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For Immediate Release – October 21, 2020

City partners with Cooley Dickinson Hospital to plant setback Public Shade Trees on Saturday, October 24, 2020

NORTHAMPTON - On Saturday, October 24, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., the City of Northampton's Urban Forestry Commissioners, Tree Warden, volunteers from Cooley Dickinson Hospital and volunteers from Tree Northampton will join together for a setback tree planting at Cooley Dickinson Hospital, 30 Locust Street, Northampton.

The planting will incorporate Burr oak, Hackberry, Ginko and Yellowwood trees with smaller understory plantings of Serviceberry trees. The project was planned collaboratively by the City's Urban Forestry Commission, Tree Warden, and the Board of Directors of Cooley Dickinson Hospital. Urban Forestry Commissioner Jen Werner remarked that, "Cooley Dickinson Hospital was just an exemplary community partner. We worked really closely and chose species for beauty while keeping in mind the city's tree species diversity goals." Over time, the site will look like a natural woodland grove with spring flowers and later foliage. The trees will shade the sidewalk and bus stop, provide greenery views in hospital rooms and eventually shade the parking lot.

Under Northampton's setback planting initiative, the city partners with private landowners to plant public shade trees within 20 feet of the public right-of-way in order to expand the urban tree canopy. Trees planted further from the street suffer less exposure to winter deicing agents, have more space to develop healthy roots, and live longer. Setback trees provide beauty and shade to walkers and bikers, calm traffic, and enhance habitat. They mitigate stormwater runoff, decreasing the risk of flash floods and protecting rivers and streams. Setback trees are available free from the City of Northampton.

Visit www.northamptonma.gov/1809/Tree-Warden or contact Rich Parasiliti, Tree Warden, at rparasiliti@northamptonma.gov for more information.