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CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
SUE BLACK, DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

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Contact: Jeff Baudry  
(414) 257 - 4575

*For Immediate Release:*

**DRAFT**

## **James W. Beckum Park Undergoes Renovations with Ceremony April 26**

Chevrolet designates funds for park improvements; Milwaukee County Parks, Milwaukee Brewers, WDNR and City of Milwaukee will also plant 30 trees in Park from the Root, Root, Root for the Brewers Campaign

(Milwaukee, WI) – Milwaukee County Parks has announced a ribbon cutting ceremony at the newly named James W. Beckum Park, 911 W. Brown St., on Thursday, April 26 at 10 am in celebration of the donations and funding put in place by national, statewide and local organizations.

Nationally, Chevrolet began the Diamonds and Dreams program in 2010 to help provide young ball players with an opportunity to play on a “dream” baseball field in their hometown. At the 82<sup>nd</sup> annual All-Star Game in 2011, as an extension of Diamonds and Dreams, Chevrolet announced that as MVP of the game, Prince Fielder would be able to select an organization that could put the donation toward improvements of inner city youth baseball fields. Prince Fielder, while working with the Brewers Community Foundation, selected Milwaukee County Parks as the recipient.

“From back yards to the big leagues, Chevrolet is committed to community, youth baseball and giving back to where our customers live, work and play,” said Phil Caruso, Chevrolet national promotions manager.

Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele stated, “This gift from Chevrolet is one that will truly keep giving and we are gracious that Milwaukee was selected as the recipient for improved playing conditions for our youth”.

Milwaukee County Parks, with the guidance of the Brewers Community Foundation submitted several park location options to Chevrolet where this money could be used for field improvements. James W. Beckum Park was selected because of the immediate impact it would have in field improvements for the Beckum-Stapleton Little League which has been in existence since 1964.

In addition, Milwaukee County Parks in partnership with the Milwaukee Brewers, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the City of Milwaukee will plant 30 trees in the park to commemorate Arbor Day and coincide with the improvements that are taking place with the Chevrolet donation. The tree plantings are part of the Root, Root, Root for the Brewers campaign that donated 150

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**ADDRESS**

9480 Watertown Plank Road  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-3560

**PHONE/FAX**

ph: **414 / 257 PARK** (7275)  
fax: 414 / 257 6466

**EMAIL**

parks@milwcnty.com

**WEBSITE**

[countyparks.com](http://countyparks.com)

trees in 2012 to be planted in communities that surround Miller Park. The campaign, invests in one tree for every projected 20,000 tickets.

Sue Black, Director of Milwaukee County Parks, said, “We are thrilled to have all these organizations pull together for the common goal of raising the bar for our youth athletic programs. Mr. Beckum has done a fantastic job over the years in teaching, grooming and instructing our youth not just about baseball, but about lifelong lessons.”

A portion of Carver Park that is north of Brown St was renamed James W. Beckum Park in March of 2012 in honor of all the hard work and success Mr. James Beckum has provided to the park since creating the Beckum-Stapleton Little League back in 1964. The community and the surrounding area have all benefited from the efforts of Mr. Beckum and his leagues for inner city youth by holding true to his mantra and mission “To promote, develop, supervise and voluntarily assist in all and lawful ways, the interest of those who will participate in Little League and Softball.”

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