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Media Release (draft)
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Children & Elders Forest, in cooperation with Bloomington District 87 and Bloomington Parks and Recreation, announces the first phase of Golden Grove, located between Bloomington Junior High School and Bloomington High School.

This first phase of Golden Grove, the fifth grove in Children & Elders Forest, includes 89 trees of 21 species to be planted in a secluded area between Bloomington Junior High and Bloomington High. We will announce a future phase and location by the time of the ceremonial planting of the first phase, which will be Saturday, Nov 15, 9:30 a.m. or Sunday Nov. 16, 1:30 p.m. (*Which will it be?*)

Golden Grove honors the gold of the sun. Seven golden privets in this grove symbolize the sun's bounty for all plants and animals, including the pansy flower that inspired the choosing of Bloomington High's colors of purple and gold. The sun shone on the clover that grew on the Bloomington High property when David Davis owned it and shone on the trees in Blooming Grove that covered the southwest portion of our community while Kickapoo still lived here and when Abraham Lincoln visited the new American town of Bloomington in the 1830s.

In Golden Grove are five indigenous species that have not been in the previous groves—Turtle (2005), Eagle, Winter Hill, and Windrow (2006-2008). These new species are Black Walnut, American Beech, Persimmon, Red Horsechestnut, and Eastern Red Cedar. The signature species in Golden Grove, as in all the other groves, is Bur Oak, which lives to be 300 to 400 years old, older than the United States of America. In autumn the leaves of many of the species will go through a golden phrase.

The superintendent of District 87, Bob Nielsen, the principal of Bloomington High, Tim Moore, the horticulturalist with Bloomington Parks and Recreation, David Lamb, who designed Golden Grove, and others on the team developing this new grove in Children & Elders Forest are enthusiastic about Golden Grove. Here is an opportunity for alumni and friends of Bloomington High to plant a living memorial to their own team members and to make a shining contribution to the learning environment of District 87 young people and their teachers and staff members.