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MEDIA RELEASE

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ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION ON FRIDAY, APRIL 25 BEGINS A WEEKLONG TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE IN THE CITY OF WATERTOWN

On **Friday, April 25, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.**, the City's 28th Annual Arbor Day Ceremony will be held near the Pinnacle Pavilion in Thompson Park in Watertown.

A Black Maple (*Acer nigrum*) tree will be planted in honor of Phillip J. Sprague, a longtime member of the Watertown Noon Rotary Club Tree Committee and founding member of Tree Watertown, for his leadership and commitment to making Watertown a more beautiful and greener City through numerous tree planting initiatives in Watertown since the 1980's.

2025 marks the 28th annual Arbor Day observance in the City of Watertown. The event will include the reading of this year's Arbor Day Proclamation and April 25, 2025, will be proclaimed as Arbor Day in the City of Watertown.

On **Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**, the Watertown Noon Rotary Club, in partnership with Tree Watertown, and the City of Watertown, will conduct their annual spring tree planting project. This year's project will take place in historic Thompson Park. Since 1975, the Rotary Club has been planting trees throughout the community and this year will mark their 50th year of tree planting.

Interested citizens are encouraged to join members of the Noon Rotary Club, Tree Watertown, students, parents, and faculty of both the Watertown City School District and IHC School District, along with other area partners, to plant **46** bare-root trees. Volunteers will meet at the 10th Mountain Monument and are encouraged to dress for the weather and bring a shovel.

During late April, the City's Department of Public Works will also be completing their Annual Spring Tree Planting Project with the planting of **79** trees. Trees will be planted in various locations across the City and in Thompson Park.

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