



## DOWNERS GROVE FORESTRY DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION

The Society of Municipal Arborists is proud to offer an accreditation program for municipal forestry departments. The accreditation program is a non-governmental, voluntary system of self-regulation, which sets the highest standards for municipal urban forestry. The objectives of the accreditation program are to perpetuate support for the urban forestry program, recognize good performance, increase professionalism, enhance community pride and stimulate improvement. The program evaluates each Forestry Department on the basis of its stated objectives as well as compliance with nationally recognized standards.

Accreditation must be renewed every five years. The accreditation standards are continually updated to insure a community is as current as possible regarding its municipal forestry program. Once a community's urban forestry program is awarded accreditation, recipients receive a certificate plaque to hang at their City Hall. Accreditation also qualifies for 10 points on the Tree City USA Growth Award application for a given year. All urban forestry programs are eligible whether they are separate departments or a part of another department, as long as the requirements for this program can be met. More information and an application can be found at the SMA website: <http://www.urban-forestry.com>

Village Forester Kerstin G. von der Heide applied for forestry department accreditation in 2006 and 2012. Each application included a copy of the Urban Forestry and Municipal Landscape Maintenance Program manual (available for review at <http://www.downers.us/res/forestry/urban-forestry-and-municipal-landscape-manual>). This comprehensive manual details every component of the forestry and municipal landscape program with 15 individual chapters dedicated to the current tree inventory, tree planting, proper tree care, tree pruning, storm readiness, tree removal, and municipal landscape maintenance. The manual is reviewed and updated annually, and the current edition is a full two inches thick when printed. In January 2006, Downers Grove was approved for Forestry Department Accreditation. In May 2012, Downers Grove was approved for re-accreditation. The following plaques and photographs highlight this accomplishment. As of 2012, only 5 communities have this accreditation.



THE SOCIETY OF MUNICIPAL ARBORISTS  
PROUDLY RECOGNIZES THE

**VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE**

FOR HAVING AN  
**ACCREDITED FORESTRY PROGRAM**  
2012 – 2017

AND  
COMMENDS THE COMMUNITY FOR  
OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENT IN MEETING ALL  
REQUISITE STANDARDS  
AND  
IN PROVIDING OUTSTANDING VISION, COMMITMENT AND  
PROGRAMMING  
TO PROTECT AND SUSTAIN  
THEIR URBAN FOREST

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John McLaughlin'.

*John McLaughlin*

*SMA President*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenni Johnson'.

*Jenni Johnson*

*SMA Executive  
Director*

The  
SOCIETY OF MUNICIPAL ARBORISTS



*is proud to announce*

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Mayor Brian J. Krajewski  
*and the*  
The Public Works Department  
Forestry and Grounds Division  
*of*  
The Village of Downers Grove

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*Have met all the requirements to become an*  
ACCREDITED FORESTRY PROGRAM



Presentation of the Society of Municipal Arborists Forestry Department Accreditation plaque at Village Council meeting on April 18, 2006.



Pictured from left to right – Mike Neumann, Kerstin G. von der Heide, SMA Accreditation Committee Member Bob Benjamin, Mayor Brian Krajewski, Charlie Reed