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For immediate release

Arbor Day Celebration to Open Season at Boerner Botanical Gardens April 29

Milwaukee, WI (April 28, 2016) – Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele will commemorate Arbor Day with the help of first graders from Rawson Elementary School, as they and Parks staff plant two new trees in the Boerner Botanical Gardens, Friday, April 29, at 10 a.m. The celebration coincides with the season opening of the Botanical Gardens, located at 9400 Boerner Drive, in Whitnall Park.

“Through our Parks, we continue to connect our children and their families to the natural world and to instill an environmental ethic,” said Abele. “Planting these trees is a symbol of our commitment to restore, protect, and preserve our natural environment.”

Near the Trial Garden, a Johnny Appleseed tree will be planted. The tree is made from the scionwood, or soft bud cutting, of the tree planted about 180 years ago in Nova, Ohio by John Chapman (Johnny Appleseed). The cutting is grafted onto apple root stock. The tree was donated by Silver Creek Nursery in Manitowoc. Also near the Trial Garden, a Heritage™ hybrid oak will be planted.

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, Dave Wanninger, a horticulturist with the Botanical Gardens, will lead a walk focused on the historical trees of the Botanical Gardens and the surrounding Arboretum. Some trees are on the list of Wisconsin Champion Trees.

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

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From the season opening through late October, the Botanical Gardens as well as the Garden House, which displays temporary art exhibits, will be open from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., seven days a week.

First Tuesdays, the free-admission day for Milwaukee County residents, will be offered from May-September. Proof of residency will be required to receive the free admission.

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.

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