

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

Village of Carbon Hill Receives Urban and Community Forestry Grant

The Village of Carbon Hill is among 20 Illinois communities awarded grants administered by The Morton Arboretum, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and USDA Forest Service, to help improve Illinois urban forestry. The grants were awarded through a competitive process, with over \$217,000 in available funds distributed evenly north and south of highway I-80, and communities competing in their own geographic areas. The Village of Carbon Hill is required to match the grant funding, either financially or in-kind.

The \$5,000 Urban and Community Forestry Grant will enable the Village of Carbon Hill to preserve our community heritage and ensure continued enjoyment for all who visit the beautiful Carbon Hill Park by planting a total of 33 trees in our historical tree grove.

Designed and founded as a mining community in 1874 before its incorporation, the Village of Carbon Hill maintains its strong heritage through its identity found in our beautiful Village Park. This large park is located in the heart of our community and was gifted to the Village in 1900 by the Big 4 Coal Company with the stipulation that it be kept in perpetuity. The Village Park was originally outlined with 24 maple trees and the remaining rows upon rows of catalpa trees that were planted over 100 years ago help reflect our mining roots that established Carbon Hill. Catalpas are a strong, resilient, fast growing shade tree that were essential living tools for mining establishments because their wood was ideal for use as railroad ties and fence posts. Over the years, age and weather have taken its toll on some of the trees throughout our park. This grant will help replant new trees ensuring the longevity of the Park's unique heritage and history!

Much like the initial Catalpa plantings over 100 years ago, this time around went much the same. On May 23, 2020 this project was completed by dedicated and passionate volunteers, Public Officials and part-time Village staff who came together to help beautify and invest in the preservation of our historical Village Park through the planting of these trees.

The Village would like to thank Mayor Rich Jurzak, Trustee Chad Macaluso, Clerk Jessica Harvey, Todd Cumming, Nick Born, Paul Onorato, Tyson Spencer, Carter Macaluso, Creed Macaluso, Maggie Sterba, Sam Sterba, Sully Edmonds, and the Carbon Hill Historical Society for all their assistance!

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Photo Credit: Jessica Harvey

Pictured Below: Village Mayor Rich Jurzak and Trustee Chad Macaluso volunteer to help plant new trees ensuring the longevity of the Village Park's unique heritage and history for all to enjoy!



Photo Credit: Jessica Harvey

Pictured Below: Nick Born of J&J Concrete, whose late Grandparents John and Louise Jensen were longtime residents, worked alongside other volunteers to help plant the 33 trees, remembering and honoring their Carbon Hill hometown pride!



Photo Credit: Michele Micetich

Pictured Below: Municipal Clerk Jessica Harvey, looking back with pride at all the hard work that went into helping to preserve this beautiful and historical Park for many more generations to come while reflecting on the many wonderful memories shared here through the years with her own children.



Photo Credit: Jessica Harvey

Pictured below Left to Right: Paul Onorato, Todd Cumming, Village of Carbon Hill Mayor Rich Jurzak, Nick Born, Tyson Spencer, Village of Carbon Hill Trustee Chad Macaluso. Not Pictured: Village of Carbon Hill Municipal Clerk Jessica Harvey

