
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: All Media

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WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT COMMEMORATES ARBOR DAY

Waukegan, IL (April 10, 2013) . . . The Waukegan Park District will observe Arbor Day on Friday, April 26, by planting several new willow trees in Bevier Park to replace those damaged by a series of storms in July 2011. The ceremony is scheduled for 11am in Bevier Park, 2255 Yorkhouse Road in Waukegan. Students from McCall School will help with the tree plantings. Red Maple tree seedlings will be given away to those attending. The public is encouraged to attend and participate in the 2013 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.



2012 Arbor Day at Bowen Park with children from Waukegan’s Greenwood Elementary School Planting an Oak Tree

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 47 properties and 720 acres of land, which includes 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. The District operates 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, 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 and special populations are included. Many special events are offered throughout the year, many are complimentary. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. The award-winning District employs 54 full-time staff 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 Districts' (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and sustains a Level A Loss Control Program. In 2012, the district was named a Gold Medal Finalist.