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Available: Images, Interviews

SPRING WILL BE IN SEASON AT MILLENNIUM PARK!

MORE THAN 80,000 TULIP, ALLIUM AND DAFFODIL BULBS PLANTED IN THE PARK LAST FALL WILL BLOOM FROM LATE MARCH THROUGH LATE MAY

In September 2006 the International Flower Bulb Center donated more than 80,000 bulbs to Millennium Park. The bulbs will bloom for the first time in the spring of 2007. In years to come, they are expected to bloom annually along with the park's existing varieties of perennials.

The bulbs represent more than 30 varieties, including tulips, daffodils and alliums. Approximately 60,000 of the bulbs were planted in the Lurie Garden, while the rest were planted near Cloud Gate, in the Boeing Galleries, and at Wrigley Square.

The bulbs will bloom gradually, beginning in late-March through late-May. Each bulb flowers for approximately two weeks, providing a steady stream of color in the Park during the spring months. The peak time to view the bulbs will be in late-April through mid-May.

The bulbs were planted in the park from September 24-27, 2006 by a team of Master Gardener and Chicago High School for the Agricultural Sciences volunteers under the direction of Lurie Garden plantsman **Piet Oudolf**, Dutch landscape designer **Jacqueline van der Kloet**, and **Frans Roozen**, technical director of the International Flower Bulb Center. The bulb combinations were designed by van der Kloet to complement Oudolf's perennial plant design for the Lurie Garden.

The International Flower Bulb Center is the promotional and technical support organization for the Dutch flower bulb sector. The Center has offices in nearly a dozen countries around the world, from Europe and North America to China and Japan

RELATED ACTIVITIES

From 10AM until 2PM on Sunday, April 22 and Sunday, May 6, volunteer Master Gardeners will be present in the Lurie Garden to provide information about Dutch bulb expert Jacqueline van der Kloet's design, as well as tips on how to use bulbs in combination with perennials.

Weekly tours of the Lurie Garden will resume for 2007 on Sunday, May 13. The free 20-minute guided tours will take place from 10am – 1pm each Sunday through September 30. Hosted by volunteer Master Gardeners, the tours will offer guests the opportunity to learn more about the Garden's plants, its Chicago symbolism, and which perennials can easily be grown in home gardens.

About the Lurie Garden

Designed by Gustafson Guthrie Nichol Ltd., Piet Oudolf and Robert Israel, the 2.5-acre Lurie Garden pays homage to the City's motto, "Urbs in Horto" (City in a Garden), which refers to Chicago's transformation from its flat and marshy origins to a bold and powerful city. Highlights of the Garden include the dramatically lit, 15-foot-high Shoulder Hedge. This physical representation of Sandburg's famous description of the "City of Big Shoulders" encloses the Garden on two sides and protects the delicate perennial garden. A graceful hardwood footbridge over shallow water divides the Garden diagonally between "light" and "dark" plates.

About Millennium Park

Located in downtown Chicago on Michigan Avenue between Randolph and Monroe Streets, the **24.5-acre Millennium Park** is an unprecedented center for world-class art, music, architecture and landscape design. In addition to the Lurie Garden, the park's prominent features include the Frank Gehry-designed Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of its kind in the United States; the interactive Crown Fountain by Jaume Plensa; and Anish Kapoor's hugely popular Cloud Gate sculpture.

For more information about Millennium Park or the Lurie Garden, please visit www.millenniumpark.org or call 312-742-1168.

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