City Arboretum Awarded Level 1 Accreditation by ArbNet

Parksville Community Park arboretum and gardens was recently awarded a Level 1 accreditation by the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and the Morton Arboretum for achieving particular standards of professional practices deemed important for arboreta and botanic gardens. The ArbNet program is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta at various levels of development, capacity, and professionalism. Parkville's arboretum is also now recognized as an accredited arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboreta, a database of the world's arboreta and gardens dedicated to woody plants.

Planting in the Parksville arboretum began in 1994 and continues, providing residents and visitors educational opportunities by demonstrating the benefits and beauty of trees in our growing urban landscape. Its primary mission is to promote an understanding and appreciation of trees and nature by providing well-documented plant collections arranged aesthetically and ecologically in an exhibition designed for professional and public study and quiet enjoyment. Over the years, operations staff in consultation with City arborists chose uncommon trees to our local ecosystem, providing a wide variety of different species and ages in the arboretum, both native and exotic.

To date, the Parksville Community Park arboretum and gardens is the only accredited arboretum in Canada outside the southern Ontario area. This is a wonderful accomplishment achieved by all involved with the curating, planning and caretaking of this local treasure, which will continue to enrich the lives of residents and visitors for many years.

For more information about the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program, the Morton Register of Arboreta and to view the City's Level 1 accreditation visit http://arbnet.org/morton-register/parksville-community-park-arboretum-and-gardens.

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For more information:
    Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications   dtardiff@parksville.ca; 250 954-3073