

Evanston dedicates lagoon in honor of W. Russell Arrington



On June 6, the City of Evanston dedicated the Arrington Lakefront Lagoon, named in honor of the late W. Russell Arrington.



By **Karie Angell Luc**
Pioneer Press

SHARE THIS



Evanston lagoon dedicated in name of former state legislator

JUNE 8, 2015, 2:34 PM

"I t looks like an emerald."

Those were the words of **Evanston** resident Michael B. Arrington, president and chief executive officer of The Arrington Foundation, who marveled at the Arrington Lakefront Lagoon at Dawes Park in Evanston on June

6.

The Saturday afternoon occasion was the dedication of the Arrington Lakefront Lagoon, named in honor of Arrington's father, the late W. Russell Arrington.

From 1945 to 1973, W. Russell Arrington was a member of the Illinois House and leader of the Illinois Senate.

Among W. Russell Arrington's work was spearheading a landfill expansion of Northwestern University on the Lake Michigan waterfront adjacent to and north of the lagoon.

"It's a spectacular day for our jewel on the lake," said Micheal B. Arrington, who addressed a crowd along the lagoon shores while children tossed footballs and rode bikes.

The Arrington Foundation donated \$500,000 to the renovation project to go along with \$100,000 in capital funding from the city's Capital Improvement Program and \$400,000 in an Illinois Department of Natural Resources grant.

The green-hued lagoon, which is shallow enough to freeze for ice skating, has been upgraded with special lighting options.

For example, at Northwestern University homecoming, purple could be featured. Red, white and blue may color patriotic occasions in season. Other upgrades include Upgrades include pavement reconstruction, masonry repair, stone waterfall and stair reconstruction, plumbing and mechanical improvements, electrical system configurations, and Americans with Disabilities Act improvements.

"We're so grateful to the Arrington family and to the partnership with the state, and the city and the federal government to make this a real jewel of Evanston for all of us to enjoy," said U.S. Rep. [Jan Schakowsky](#), D-Evanston, who also spoke at the dedication.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Copyright © 2018, Chicago Tribune

This article is related to: [Evanston](#), [Jan Schakowsky](#)