

Orland Park Named Tree City USA for 23rd Consecutive Year *Arbor Day Foundation Plants, Nurtures and Celebrates Trees*

ORLAND PARK, IL – The Village of Orland Park has been named a Tree City USA community for the twenty-third consecutive year. The Tree City USA Program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

Four criteria had to be met to qualify, including having a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

“Orland Park is honored to again receive this distinction from the Arbor Day Foundation,” said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin. “We’re very proud of the village’s more than two decades of commitment to the environment,” he added.

Orland Park’s 2009 tree initiatives included planting eight large trees at area schools, distributing more than 1400 saplings to local school children and the village’s 50/50 Tree Planting Program, during which residents and the village split the cost of parkway trees.

Parks and Building Maintenance Director Frank Stec oversees Orland Park’s tree programs. “The school kids enjoy it when people from the village visit to observe Arbor Day with them. They get to see a new tree planted at their school and specific grades receive saplings to take home to plant each year,” Stec explained.

John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation added, “We commend Orland Park’s elected officials, volunteers and its citizens for providing vital care for its urban forest.” Rosenow added, “Trees provide numerous environmental, economical and health benefits to millions of people each day, and we applaud communities that make planting and caring for trees a top priority.”

“We’re doing all that we can now to preserve the environment for the generations to come,” McLaughlin said, adding “Giving tree saplings to the school children underscores the importance of trees within a community.”