

MEMORANDUM



TO: JEFFREY HERCZEG, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
FROM: KEITH SALOWICH, FORESTER/CONTRACTS SUPERVISOR
SUBJECT: FY 2024 – 25 PLANTING SUMMARY AND FORESTRY UPDATE
DATE: AUGUST 7, 2025

The urban forest plays a vital role in Novi's environment by providing an array of economic, environmental, and social benefits that far exceed the investments in planting, maintaining, and removing. Trees reduce air pollution, improve public health outcomes, reduce stormwater runoff, sequester and store carbon, reduce energy use, and increase property value.

As such, the management of Novi's urban forest is multi-faceted, and must include proactive tree maintenance, reactive work in the wake of storms or resident concerns, and a focus on long-term urban forest resilience from potential threats.

PLANTING HIGHLIGHTS

The City of Novi plants trees and shrubs on a semi-annual basis during the spring and fall planting seasons. Nearly all plantings are native species. Native species provide the greatest benefits to local ecosystems and are well adapted to the growing conditions of the area. Staff make every effort to abide by the "right tree—right place," ethos to plant trees in sites where they can thrive for many years without posing significant conflicts with infrastructure.

The total number of tree and shrub plantings are illustrated in a table below with some notable plantings as follows:

- **Street trees** were planted adjacent to 141 different residences throughout Novi. Many of them were replacements for dead street trees, storm damage, or trees removed as part of the Neighborhood Sidewalk Program. There were also 18 new planting sites.
- There were 23 trees installed around the new pickleball courts at the Meadowbrook Activity Center to help with screening and enhance the landscape.
- The Alpha Kappa Alpha group volunteered to plant eight trees around the City's Village Wood Lake Park, in celebration of Arbor Day.

	Trees	Shrubs	Total Cost
Fall 2024	158	35	\$44,900
Spring 2025	206	33	\$56,390
Seedling Giveaway	449	277	\$1,891

MAINTENANCE HIGHLIGHTS

City forestry contractors continuously remove dead/damaged/diseased trees, grind stumps, and prune trees year-round. The City Forester also assesses, diagnoses, and monitors public trees to form management decisions.



A storm-damaged street tree that was removed this summer and will be replaced in fall 2025.

- Proactive maintenance pruning is performed on every City-owned tree in every Novi neighborhood as part of the City's block pruning program. This ensures that sidewalks and roadways remain clear of low-hanging branches, removes hazardous dead or damaged branches, and aids in scouting for pests, diseases, and dead trees that should be removed. Two block pruning crews worked in Saratoga Circle, Mystic Forest, North Hills Estates, Connemara Hills, Jamestowne Green, Westridge Downs, Churchill Crossing, Treetop Meadows, Cedarspring Estates, and Mirabella Estates subdivisions during FY 2024-25, pruning a total of approximately 2,500 street trees (pruning schedule map attached).
- The City's proactive maintenance program will be expanded with funding directed to include pruning street trees along Major Roads and a young tree training pruning program.
- A City contractor removed invasive woody species—most notably buckthorn, autumn olive, and bittersweet—from Brookfarm Park. Invasive species cause harm to the environment by crowding out native species, thus drastically reducing species diversity, with minimal benefits for wildlife. The contractor cut the woody invasive species and treated the stumps with herbicide concentrate to ensure long-term eradication.

MISCELLANEOUS HIGHLIGHTS

- City of Novi Forester Keith Salowich earned an Oak Wilt Identification & Management Qualification credential through ISA-Michigan.
- Urban forestry efforts in Novi earned recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA (TCUSA) program for the 33rd time. Novi also earned its 15th Growth Award through the TCUSA program by going above and beyond the program's regular standards.
- Staff participated in a Community Relations video focused on its Arbor Day activities that were shared on City social media channels.