

**TO:** DEER PARK VILLAGE BOARD  
**FROM:** PAT WINKELMAN/VEHE FARM FOUNDATION  
**SUBJECT:** MONTHLY REPORT  
**DATE:** 5/3/2008

The following table provides updates on the work done to date by the Foundation with respect to its goals for FY 2009.

Goal	Work Accomplished Over the Past Month
Provide recommended budget allocations for Vehe Farm-related item expenditures.	Completed.
Develop plan for the restoration of the outbuildings for public use.	Updated numbers are being developed. Grant opportunities are being researched.
Develop plan for the installation of interior paths and making all paths handicapped accessible.	Updated numbers are being developed. Grant opportunities are being researched.
Recommend cohesive design elements for use in Vehe Farm communications produced by the Village Office and the Foundation.	Village Office and Foundation have completed discussion.
Developing a public relations program that publicizes Vehe Farm's recreational activities.	The Foundation website is being totally reworked. It's new look is intended to publicize Vehe Farm's recreational and nature-based activities and, through the Foundation, it's partnerships with other organizations.
Publicize Vehe Farm's partnerships with other organizations to enhance farm's "community" presence	Links are being added to the Foundation website. Partners are putting the Foundation link on their websites.
Expand existing partnerships and programming.	<p>With Chicago Wilderness, June 22 Leave No Child Inside event planning is well underway, as is fundraising.</p> <p>Discussions with other organizations regarding a children's cultural arts program are developing; a committee with a local residents is forming.</p> <p>Eagle Scout work continues on the Leave No Child Inside animal footprint stands along the nature trails.</p>
Develop a recommended 10-year tree plan.	An annual maintenance plan is being developed.
Restoration of the southwest corner.	Invasive plant removal continues weekly. Volunteers are welcome.

**TRIBUTE TO JOHN WAGNER: AN EXTRAORDINARY RESIDENT'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEER PARK**

**Stewardship Leader of Vehe Farm Prairie—Eight Years of Community Commitment**

Through the trained eye, personal commitment, and unassuming leadership of John Wagner, the approximate eight acres of Vehe Farm prairie have gone from being environmentally poor grass field to award-winning prairie. He shepherded buckthorn and wild rose clearing, planting and seeding of native prairie plants, nurturing and planting of the wetland, and training of a dedicated group of volunteers. He personally planted well over 2,000 wetland plants and another 1,000 prairie plants and spent hundreds of hours preparing seed for broadcasting on the Farm.

Through his long-term involvement with Citizens for Conservation, John created a lasting partnership between that organization and Vehe Farm. And, as the result, CFC has donated thousands of dollars of seed and material to the Farm. His work in this regard was the first community partnership forged on behalf of Vehe Farm.

John taught the Vehe Farm prairie volunteers not only prairie and wetland restoration techniques but also a true understanding and soulful appreciation of the wonder of nature. Through his teaching, the volunteers are well prepared to continue what his efforts have created.

The accolades for the approximate eight acres of prairie and wetland include the 2004 Conservation and Native Landscaping Award from the Midwest Environment Protection Agency and Chicago Wilderness and environmental sanctioning by the National Wildlife Federation and the National Audubon Society.

John's environmental conscience and unassuming spirit will long be a part of Vehe Farm. His presence will be felt in the prairie, the wetlands and the five oak trees he planted. And the quality of life in Deer Park will benefit from his contribution.

It has been an honor to know and work with John at Vehe Farm. He's been a great leader and friend. We wish him well in Mexico. Adios, Amigo!

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Regarding the Leave No Child Inside June 22 event, if a trustee has a suggestion for corporate sponsors that might be approached, please contact me. This program is to be funded totally with private and corporate donations. The Foundation will be paying to the Village the normal rental fees for the barn and grounds.