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**Finding Walden: Chicago Parks System Photographs Showcase City's Beauty  
Photo Exhibition at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum Starts May 22**

**CHICAGO** (March 19, 2009) – When he moved to Chicago from rural Ohio, photographer Bill Guy spent countless hours in Chicago's parks, escaping from the hustle and bustle of the city. His retreat later became his new subject. His entrancing and colorful photographs of Chicago's parks will be on display at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum beginning May 22. *Finding Walden: Photographs from the Chicago Parks System* showcases the beauty and diversity of Chicago's various neighborhood parks.

"These photos give us new perspective on the parks we pass by every day," said Alvaro Ramos, director of exhibits at the Nature Museum. "We hope that through this exhibition, people will stop to take in and appreciate the urban nature in city parks."

Although Guy's images focus on Chicago's open spaces, they also capture everything from landmark buildings (such as Soldier Field) to Lake Michigan and some of Chicago's most recognizable streets. Guy said in addition to being inspired by Chicago's natural urban beauty, his inspiration also came from challenging Thoreau's ideas about city life, which suggested that people need to get outside their city walls to be in close contact with nature.

"I wanted to embrace the City Beautiful movement that Daniel Burnham supported," Guy said. "My work advocates for green space in the city by showing that Chicago is more than just functional; it is a beautiful place to live."

*Finding Walden: Photographs from the Chicago Parks System* is the Nature Museum's contribution to this summer's Burnham Plan Centennial Celebration, a city-wide program that pays homage to Daniel Burnham and the bold plans and big dreams that shaped metropolitan Chicago for the past century.

"This photo exhibition ties in perfectly with Daniel Burnham's ideas about embracing the beauty of the city," Ramos said.

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*Finding Walden: Photographs from the Chicago Parks System*, which includes 15 photographs, will be on display at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum May 22 through August 2, 2009. Admission to the Museum, including special exhibitions, is \$9/adult, \$6/child 3-12, \$7/seniors and students. Thursdays are suggested donation days. Located at 2430 North Cannon Drive in Chicago's Lincoln Park, the Museum is open weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit [www.naturemuseum.org](http://www.naturemuseum.org) or call 773-755-5100.

Photos available upon request:

1. Near Belmont Bird Sanctuary in Lincoln Park, photo by Bill Guy.
2. Near Roosevelt and Michigan Ave., photo by Bill Guy.

### **About the Artist**

*Bill Guy was born in Canton, Ohio and is now a Chicago-based photographer. In Spring 2007, he received his MFA from Columbia College Chicago. His work is in the permanent collections of the Cleveland Clinic and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, along with other private collections. This Fall he had his first solo exhibition, titled Public Places Private Moments, at Dominican University. He is currently an adjunct professor of photography at both Columbia College Chicago and St. Xavier University, as well as a teaching artist at Gallery 37 Center For the Arts.*

### **About the Burnham Plan Centennial**

*The Burnham Plan Centennial and its 250 partner institutions are offering hundreds of ways for the people of Chicago's three-state metropolitan region to dream big and plan boldly. This 100th anniversary of the Plan of Chicago is once again stirring a diverse community to action on a grand scale – building the best possible quality of life for all. See what you can do at [www.BurnhamPlan100.org](http://www.BurnhamPlan100.org). And aim high!*

### **About the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum**

*Celebrating more than 150 years of science exploration and education, the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum is the teaching and learning center of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, founded in 1857 as Chicago's first museum dedicated to educating Chicagoans about nature and science through the preservation and display of native specimens, classroom activities, and dissemination of scientific knowledge.*

*Today the Nature Museum continues the Academy's tradition of education about nature in greater Chicago, research, and conservation through participatory exhibits and programs, educational outreach, and ongoing scientific activity. Its collections, due to their age and type, are among the most important in the region. The Museum's distinctive experience includes extensive involvement in schools and classrooms, and the opportunities for visitors to learn about nature up close.*

*Since its opening 10 years ago, the Nature Museum has welcomed more than 1.8 million visitors and provides hands-on exhibitions and programs to 70,000 students annually and trains and provides resources for more than 1,500 Chicago teachers in over 430 schools. The Nature Museum engages visitors, especially urban dwellers, in new ways to connect with and preserve the natural world through a unique indoor/outdoor experience. The Museum is one of the city's best examples of eco-friendly building technology with lush outdoor nature trails and habitat, green roof, rain barrels and solar panels.*

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