

*ParkWorks is committed to developing healthy, vibrant neighborhood parks that complement urban life and make Cleveland's neighborhoods competitive. Through regular park programming, ParkWorks sets a precedent of community building and park appreciation. When neighbors engage with their community park, they are more apt to keep it clean and safe, to use it as a social gathering space and foster civic pride and ownership. Herman Park, Lincoln Park, Clark Field and Hyacinth Park all have benefitted from event series and exhibit the merits of successfully activated and advocated greenspaces.*

**"ParkWorks provides the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood with world-class arts programming that would make folks in the 'burbs jealous. Events hosted by ParkWorks provide an ideal setting for residents to meet and interact. Kids in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood deserve soccer, art classes, movies and music in the park within walking distance from their home. ParkWorks is the agency that makes it happen. Their work helps build community."**  
--Nelson Beckford, Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization

### **Herman Park**

Parks that engage communities through ample programming agendas are pivotal to truly functioning and appealing neighborhoods. Herman Park, located in Cleveland's Detroit Shoreway neighborhood, exemplifies this notion. Through the implementation of free, quality, family-oriented events, Herman Park thrives with neighbors and energy.

In collaboration with Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, a neighborhood teen liaison and the North Shore Neighbors community block club, ParkWorks has, since 2003, facilitated a summertime itinerary rich with activity. In an attempt to attract *all* neighbors, ParkWorks consciously incorporates events that speak to all age groups and backgrounds. This strategy captures the diversity of the neighborhood, bringing together a true cross-section of

the community. Through ongoing park programming that spans art camp, soccer camp, outdoor movies, and ice cream socials, residents develop a personal investment in neighborhood greenspaces. Over time, this translates to long term care, appreciation and advocacy for their park.

In an attempt to garner youth investment in the park and to create a programming agenda that speaks to the community's needs, ParkWorks, each summer, selects a neighborhood teen to represent their community, providing input and leadership in the planning, promotion and production of summertime park activities. In return for their assistance, the liaison receives a monetary stipend, vocational experience and a regard for park stewardship.

### **Lincoln Park**

One of the mainstays to Tremont's summer activities lineup is *Arts in August*, an annual event series held at Lincoln Park. A collaborative between Tremont West Development Corporation, Cleveland City Councilman Joe Cimperman and ParkWorks, the program involves live theater, dance and musical performances each weekend throughout August and into September. The mission of the program has always been to expose the people of Tremont, greater Cleveland and Northeast Ohio to the beauty and positive influence of the arts and to provide this exposure free of cost.

In previous years, the series has showcased performances by Cleveland Public Theatre's Student Theatre Enrichment Program, GroundWorks Dancetheater, Cleveland Shakespeare

Festival, Verb Ballets and the Ohio Ballet. *Arts in August* regularly draws over 5,000 attendees for free, fun, casual, and family-oriented performances. Audiences of all ages are encouraged to bring picnics, blankets or lawn chairs and to enjoy a magical evening under the stars.

With a growing audience, the series has fostered community and arts appreciation not only within Tremont, but throughout Northeast Ohio. Due to this exposure, Lincoln Park has become an appealing and highly identifiable greenspace – enhancing both the quality of life and competitiveness of Cleveland's urban communities.

### **Clark Field: *Friends of Clark Field***

What is now a powerhouse Friends group began as a neighborhood block club, developed as a forum for discussion of community related issues and grievances. In an attempt to increase the safety of the park and re-engage the community, residents collaborated in the development of a programming agenda, coordination of park maintenance and fundraising for park amenities – including Cleveland's first dog park. With the backing and advisership of ParkWorks, Clark Field has become a model greenspace, punctuated by an invested community and thriving park use.

In 2007, ParkWorks was given the opportunity to assist in the design and implementation of a new play structure at Clark Field. The Friends of Clark Field initiated a conversation with First Interstate Group, Inc., the developers of Steelyard Commons, to request seed funding for this effort. Once that support was secured, ParkWorks joined the effort and brought landscape architect McKnight & Associates and generous funding from Saint Luke's Foundation to the

table. A steadfast agent of change, ParkWorks was able to manage installation in time for children to enjoy the structure within months on an expedited schedule.

### **Hyacinth Park**

ParkWorks has been working in Hyacinth Park since 2006, assisting with park programming and improvements, as well as the necessary funding to support these efforts. In an attempt to reactivate Hyacinth Park, a formerly underutilized neighborhood greenspace, ParkWorks helped to create a community design for the Park's Community Garden. With Slavic Village Development (SVD) staff and artist Laila Voss, gardens were installed in the later part of 2006, with a ribbon cutting in June of 2007. In an effort to activate the new space, ParkWorks met with residents and SVD staff to create a programming schedule, lending itself to a greater sense of safety and community around the park, as well as a potential connection between both new and old residents.