



# MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

## City of Northampton

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## **City of Northampton marks Arbor Day with Tree Planting and Education**

In honor of Arbor Day on Friday April 27, the city of Northampton has planned activities to expand our tree canopy and increase education around the care for urban trees. In collaboration with the citizen volunteer organization Tree Northampton, the City will distribute free tree seedlings outside city hall, plant shade trees in front of the Daily Hampshire Gazette, and educate local landscape professionals about best practices for urban tree care.

With volunteer support from Tree Northampton, the City will distribute 500 free tree whips in front of Northampton's City Hall between 8am - 3pm on Friday April 27, and 8am - 12 noon on Saturday April 28. Northampton citizens may choose among four species--Sugar Maple, Common Lilac, Red Oak, Sweet Gum, and Balsam Fir—and obtain instructions on how to plant their tree.

Also on Arbor Day, volunteers will assist the City in planting two stately columns of shade trees--London Plane and Black Gum trees--in front of the Daily Hampshire Gazette on Conz St. All volunteers will be trained in the proper technique for tree planting and will learn that abundant watering and proper mulching are critical in a transplanted tree's first year.

Further, in an effort to improve the health and species selection of urban trees on private land, Northampton's Tree Warden and Public Shade Tree Commission circulated their recently published "Tree List and Planting Guidelines" to local landscape professionals, as well as an informational brochure on proper mulching that describes the pervasive, dangerous practice of "volcano mulching" around tree trunks, and illustrates correct mulching techniques. The updated Tree List is available on the City's website, keyword search "trees".

This May 30th, Northampton will host the state-wide "Tree City USA" celebration where it will receive both a "Tree City USA" and "Growth" Award for its commitment to urban forestry. Tree Warden Rich Parasiliti, and Public Shade Tree Commission Chair Lilly Lombard will give the keynote presentation at the event describing the rapid development of Northampton's vibrant community tree program which is now regarded as a model for the Commonwealth.