



News Release

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Students join Detroit Metropolitan Airport, Wayne County Parks and Davey Tree Expert Company for tree planting on Arbor Day

SUMPTER TOWNSHIP, Mich. (April 26, 2016) – At least 50 students will spend Arbor Day working with Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW), Wayne County Parks and The Davey Tree Expert Company learning about the environment while planting trees. The ninth graders, from Allen Academy in Detroit and Airport High School in Carleton, will gain knowledge about sustainability, the importance of trees, how to keep the water supply clean and the value of wetlands. The event will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, April 29 at Crosswinds Marsh Wetlands Interpretive Preserve, 27600 Haggerty Road, Sumpter Township.

Crosswinds Marsh is one of the largest and most successful wetland mitigation projects in the country. The 1000-acre nature preserve is maintained by Wayne County Parks under an agreement with the Airport Authority, making this the ideal location for this collaboration.

“Through our airport sustainability program, we consistently work to minimize our impact on the environment,” said Airport Authority CEO Thomas Naughton. “Our Arbor Day event is an opportunity to enhance conditions at Crosswinds Marsh which will benefit our air, water and community for future generations. We’re pleased to partner with Wayne County Parks, Davey Tree and two local schools for such an important initiative.”

“Arbor Day is a great opportunity to highlight the important role nature plays in improving our quality of life,” said Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans. “Our partnership with Davey Tree and the Detroit Metropolitan Airport to plant trees at

Crosswinds Marsh, not only provides local students an excellent learning experience in how to be good stewards of the environment, it also enhances the experiences of those who visit Crosswinds Marsh.”

Davey Tree will use its specialized equipment to plant large trees at Crosswinds Marsh and dig holes for the smaller trees. The company also will donate gloves and tools for planting, as well as provide literature about the importance of tree planting. The ninth graders will receive a shirt and bracelet for participating.

New picnic tables will also be installed as part of the Arbor Day festivities.

Representatives from DTW, Wayne County Parks and Davey Tree will participate in a brief program beginning at 9:30 a.m. At 9:45 a.m., students will rotate between five learning stations, followed by planting. After lunch, students will explore the park on a nature hike. Although the event is not open to the public, the park will remain open throughout the day for visitors to enjoy.

Hundreds of species of birds, fish and mammals can be spotted at Crosswinds Marsh including bald eagles, egrets, herons, muskrats, fox, coyote and whitetail deer. The park features boardwalks, hiking trails and equestrian trails.

Construction of Crosswinds Marsh began in 1991 to mitigate wetlands that would soon be disturbed at DTW during major capital improvements, including a new crosswind runway, a runway extension, a new air traffic control tower, a new access road, the McNamara Terminal and other infrastructure improvements. Soil was excavated, drains were redirected and thousands of wetland plants, such as marsh marigolds, hairy asters and water lilies were established as part of the Marsh construction. The Marsh opened as a public park in 1997 operated by Wayne County.

When Wayne County Airport Authority was established as an independent agency in 2002, it assumed the County’s obligations related to Detroit Metropolitan Airport, Willow Run Airport and Crosswinds Marsh.

Detroit Metropolitan Airport was honored with several awards for the construction of Crosswinds Marsh including the 1999 *Environmental Achievement Award* from Airports Council International-North America.

Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) welcomed more than 33 million passengers in 2015 and is one of the world’s leading air transportation hubs. With service from 13 scheduled passenger airlines, Michigan’s largest airport offers more than 1,100 flights per day to and from more than 140 non-stop destinations on four continents. With two award-winning passenger terminals, six jet runways, and an onsite AAA Four-Diamond Westin Hotel, DTW is among the world’s most efficient, customer friendly and operationally capable airports in North America. DTW is operated by

Wayne County Airport Authority, which also operates nearby **Willow Run Airport** – an important corporate, cargo and general aviation facility. **The Airport Authority is entirely self-sustaining and does not receive tax dollars to support airport operations.** Visit www.metroairport.com for more information.

Wayne County Parks is a division of the **Wayne County Department of Public Services** with the purpose of enhancing the quality of life for families and citizens of the 43 communities of Wayne County. We maintain 5,600 acres of parkland and operate 35 parks, two golf courses, and the **Wayne County Family Aquatic Center**. Wayne County Parks holds dozens of educational and recreational events all year long including field trips, nature walks, and host classic annual events such as the Marshmallow Drops at **Nankin Mills** and **Elizabeth Park**, New Country on the River, and Jazz on the River. Wayne County is committed to offering the best park experiences for families to enjoy. For more information about **Wayne County Parks**, please call (734) 261-1990 or visit www.parks.waynecounty.com.

The Davey Tree Expert Company's more than 8,600 employees provide tree care, grounds maintenance and environmental consulting services for the residential, utility, commercial and government markets throughout the U.S. and Canada. Davey has provided Proven Solutions for a Growing World since 1880 and has been employee-owned for 37 years. For more information, visit www.davey.com.

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