

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Windmill Island Gardens Extends a Record-Setting Year**

Holland, MI - One of Holland's main attractions is celebrating another banner year in 2023. After welcoming a record number of visitors through the spring, summer and fall, Windmill Island Gardens will open for weekends through mid-October and bring back the popular Magic at the Mill holiday light event in December.

Once again, thousands of guests visited the windmill, gardens and Dutch attractions at the city-owned heritage park. Home to the historic working Dutch windmill De Zwaan, the park welcomed over 140,000 guests for the second year in a row and second time in its history. Visitor numbers surpassed record 2022 counts this month and will continue to grow as the park will remain open 7 days a week through Sunday, October 1, and selected days beyond that.

Development Manager Matt Helmus attributes the park's continued success to a hard-working staff that provides a friendly Dutch 'welkom' to guests during May's popular Tulip Time festival and throughout the summer. "After catching our breath from a record-breaking Tulip Time, our staff focused on keeping the park looking wonderful throughout the summer and fall. It's great when hard work pays off with record numbers", remarked Helmus. He estimates final visitor counts will end up somewhere around 145,000 for the year.

To keep that number edging higher, the park will open on selected days through mid-October. After October 1, the park will be open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through October 15 at a reduced admission of \$5 for adults and free for kids under 15. Additionally, the park will feature an Artisan Market as part of Holland's Fall Fest on October 6 and 7. Hours of the market will be noon to 5pm on Friday and 10am to 5pm on Saturday. Hayrides will also be available Saturday from 11am to 4pm for \$1 per ride.

Along with planting tulip bulbs this fall, staff will be busy preparing for the second annual Magic at the Mill holiday light event. Guests will be able to enjoy thousands of Christmas lights on Friday and Saturday nights from December 1 through 16. The event, which drew around 9,000 visitors in its inaugural year, features a 'tulip field' of 1,000 LED blossoms displaying a light and music show along with visits from Sinterklaas, holiday music on the Amsterdam street organ, Dutch-style holiday food, kids activities and plenty of photo opportunities. Due to large crowds, tickets are designated for specific dates and times and must be purchased in advance. Prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids. Public ticket sales open on November 1 at [magic.windmillisland.com](http://magic.windmillisland.com). Staff recommends getting tickets early as sellouts are expected once again, even with an increased capacity.

More information on these events and more can be found at [windmillisland.com](http://windmillisland.com).

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**About Windmill Island Gardens:** Windmill Island Gardens offers a small slice of the Netherlands in West Michigan. The park features tours of 'de Zwaan' – America's only authentic, working Dutch windmill. Other highlights include an Amsterdam street organ and children's carousel among many Dutch replica buildings and exhibits. During Tulip Time in May, visitors can delight in 100,000+ tulips in beds and fields. A proud member of the American Public Garden Association and American Horticultural Society, the Island is transformed each summer with a beautiful display of annuals and perennials found in themed beds and throughout the landscape. Visitors can enjoy it all from mid-April to early October each year.