



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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Spotlight on Trees for Earth Day and Arbor Day in Northampton

500 free tree whips offered to Northampton residents

At last Thursday's City Council meeting Mayor David J. Narkewicz read a proclamation in advance of Arbor Day highlighting the City's commitment to its shade tree canopy. At the same meeting Lilly Lombard, chair of the Northampton Public Shade Tree Commission, reviewed the important work of the body to date and announced upcoming events for both Earth Day and Arbor Day.

Traditionally, volunteer-led city tree planting takes place on or near Arbor Day--the fourth Friday of April, this year on Friday April 28th. But, as Lilly Lombard, chair of Northampton's Public Shade Tree Commission, noted, "Most of the tree commissioners who usually volunteer on Arbor Day will be en route to the People's Climate March in Washington, DC. A big part of what drives our commission work is realization that urban trees are a huge part of the climate solution."

Therefore, pushing back their schedule one week, the City organized tree planting on an equally relevant day: Earth Day. Students from Northampton High School, along with several tree commissioners, helped the City plant five street trees at the intersection of Hawley and Bridge Streets. Northampton Tree Warden, Rich Parasiliti, led the activity, first demonstrating proper tree planting, mulching and watering.

At least one tree-related event will continue on Arbor Day itself this year: A giveaway of tree whips. The city of Northampton, along with volunteers from the citizen group, Tree Northampton, will distribute to residents of Northampton 500 free tree whips in front of City Hall between 9am-3pm on Friday April 28, and 9am-12pm on Saturday April 29. Northampton citizens may choose among five species--Red Oak, Sweetgum, Kousa, Redbud and Common Lilac--and obtain instructions on how to plant, mulch and water their tree. They can also sign up to volunteer with Tree Northampton (treenorthampton.org).

For more information:

Rich Parasiliti, Tree Warden, [413-230-4200](tel:413-230-4200)

Lilly Lombard, Chair, Northampton Public Shade Tree Commission, [413-207-5899](tel:413-207-5899)

Gretchen Saveson, NHS Environmental Club [413-588-8248](tel:413-588-8248)