



## MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA

City of Northampton

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### **City of Northampton Celebrates Earth Day and Arbor Day with Tree Plantings and Tree Whip Giveaway**

NORTHAMPTON - In celebration of Earth Day, on Saturday, April 22, 2023, Northampton's Department of Public Works (DPW), the Urban Forestry Commission, and the citizens' group Tree Northampton are partnering for the second year with the Northampton Rotary Club, the Northampton Youth Commission, and the Northampton School Department to improve shade cover for Northampton public schools. At Leeds Elementary School, volunteers will plant 17 trees, which will shade portions of the playground and other parts of the school property.

Additionally, on Saturday, April 22, 2023, Northampton's DPW and Tree Northampton will plant 16 trees on Village Hill. These new trees are meant to replace declining Ash trees impacted by the invasive and deadly Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). EAB is responsible for destroying tens of millions of Ash trees in 30 states, including Massachusetts.

On Arbor Day, Friday, April 28, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 29, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., the entire community is invited to City Hall for the 20th annual Arbor Day Tree Whip Giveaway. The city will provide 600 free tree whips free of charge for residents to plant on private property. Tree Northampton volunteers will staff the event and provide illustrated tree fact sheets specific to each species offered, together with tree planting and care information. Participants can choose from six tree species, including White Oak (*Quercus alba*), Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*), American Paw Paw (*Asimina triloba*), Northern Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), and Fraser Fir (*Abies fraseri*). Each species was chosen to promote tree species diversity and the ecological sustainability of Northampton's urban tree canopy. "These events are so important to the community and the long-term health and sustainability of our tree canopy. I am grateful for the continued partnerships that are critical to our efforts", said Tree Warden Rich Parasiliti.

"I am immensely grateful to the Tree Warden and the many dedicated organizations and volunteers who work tirelessly year after year to expand the city's urban tree canopy," shared Mayor Sciarra. "Amid the climate crisis, their commitment to enhancing our community's green spaces and improving the air quality we breathe is truly admirable. Their efforts will not only benefit us today but also leave a lasting legacy for future generations."

The DPW, the Urban Forestry Commission, and Tree Northampton volunteers will also plant public shade trees on Arbor Day, Friday, April 28, 2023, and other dates throughout the spring of 2023.

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