



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Kosciuszko Park Opens in Ohio On Hero's Former Property**

**NEW YORK, May 14, 2012** - The City of Dublin, Ohio has officially opened "Thaddeus Kosciuszko Park" on a portion of the land that was awarded to this Polish-American hero for serving in the Continental Army. The 35-acre park turns along Hard Road from Scioto High School to Riverside Drive.

When local resident Deborah Solove realized that she was living near a portion of Kosciuszko's former lands that had been taken from his estate, she talked with the city's Director of Parks & Open Space, Fred Hahn. Hahn said that he had never heard of Kosciuszko, "So I went down to the Dublin public library and checked out a book called *The Peasant Prince* by this guy named Alex Storozynski and really became fascinated with the life and times of Kosciuszko."

This kicked off a process by the City Council to set aside a portion of this land to be named Thaddeus Kosciuszko Park, which today includes a series of educational signs regarding Thaddeus Kosciuszko, as well as 1.7 miles of trails, fishing ponds and a gazebo.

"Years ago, this land was taken away from Kosciuszko," Solove said. "Now, the city of Dublin gave it back."

Kosciuszko played a pivotal role in the American Revolution and stood up for the rights of African slaves, European peasants, Jews, Native Americans & women. After coming up with the winning strategy for the Battle of Saratoga, Kosciuszko drafted the plans for West Point that Benedict Arnold tried to sell to the British. Kosciuszko left his salary from the Continental Army with Thomas Jefferson and asked that it be used to purchase and free slaves.

To celebrate the new park, the City of Dublin held a celebration of Kosciuszko and Polish food, dancing and music, which included members of the Kosciuszko Foundation's Ohio Chapter, the Columbus Polish Club, the Polish American Cultural Center of Cleveland, and local Polish schools and dance troupes.

### **The Kosciuszko Foundation: The American Center of Polish Culture**

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The community also invited Ohio State University President Gordon Gee who has come under fire for telling Polish jokes. Gee did not show up, even though the university is in Columbus, which borders Dublin. A report last week in the Dayton Daily News found that Gee has spent at least \$840,000 in university funds on travel over the past five years.

"People have come from all over, from Cleveland, Chicago, from Poland and even Australia," Storozynski said in his opening remarks. "It's too bad that Gee did not come, maybe he would have learned something. Maybe it was not in his travel budget."

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Founded in 1925, the Kosciuszko Foundation promotes closer ties between Poland and the United States through educational, scientific and cultural exchanges. It awards up to \$1 million annually in fellowships and grants to graduate students, scholars, scientists, professionals, and artists, and promotes Polish culture in America. The Foundation has awarded scholarships and provided a forum to Poles who have changed history.

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