

# Metropolitan Grants Program



## *Chicago, Ill. — Bloomingdale Trail Year Two — 2010*

### **Community Art Workshops/Installation**

#### **Project Support Grant: \$12,500**

With funding from Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and The Coca-Cola Foundation, Friends of the Bloomingdale Trail (FBT) was able to sponsor a community-created public art piece as part of a future access point to the Bloomingdale Trail at Albany-Whipple Park. The Chicago Park District is in the process of redeveloping the park as a play space for 5-12 year olds. The new park will feature a climbing web, spider sculpture and, thanks to the grant support, a long sitting wall decorated with nature themes, literally created by community members. FBT partnered with the Chicago Public Art Group (CPAG) to offer a series of hands-on workshops in June at which community members, mostly young people, carved and molded clay into leaves, flowers, birds and butterflies. CPAG artist Phil Schuster, who led the workshops, will take the clay molds created by the community and form them into a larger, unified sitting wall. When the Chicago Park District has installed the piece, everyone who took part in the workshops will be able go see his or her work on display in the new park. Their creations will become a permanent addition to the Chicago Park District and more specifically the Bloomingdale Trail, which will have eight access points, including one in the park. FBT hopes to support similar community-driven art pieces at every access point. Supporters of this project include the Chicago Park District and the Trust for Public Land.



*Photo credits:*

*Creation of sitting wall decorations: Ben Helpland/Friends of the Bloomingdale Trail*