



For Immediate Release: Friday, April 28, 2017

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Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, Fairmount Park Conservancy and TD Bank Celebrate Arbor Day

Philadelphia- Kathryn Ott Lovell, Commissioner of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, celebrated Arbor Day with representatives of the Fairmount Park Conservancy, TD Bank, the Pennsylvania Delaware Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, and the Arbor Day Foundation at historic Wissinoming Park. This year marks Philadelphia’s 41st anniversary as a Tree City USA, which makes the city one of just a few to have received this designation from the Arbor Day Foundation every year since the program’s inception. Representatives from the Arbor Day Foundation presented the City of Philadelphia with its 41st Tree City USA Award. Tree City USA is a nationwide movement that provides the necessary framework for communities to manage and expand the amount of public trees.

“Our department takes great pride in protecting and growing our urban forest,” said Kathryn Ott Lovell, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Commissioner “We understand how important it is to care for the trees in our parks and we are grateful to the Arbor Day Foundation for acknowledging our urban forestry work for the past 41 years.”

Arborists from Parks and Recreation and the Pennsylvania Delaware Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture climbed and pruned the many large trees at the park, while volunteers from TreePhilly sponsor TD Bank planted trees and learned tree maintenance techniques. Children from The McIlvain Playground Tot Recreation Program, People for People Charter School, and Mother of Divine Grace Catholic Parish joined the day’s festivities assisting volunteers with their tree care tasks and participating in unique tree-themed crafts and activities.

The kids had the opportunity to learn tree identification, how to tie a knot, attend bird walks, observe a tree climbing demonstration, and create tree art.

"TD Bank is committed to enhancing the quality of life for all Philadelphians," said Joe Doolan, Head of Environmental Affairs, TD Bank. "We're proud to support TreePhilly through our partnership with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation and Fairmount Park Conservancy. This program allows TD Bank to help nurture and grow local urban green spaces, generating many environmental, economic and health benefits for the community."

The Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program, established in 1976, provides support to communities across the country in managing and protecting public trees. More than 3,400 communities have achieved Tree City USA status by meeting basic standards of Urban Forestry management. Philadelphia is the largest city out of 16 municipalities celebrating its 41st anniversary with this designation.

"Fairmount Park Conservancy engages neighbors and institutions to support Philadelphia's parks, and today's Arbor Day celebration at Wissinoming Park is a great example of how powerful these partnerships can be," said Rick Magder, Fairmount Park Conservancy Executive Director. "TD Bank has been an incredibly generous and engaged sponsor of our TreePhilly program, and their support enables us to convene this impressive array of professionals from the local chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture to make sure Philly's trees are receiving the critical maintenance they need to thrive."

To be awarded the Tree City USA Award cities must maintain 4 standards throughout the year: A Tree Board or Department, A Tree Care Ordinance, A Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at Least \$2 Per Capita, An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation.

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Fairmount Park Conservancy exists to champion Philadelphia's parks. We lead capital projects and historic preservation efforts, foster neighborhood park stewardship, attract and leverage investments, and develop innovative programs throughout the 10,200 acres that include Fairmount

Park and more than 100 neighborhood parks around the city. Philadelphia has one of the largest urban park systems in the world, providing residents with extensive health, environmental, social, economic and cultural benefits – including access to some of the region’s most famous attractions. For more information, please visit www.myphillypark.org join us at facebook.com/fairmountparkconservancy, and follow us on Instagram and Twitter @myphillypark.

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR) advances the prosperity of the city and the progress of her people through intentional and sustained stewardship of nearly 10,200 acres of public land and waterways as well as through hundreds of safe, stimulating recreation, environmental and cultural centers. PPR promotes the well-being and growth of the city’s residents by connecting them to the natural world around them, to each other and to fun, physical and social opportunities. PPR is responsible for the upkeep of historically significant Philadelphia events and specialty venues, and works collaboratively with communities and organizations in leading capital projects and the introduction of inventive programming. To learn more about Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, visit us at www.phila.gov/parksandrec, and follow @philaparkandrec on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or Tumblr.