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## Press Release

**For Release on September 13, 2006**

### **RETURN TO PARADISE**

Delhi Township will officially open their Floral Paradise Gardens on Saturday, September 16 at 9:30 a.m. This new outdoor area is designed to provide residents with a relaxing, colorful setting that pays tribute to the floral community that helped Delhi earn the nickname of The Floral Paradise of Ohio.

The Floral Paradise Gardens has been a labor of love for many businesses, volunteers and Township personnel for more than a year. Located on more than two acres at 461 Greenwell Avenue, site of the former Rutenschroer and Steinbach Nurseries, this area has undergone an extensive transformation in recent months.

In the fall of 2005 construction began with the installation of a greenhouse designed to grow from seedlings many of the plants that will eventually be transplanted to beautify various Township buildings and parks areas as well as to educate visitors on various aspects of growing plants and flowers.

Throughout the winter months, businesses, garden clubs and various other volunteers were hard at work designing the seventeen garden spaces that surround the greenhouse. As spring began, so did the planting of these gardens by the various groups in accordance with the theme each had chosen.

There is a butterfly garden, an herb garden, a children's garden designed with plants named after farm animals, backyard garden themes, perennial of the year garden, a garden theme named "A River Runs Through It" and several other garden themes. Each of the gardens is linked together by a series of paths that also connects to an existing walking trail within Delhi Park which is adjacent to the Floral Paradise Gardens.

Following the opening ceremony the Floral Paradise Gardens will be open to the public daily from dawn to dusk while additional development continues. Signage and a timeline will be installed throughout the paths surrounding the individual gardens designed to highlight the history of the Delhi floral industry from the early 1920's to current times. A raised bed garden for those with special physical needs and the creation of a 4H horticultural program and a Junior Master Gardener's club in partnership with Ohio State University extension office are also planned.

Park personnel and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and also provide guided tours throughout the day on September 16.

For additional information, including the availability of a garden space or to volunteer in the ongoing upkeep of the Floral Paradise Gardens, please contact Delhi Township Parks and Recreation department at 513-451-3300.

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