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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 19, 2017

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### SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT PARTICIPATES IN EARTH AWARENESS WEEK WITH SEVERAL SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

[Springfield, IL] – The Springfield Park District is excited to announce that we are honoring Earth Awareness Week with several scheduled activities from April 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. We plan activities each year during Earth Awareness within our organization and with other volunteer groups to maintain our parks and to ensure that we are being good stewards of this earth. Chuck Smith, the Springfield Park District Arborist & Volunteer Coordinator leads these activities with a variety of staff and members of the community.

#### *This year's events include:*

The Park District's first Earth Awareness initiatives surround a partnership with local Rotarians to meet Ian H.S. Riseley, National Rotary Club President's challenge. He wanted Rotarians to plant 1.2 million trees – one for every Rotarian in the world – between 1 July 2017, when he took office as president of Rotary International, and Earth Day, 22 April 2018. We have had two such events with local Rotary Clubs. Approximately 40 trees were planted at Rotary Park and there will be over 30 more planted this Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> with the Rotary Club of Springfield Downtown Club. Go to [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) and search **Riseley Challenge for more information on this great initiative!**

**Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>** – Tree Planting at Rotary Park with the Rotary Club of Springfield (South)

**Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** – the Park District, Rotary Club of Springfield (Downtown) and Enos Elementary School will be planting over 30 trees out at Centennial Park at 10am. Kindergarten through fifth grade, over 300 students, will help to plant, mulch trees and pick up trash in conjunction with Earth Awareness. This day takes tremendous coordination and volunteers will be in the park from 9am – 2pm planting a variety of native to Illinois species of trees.

**Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>** – The Park District will join the City of Springfield at their 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Awareness Fair downtown at the Old State Capitol.

**Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> & Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>** – Tree Planting with Washington Park Preschool

**Week of April 23-27** – Washington Park Botanical Garden will be planting trees with local Boy Scout Troops.

**Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>** - SIU School of Medicine painting, planting and mulching at Enos and Gehrman Parks



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**Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** – Arbor Day planting with the Civic Garden Club at Centennial Park at 10am. This is an annual event and the Civic Garden Club donates the trees and helps participate in the planting process.

***Earth Day is EVERY DAY at the Springfield Park District as we provide accessible and memorable recreational opportunities that enrich the community and improve the quality of life for generations as well as conserve our natural resources. See the attached flyer for a full list of ways we strive daily to preserve our parks.***

We encourage you to get involved with the Springfield Park District and our efforts to keep our parks beautiful and growing! We'll see you at the Earth Awareness Fair this Saturday!

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For more information on this topic and any other Park District news related items, please visit our Website at [www.springfieldparks.org](http://www.springfieldparks.org)