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City of Northampton Launches Month-Long Arbor Day Celebration with Neighborhood Tree Plantings and Tree Whip Giveaway

NORTHAMPTON - On April 9, 2022, the City of Northampton begins a month-long Arbor Day celebration offering opportunities for the public to plant trees, learn about tree care, and pick up free tree whips to help improve the city's urban tree canopy.

Northampton's Department of Public Works (DPW), the city's Urban Forestry Commission, Tree Northampton, and volunteers from the Northampton Rotary Club kick off the activities on April 9, 2022, with a planting of 16 public shade trees on Greenleaf Drive and Hawthorne Terrace. This date coincides with a multi-state "Rotary Day of Service" focused on improving the environment. Rotary Club volunteers, in coordination with the Northampton School Department, will also plant 30 trees at R. K. Finn Ryan Road Elementary School and Jackson Street School on April 16, 2022.

"I am proud that Northampton continues to be a leader in climate change through the careful stewardship and expansion of the city's urban tree canopy," shared Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra, "I am deeply grateful to the Tree Warden and all of the organizations and volunteers who work so hard to make this a successful event each year."

The DPW, the Urban Forestry Commission, and Tree Northampton volunteers will plant public shade trees on dates throughout the month of April with a large planting scheduled on Arbor Day, April 29, 2022, at Arcanum Field.

"Celebrating a month-long Arbor Day is a chance to embrace the future, and prepare for climate change by diversifying our urban forest. I am hopeful that the partnerships created to make these events possible will serve as a foundation for continued efforts to enhance the city's urban tree canopy. These opportunities provide a chance for all involved to plant trees, learn how to care for them, and better understand the benefits they provide," said Tree Warden, Rich Parasiliti, Jr., "I strongly encourage residents to join us in protecting our future for generations to come."

On Arbor Day, Friday, April 29, 2022, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, April 30, 2022, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. the entire community is invited to City Hall for the 19th annual Arbor Day Tree Whip Giveaway. The city will provide 600 free tree whips for residents to plant on private property to help improve Northampton's Urban Canopy. Tree Northampton volunteers will staff the event and provide illustrated fact sheets containing information about planting, tree care, and noteworthy characteristics for each species. The community can choose from six tree species including Douglas Fir 'Lincoln', White Oak, American Sweetgum, Bald Cypress,

Serviceberry, and Red Mulberry. These species were selected because they provide important ecological benefits and resilience in the face of climate change. These benefits include reducing stormwater runoff, providing food for wildlife and pollinators, reducing stress and improving one's health, reducing pollutants in the air, and creating cooling for our ever-warming planet.

For additional information, contact Rich Parasiliti, Jr., Tree Warden 413-587-1570 Ext. 4317