



City of Beacon, New York

Office of the Mayor

Lee Kyriacou, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF BEACON PILOTS INNOVATIVE TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

BEACON, NY – Mayor Lee Kyriacou announced that more than three dozen shade trees have been purchased by City residents through the 2024 Backyard Tree Pilot Program, which will be delivered to residents around Earth Day. The program is believed to be the first of its kind in Dutchess County and encourages property owners to plant native trees along street fronts and in backyards by bringing down the cost of the trees, while at no cost to taxpayers.

Launched in March, the pilot program offered Beacon residents the ability to purchase one or more of six varieties of native trees, for which the City negotiated significant discounts off the retail cost from a local nursery. The trees will be delivered to residents' homes for no cost, helping to cut the cost of the tree by nearly half of the retail cost for the 7-10 ft. tall trees.

Mayor Kyriacou noted, "Increasing the number of trees in our community offers significant benefits including cleaner air, improved quality of life, cooler temperatures in summer from shade, and increased property values. Each Beacon community member who purchased a tree is a partner in further greening our City."

Since Kyriacou became Mayor in 2021, the City has planted 40 trees on Main Street, in parking lots, and in public parks. The City plans to plant another dozen trees in 2024, filling in unused tree wells on Main Street and along Henry Street parking lots. However, by partnering with residents, the pilot program will help to increase the number of new trees planted to 50 for 2024.

Beacon's Recreation Department coordinated the purchasing, ordering, and delivery processes. Recreation Director Mark Price said "All of the trees we offered are native species and provide valuable habitat for local animals and pollinators." The trees purchased through the 2024 Pilot Program are Eastern Redbud, Flowering Dogwood, Red Maple, Sweetgum, Tulip Tree, and White Oak. The City plans to expand the program in spring 2025 based on the positive response in the first year.

In addition to planting trees, the City of Beacon is also hosting its annual city-wide clean-up on Saturday, April 20, and all are invited to participate. Sign up here:

<https://www.greenbeaconcoalition.org/events/2024/3/23/earth-day-2024-community-clean-up>

PHOTO OF 2024 TREE PROGRAM DELIVERIES BELOW

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