



## Village of Lake in the Hills Press Release

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The National Arbor Day Foundation and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources recognized the Village of Lake in the Hills as a Tree City USA and presented them with the Growth Award again this year. The recognitions were presented to Rob Caldwell, the Village Arborist, at a ceremony in Springfield. This is the fourth year the Village has been recognized as a Tree City USA and the second year it was recognized with the Growth Award.

Tree City USA and Tree City USA Growth Awards are nationwide programs that recognize communities for their urban forestry efforts. Tree City USA provides the basis for urban forestry management. Along with the Growth Award, which encourages program expansion and special initiatives, these programs are a great asset for initiation, development, and growth of local urban and community forestry programs. Illinois' Tree City USA program has been # 2 in the nation for over ten years. Illinois' participation ranks #1 in the nation for the number of Growth Award Participants. Tree City USA is a highly respected and sought after recognition in Illinois.

This year 188 Illinois communities were recognized as Tree City USA and 47 communities were presented the Growth Award. The Village of Lake in the Hills was the only McHenry County community to receive the Growth Award and was one of four Tree City USA recipients from the County.

The active participation of the Village's Forestry staff in continuing education and improvements in the public information program contributed to the Village's qualification for the Growth Award. "These recognitions show the Village's continuing commitment to maintaining high quality of life standards for our residents and the exceptional work of our Forestry staff." said Fred Mullard, Public Works Director.