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News Release: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREAT PARKS ADDS COLLECTION DAYS FOR HOLIDAY LIGHTS RECYCLING PROGRAM

Great Parks and Cohen Recycling are adding extra days to the collection period for the annual holiday lights recycling program, which will now continue from turkey day to Groundhog Day during the 2026-2027 season. Residents are invited to drop off old, broken and worn-out holiday lights at designated Great Parks locations between Thanksgiving Day on Nov. 26, 2026, and Groundhog Day on Feb. 2, 2027.

“Weather is a big factor when people are working with their holiday lights, so adding time to our collection period should bring more good weather days, which will help us send more of these old broken light strands for recycling instead of going to the landfill,” said Stephanie Bacher, sustainability coordinator for Great Parks.

By keeping the lights away from landfills, the recycling program also diverts toxic materials away from soil and groundwater. The holiday lights recycling program is a highlight toward Great Parks’ goal to be a recognized leader in conservation.

Since the program’s inaugural year in 2014, Great Parks, Cohen Recycling and residents have recycled 54 tons of holiday lights.

Residents can drop off holiday lights for recycling in specially marked barrels at these Great Parks sites:

- Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve – Ellenwood Nature Barn
- Glenwood Gardens – Gatehouse
- Miami Whitewater Forest – Visitor Center
- Sharon Woods – Sharon Center
- Winton Woods – Winton Center, both front and side lobbies
- Woodland Mound – Breezy Point Pavilion.

Great Parks and Cohen Recycling will accept LED and traditional string lights. Guests should place the lights and their strands directly into the recycling barrels. They should not leave

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behind bags, boxes or any other materials used to transport the lights. This program is for holiday lights only, and materials that are not holiday lights cannot be accepted.

Last year's collection period for the holiday lights recycling program ran from Dec. 1, 2025, through Feb. 1, 2026.

(Note: Valid Motor Vehicle Permits are required for every vehicle entering Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve, Glenwood Gardens, Miami Whitewater Forest, Sharon Woods, Winton Woods and Woodland Mound. Information about purchasing MVPs, and accessing free or discounted MVPs, is available at greatparks.org.)

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