

# Fairview Heights awarded Progressive City designation

NEWS

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## Staff report

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FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS — The city of Fairview Heights has been selected by Ameren Illinois as a 2016 Progressive City for its success in implementing forward-looking initiatives to better the quality of life for both residents and businesses.

In recognition of the award, Ameren Illinois is providing the city with a \$2,500 grant toward a community-related project and road signs that can be displayed around town. Fairview Heights will utilize its grant funds for upgrades to Moody Park. Fairview Heights is one of nine communities that will be awarded the Progressive City designation this year.

“The actions that our communities are taking to improve the quality of life for their residents and businesses are admirable,” said Richard J. Mark, president of Ameren Illinois. “The Progressive City initiative allows us to recognize important work that is being done throughout our service territory to improve environmental stewardship, reduce energy consumption and instill pride in our communities.”

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This year marks the seventh year Ameren Illinois has implemented the Progressive City initiative. In past years, communities were chosen for this honor based on business and residential energy savings through the year. For the first time, the selection criteria has been expanded to include sustainability and other advanced initiatives undertaken by communities. Expanding the criteria opened the door for a wider range of communities to be recognized.

In selecting Fairview Heights as a Progressive City, Ameren Illinois pointed to the city’s success in implementing local community initiatives, including:

- The city’s Safety Town program that teaches children life-saving lessons on everything from bicycle safety and traffic rules to strangers and drugs.
- The revitalization of the Lincoln Trail commercial corridor.
- The community garden that promotes a healthy lifestyle for residents.
- An active Beautification Commission that schedules clean-ups and meets every month to pick up litter, illustrating a commitment to residents while enhancing the overall appearance of the community.
- The completion of 94 residential and business energy efficiency projects between June 1, 2015, and May 31, 2016 generating more than \$58,000 in annual energy savings.
- The MetroBikeLink trail that runs adjacent to the MetroLink rail tracks.

Ameren Illinois delivers energy to 1.2 million electric and 816,000 natural gas customers in downstate Illinois, and our mission is to power the quality of life. Our service territory covers more than 1,200 communities and 43,700 square miles. For more information, visit [AmerenIllinois.com](http://AmerenIllinois.com). Follow us on Twitter @AmerenIllinois and Facebook.