



Town of Gardiner Arbor Day Final Report - Date of Event: April 24, 2021

First off, thank you NYS Urban Forestry Council for awarding Gardiner funding for our Arbor Day Event with this Quick Start Grant. Community members enjoyed a wonderful day, and we planted a total of six trees, which will help to add beauty and shade to our local park for years to come. We are emailing you a link to a google drive folder with pictures, receipts, videos, promotional materials, and news articles for your review.

ATTENDANCE/OUTREACH/PROMOTION

About 75 people attended the event and we made sure to check in everyone, display COVID-19 safety information prominently, and inform everyone to wear masks and maintain social distancing. We reached out to various community and news organizations to get the word out about this celebration. We created a hard copy flyer and posted this flyer around town. We used Eventbrite for people to register in order to make sure that attendance was within state guidelines. We also met with Ulster County Department of Tourism to go over our COVID-19 safety protocols. Finally, our team created an electronic banner about the event and used this banner to do outreach on Facebook, on our Town's website and via e-newsletters.

Participants included Town of Gardiner's Climate Smart Gardiner Taskforce Members, Parks & Recreation Committee Members, New Paltz Central School District Middle School Climate Smart Club Members, Town Board Member Franco Carucci and Town Supervisor Marybeth Majestic, Elementary School Students, Bloom Landscape Design and Fine Gardening, County Executive and Gardiner Resident Pat Ryan (as an attendee), general public

URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM

We hope this event will help facilitate an urban forestry program in our community as the event has helped bring attention to the value of trees in our community. The event was well attended and received a very favorable response from community members and the press. With this momentum we created, we are now doing outreach to look for volunteers to serve on a Town Tree Board that would help create a tree policy/ordinance and to help coordinate future Arbor Day celebrations. Additionally, we reached out to the County Executive about helping some other county municipalities plant trees by including this in the county budget. As a result, there is a strong possibility that this celebration will help facilitate even more urban forestry programs throughout the county next year as a result.

CEREMONY & EVENT DETAILS

We made this a public celebration and ceremony.

- Gardiner's Town Supervisor presented a signed proclamation and pronounced April 24th, 2021 as Arbor Day in Gardiner
- Town Board Member Franco Carucci provided remarks about the history of Arbor Day
- Local children participated in the event telling tree jokes and reading poems about trees
- Tim Hunter, a local musician provided some musical entertainment and sang a few songs about stewardship and trees
- Two Middle School Climate Club students were appointed as tree stewards & presented Certificates of Appreciation
- We planted 6 trees in total for the event. The highway department dug the holes for us and planted 5 trees before the day of the event. A week later, we installed hardware cloth and water gators.
- A Climate Smart Gardiner member donated a tree in memoriam for her recently deceased partner. Since it was smaller, Bloom Landscape Design & Fine Gardening did their planting demo with this donated Magnolia Ann tree on the day of the event followed by a Q & A
- We created a Storybook Walk with the book "The Tremendous Tree"
- We put together a tree ID Hike booklet for kids to learn about the newly planted trees
- Children helped mulch the trees on the day of the event
- We created an art display of stickemadoos so children could leave with a take home art project. We provided them with a goody bag that included yarn and seeds that Lowe's donated for the event.