



Village of Lake in the Hills News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Village of Lake in the Hills Earns Mark of Distinction, Receives Tree City USA Growth Award from Arbor Day Foundation

Small percentage of Tree City USA participants ultimately earn Growth Award Honor due to a continued dedication to building a sustainable community

Lake in the Hills, IL – The Arbor Day Foundation awarded the Village of Lake in the Hills a Tree City USA Growth Award to honor its commitment to effective urban forest management. A Growth Award is bestowed to a community alongside their Tree City USA recognition for demonstrating environmental improvement and a higher level of tree care.

The Growth Award recognizes major milestones and annual activities in five categories on a point-based system to build sustainable community forestry programs over the long term such as: building a team, measuring trees and forests, planning the work, performing the work, and building the community framework.

The Village has been recognized as a Tree City USA for 19 consecutive years and has previously earned the Growth Award 11 times.

“Tree City USA communities see the positive effects of an urban forest firsthand,” said Dan Lambe, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “The trees being planted and cared for by the Village of Lake in the Hills are ensuring that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life. Additionally, participation in this program brings residents together and creates a sense of civic pride, whether it’s through volunteer engagement or public education.”

With the additional recognition of a Growth Award, the Village of Lake in the Hills has demonstrated expediency toward building framework for sustainable urban forest management. According to the Arbor Day Foundation, urban tree plantings help reduce energy consumption by up to 25%, which will reduce general energy costs and help with the overall cooling of the Village as well. In addition, members of the community benefit from properly placed trees as they increase property values from 7-20%. Trees also positively affect the local ecosystem by helping to clean water and create animal habitats to encourage biodiversity.

More information on the program is available at arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

The Lake in the Hills Public Works Department seeks to preserve and enhance the highest quality of life, safeguard public health and safety, and promote economic growth by providing services that are well-planned, environmentally sensitive, and cost-effective. Learn more about the Public Works Department at lith.org or contact the department at 847-960-7500.

Founded in 1972, the Arbor Day Foundation has grown to become the largest nonprofit membership organization dedicated to planting trees, with more than one million members, supporters and valued partners. Since 1972, almost 500 million Arbor Day Foundation trees have been planted in neighborhoods, communities, cities and forests throughout the world. Their vision is to lead toward a world where trees are used to solve issues critical to survival.

As one of the world's largest operating conservation foundations, the Arbor Day Foundation, through its members, partners and programs, educates and engages stakeholders and communities across the globe to involve themselves in its mission of planting, nurturing and celebrating trees. More information is available at arborday.org.

Photos Attached:



Third graders of Lincoln Prairie Elementary School holding the Tree City USA Arbor Day Foundation flag.



Third graders from Lincoln Prairie Elementary School help public works employees plant the Village's new holiday tree; a Black Hills Spruce.

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