



***City of Saratoga Springs***  
***Department of Public Works***  
***Anthony “Skip” Scirocco, Commissioner***  
***Joseph J. O’Neill, III, Deputy Commissioner***

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## **Saratoga Springs DPW Celebrates Arbor Day**

**Saratoga Springs** – Commissioner of Public Works Anthony “Skip” Scirocco was joined by the City Arborist, Steve Lashomb, and NYSDEC Regional Forester for Region 5, Jeff Speich, today, to celebrate Arbor Day with the planting of a new tree on Broadway.

The City of Saratoga Springs has been recognized as a Tree City USA, since 2017, by the Arbor Day Foundation, and the planting of this new tree acknowledged the City’s continued commitment to its urban forest.

“The City of Saratoga Springs has demonstrated a real commitment toward protecting and promoting our urban forest, this has included investment from both the City and our community partners. DPW established a successful program managed by City Arborist and Urban Forestry Division to support the Urban Forestry Master Plan and ensure that city trees are maintained and cared for,” said Scirocco.

The Tree City USA program, administered by the Arbor Day Foundation, designates municipalities following the review of their investment, maintenance, and commitment to the urban tree canopy. The program requires spending of at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry. Saratoga Springs budgets approximately \$11 per capita to manage its urban forest.

In furtherance of the commitment to the urban forest, DPW recently applied for and was awarded a grant from the DEC’s Urban and Community Forestry Program. The grant will provide for a street tree inventory and updated forest management plan for the City.

“An updated tree inventory and forest management plan will assist with decision making on how best to support the health and viability of City trees.” Scirocco continued, “although we would have liked to have a larger celebration of Arbor Day, in consideration of COVID it was best to plant a new tree this year on Broadway.”

The newly planted tree is a Yellow Buckeye, which can grow up to 80’ and blooms yellow flowers in the Spring and produces orange leaves in the Fall.

PHOTO CAPTION: Commissioner Anthony “Skip” Scirocco, City Arborist Steve Lashomb, members of the DPW Urban Forestry Division, and Jeff Speich DEC Regional Forester for Region 5, plant a Yellow Buckeye tree on Broadway.

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