



## White Plains Beautification Foundation, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### IT'S SPRING!

It's spring by the calendar, at least, and White Plains Beautification Foundation was happy to see that the golden daffodils planted the last two years survived all the mishaps of Mother Nature and her polar vortex. Neither wind nor snow did much to stunt their growth.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of its incorporation, WPBF has planted more than 30,000 Dutch daffodil bulbs in the past two years.

A prime location is along Westchester Avenue by Franklin Avenue where a wave of yellow greets passersby in cars and bench-sitters in front of nearby apartments. Some viewers drive around the park several times, continuing on one-way Westchester Avenue and turning left at the traffic light before Lake Street, then left on North Broadway, thereby circling the entire park. A more natural setting can be seen by the Orchard Street reservoir.

When the daffodils fade, it's reassuring to know that they will bloom again, year after year, and they will spread via a little underground magic. But there is more above-the-ground magic to follow, as Dutch tulips begin popping up everywhere. At the northern end of the park is a fine display, which WPBF began planting, with the help of Girl Scouts and other children, more than 40 years ago. Professionally tended now, it is part of the organization's Adopt-a-Park program, thanks to the generosity of The Syd & Jan M. Silverman Foundation, which has "adopted" the garden.

As April winds die down and springtime becomes reality, a spectacular event occurs with the bursting of cherry tree blossoms. A project of WPBF 46 years ago, the first trees were planted in the median of outer Mamaroneck Avenue as memorials funded by White Plains residents and others. A boulder with a brass plaque listing all the names stands near the playground entrance of Gillie Park on Gedney Way.

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More cherry trees were planted in downtown Tibbits Park, creating a magnificent entrance to downtown. Those trees were the inspiration for the annual Japanese cherry blossom festival, to be held in Turnure Park on Lake Street May 1. Most of these newer cherry trees were planted by the city, who caught the cherry fever from WPBF and ran with it. As a result, the city is at its cherry pink best when these trees bloom. Worth a special drive-around or walk-around excursion. The festival features activities, entertainment, food and music – a splendid family outing.

WPBF has created many projects throughout Tibbits Park: many garden spots with nearby seating areas – imported British teak benches, a gazebo, a 14-foot street clock, two fountains, a summerhouse, and trees. All projects are made possible by public support.

For more information, go to [www.wpbf.org](http://www.wpbf.org).

**About White Plains Beautification Foundation:** Incorporated in 1965, after its start in 1952 as a small committee, WPBF is a not-for-profit organization, whose many projects include extensive tree-planting, establishing 60-plus gardens, building two fountains, a summerhouse and gazebo. WPBF has also provided two street clocks and over 90 teakwood benches throughout city parks. It receives no government funding and relies solely on business and individual donations. It also provides water and maintenance of gardens through its Adopt-a-Park program, supported by individuals and commercial enterprises. Its structure consists of a board of directors and a group of associate volunteers. Those wishing to attend monthly meetings and learn more about becoming involved are most welcome. White Plains residency is not a requirement.

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