

Press Release



Contact: Keep Akron Beautiful
Helen Dauka, Communications
& Volunteer Project Manager
330-375-2116/hdauka@akronohio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Keep Akron Beautiful Wins \$10,000 Lowe's Community Improvement Grant

Revitalization of Elaine Evan's Memorial Children's Garden Scheduled for Fall 2017

Akron, Ohio (August 23, 2017) – This fall, Keep Akron Beautiful will revitalize the Elaine Evans' Memorial Children's Garden located on Summit Lake with the help of a \$10,000 grant as part of the 2017 Keep America Beautiful/ Lowe's Community Partners Grant Program. The Children's Garden was installed by Let's Grow Akron (LGA) in 1997 by founder, Elaine Evans with the help of Keep Akron Beautiful who helped eradicate a huge illegal dumpsite, making room for the installation of a man-made stream, a canal boat replica, an arbor and several flowerbeds. Twenty years after its installation, Keep Akron Beautiful identified a need to return to the site to help address the illegal dumping and drug related issues that affect the surrounding community at Summit Lake.

Keep Akron Beautiful will work with many community partners and organizations during this project which will take place over multiple days throughout the 2017 fall season. Maintenance to the road and new lighting has already been completed by the City of Akron, making the park more accessible and safer for pedestrians and cyclists. The Lowe's Heroes team from the Fairlawn Store, under the leadership of Manager, Gary Sutor, will repair the canal boat replica. Advanced Arboriculture will assist with tree removal and trimming. Staff and volunteers from LGA will work with volunteers to help to eradicate overgrown shrubbery and install new landscaping. LGA CEO, Lisa Nunn has worked alongside the KAB team throughout the planning process to ensure the plant selection and changes to the park stay true to both Elaine Evans vision of the Children's Garden and with the current goals of LGA.

"Lowe's has been empowering our national network of affiliates with significant Lowe's Community Partners Grants for years, helping Keep America Beautiful turn public spaces into beautiful places," said Helen Lowman, president and CEO of Keep America Beautiful. "We believe everyone has a right to live in a clean, green and beautiful community, and Lowe's is taking responsibility to contribute to our vision." Through support of Lowe's, community partners and volunteers, Keep Akron Beautiful will help to transform an isolated, unsafe area which attracts crime and illegal dumping into a safe space for the community to explore and enjoy the environment.

###