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For Immediate Release:

## Arbor Day Celebration at Boerner Botanical Gardens

Milwaukee, WI - (April 15, 2015) County Executive Chris Abele will commemorate Arbor Day with the help of third graders from Edgerton Elementary School, as they and Parks staff plant three new trees in the Boerner Botanical Gardens, Friday, April 24, at 10:15 a.m. The official Garden Season opens Saturday, April 25, with hours of 8 a.m.-6 p.m., seven days a week. The Botanical Gardens, “Milwaukee’s Living Museum,” is located in Whitnall Park at 9400 Boerner Drive.

“We continue to instill an environmental ethic in the children of Milwaukee County by connecting them—and their families—to the natural world by way of our Parks,” said Abele. “Here in Whitnall Park, we offer both the renowned Botanical Gardens and the natural communities and award-winning programs of Wehr Nature Center—two of the many gems in the Park System.”

Following opening remarks, three paper birch trees will be planted—*Betula papyifera* ‘Renci’ Renaissance Reflection™. The trees were donated by Fox Ridge Nursery of Harvard, IL. As part of the tree-planting ceremony, the schoolchildren will recite wishes they’ve written on slips of paper before placing them in the holes for the trees.

After the ceremony, adults may take part in a 45-minute tree walk through the Arboretum led by Dave Wanninger, a horticulturist with the Botanical Gardens.

Free saplings, courtesy of Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful in partnership with the Argosy Foundation, will be available to the first 100 visitors. Varieties include Red Oak, White Oak, Swamp White Oak, and Black Oak.

The Boerner Botanical Gardens Arboretum occupies over 1000 acres in Whitnall Park and the adjoining Root River Parkway. The Arboretum has received Level II Accreditation from the Morton Register. The accreditation program recognizes arboreta for achieving professional standards to advance the planting and conservation of trees.

For more information, call Boerner Botanical Gardens at (414) 525-5601 or visit [countyparks.com](http://countyparks.com).

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