



February 11, 2011

Press Advisory

City of Madison Alderperson Marsha Rummel Receives Urban Forestry Award

Alderperson Marsha Rummel, City of Madison District 6, will be presented with the **Distinguished Service - Elected Official Award** from the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council. **The award will be presented on Tuesday, February 22 during the Madison City Council meeting in Room 201 of the City-County Building at 210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Madison, Wisconsin.** A recognition plaque will be presented to Alder Rummel by Thomas Dunbar, Vice-chair of the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council and Executive Director of the Center for Resilient Cities.

The Distinguished Service – Elected Official Award “recognizes an elected official at the state, county, or local level of government who has made an outstanding contribution to urban forestry in Wisconsin” according to Kelli Tuttle, President of Bluestem Forestry Consulting and chair of the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council.

The Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council advises the DNR on the best ways to preserve, protect, expand, and improve the state’s urban and community forest resources. The council presents annual awards to outstanding individuals, organizations, communities, and tribes that further urban forestry in Wisconsin.

Alderperson Rummel was nominated for her leadership in the protection and preservation of Madison’s urban forest through the development and acceptance of construction specifications to help protect and preserve street trees during construction activities and sponsoring a city ordinance to protect all publically owned trees from damage.

Rummel is an alderperson for the 6th District, a historical central part of the City of Madison. In 2009, a street reconstruction took place on Spaight Street (a street that is two blocks from the famous Williamson Street). During the construction phase of the project, a contractor excavated and damaged many street trees by cutting too close to their roots. The damage that occurred to the street trees made the trees a risk to public safety resulting in the removal of six street trees.

In 2010, Alderperson Rummel shepherded change in the City of Madison Department of Public Works construction specifications to help prevent damage to city owned trees like what occurred on the reconstruction of Spaight Street. The new construction specifications that were adopted by the City of Madison Board of Public Works are designed to help protect and preserve street trees. If a contractor is in violation of construction specifications, fines can now be imposed against the contractor. The adoption of the new tree protection specifications in 2010 provides better opportunities for street tree preservation as well as tree awareness. Public works projects and private development projects now pass through the forestry section for design review and approval.

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Alderperson Rummel took the protection of publically owned trees one step further. She researched, evaluated, and requested a draft ordinance be written to protect all publically owned trees from damage and under penalty the violator would receive a city citation for the value of the tree. This was the first time a city leader recognized and supported the fact that city owned trees are an asset for the community and they need to be preserved. And if this city asset is damaged or destroyed a dollar value is lost.

More information about the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council Awards can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/uf/council/awards.html> .

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