

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Robertson Park Going “Green”
Organic Turf Care Program to be Demonstration Project

Twinsburg Township, Summit County, Ohio – May 6, 2011 – The Board of Twinsburg Township Trustees is staking out a leading role in environmental stewardship by embarking on an innovative organic turf care program at A.W. Robertson Park, located at the intersection of Twinsburg Road, Katz Road, Timber Avenue, and Lynn Drive.

Following years of declining turf and soil quality in Robertson Park, the Township was faced with the prospect of possible full turf replacement. After investigating numerous alternatives in conjunction with Township consulting forester Jason Knowles of Knowles Municipal Forestry, a partnership was forged with Alec McClennan of Good Nature Organic Lawn Care, to undertake a three-year program of organic fertilizer, turf rejuvenation, and “micro-clover” applications. While the program has been tailored to the specific needs of Robertson Park, it will also be monitored for demonstration purposes and possible expanded use on other Township properties.

According to Good Nature, chemical fertilizers contain salts that damage soil and make turf more susceptible to insect, weed, and disease problems. This necessitates the use of toxic insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides, which further damages soil. Intended to break the destructive cycle of chemical fertilizers and chemical pesticides, organic fertilizers include naturally-occurring fertilizers (e.g., peat moss or green manure) or naturally-occurring mineral deposits (e.g., saltpeter). Organic fertilizers are proteins that are broken down by soil organisms which convert them into useable plant nutrients. Fertilizing organically feeds the beneficial soil organisms and leads to a turf that is less susceptible to weeds, insects, and disease.

Micro-clover (*Trifolium repens* “Pipolina”) is a variety of clover developed in Denmark that is a fraction of the size of traditional clover. With Robertson Park’s fairly shaded setting and mix of older grass varieties, micro-clover will be a good fit because once it is well established it will help reduce fertilization costs and fight weeds ... naturally.

Robertson Park measures 2.29 acres in size and was deeded to the Township in the late 1950’s by developers of the adjacent Mar-Well Estates Allotment. The Park was named in the late 1960’s after Alvin W. Robertson, a Township resident who lost his life in the Vietnam War. Robertson Park is the centerpiece of a growing community park (100+ acres and counting), having inspired numerous nearby land purchases by the Township beginning in 2005, with assistance from various grant sources. The Township installed a paved path and parking area in the Park in 2007, with other improvements including a gazebo and picnic tables. The Township installed playground equipment north of Katz Road in late 2008. The Township Service Department installed a wood-chip trail north of the Park in 2010. A five-year tree plan for Robertson Park was completed in 2009, with 2011 marking the third year of tree-related Park improvements. On-street parking is available on Katz Road north of Robertson Park.

About Good Nature

Alec McClennan started Good Nature Organic Lawn Care in 1999 with an old Subaru hatchback, a few willing clients, and a dream ... to provide a safer way to care for our lawns. Today Good Nature is proud to serve thousands of great clients who enjoy healthier, heartier, more robust lawns that are resistant to weeds and extremely friendly to children, pets, and our environment. More information can be found at www.whygoodnature.com.

About Twinsburg Township

Twinsburg Township was founded in 1817, had a population of 2,828 in 2010, and will soon celebrate its bicentennial with great pride. The Township is home to an unparalleled combination of rich history, abundant natural resources, outstanding parks, well-planned neighborhoods, thriving businesses, and top-notch institutions. Whether you're looking for a great place to live or do business, or just a spot to spend a quiet afternoon, you'll find it all right here in Twinsburg Township. So stop by and see us sometime, and if you can't make it in person, please check out www.twinsburgtwp.com to get a glimpse of all that Twinsburg Township has to offer. For more information, contact Robert S. Kagler, Township Manager, via telephone at (330) 425-4497 or via e-mail at rkagler@twinsburgtwp.com.

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