



Community leaders to help plant urban "cherry blossom trail"

Former Governor Taft, Mayor Whaley, DP&L CEO Raga to attend

Release Date: Friday, May 1, 2017

Former Governor Bob Taft, Mayor Nan Whaley and DP&L President and CEO Tom Raga will participate in a tree planting ceremony on Monday, May 1, that will help establish an urban "cherry blossom trail" alongside the Great Miami River near downtown Dayton.

The cherry tree planting ceremony will take place at the Dayton Cultural and RTA Center (40 S. Edwin C. Moses Blvd.), at 11 a.m. When complete, the cherry blossom trail will connect two historic and popular landmarks, the Dayton Art Institute and Carillon Historical Park, with hundreds of cherry trees. The planting is part of the regional celebration of Arbor Day (April 28).

The 100 trees planted in the Gateway Park area were granted to the City of Dayton through a grant from Operation 1000 Cherry Tree Project, a non-profit initiative that has coordinated planting cherry trees in the Dayton area for several years. Former Governor Taft is the group's honorary chairperson.

Dayton Power & Light provided all the funding for the trees being planted through this grant. DP&L, through its Right Tree Right Place program, is promoting and providing utility-friendly plants in its service area.

"DP&L is committed to protecting the environment and educating our customers by encouraging smart and safe tree planting in the Miami Valley. We welcomed the opportunity to partner with the City of Dayton and Operation 1000 Cherry Tree Project in beautifying the Dayton landscape and adding to the tree canopy with the same utility-friendly Japanese cherry trees that line the streets of our nation's capital," said Tom Raga, president and CEO of DP&L. "It is our pleasure to sponsor the 'cherry blossom trail' that now connects two historic places in Dayton."

The City of Dayton Department of Public Works is responsible for planting the trees and ongoing maintenance and care.

"We are thrilled to add these beautiful trees to Dayton's urban landscape and very grateful for the efforts and generosity of DP&L and Operation 1000 Cherry Tree Project," said Mayor Nan Whaley. "The trees are one more addition to a quickly evolving urban environment that is improving every day in Dayton."

#

