

MEMORANDUM



TO: JEFFREY HERCZEG, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
FROM: KEITH SALOWICH, FORESTER/CONTRACTS SUPERVISOR
SUBJECT: 2024 ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION
DATE: MAY 10, 2024

A cloudy but temperate spring Saturday at Lakeshore Park played host to the City of Novi's 2024 Arbor Day festivities on April 27. Arbor Day activities included the following:

- Signs printed with tree facts lined Lakeshore Park trails the whole week of Arbor Day.
- City of Novi Recreation Supervisor Madison Lachance and Landscape Architect Rick Meader led residents on a guided hike on Lakeshore Park trails on Thursday, April 25.
- More than 1,300 native trees and shrub seedlings were distributed to approximately 200 residents for planting throughout Novi. A local Girl Scout troop volunteered to assist with the distribution of the plants and educational materials on how to plant and care for the seedlings. More than 5,000 plants have been distributed since the seedling giveaway program started four years ago. It has been very popular among residents and provides the City with a low-cost avenue to increase tree canopy coverage in the Novi.
- Novi's Alpha Kappa Alpha group planted five maple trees around the pond near the eastern border of Lakeshore Park.
- City of Novi Forester Keith Salowich presented information on the City's urban forest, the history of Arbor Day, and the many environmental, economic, social, and health benefits of living amongst urban trees.
- Beyond the spotlight on trees, Arbor Day attendees were also encouraged to help clear garlic mustard—an herbaceous invasive species that displaces native groundcover—to improve Lakeshore Park's woodland habitat. Several garbage bags of garlic mustard were removed throughout the day.

A strong turnout at this year's Arbor Day event illustrates both the community's eagerness to engage with Novi's urban forest and the important roles trees play in residents' lives. Staff continue to focus on residents' involvement to enhance the City's forestry operations.



A resident helps clear garlic mustard—an invasive species—from Lakeshore Park to improve the woodland habitat.



Novi's Alpha Kappa Alpha group plants a maple tree near the pond in Lakeshore Park.



City of Novi Landscape Architect Rick Meader and the Alpha Kappa Alpha group pose after planting five maple trees.



A Novi resident in Jamestowne Green creates a new landscape feature on their property to plant their Arbor Day seedlings.



A Novi Girl Scout troop volunteered to help pass out seedlings to residents throughout the day.