

NEWS RELEASE

May 4, 2016 – For Immediate Release

National ‘Kids to Parks Day’ is May 21

Free family-friendly activities offered at Eagle Point Park

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque has joined the National Park Trust and communities across the country in proclaiming Saturday, May 21, 2016, as the sixth annual national “Kids to Parks Day.” In coordination with the occasion, free family-friendly activities will be offered at Dubuque’s Eagle Point Park, 2601 Shiras Ave.

On Saturday, May 21, all vehicle entrance/admission fees to Eagle Point Park will be waived. Free Jule transit shuttle service will be offered from the Intermodal Center (950 Elm St.) to Eagle Point Park from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. that day. Live entertainment is scheduled from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and yard games will be available for families to borrow during that time. Eagle Point Park is open from 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. on Saturday.

The public is also invited to attend a brief dedication ceremony at 10:30 a.m. at the park’s bridge complex for the newly restored mini-pavilion that was vandalized in November 2013. Thanks to numerous volunteers and the HEART Program, the damaged structures were repaired and the park is ready to welcome visitors for another season.

Opportunities to celebrate Kids to Parks Day are numerous in the Dubuque area. The City of Dubuque offers 50 parks covering 1,209 acres and features trails, tennis, picnicking, fishing, skateboarding, in line hockey, softball and baseball, playgrounds, disc golf, golf, camping, and much more. The Dubuque County Conservation Board manages 16 parks, preserves and recreation areas encompassing over 2,293 acres. The Mines of Spain Recreation Area and E.B. Lyons Interpretive and Nature Center are located on 1,447 acres of wooded and prairie land and are managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

“The premise is simple — have adults take a child in their life to a park,” said Marie Ware, Leisure Services Manager for the City of Dubuque. “Hike a trail, play on a playground, have a pickup game of ball, visit a historic site, go canoeing or fishing—do something active outdoors.”

According to the National Park Trust, “once upon a time, kids ran freely outside, played in creeks, caught bugs and enjoyed nature. However, today many children are not connected to the outdoors in the same way.” Attendance at America's parks and forests has declined steadily each year since the late 1980s. The “Buddy Bison” mascot was developed to inspire kids, families, schools and groups to get outside and share their American park experience. Youngsters can, with the help of an adult, visit the National Kids to Parks Day website at www.kidstoparks.org to learn about Buddy Bison and take a pledge in advance of Kids to Parks Day. The site also offers additional resources for parents and teachers.

For more information on Dubuque parks, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/parks or call 563-589-4263.

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