FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Elkhart recognized for Tree City USA milestone

ELKHART (April 15, 2019) – The City of Elkhart was recently recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation for 30 consecutive years as a ‘Tree City USA’ community.

This nationwide designation recognizes the City’s Buildings and Grounds Department, specifically the Forestry Division, for their dedication to improving and growing Elkhart’s urban forest. Of the Indiana communities recognized, only Bloomington and Indianapolis have received this award for more consecutive years than the City of Elkhart.

“The City’s longstanding Tree City USA designation is indicative of our continued commitment to supporting a healthier, safer, and more beautiful community,” said Elkhart Mayor Tim Neese. “I am consistently impressed by what Buildings and Grounds is able to accomplish with a relatively small staff and hope the community will join me in congratulating them on this milestone.”

The Forestry Division is responsible for maintaining trees in all City parks and other properties as well as City rights-of-way. In 2018, they planted 80 trees and trimmed nearly 1,270. They also removed nearly 2,400 tons of brush from residential properties, ensuring the organic waste was recycled rather than disposed of in the landfill.

To maintain this designation in 2019, Mayor Neese will present an Arbor Day Proclamation on Saturday, April 27 at an event hosted by the Elkhart Environmental Center. The event will be a joint celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day, featuring a free native tree planting activity and giveaway, a live fish demo by the City’s aquatic biologist, kids’ activities, and more!

To learn more about the Tree City USA designation, visit www.arborday.org/.

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