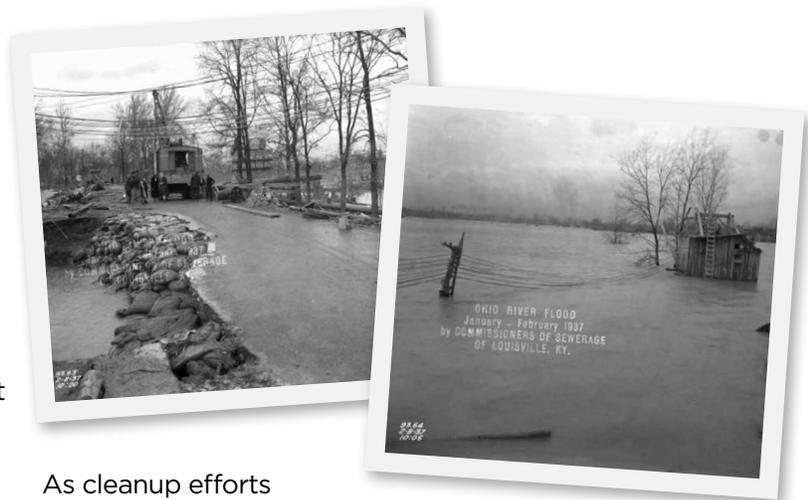
While the city grew more dense, it also spread out. In 1830, Jacob Geiger platted a subdivision known as Geiger's Addition just north of the city limits, adjacent to the wharf area along Fulton Street. The development provided housing for tradespeople and working-class citizens employed at the wharves and in the meat-packing plants in nearby Butchertown. Like the lots in the city, the lots in Geiger's Addition were eventually subdivided and infilled with businesses and rental properties. Most of these structures were a mix of brick-and-wood-frame buildings. The expanding area soon became known as The Point because of the triangular shape of the area formed by Beargrass Creek and the Ohio River on either side.

In 1850, the original course of the Beargrass Creek was altered to help control flooding in downtown Louisville. The creek was buried under Second Street as a covered sewer, and the remaining portion was rerouted to the Ohio along the northern boundary of Geiger's Addition. As a result, The Point was prone to flooding, and many of the houses in the area became rental properties.

In 1937, an epic flood changed the city of Louisville and the neighborhood known as The Point forever. Floodwaters began to rise in the Ohio River Valley

beginning on Jan. 5, 1937. By Jan. 10, flood warnings were issued for the area, with heavy rains continuing in the area for almost two weeks. By Jan. 27, the river gauge measured 57 feet, and 70 percent of the city lay in a bath of icy water. The area remained flooded until the first week of February, when the waters finally began to recede.

Although flooding was nothing new in the area, the severity and longevity of the 1937 flood left permanent scars on the community. Many businesses and solidly constructed brick homes were eventually repaired. The residents, homes and businesses in The Point did not fare as well. The devastation to those wood-frame buildings that lay outside the floodwall was irreparable.



As cleanup efforts continued around the city, a need for a location to dump the construction waste from the destroyed homes and businesses was realized. One location considered was in the 300 block of Ohio Street, which was occupied as a salvage yard by junk dealers. The city began clearing property around the site, and large amounts of construction waste were carted there and burned. The city acquired the dump location and surrounding lots through condemnation, and the size of the dump grew. With the growth of the dump, area residents began moving out of The Point. The neighborhood once affectionately known as The Point soon had a new name: the Ohio Street Dump. Refuse from throughout Jefferson County was trucked into the dump for disposal until it was closed in 1968.

The mark of the 1937 flood on the city was indelible. Development began taking place on the eastern end

of Jefferson County, away from the river and outside the flood plain. Investment in the original communities along the river in places such as historic Portland came to a stop. Condemned property along the river, much with scenic waterfront frontage, became industrialized, with scrapyards and chemical plants. Industrial development was spurred on in these riverfront areas because of the very same thing that originally led to the growth of the city - access to river transportation.

Today, most traces of the neighborhood once known as The Point have vanished, save for the façade of the Heigold House, a home once located in the neighborhood, which was relocated

to the north end of Frankfort Avenue. Smarter systems have been put into place to prevent a similarly disastrous flood from wiping out large swaths of the city and recent development in the surrounding areas. The Point has led to a revitalization of the urban residential areas along Frankfort Avenue and in Butchertown and Crescent Hill.

The old Ohio Street Dump now conceals what was once a vibrant community. Even today, the dump itself is barely recognizable. It is now covered with grass, trees and shrubs. Botanica is excited to be working to reclaim that site and reintroduce it to Louisville as a beautiful botanical garden and conservatory - yet another reincarnation of this area. The city of Louisville rose again out of the floodwaters, and we are looking forward to the day when out of an abandoned dump that sits atop a destroyed community will rise the Waterfront Botanical Gardens.



Help the garden grow - buy a brick today!



By making a donation, you'll be playing a critical role in helping to make the Founders Garden a reality. Your gift will help to move the project forward - in time for planting this spring!

MAKE A DONATION

- Online at WaterfrontGardens.org
- Mail completed form to:
Botanica
P.O. Box 5056
Louisville, KY 40255-0056

Botanica Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Not-for-Profit organization. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Founders Garden Buy a Brick Program Levels

- Founders Gold** **\$250**
Your name on a brick, and support for perennials and shrubs
- Founders Silver** **\$ 150**
Your name on a brick, and support for perennials
- Founders Bronze** **\$100**
Your name on a brick in the Founders Garden

Additional Donation \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Brick Inscription:

Maximum 3 lines of 13 characters each, including spacing and punctuation:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

E-Mail _____ Phone _____

Payment

I have enclosed a check made payable to Botanica.

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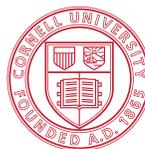
Botanica's work to create the Waterfront Botanical Gardens has caught the attention of Cornell University. The Ivy League school is using Botanica's Waterfront Botanical Gardens project as a case study for 16 graduate students at Cornell.

Under the leadership of Donald Rakow, Director of Cornell Plantations and co-author of *Public Garden Management*, the students will focus on our project as they develop plans for four aspects of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens project:

1. Educational programs
2. Collections development
3. Environmentally sustainable design and development
4. Fundraising

The program provides students with exposure to real-world issues faced by public gardens, and in

return offers solutions and ideas to Botanica. We kicked things off with the class through a video conference call in January. Throughout the term, periodic feedback will be given, and there will be a continual exchange of information between Botanica and the students. Their final presentations and ideas will be delivered to us in early spring, and will be taken into consideration for incorporation into our plans for the garden effort.



Cornell University

We look forward to working with the students, and look forward to the great solutions and ideas that will be brought about as a result of this partnership!