



Life on
the Hill

Celebrating Chestnut Hill & the Surrounding Area

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concourse lake restoration project

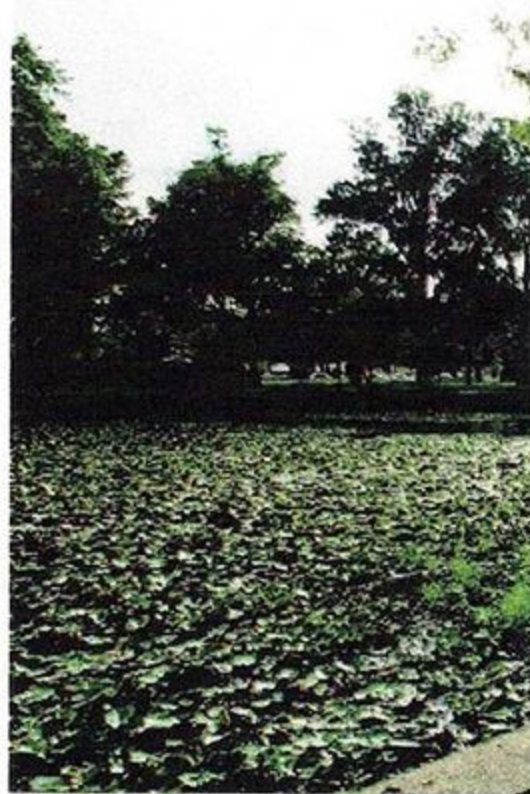
Locals spearheading project to rejuvenate famous site

Gene Dilks and Ceth Plum, members of local GCA Garden Clubs, are leading the endeavor to revive a historic 7-acre plot in Fairmount Park.

This spot is famous for being the location of the Centennial International Exhibition of 1876, the first official World's Fair in the United States and the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The Exposition was also designed to show the world the United States' industrial and innovative prowess. There were more than 200 buildings constructed within the Exposition grounds, but only two remain today.

The 14 Pennsylvania and Delaware member clubs of The Garden Club of America wanted to give a gift to Philadelphia for the 100th year anniversary of the GCA, which was founded here in 1913. After investigating a few options the famous Fairmount Park area, which is surrounded by the Please Touch museum, the Mann Music Center and the Parkside community, seemed an ideal choice.

The second largest building at the



Lake pre-dredging

Exposition, Machinery Hall, was dismantled after the celebration and the city built a man-made lake to act as a storm water reservoir. This lake had fallen into disrepair, and the first step in the project was to dredge this lake. Next they will be planting grasses that help filter the water and

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Community Action



Phase One of the Concourse Lake Restoration Project under way

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act as a barrier to keep geese from causing damage.

The second step will be to build an educational tree walk path, taking people on a guided tour through 5 to 6 native tree and shrub zones. This will be the largest cost of the project, and they are current working on raising the funds to complete it.

The third step will be planting the native plants and trees. Dilks and Plum hope they can continue to raise money to build a couple of docks on the lake and a small amphitheater for the local schools and Please Touch museum to use as an outdoor classroom.

Their goal is to have everything

completed by mid-April 2013 in time for the 100th year anniversary meeting for The Garden Club of America.

The next big fundraising event will be held at the Philadelphia Zoo on June 6th. Breakfast Jamboree from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. This will also showcase the Zoo's new exhibit Creatures of Habitat, which includes a series of 10 free-standing habitats, each telling the story of endangered or threatened species around the world through the sculptures of renowned LEGO® certified professional, Sean Kenney.

If you wish to attend this event, or to make a donation to this worthy project, please contact Ceth Plum at (215) 248-3554.