

WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

**Waukegan Park District Arbor Day Celebration
April 24, 2015
11am
Hinkston Park
810 N Baldwin Avenue**

Waukegan, IL (April 21, 2015) – The Waukegan Park will observe Arbor Day on Friday, April 24, 2015 by transplanting oak trees in Hinkston Park to new locations in preparation for construction of the new indoor pool at the Field House. The ceremony is scheduled for 11am in Hinkston Park, 810 N. Baldwin Avenue in Waukegan. Students from Immanuel Lutheran School will help with the tree plantings. Norway Spruce tree seedlings will be given away to those attending. The public is encouraged to attend and participate in the 2015 Arbor Day Celebration.

Today, there are many global initiatives to plant trees, including Plant for the Planet, the Million Trees Project and the Green Belt Movement. Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize winner and Kenyan founder of the Green Belt Movement says “When we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and the seeds of hope.” Trees are one of the few renewable resources on the earth. We invite you to join the park district in planting new trees this Arbor Day.

Almost 100 years before the idea of Earth Day, J. Sterling Morton suggested a campaign for tree planting. By 1894, his movement for planting trees had spread to every state in the nation. Today, Arbor

Day is celebrated in all 50 states and in many other countries. Actual dates for the event differ for each area depending on planting times. Illinois celebrates Arbor Day the last Friday of April each year, which is the same date as National Arbor Day.

“Other holidays repose upon the past; Arbor Day proposes for the future.” J. Sterling Morton.



2014 Arbor Day in Powell Park with children from Waukegan's Most Blessed Trinity Academy planting an Oak Tree

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 48 sites and more than 735 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include the Field House Sports and Fitness Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, an outdoor swimming pool, disc golf course, dog exercise area, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball and tennis. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages, from infants to seniors as well as special needs populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 59 full-time and over 250 part-time, year round, seasonal, and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The district maintains national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the Illinois Association of Park District (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and sustains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013, and awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013.

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Contact:

Theodora (Teddy) Anderson

Community Relations

847-360-4726 (P)

tanderson@waukeganparks.org

www.waukeganparks.org