

## **Open Lands of Orland Park Seeks Residential Gardens for Walk**

ORLAND PARK, IL - Open Lands of Orland Park is thinking spring. This Village of Orland Park commission has issued a call for residential gardens for its seventh annual Open Lands of Orland Park Garden Walk, planned for Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

"The Open Lands Commission was created to preserve open space within the village," said Orland Park Mayor Dan McLaughlin, who initiated the group. "Over the last several years, they've done a great job actively seeking and buying nearly 300 acres of open space in the village that will forever remain open space," the mayor explained. McLaughlin added, "The Open Lands Garden Walk is one of the largest fundraisers that helps with this effort."

The Open Lands Garden Walk, held at the Orland Park Civic Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., features garden oriented vendors selling their wares at the Civic Center. Attendees buy tickets and drive to the six or seven featured residential gardens.

"There are so many beautiful residential gardens in Orland Park," said Trustee Kathy Fenton, the Village Board liaison to the commission. "The Garden Walk is a great way to share your garden with the public and to help Open Lands' fundraising efforts at the same time," she added.

Orland Park's Garden Walk is not a competition and yards may be any size, maintained and planted either professionally or by the homeowner. Featured properties must be single family homes within the corporate limits of the Village of Orland Park.

An avid gardener whose home has been featured on the walk, McLaughlin said, "This event is always very well attended as gardeners and those who don't garden want to see the fruits of everyone's labor. We know that people work very hard on their gardens and are happy to be able to showcase them and help preserve open space at the same time."

"The Garden Walk is a beautiful way to spend a Sunday," Fenton said. "People come to the Civic Center to see the different vendors, enjoy refreshments and then see some of Orland Park's most beautiful gardens. It's a great event," she added.

Residents who would like to have their properties considered for the walk are asked to submit before May 15 pictures of their gardens with their names, addresses, subdivision names and telephone numbers to Village of Orland Park Garden Walk 2012; 14700 South Ravinia Avenue; Orland Park, IL 60462. Or, photos with the same information may be emailed to [info@orland-park.il.us](mailto:info@orland-park.il.us). For more information, call 708/403-6145.