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VILLAGE OF OAK PARK AWARDED LEVEL II ACCREDITATION BY ARBNET ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

LISLE, Illinois (April 16, 2015) – The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum are pleased to announce that the Village of Oak Park has been awarded a Level II Accreditation. By achieving particular standards of professional practices deemed important for arboreta and botanic gardens, the Village of Oak Park is now recognized as an accredited arboretum in The Morton Register of Arboreta.

“The Village of Oak Park would like to thank The Morton Arboretum and its ArbNet program for the honor of Level II Arboretum Accreditation for all village-owned trees,” said Rob Sproule, Oak Park’s village forester. “The accreditation process was an excellent opportunity to partner with the Park District of Oak Park, recognize the hard work and dedication of staff and residents and reaffirm our commitments to managing our important urban forest.”

Oak Park is a thriving community of about 52,000 people west of Chicago that is known for its architectural heritage and diverse population. With more than 103 miles of street and 84 acres of parkland, the village and its park district oversee more than 20,000 tree representing more than 130 different species and varieties.

"The Park District of Oak Park is elated to receive Level II Arboretum Accreditation from ArbNet in partnership with the Village of Oak Park," said Jan Arnold, park district executive director. "This distinction recognizes the importance we place on maintenance of our village's tree collection, which significantly contributes to the beauty and history of our unique community."

About the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program

The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program is sponsored and coordinated by The Morton Arboretum in cooperation with American Public Gardens Association and Botanic Gardens Conservation International. This international initiative offers four levels of accreditation, recognizing arboreta of various degrees of development, capacity and professionalism. Accreditation is based on self-assessment and documentation of an arboretum’s level of achievement of accreditation standards. Standards include planning, governance, labeling of species, staff or volunteer support, public access and programming and tree science, planting and conservation. More information is available at www.arbnet.org.