

# Friends of the Chicago River



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## **McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum Press Materials Exhibit Fact Sheet**

### **Overview**

The Chicago River is inextricably linked with the history of Chicago because of the strategic connection it provided between the Atlantic, Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. Explore the McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum and explore the river's history while learning about the river's natural wonder and the bridges that span it.

### **Exhibits**

*The Bridge:* First conceived by architect Daniel Burnham in his 1909 "Plan for Chicago," the Michigan Avenue Bridge was designed in the Beaux Arts style by Edward H. Bennett and opened in 1920. Exhibits detail the way the bridge, a double-deck, double-leaf bascule trunnion, works and highlights other bridge styles and general Chicago bridge information. Guests to the museum can actually visit the gear room and see the bridgeworks from inside the bridge. Giant cogs and gears and the enormous counter weight loom overhead and on a seasonal basis visitors will be able to watch the bridge open from inside the gear room.

*The Chicago River:* The story of the Chicago River is a complex journey through time. Once a meandering prairie stream, the Chicago River was transformed by human to suit their needs and was straightened, deepened, channelized and even reversed to accommodate first, a growing metropolis, and then pollution that resulted from that growth. After leaving the bridgeworks, guests are invited to learn about the river from before there was permanent European settlement and the area was lush with wildlife through the many engineering feats that changed the river and impressed the world like the river's reversal and Deep Tunnel to today which highlights the many ways the Chicago River is coming back to life. The bridgehouse is five stories and reveals stunning views of Chicago and the river. The 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> floors are only accessible by stair.

### **Hours of Operation**

The McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. between June 10, 2006 and August 31, 2006. Between September 1, 2006, and September 30, 2006, Bridgehouse hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

### **Group Visits**

For groups of 20 or more, tickets are \$2 per person. Please call (312) 977-0227 at least 24 hours in advance of your group's visit to the Bridgehouse to make arrangements. Please note that the McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse is limited to 34 visitors at a time.

We accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card and American Express.

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**Location**

The Bridgehouse is located at 376 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, on the Michigan Avenue Bridge. Guests enter the museum off the riverwalk by taking the stairs down at Wacker Drive and Michigan Avenue or via the ramp at Wacker and Wabash one block west of the museum.

**Website**

[www.bridgehousemuseum.org](http://www.bridgehousemuseum.org)

**Generous Support**

The McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse & Chicago River Museum was made possible through gifts from the McCormick Tribune Foundation, Eugenie and Robert Friedman, and many other members and friends who contributed to this wonderful new cultural amenity.

**Friends of the Chicago River**

Friends of the Chicago River is a nonprofit organization with 2,000 members that works to foster the vitality of Chicago River for the plants, animals and people who share its watershed. Celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year, Friends of the Chicago River is pleased to invite the public to its 25th Anniversary events, including bridgehouse events, which are posted on Friends' website at [www.chicagoriver.org](http://www.chicagoriver.org) or by calling Friends of the Chicago River at (312) 939-0490, ext. 10.

