



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

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RESCUED TREES BRANCH OUT AT O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Trees planted for Earth Day and "Trees Across America" project

CHICAGO – The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) today helped recognize and raise awareness of Earth Day by re-planting five, fully mature trees near the welcome entry sign along westbound I-190 at O'Hare International Airport. Today's planting continued the CDA's months-long effort to transplant more than 75 full-grown trees rescued from land immediately southwest of the airport.

"This project is one of the many sustainable initiatives underway at O'Hare and Midway International Airports, and a great example of how we are realizing Mayor Richard M. Daley's vision to make Chicago the greenest city in the country," said CDA Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino. "We look forward to the benefits the newly-planted trees will provide to the airport landscape."

The newly-transplanted trees will provide shade to reduce the ambient temperature in and around the airport, absorb storm water to reduce run-off and soil erosion, help remove pollutants from the air and provide oxygen while absorbing carbon dioxide.

Also as part of the Earth Day activities, the CDA, in conjunction with the United States Air Force, participated in the "Trees Across America" campaign in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day. The Air Force is coordinating the planting of 40 trees at former and current Air Force bases across the country and in numerous communities across the U.S.

One of the CDA rescued trees was planted at O'Hare earlier this week by CDA employee Lt. Col. Duane Hayden, a former member of the 126th Air Refueling Wing that was originally stationed at O'Hare. The unit has since relocated to Scott Air Force Base near Belleville, IL. Hayden is also a veteran of Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Since November 2009, the CDA has rescued more than 75 trees from the demolition sites acquired by the City of Chicago in the Village of Bensenville for the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP). Most of the trees were stored over the winter and were re-planted this Spring at various sites and locations on the grounds at O'Hare International Airport.

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The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O'Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago's airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit www.flychicago.com to learn more about the Chicago Department of Aviation.

The CDA continues to incorporate and expand sustainable initiatives for airport planning, operations and maintenance, concessions and tenants in accordance with the CDA Sustainable Airport Manual (SAM), released in August 2009. To view case studies, lessons learned and new technologies, and for more information on the SAM, please visit www.airportsgoinggreen.org.

The O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP), introduced by Mayor Richard M. Daley in June 2001, transforms O'Hare's airfield from an outdated system of intersecting runways into a modern parallel runway configuration. The program will reduce overall delays at the Airport by 79 percent, and bad weather delays by 95 percent. It will create 195,000 new jobs and \$18 billion in additional economic activity each year. Please visit www.oharemodernization.org to learn more about the OMP.

- More -

TREES/page two

Editor's note: Pictures from the Earth Day and "Trees Across America" tree plantings at O'Hare International Airport are attached.



Photo 1 caption: Landscapers at O'Hare International Airport re-planted five, fully mature trees near the welcome entry sign along westbound I-190 at O'Hare International Airport. Today's Earth Day planting continued the Chicago Department of Aviation's months-long effort to transplant more than 75 full-grown trees rescued from land immediately southwest of the airport.

TREES/page three



Photo 2 caption: Landscapers at O'Hare International Airport re-planted five, fully mature trees near the welcome entry sign along westbound I-190 at O'Hare International Airport. Today's Earth Day planting continued the Chicago Department of Aviation's months-long effort to transplant more than 75 full-grown trees rescued from land immediately southwest of the airport.

TREES/page three



TREES/page four

Photo 3 caption: Chicago Department of Aviation employee Lt. Col. Duane Hayden, re-planted a tree rescued from land immediately southwest of the airport. Hayden's participation in the CDA's Earth Day activities, was in conjunction with the United States Air Force "Trees Across America" campaign. The USAF is coordinating the planting of 40 trees at former and current Air Force bases across the country and in numerous communities across the U.S. Hayden is a former member of the 126th Air Refueling Wing that was originally stationed at O'Hare. The unit has since relocated to Scott Air Force Base near Belleville, IL.

Photos: Courtesy of the Chicago Department of Aviation