

MEMORANDUM



TO: JEFFREY HERCZEG, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
FROM: KEITH SALOWICH, FORESTER
SUBJECT: FALL 2022 – SPRING 2023 PLANTING SUMMARY
DATE: JUNE 15, 2023

Mayor and Council –

FYI, review of our Tree Planting this past year

- Victor

Novi has added 748 trees and 587 shrubs to its street-side rights-of-way and parks through the fall 2022 and spring 2023 planting seasons. The vast majority of these plantings are native species, as they are best equipped to handle the local climate conditions and benefit local wildlife.

Smaller trees and shrubs are being planted at many sites for two reasons: This allows for a greater number of plantings at lower cost and increases new planting survival, as younger plants adapt more readily to transplanting. The City has also begun purchasing and installing deer guard, a protective plastic mesh wrapping, on young trees using in-house staff to further reduce costs.

Novi's popular seedling distribution program was held for the third consecutive year, allowing hundreds of residents to sign up to receive more than 1,500 trees and shrubs for free. A local girl scout troop volunteered to assist with the distribution of the seedlings and returnable cans and bottles were collected to donate to Cans for Climate—a group of Novi students raising money for tree plantings in Novi parks.

The City's Arbor Day recognition event, held at Wildlife Woods Park on April 28, celebrated the planting of two white oak trees purchased using funds raised by the Cans for Climate group. Novi's local Alpha Kappa Alpha chapter also planted a river birch tree in the park to celebrate the occasion.

The number of trees and shrubs planted in each season and the associated costs are broken down below:

Fall 2022 —	340 trees 426 shrubs Total cost: \$108,940
Spring 2023 —	408 trees 161 shrubs Total cost: \$109,455
Seedling giveaway —	1,543 tree and shrub seedlings Total cost: \$2,706



Novi's City Forester and volunteers install a deer guard around a new white oak to protect its vulnerable bark from deer scrapes, which can kill young trees.



Unlike most infrastructure, green infrastructure like these newly planted street trees appreciate in value and offer greater benefits as they age.



The City of Novi celebrated Arbor Day in Wildlife Woods Park on Friday, April 28, 2023