



MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

City of Northampton

Office of the Mayor

210 Main Street Room 12

Northampton, MA 01060-3199

(413) 587-1249 Fax: (413) 587-1275

mayor@northamptonma.gov

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Northampton's Arbor Day Features Award Winning Video, Downtown TreeSpeak Tour, Tree Seedling Giveaway, and Volunteer Planting Opportunities

Arbor Day, Friday April 26, 2019, brings new opportunities for residents of Northampton to demonstrate and deepen their commitment to the City's urban forest. One young tree lover is leading that charge.

Northampton resident and high school senior, Madeleine Lombard, won First Prize for her video on urban trees in the recent MA League of Women Voters Climate Change Challenge contest that was open to all MA high school students.

1st Place: ["The Urban Shade Tree: Nature's Air Conditioner"](#) by Madeleine Lombard, Four Rivers Charter Public School

<https://youtu.be/WJDvxO-ewQo>

In addition as part of an internship with the Smith College Botanic Garden, Lombard created a self-guided walking tour, *TreeSpeak Northampton*, that will roll out on Arbor Day. Expanding Smith campus' tree labeling to five of Northampton's finest public shade trees, Lombard worked with Northampton Tree Warden, Rich Parasiliti, to affix botanical labels--with accompanying audio recordings accessed by smartphones--that explain the trees' unique characteristics. Residents can pick up TreeSpeak brochures at City Hall, the Senior Center, Forbes Library, and Lilly Library, or [find the brochure on the City's website here](#). The tour is 0.7 miles and requires use of a smartphone.

The Tree Warden's 15th Annual Tree Seedling Giveaway also takes place on Arbor Day, Friday (9am-3pm) and Saturday (8am-noon) at City Hall, where residents can choose between five tree species to take home--Sugar maple, Common lilac, American redbud, American persimmon, and American hophornbeam.

Additionally, every Arbor Day, Northampton's Public Shade Tree Commission recommends a community "hub" for intensive tree planting. This year, volunteers with the citizen organization Tree Northampton will help the Tree Warden plant shade trees near the YMCA parking lot on Massasoit St and the Cahill Apartments on Fruit St, community housing that is maintained by

the Northampton Housing Authority. To volunteer on or near Arbor Day, email treenorthampton@gmail.com.

Finally, the Tree Commission and Tree Warden reached out to 30 local landscapers with information about Northampton's [Tree List & Planting Guidelines](#), the state law protecting public shade trees ([MGL 87](#)), and to remind them to avoid dangerous [volcano mulching](#) around trees.

Northampton's vibrant urban forestry program has recently gained regional and international attention. In addition to Rich Parasiliti being named 2019 MA Tree Warden of the Year, Northampton's tree program received a full feature in the April 2019 [Arborist News](#), a publication of the International Society of Arboriculture.

For more information, please contact Rich Parasiliti, Tree Warden, at (413) 587-1570 Ext. 4317 or Madeleine Lombard at (413) 623-4095.