

Village of Orland Park

NEWSRelease

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Orland Park Receives Governor's Sustainability Award *Only Municipality Among First Time Statewide Winners*

ORLAND PARK, IL – The Village of Orland Park has been named a recipient of the Governor's Sustainability Award for 2009, being lauded for its many green initiatives. Orland Park is the only municipality among the first time state wide award recipients.

Thirty eight Illinois companies and organizations have been honored for protecting the environment, helping to sustain the future and improve the economy. The Governor's Sustainability Awards were presented by the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC), a division of the Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability at the University of Illinois.

“Orland Park receiving this statewide honor gives testament to the community as a whole,” said Mayor Dan McLaughlin. “We are longtime proponents of energy conservation and the community has responded favorably, with residents, businesses and other government entities coming on board to be a part of the village's many programs,” he added.

Since 1987, ISTC has honored Illinois organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence through outstanding and innovative sustainability practices.

Orland Park was lauded for its Open Lands Program, being a Tree City USA Community for 21 years, its LEED Gold Certified Police Station and its most recent community-wide green initiative, Smart Living Orland Park, which debuted on August 4.

Smart Living Orland Park is a comprehensive green initiative for the entire community and is comprised of five components, including Smart Neighborhood, Smart Living, Smart Business, Smart Village and Smart Codes. The five part plan is encompassed within the village's ECOMAP, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Municipal Action Plan.

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ORLAND PARK
GOVERNOR'S SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Orland Park Trustee Patricia Gira chairs the village's Recreation, Parks and Environmental Initiatives Committee. "This honor from Governor Quinn affirms that Orland Park is on the right track with its sustainability programs. I am especially pleased with the Smart Living Orland Park Program because it incorporates all age groups and all segments of the community," she said.

"The sustainability programs and activities that you have undertaken reflect your strong commitment to the well-being of your clients, employees and neighbors. Your actions certainly serve as an example for others to follow," Governor Pat Quinn wrote in his correspondence to Orland Park.

Orland Park's other environmental honors include the Clean Air Counts Silver Award, the Home Depot Award for Excellence and an honorable mention from the United States Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Program.

"We're very honored to be recognized on a statewide level," McLaughlin continued. "This is a credit to the Village Board for their vision, the village staff who have worked so very hard on these initiatives and the people of Orland Park who readily endorse our energy conservation efforts," he said.

A complete list of winners and further information about the Governor's Sustainability Awards Program is available at the ISTC website, www.istc.illinois.edu/.