



TREE PLANTING PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF DARIEN AWARDED GRANT TO BOOST COMMUNITY TREE CANOPY

DARIEN, Ill., January 14, 2025 – The City of Darien has been awarded a \$100,000 subgrant by The Morton Arboretum’s Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI) to improve the community tree canopy.

The competitive subgrant is among nearly 40 provided to nonprofits, government entities and other eligible groups through Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, administered by CRTI.

The four-year grants, which do not require matching funds, are available for projects in communities that meet the federal requirements. The funding can be used for projects that increase tree canopy, improve forest health, and create or enhance community forestry programs.

“The City of Darien is pleased to receive this grant award to improve our community’s tree canopy,” said Joseph Marchese, Mayor of Darien. “Increasing tree canopy in Darien would provide a very positive improvement in our community that would not only increase overall environmental benefits, such as lowered surface temperatures, storm water management, and a reduction in air and soil pollution, but continue to provide Darien with a greener infrastructure.”

Through this subgrant, The City of Darien will plant approximately 200 new trees in eligible areas of the community by the end of Fall 2026.

Various projects funded through the CRTI sub-grants include tree planting and the formation of tree inventory and management plans, in both urban and rural areas, to help increase efficiency and proactiveness in community forestry, as well as support local economies and businesses through improved infrastructure and workforce development.

“Improving the distribution of trees and green spaces directly impacts the health and economic outcomes for communities,” said CRTI Director Zach Wirtz. “Projects like this improve quality of life and boost the urban tree canopy’s resilience to threats posed by environmental conditions, pests and diseases.”

City of Darien 1702 Plainfield Road

Darien, IL 60561 Office: 630-852-5000

Fax: 630-852-4709 www.darienil.us



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