

# Tulip Bulb Giveaway

## Garfield Park Conservatory

Thanks for participating in the tulip giveaway this year! The bulbs you are receiving originated in the displays the City of Chicago and Park District planted to bring early color to the streets and parks of Chicago. These flowers bloom early in the spring and have been removed for warmer season plantings, giving us the chance to redistribute the bulbs to you to plant in your garden. Thanks for being a part of this 'recycling of bulbs' and bringing color to all of Chicago!

See the reverse side for some tips on how to plant and store your bulbs.

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## **You have two options when planting your tulip bulbs:**

Plant the already flowered bulbs with stems and leaves attached immediately, as deep as you see the original soil line. They will die back and when the leaves and stems are brown, you can cut the stems with pruners at the soil line. The bulbs will overwinter underground and will bloom in that spot next year! This method results in more blooms.

If you prefer to wait until fall, you can store the bulbs in a dry, cool place over the summer. First, remove the stem by cutting 1 inches above the bulb. Using a breathable container, layer the bulbs with newspaper/peat moss/coco fiber to help wick away moisture. In the fall (about mid-October), you can plant the bulbs as deep as 2 to 3 times the length of the bulb. Your tulips may not flower their first year but instead leaf out to gather energy for flowering the following spring.

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