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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Village Launches New Wilmette Edens Pollinator Corridor Project

WILMETTE, IL. (October 2, 2019) – The Village of Wilmette is transforming turfgrass areas along the Edens expressway into beautiful pollinator-friendly gardens with help from a public-private partnership. The Rotary Club of Wilmette Harbor has generously donated \$4,000 toward converting the first site, which is located at the southeast corner of Lake Avenue and Laramie Avenue, into a pollinator garden.

This site is part of a multi-year project that will eventually convert approximately six acres of land adjacent to the Edens Expressway into the new Wilmette Edens Pollinator Corridor. The prairie setting will enhance the aesthetics of the area, improve stormwater infiltration and help support necessary pollinators like bees, butterflies and birds.

“In addition to benefiting our natural ecosystem, these pocket nature preserves provide both passive recreation to local residents and serve as models of green infrastructure. This project is a first step toward our vision of bringing sustainable, beautiful community assets to these areas near the highway that are often overlooked,” said Brigitte Berger-Raish, P.E., Director of Engineering and Public Works.



Deep-rooted prairie plants will promote infiltration of storm water, reduce runoff, increase carbon sequestration and require less maintenance than turfgrass. Each of these sites is currently mowed 21 times annually. In restoring these sites to prairie plantings, the Village will significantly reduce the mowing responsibilities, which directly results in a reduced carbon footprint.

The Village plans to break ground on the Lake and Laramie site in the fall of 2019. The project contractor will install a low-growing pollinator seed mix over the winter, which will begin to take root in the spring of 2020. The Village plans to pursue additional grant opportunities for the remaining sites.

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