

STATEMENT ON THE CLOSURE OF LEGION PARK

Hi, we are Parks for All. We are a local mutual aid group made up of housed and unhoused neighbors from the Albany Park area, that works to provide support, meet the material needs of and advocate for local encampment residents at their behest and with their guidance. We are not new here. Many of us have grown up and built our lives on the NorthWest side of Chicago. We are your neighbors. Now that the dust has settled and our community

has begun to heal, we want to talk to you about what happened on Tuesday, March 17th 2026.

That day the City of Chicago and the Park District conducted what is now euphemistically referred to under their new policy as an "encampment closure" of the community residing within Legion Park. Despite the rhetorical sanitization, this was a sweep. A sweep is the violent displacement of unhoused community members, without providing housing, scattering them across other parts of the park. By the 17th, none of the residents had been given keys to housing, thus forcing our community members to move elsewhere, further south into a more crowded area of the park system.

Early that frigid morning, Park District managers, security, and CPD created a line, obstructed residents from their belongings and pushed their supporters out. The bulldozer came to throw entire homes and a life's worth of belongings in the garbage as residents watched crying. Despite our best efforts that morning and the days prior, to help protect and move their most important property, in the end we stood together bearing witness to a destruction that if alone, "no one would believe." They took everything, leaving behind only the signs that read "Priority Enforcement Area" to ensure their permanent exclusion from the park.

Yet, while this community was uprooted, their deeper roots to the land here remain untouched. Before this moment of destruction and loss, was a moment of hope, unified solidarity exemplified by our unhoused members who came to advocate for themselves in the halls of power. They sought only to negotiate with city officials in good faith for a more reasonable alternative. Their proposal garnered widespread community support including nearly 30 other respected organizations throughout the city. But, the City, facing homeowner complaints, rebuffed residents' attempts to negotiate, waiting until just 3 days before to even meet with residents. But this was just a show, because their decision had been made and they insisted that the "closure" must go on - in 12 degree weather.

The city and its joint task force agencies then pantomimed the caring provider, leaving our community to mend the wounds of the destruction they caused. We, with the help of our larger network of volunteers, provided residents with two nights of a local warming center that offered a safe place for them to land, regroup, and store some belongings. The city obfuscated and passed the buck to DFSS who only hours earlier had been laughing together with police officers while tossing residents' livelihoods in the dumpster.

Many of the residents in the Legion Park encampment and encampments generally are some of the most vulnerable populations including immigrants and refugees. Their targeting is merely symptomatic of a larger problem. Homelessness now, under fascism, will only increase. Unemployment will rise. Rent will keep going up. Medical debt accumulates. Disasters strike when you least expect it. The needs of the unhoused cannot

continue to be dismissed by so-called progressive lawmakers. Doing so leaves us all exposed and our most vulnerable residents subject to targeted harassment and criminalization from fascists, CPD and ICE which has already occurred and can only be expected to continue. Unless we work collectively to protect each other, no one is safe. Today it's them, but tomorrow it will be you.

We know this act of violence will not stop the complaints from housed neighbors sitting in the comfort of their heated homes. In fact, they and the threats from park security have only gotten worse following the move. Because, their view of the world is compromised by capital and a need for control. Living in the park is a threat.

It is a threat by capital, showing what happens to you if you cannot or will not conform to its demands. And it is a threat to capital. It shows that you can live on the land in nature, without paying in.

Living in proximity to land and nature though means living in proximity to destruction. Exposed to the elements, we must respond to and plan for such destruction. Like a bird

who every spring must rebuild its nest, over and over again, becoming familiar with each component. Every twig. Every branch. This familiarity brings us comfort.

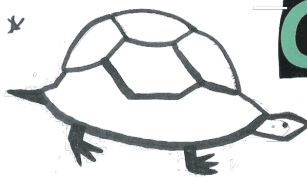
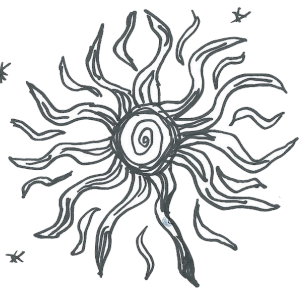
Parks for All is not just a slogan or what we cry out while the system pushes us down. We are a community, all pouring in strength together as we push up with our most vulnerable neighbors in respect for their autonomy and humanity. Hear us when we say we want to collaborate with you. We want your help, to create a better world bit by bit, twig by twig, person by person. Thanks for your time, hope to see you at distro next week!



STOP THE SWEEPS



Classifieds



CONNECTIONZ MISSED

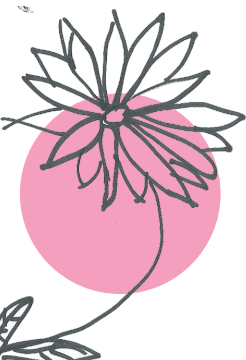


Figure Drawing Collective (Ages 18+)
Grotesque Burlesque
4201 N Ravenswood Unit A105
Wednesdays 7:30-10pm at Hidden Light Tattoo
Suggested donation \$20

From Jess: To my neighbors on Gunnison Ave with the most adorable cats, please find me at the Free Store. It is absolutely crucial that I know your name. I am obsessed with your cat. I want to give it a treat. Please.

To whoever made the Cinnamaroll sticker that says "Fuck Ice" on Sacramento: who are you? I need to collab with you on some stickers, and please make more!

Community space at 3000 W Lawrence now available for hosting Birthday Parties by ducksfloat collective.
Choose your own adventure! Email ducksfloat@proton.me to get a quote!



Emergency Family Planning limited legal services, including emergency guardianship petitions and assistance developing a family plan in the event of an emergency. Send inquiries to apmutualaid@gmail.com.

Naked lady soup
They boil together
Chit-chatting, relaxing, forgetting
Forgetting the woes of their life outside this cauldron

The chef turns the knob,
the fire on the burner grows,
turning a bright blue almost white.
The naked ladies slide deeper in the tub,
water lapping up their necks and
burning their faces.
Faces that look pleased, at peace.
They'll rest a while longer there.

Anna Questel



Free After School Program
Mayfair Presbyterian Church
Thursdays 3pm-5pm

