



## Giving Program

### Contact Information:

Kelly Abrahamson  
Toro Giving Program  
952-887-8960  
[kelly.abrahamson@toro.com](mailto:kelly.abrahamson@toro.com)

Chris Iles  
Minnesota Twins Baseball Club  
612-659-3503  
[chrisiles@twinsbaseball.com](mailto:chrisiles@twinsbaseball.com)

*For Immediate Release*

## **Toro and Minnesota Twins Team Up to Rebuild Three Sports Fields at North Commons Park in Minneapolis**

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (August 15, 2011) – For the second consecutive year, Bloomington-based Toro, The Minnesota Twins organization, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board joined forces to renovate and rebuild three multi-purpose sports fields at North Commons Park in Minneapolis. On Friday, August 12, approximately 75 volunteers from partnering organizations and the community added safety enhancements and renovated three playing fields.

“The athletic fields at North Commons Park are an essential part of this northside community,” said Jon Olson, Minneapolis Park Board Commissioner. “I’d like to thank the Minnesota Twins and Toro for their generous contributions and their combined efforts to renovate the fields in this popular park. The improvements will be appreciated by the countless players who use the fields and by the entire community.”

Prior to the renovation, one field was unplayable and the other two fields lacked protective fencing. In order to provide this community with safe, high-quality fields, Toro and the Twins committed their time, financial support and leadership. Professional guidance from Larry DiVito, head groundskeeper for the Twins, and Toro’s Certified Sports Field Managers (CSFM), Dale Getz and Boyd Montgomery helped make the project a success. Renovation activities included resetting bases, repairing infield and outfield playing surfaces, installing outfield fencing, and adding protective fencing in front of the players’ benches. The Minnesota Twins mascot, T.C. Bear, was also present to entertain and contribute to the rebuild.

“The Twins are proud to partner with Toro and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to renovate these fields located in the North Minneapolis neighborhood that was devastated by tornados earlier this year,” said Bryan Donaldson, Twins Director of Community Relations. “We’re happy to be able to do this for the kids from North Minneapolis who will use these fields for years to come.”

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board maintains hundreds of multi-purpose neighborhood athletic fields for youth and adult activities, including baseball, softball, soccer, football, rugby, lacrosse and cricket. Toro and the Minnesota Twins donated \$20,000 for this year’s renovation project at North Commons.

“We are proud to part to partner with the Minnesota Twins for a second year on a community enhancement project,” said Judson McNeil, president of The Toro Foundation. “The combination of Toro’s employee volunteers, product, and financial resources enabled us to provide North Commons with three safe playing fields that bring the community together. These renovated fields help promote the importance of recreation, high school baseball and softball.”

### **About The Toro Company**

The Toro Company is a leading worldwide provider of turf and landscape maintenance equipment, and precision irrigation systems. With sales of nearly \$1.7 billion in fiscal 2010, Toro’s global presence extends to more than 80 countries through its reputation of world-class service, innovation and turf expertise. Since 1914, the company has built a tradition of excellence around a number of strong brands to help customers care for golf courses, sports fields, public green spaces, commercial and residential properties, and agricultural fields. The Toro Giving Program is committed to beautifying and preserving outdoor environments, enhancing communities and improving people’s lives. More information is available at [www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com).

**About the Twins Community Fund**

Established as a nonprofit organization in 1991, the mission of the Twins Community Fund is to enrich local and regional communities by providing resources for the healthy development of children and families through and association with baseball, softball and the Minnesota Twins. The Twins Community Fund is governed by a board of directors representative of the Upper Midwest. Target, Treasure Island Resort & Casino, Best Buy, U.S. Bank and Delta Air Lines are Cornerstone Partners; contributing annually to the Twins Community Fund. For more information or to make a contribution, visit [www.twinsbaseball.com/community](http://www.twinsbaseball.com/community).

**About the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board**

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) features 182 park properties totaling 6,743 acres of land and water. An estimated 15.4 million visits are made to Minneapolis regional parks annually, with another five million visits to neighborhood parks. The MPRB maintains 396 neighborhood athletic fields for youth and adult activities, including baseball, softball, soccer, football, rugby, lacrosse and cricket. For more information, visit [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org).

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