



# News Release

For release: Immediately  
Date: Jan. 31, 2018

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## **Tulip Time 2018: 100,000 tulips in three locations plus two special events usher in spring in Shawnee County**

TOPEKA, KAN. – Tulip Time 2018 is set for April 6-23. The event features more than 100,000 tulips in Shawnee County Parks + Recreation's three featured gardens – Ted Ensley Gardens at Lake Shawnee, Old Prairie Town/Ward-Meade Botanical Garden and Doran Rock Garden and surrounding areas in Gage Park.

There are two special events in addition to regular self-guided tours through the gardens. Tulips at Twilight was a hit in its first year last year with more than 40,000 tulips illuminated by candle light and lighted displays. This year features more than 30 lighted displays including 15-foot tall illuminated tulips and larger-than-life illuminated flowers along candlelit pathways. Patrons may enjoy live music and Old Prairie Town building tours on Friday and Saturday evenings. Tulips at Twilight is set for 6-10 p.m. April 6-15. Admission is a \$5 donation with children five and under free.

Tulip Time Festival the Lake is back for a fourth year at Ted Ensley Gardens at Lake Shawnee. The event is from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. April 8. The back-to-back events give out-of-town guests reason to spend a weekend in the capitol city. A \$5 donation is suggested for the day which features classic cars, food trucks, photography and musical performances.

Tulip Time has been attended in the past by people from 86 cities in 30 states, as well as visitors from the United Kingdom, India, Russia, Australia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Tulip Time is an annual destination popular with everyone from area residents to out-of-state visitors on bus tours. A \$5 donation is suggested at Ted Ensley Gardens and Old Prairie Town/Ward-Meade Botanical Garden to help cover the cost of the event and enable Tulip Time to continue in future years. Guided tours for groups of 15 or more with advance reservations are available at Ted Ensley Gardens (785) 251-6800 and Old Prairie Town/Ward-Meade Botanical Garden (785) 251-6989.

Tulip Time began nearly 30 years ago in the home gardens of Jerold and Joan Binkley. Mr. Binkley desired to create an ongoing and beautiful countywide event with Tulip Time. Today the event draws visitors from around the nation.

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Following the blooming season for the tulips, the bulbs are removed from the gardens and sold to the public. The dates for the sale are contingent upon when the tulips bloom this year.

Tulip Time is a combined effort of Friends of Ted Ensley Gardens, Friends of Ward-Meade, the Shawnee County Parks and Recreation Foundation, Shawnee County Parks + Recreation and Visit Topeka.

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Shawnee County Parks + Recreation includes more than 50 miles of trails, 2,625 acres of parks and 320 annual days of sporting activities. In addition, the department offers recreation programs, educational programs and golf. A combination of tax dollars, user fees and private donations enables Shawnee County Parks and Recreation to offer parks, sporting and aquatic facilities with state-of-the-art features, and beautiful, nationally recognized gardens.

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