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For Immediate Release  
[La Grange Park, IL]

September 14, 2021

### **Village of La Grange Park Awarded Urban Forestry Funding**

Village of La Grange Park was awarded a \$ 20,000 grant to complete tree inventories and develop a management plan for its urban forest. The total cost for the scope of work is \$24,050 with the Village contributing \$4,050 dollars.

The funds were provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Urban and Community Forestry Core Grant Program, and administered by The Morton Arboretum and the [Chicago Region Trees Initiative \(CRTI\)](#).

“Trees are an important part of our community’s quality of life and maintaining a healthy urban forest is an essential component for our residents and businesses. To that regard, the Village is dedicated to trees as environmental assets”, states Village President, Jim Discipio.

Currently the Village is committed to the implementation of GIS mapping software into our community. The initial data from the tree inventory will be imported into the GIS platform providing a baseline of the tree species, current condition, size and location of all the Village trees. A comprehensive forestry management plan will assist Public Works staff with future tree planting locations, species diversification, pruning cycles, accurate mapping and maximum responsiveness to citizen inquiries. The inventory is scheduled to begin this fall with completion around November and data implementation into the end of the year.

The grants provide communities with a better understanding of the urban forest areas they’re managing by revealing an estimated number of trees, their size, condition and species. The inventories will also identify opportunities to increase planting, and will inform the development of a comprehensive, long-term urban forest management plan.

“Urban trees are critical infrastructure for a community, and this funding helps to protect one of its most important resources,” said Lydia Scott, director of CRTI. “Trees clean our air and water, reduce flooding and heat, improve our mental and physical health, and provide important habitat for birds and other wildlife.”