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PRESS RELEASE

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**CITY MAXIMIZES TREE REPLACEMENT EFFORTS
LEVERAGING GRANT FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS**

The City's 2024 fall tree planting program includes the planting of **87** trees as part of several contracted tree planting projects, and a large volunteer tree planting event.

Annual Fall Volunteer Tree Planting Event - On Saturday, November 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., Tree Watertown will host the City's 23rd Annual Fall Volunteer Tree Planting Event. This year's project includes planting **50** bare-root trees at various locations along the city margins on Grant Street, Seward Street, Henry Street, Starbuck Avenue, and Starbuck Elementary School. Interested citizens are encouraged to join members of Tree Watertown; students, parents, and faculty from Watertown City School District (WCSD) and Immaculate Heart Central Schools (IHC); City staff; Department of Environmental Conservation staff; and other area partners. This project is part of the final touches of a multi-year street reconstruction project.

Volunteer Meeting Location: Starbuck Elementary School located at 403 E Hoard Street.

The trees and other supplies for the project are funded through the City's successful grant application through the **Northern New York Community Foundation's (NNYCF) Carolyn Whitney Tree Fund**. City DPW Buildings and Grounds team will support the event by organizing tools and supplies, preparing planting sites for volunteers, and providing weekly watering throughout the 2025 growing season.

Tree Watertown members would like to acknowledge the following project donors: ***State Street Hardware*** for their donation of mulch for the event, and ***Burrville Cider Mill*** for their donation of apple cider for volunteers.

Fall Contracted Tree Planting Projects – Thirty-seven (**37**) trees will be planted as funded by the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** and the City.

- **Thompson Park West Sector Trail Project** – 17 trees.
- **Washington Street Tree Replacement Project** – 13 trees.
- **Winslow Street Watermain Project** - 7 trees.

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