



openlands

conserving nature for life

Suite 1650
25 East Washington Street
Chicago, IL 60602-1708

Tel: 312-863-6250
Fax: 312-863-6251

www.openlands.org

Board of Directors

Nancy W. Sutherland
President

Carrie C. McNally
Secretary

Steven M. Ricchio
Treasurer

Andrew Otting
Vice President, Community Greening

Jonathan C. Hamill
Vice President, Development

Paul L. Becker
Vice President, Greenways

J. Timothy Ritchie
Vice President, Policy

Jill Allread
Member-at-Large

Ben A. Beavers
Alan M. Bell

Shaun C. Block
Richard J. Carlson, Ph.D.

Henry T. Chandler, Jr.
George W. Davis

Jennifer Diamond
Victoria C. Drake

Maxine Duster
Josephine F. Elting

Lynn B. Evans
Joseph M. Flavin

John M. Haight, III
Scott Jamieson

Daniel Kearney
Iris Krieg

Howard C. Morgan
Ellen C. Newcomer

Janis Wellin Notz
Michael L. O'Shaughnessy

Charles Saltzman
Patrick Shaw

Georgiana Taylor

Honorary Directors

Anthony T. Dean
Marshall Field, V

Jack Guth
George H. Ware, Ph.D.

Louise B. Young

Gerald W. Adelman
Executive Director

Printed on Recycled Paper

February 5, 2009

To whom it may concern:

This letter is written in support of the nomination of Chicago's Mayor Richard J. Daley for the Alfred LaGasse Medal. No other mayor of a large American city has demonstrated the leadership and concern for the conservation of natural resources and public lands that Mayor Daley has shown throughout his long tenure—now twenty years. During this period Chicago has emerged as a global leader in urban ecology and greening. Mayor Daley has expressed a vision that transcends beautification, embracing concepts of biodiversity and ecological sustainability that demonstrate how nature and wildlife can co-exist in a metropolitan center with a large human population. His vision has given concrete expression to the idea that the metropolitan fabric can be green, habitable and “humane”.

Early in his tenure, Mayor Daley launched “Mayor Daley’s GreenStreets” which has led to the revitalization of Chicago’s parks and boulevards and the planting of over half a million trees—enriching the lives of millions of residents, reducing heat islands and creating new habitat. Chicago is one of few cities in the United States, if not the world, that has a mayoral committee on nature and wildlife, which brings together government agencies and not-for-profits to advise the mayor on opportunities to improve and increase habitat for nature and wildlife across the city. This committee, which I chair, conducted an inventory of important city lands—over 4,800 acres of prairies, savannas, dunes, woodlands, wetlands and potential restoration sites throughout Chicago—and developed a plan that lays out a framework for protecting and enhancing these areas. The plan was adopted by the Chicago Plan Commission and sets the stage toward making Chicago a place where people and nature live in harmony.

Mayor Daley has established two major initiatives involving multiple city agencies and regional non-profits to institutionalize and build broad constituencies for conservation and conservation education. The two initiatives are: 1) Growing School Gardens with the goal of establishing school gardens connected to curriculum in all Chicago public schools by 2018 and 2) the Urban Tree Initiative, which also establishes collaborative partnerships among multiple public and private groups to increase Chicago’s tree canopy as part

of its pioneering Climate Action Plan. These are but two concrete examples of Mayor Daley's vision put into practice.

I could list countless other examples of how Mayor Daley has added significant new greenspace to the city's system of parks, gardens and natural areas, how he has adopted the Chicago River as Chicago's forgotten waterfront, and how students and residents have embraced nature in the city and become committed stewards of our natural environment. Mayor Daley has inspired a new generation of civic leaders who in the spirit of Daniel Burnham have joined him in making Chicago America's greenest city. I can think of no one more deserving of the ASLA's Alfred LaGasse Medal than our visionary mayor and hope that you will award him this coveted price in 2009-- the centennial of the world-famous Burnham-Bennett Plan of Chicago.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. W. Adelman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gerald W. Adelman
Executive Director
Honorary Member, ASLA



February 5, 2009

President Angela Dye, FASLA
American Society of Landscape Architects
Lagasse Medal Nominations
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: Nomination of Mayor Richard M. Daley for 2009 Lagasse Medal

Dear Ms. Dye:

This letter enthusiastically supports the nomination of Chicago Mayor Richard Daley for the American Society of Landscape Architect's 2009 Lagasse Medal. Through visionary leadership, personal commitment, and innovative management, Mayor Daley has transformed the old industrial Chicago into a vibrant green city. Daniel Burnham would be proud.

Through my position as Regional Executive Director of the National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes Regional Center, I have had the privilege of working with the Mayor and his staff on a project that demonstrates his leadership and innovation. Through the Mayor's efforts, the city of Chicago has just committed to greening every one of the 600 Chicago public schools – both their physical plant and the knowledge they impart to their students. The Mayor is launching a Growing School Gardens Initiative that will provide each student in Chicago with access to outdoor learning landscapes at their schools. The project will ensure that every school has a garden – a food garden, a natural habitat, a butterfly garden, a bioswale, or a campus park – that is integrated with the school's curriculum. The result will be both to beautify the city and to teach a new generation of environmental stewards. This initiative is precedent-setting nationally in size and scope.

This project is only one of the many examples of the Mayor's success in managing and conserving Chicago's outdoor landscapes. His restoration of Northerly Island, his direction of the Chicago Parks Department to sponsor family camping in city nature areas, his restoration and protection of Chicago's magnificent waterfront – these and many other accomplishments testify to Mayor Daley's worthiness for the Lagasse Medal.

No other official in the nation – or the world – has done so much to conserve green landscapes in such an industrial location.

Thank you for giving Mayor Daley your fullest consideration for this award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andy Buchsbaum".

Andy Buchsbaum, Regional Executive Director
National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes Regional Center
213 West Liberty, Suite 200
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
(734) 887-7100

THE
TRUST
for
PUBLIC
LAND



Chicago Office
53 West Jackson Blvd.
Suite 815
Chicago, IL
60604
T. 312-427-1979
F. 312-408-1733
www.tpl.org

Chicago Area Office
Advisory Council

Stephen W. Baird
Chairman

John W. Baird
Susan Snell Barnes
Elvin E. Charity
Lynne F. Dinzole
H. James Fox
Jeffrey Jahns
Deirdre B. Koldyke
Lawrence Krueger
Jeff T. McClelland
Adrienne Meisel
Irene S. Phelps
Marion S. Searle
Daniel J. Slattery

Chicago Area Office

Beth White
Director

Andrew Vesselinovich
Director, Urban Parks
Program

Diane Davis
Office Manager

February 6, 2009

President Angela Dye, FASLA
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: Nomination of Mayor Richard M. Daley for 2009 LaGasse Medal

Dear President Dye:

As the director of The Trust for Public Land's (TPL) Chicago area office I have had the honor of working with Mayor Richard M. Daley on numerous open space initiatives. Pivotal to the success of our projects in Chicago, Mayor Daley has been a strong and effective advocate for TPL's mission of conserving land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens and other natural places. Without his thoughtful leadership it would be a struggle to advance our work in the Chicago area.

Mayor Daley shares our passion for creating natural spaces that are accessible for all residents. I admire Mayor Daley's CitySpace program and its goal of increasing the amount of available parkland for residents. The mayor developed the city's first comprehensive plan for open space and, most importantly, he is delivering on the mission. The mayor has made great strides to ensure every child in Chicago has a park within walking distance from their home. He has done this through establishing numerous creative programs such as NeighborSpace and the Chicago Public Schools' campus parks.

Mayor Daley has successfully maintained positive public/private partnerships to achieve results for all Chicagoans. Working in partnership with the Mayor, we have helped to expand or create 9 parks including Erie, Haas, Sangamon, Ping Tom, and Albany-Whipple parks. In partnership, we have also obtained land for future parks. Under the Mayor's leadership each project solicited community involvement in both the planning phase and long term stewardship, and each park was executed with creativity and a high-standard of design. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with Mayor Daley as we work together to create the Bloomingdale Trail, a 3-mile elevated, linear park that will run through Chicago's diverse neighborhoods and will rival Paris' Promenade Plantée and the High Line in New York City.

Mayor Daley is an informed and environmentally conscious leader who is widely recognized as our nation's "greenest" mayor. TPL is proud to be one of Mayor Daley's partners in carrying out his ambitious open space vision for Chicago and we strongly support his nomination for the 2009 LaGasse Medal.

Sincerely,

Beth White
Director, Chicago Area Office



CHICAGOLAND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

February 9, 2009

President Angela Dye, FASLA
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: Nomination of Mayor Richard M. Daley for 2009 LaGasse Medal

Dear President Dye:

Since he was elected two decades ago, Mayor Richard M. Daley has been an incredible champion of urban greening and sustainability initiatives. Almost singlehandedly, his vision to make Chicago the greenest city in the world has had a transforming influence on the quality of life for people who live and work in the region.

Mayor Daley has refined our urban landscape with countless beautification projects in our diverse neighborhoods, the Loop, as well as on our region's expressways. Each spring and summer, Chicago's downtown also comes to life with trees, bushes and flowers that take the harsh, cold edge off the marble, concrete and asphalt that line the public way. The Mayor has also been a faithful supporter of Chicago Gateway Green, whose sole mission is to beautify the gateways into our city.

Whether building a rooftop garden on City Hall, promoting sustainability in the design and construction of public buildings, or opening and enhancing the City's parks, Mayor Daley is undeniably deserving of an honor such as the LaGasse Medal.

Sincerely,

Gerald J. Roper
President & CEO
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Scott A. Mehaffey

RICHARD J. DURBIN
ILLINOIS
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE ON RULES
AND ADMINISTRATION
ASSISTANT MAJORITY
LEADER

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

309 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1304
(202) 224-2152
TTY (202) 224-8180
230 SOUTH DEARBORN, 38TH FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60604
(312) 353-4952
525 SOUTH EIGHTH STREET
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
(217) 492-4062
701 NORTH COURT STREET
MARION, IL 62959
(618) 998-8812
durbin.senate.gov

February 11, 2009

President Angela Dye, FASLA
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20001-3736

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Mayor Daley's nomination for the 2009 Alfred LaGasse Medal from the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Taking a look all around Chicago, one can feel the effect that Mayor Richard Daley has had in making Chicago one of the most beautiful and artfully landscaped cities in the world. Over the years, Mayor Daley has been instrumental in transforming Chicago's lakefront into a place that can be enjoyed by Chicagoans and visitors alike, and his efforts have certainly expanded beyond the lakefront and the downtown area. Specifically, he has beautified the museum campus on the south end of the Loop, increased the amount of green projects in Chicago neighborhoods throughout the city, and has planted flowers to brighten the medians of numerous Chicago boulevards.

As a part of Mayor Daley's efforts to improve Chicago, he was a strong proponent for the creation of Millennium Park, which is a tremendous addition to our city and celebrates Chicago's architectural traditions, landscaped and protected parklands, and ~~of~~ the arts. With Mayor Daley's support and leadership Millennium Park is now one of the most revered parks in the world for its intricate and unique architecture and layout.

Again, I would like to express my support of Mayor Richard Daley's nominations for the 2009 Alfred LaGasse Medal from the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. If you require additional information, please contact my Chicago Director, Clarisol Duque, at (312) 353-4952.

Very truly yours,

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator