

# Frank & Sharon Reilly

Friends of Lincoln Park



## Significance

Lincoln Park was Portland's first planned public park, the land purchased the day after the Great Fire of 1866 to serve as a fire-break. Designed by architect Charles Goodell, it served the neighborhood at the base of Munjoy Hill. Lincoln Park lost some integrity due to the widening of Franklin Street in 1970. The park was truncated and has since deteriorated: walkways and the 1870 fountain need to be restored, and benches and trash cans are in poor condition. However, major design elements of the park still survive.

## Project Scope

Enter Sharon and Frank Reilly, who visited Lincoln Park on a First Friday Artwalk and became inspired to take action. The Reillys founded Friends of Lincoln Park in 2013 and obtained a grant from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to prepare a master plan, completed in 2014. The goal is to restore the park to its historic appearance in 1905, at the height of its integrity. The current priority has been to increase awareness of the park and to restore the fountain and pathways. In April, a near replica of the fountain's missing spire was found and purchased. Determined to see the park restored, the Reillys hosted countless "biscuit meetings" to recruit supporters, write grants, and in June an installation commissioned by TEMPOart, Judith Hoffman's sculpture "The American Dream", was installed in the park.

## Recognition

Sharon and Frank Reilly have provided the gracious driving force behind advocacy to revive interest in Lincoln Park and to secure resources to rehabilitate and reinvigorate use of the Park. They have brought their substantial creative skills to bear on a nimble, focused, personal and inclusive campaign to achieve their goals for the park. Portland is lucky to have their tenacious advocacy on behalf of one of the city's most significant historic landscapes.