

MEMORANDUM



TO: JEFFREY HERCZEG, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
FROM: KEITH SALOWICH, FORESTER/CONTRACTOR
SUBJECT: NOVI RECEIVES ISA GOLD LEAF AWARD
DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2024

Mayor and Council –

Kudos to the City's Forester Keith Salowich's efforts with Arbor Day activities last year that has resulted in the Gold Leaf Award from the Society of Arboriculture.

- Victor

The City of Novi has received a Gold Leaf Award for Outstanding Arbor Day Activities from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) in recognition of Novi's Arbor Day events in 2023.

The ISA has been recognizing municipalities, schools, and other entities with Gold Leaf Awards since 2015. Novi is one of fewer than 100 groups across the United States to receive the award.

The following 2023 Arbor Day activities earned the City this prestigious award:

1. The City distributed more than 1,500 free trees and shrub seedlings to hundreds of Novi residents for the third year in a row. A local Girl Scout troop volunteered with the City to assist with the giveaway event, and instructional materials on how to plant and care for the seedlings were also dispersed. This seedling program has been very popular among residents and provides the City with a low-cost avenue to increase tree canopy coverage on private property.
2. The City also held an event at Wildlife Woods Park on April 28, 2023, to celebrate Arbor Day with commemorative tree plantings, a presentation on Novi's urban forest, and recognition of local elementary school children who raised funds to donate toward the City's tree planting efforts.

City staff are planning to make an even bigger splash for Arbor Day in 2024. Throughout the week of Arbor Day (April 21-27), the following activities are planned for Lakeshore Park:

- Signs with tree facts will be posted along trails all week.
- A guided hike on Lakeshore Park trails will be led by City staff.
- The fourth annual seedling giveaway will be held.
- Trees commemorating Arbor Day will be planted in the park.
- Information on Novi's urban forest and the history of Arbor Day will be presented.
- Volunteers will have the opportunity to remove invasive garlic mustard from the park.



Novi residents congregate at Wildlife Woods Park on April 28, 2023, to celebrate Arbor Day with commemorative tree plantings and a presentation on Novi's urban forest. Arbor Day activities, including this event in 2023, earned Novi the ISA Gold Leaf Award.



Forester/Contracts Supervisor Keith Salowich speaks at ArborCon 2024 conference in Lansing, MI after receiving the ISA Gold Leaf Award.



Recreation Supervisor Madison Lachance and Forester/Contracts Supervisor Keith Salowich accept the ISA Gold Leaf Award from ISA representative.