



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Forest Park Awarded Bronze Level Walk Friendly Communities Designation

04/16/2012 Forest Park, Ill. – The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center has designated Forest Park a Bronze Level Walk Friendly Community for its walkability initiatives and programs. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration and FedEx, Walk Friendly Communities is a national recognition program aimed at recognizing communities for their commitment to pedestrian safety.

Forest Park has been striving to make its community more walking and cycling friendly by implementing new standards for streetscape which include traffic calming bump-outs, better lighting, and narrowing the distance at street crossings. Through its “Live Healthy Forest Park!” grant initiative, better signage, including LED stop signs as well as destination signs for the Prairie Path and other locations have been installed throughout the community. The Village’s commitment to this effort was solidified several months ago when it adopted its Complete Streets Policy. “Forest Park is unique in that the community has both the green line and the blue line elevated trains beginning here and we are a small municipality in comparison to many others which make us an ideal walking community,” said Mayor Calderone. “The ability to walk to every residential area of the community in a relatively short time-frame along with having a great downtown shopping and dining corridor, and the ability to get downtown conveniently encourages our residents to leave their cars at home, walk or bike more, and shop local,” added the Mayor, who also stated, “This award is a boon for us and validates our push over the past few construction seasons for better and more complete streetscapes.”

“We are pleased to designate the village of Forest Park as a Walk Friendly Community,” said Carl Sundstrom, WFC program manager. “We were impressed with Forest Park’s adoption of the Complete Streets Policy Resolution with the mayor’s support, the comprehensive network of sidewalks, and the Safe Routes to School Program, which illustrate the commitment and dedication for creating walkable places and serve as a model for communities across the U.S.”

Forest Park is among four communities recognized in the latest round of Walk Friendly Communities announced. The other three include Covallis, OR and Eugene, OR as gold level recipients and New Orleans for the other bronze. The Walk Friendly Community designation, awarded from bronze to platinum, is given to applicant communities that have demonstrated a commitment to improving and sustaining walkability and pedestrian safety through comprehensive programs, plans and policies. To date, 24 communities in the U.S. have been designated as Walk Friendly Communities.

For more information on Walk Friendly Communities, please visit <http://www.walkfriendly.org>.

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