



## MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA

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](mailto:mayor@northamptonma.gov)

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### **Northampton Earns 2024 Tree City USA, Growth Award Recognition From Arbor Day Foundation**

NORTHAMPTON - The Arbor Day Foundation named Northampton a 2024 Tree City USA in honor of its commitment to plant, grow, and maintain trees to benefit its community. Northampton also received a Growth Award for demonstrating improved tree care and community engagement levels.

Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra shared, "I'm proud that Northampton continues to be recognized for our leadership in urban forestry. This award reflects the dedication of our Tree Warden, the Public Shade Tree Commission, and the many residents and volunteers who work to grow and protect our tree canopy. Our urban forest strengthens the health, beauty, and resilience of our city—and we remain committed to this essential work."

The Arbor Day Foundation is a global nonprofit with a mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. Its network of more than a million supporters and partners has helped the organization plant over 500 million trees in forests and communities across more than 60 countries since 1972. The Tree City USA program has recognized cities and towns that leverage urban forestry to enhance the livability and sustainability of their local area for over 50 years.

"By recognizing the role of trees as critical infrastructure, Northampton is helping shape a healthier and more resilient future. We're proud Northampton is among the Arbor Day Foundation's growing network of communities committed to creating a positive impact through trees," said Michelle Saulnier, Vice President of Programs at the Arbor Day Foundation.

In cities and neighborhoods, trees are proven to help mitigate the urban heat island effect, reduce stormwater runoff, improve air quality, and boost mental and physical health. When the right trees are planted in the right places, they can also reduce traffic noise, increase property values, and lower energy costs for homeowners.

“I am pleased that the city has received the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA and Growth Award for 2024. This is a testament to the city's continued commitment to increase tree canopy coverage and be sustainable in the face of our changing climate,” shared Rich Parasiliti, the City of Northampton’s Tree Warden.

To earn Tree City USA recognition, a city must uphold four core standards, including maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and participating in an Arbor Day celebration.

For more information or questions, please contact [mayor@northamptonma.gov](mailto:mayor@northamptonma.gov) or call 413-587-1249.