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**An Arbor Day Celebration Like No Other
Rochester's Tree Canopy Will Cover Us All!**

On the last Friday of every April, Arbor Day is celebrated each year. On Friday, April 26, 2024, a celebration of trees was held in Monroe County on the grounds near the Trenton and Pamela Jackson R-Center, 485 N. Clinton Avenue. In the company of County Executive Adam Bello, with representatives from Monroe County Parks, the City of Rochester, Plant GFLX, and more, an Eastern Redbud tree and a Sugar Maple tree were planted. Many hands helped in the moving of Rochester soil, as these young trees prepare to root in their new home.

Presentations from local youth inspired the audience. Students from Genesee Community Charter School shared research on tree equity in cities from multiple east coast states. Rocio Rodriguez, a 6th grade student from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School No. 9 represented her school's Garden Club with a reading of her award winning poem, "Canopy". Jeremy and Jermanee Smith performed a reading of the classroom collaborative poem, "PoeTree," written in celebration of Arbor Day and Poetry Month, by Seed Sowers and Storytellers students from the Freedom Scholars Learning Center. 4-H Educator Rachel DeVona announced the Art and Writing Awards, highlighting the arboreal artwork of local Monroe County youth. Congratulations to the Seed Sowers and Storytellers group from Freedom Scholars Learning Center on being voted "Best in Show" with their entry, "PoeTree"! Well done!

With blue skies and a gentle breeze to back the day, this Arbor Day was both inspiring and informative. The theme of this year's Arbor Day celebration was Tree Equity. Trees belong, and are needed, in every neighborhood of the city. Their canopy provides cooling shade, they improve air quality, and they benefit our mental health, purely by existing. Thank you to all youth who submitted creative writing and visual artworks exploring this theme! Congratulations to all award winners, listed here:

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Best in Show

Winner: Seed Sowers and Storytellers - "PoeTree"

Honorable Mention: Clarah Weaver - "The Sycamore Tree"

Most Vibrant

Winner: Cultivating Community - "Seasonal Change"

Honorable Mention: David Sanchez - "Sea Tree"

Most Inspiring

Winner: Rocio Rodriguez - "CANOPY"

Honorable Mention: Kristian Alves - "The River of Living Trees"

Most Eco Friendly Message

Winner: Manuel Tapp - "It's Fair Trade!"

Honorable Mention - "Ellis Clark - "Trees Plant a Cooler Future"

Most Playful

Winner: Stone Clark - "Trees Pop Out!"

Honorable Mention: Redding Clark - "I'm a Tree Hugger!"

Scan this QR code or visit <https://www.artsteps.com/view/65f9e89b885c5605d84029f8> to view an online gallery of Arbor Day Art and Writing Contest submissions.



The Monroe County 4-H Program is offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension to the youth of Monroe County. 4-H is a worldwide youth development program open to all youth ages 5 to 19, who want to have fun, learn new skills, and explore the world. In return, youth who participate in 4-H find a supportive environment and opportunities for hands-on or "experiential" learning about topics that spark their interest.



Rochester students help plant an Eastern Redbud tree.



Best in Show "Poetree" written and created by Seed Sowers and Storytellers, students from the Freedom Scholars Learning Center

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