Supervisor Matt McAndrew
Town of Ellicottville

January 12, 2026

CC: Council Members: Greg Fitzpatrick, Ken Hinman, John Zerfas, and Steve Crowley

The Nannen Arboretum saw another year that has seen many accomplishments on the grounds. We have a very active base of fourteen volunteers that perform a variety of tasks that maintain the trees and grounds of the arboretum. I have listed below many of the activities we completed in 2025. The goal of the Nannen Arboretum provide education in regards to trees and nature. This is hopefully done by providing a quiet reflective piece of nature for the public to enjoy whether they live in the surrounding Ellicottville area or are visiting.

Sue Blesy:
-our year started out sadly in January with the passing of trustee Sue Telaak Blesy
-Sue spent countless hours in the arboretum helping with any task needed
-her wish for a memorial was for us to plant a big oak tree
-on June 5, 2025 along with many of her family members we planted and dedicated a Pin Oak in Sue's memory
-the Pin Oak someday should reach 70-90 feet

Tree Mapping and Signage:
-we have completed replacing the individual tree signs
-Plantsoon access via your smartphone gives you tree location in the arboretum
-each tree sign has its own QR code that allows you access to a wide range of information about the tree

Tree Maintenance and Pruning:
-volunteers do the minor pruning of trees and mulching
-we had professional help from Bradley Tree Service this year whereby they removed 3 trees, pruned 25 trees, and removed 5 stumps
-Bradley Tree Service continues our inoculation of our six Ash trees

Cattaraugus County Farmer-Neighbor Dinner:
-the Nannen Arboretum has been a long time exhibitor at this event
-we had volunteers present this year to answer questions about the arboretum and increase awareness of its existence
-we handed out #100 spruce seedlings to the public that we had obtained from the DEC

Arbor Day:
-the last Friday of April every year
-we planted a Hackberry this year as our Arbor Day tree
-the program consisted of an introduction to Plantsoon by Mike Braun and "Forest Bathing" by Steve Ward

-our annual clean up day followed on Saturday April 26th

Ellicottville Central Arbor Day:

-the Nannen Arboretum donated ECS with a Yellowwood for their Arbor Day program
-the 3rd grade students are given a spruce seedling to take home
-the 5th grade class actually helps to plant the tree with each student shoveling some dirt

Ellicottville Central Third Grade:

-the spring visit is completed by a series of "stations" whereby volunteers relate a variety of issues related to trees and nature
-the stations were: leaf mirroring, unique bark patterns, mulching, pruning, tree life span, parts of tree, and everyday products made from trees
-the fall visit is a tour done by Nan Miller where she introduces the students to some unique trees : Contorted Pine, Weeping Spruce, Bristlecone Pine, Snake Spruce, White Birch, LaceBark, and a variety of Oak trees ; fun facts and lots of student involvement

Ellicottville Central 5th Grade:

-a new addition with the 5th grade coming to visit this year!
-the overall concept of program was a pause of technology and a return to nature
-stations addressed: history of bones, sounds of nature, mulching, fishing, life cycle of trees. art project, and introduction to Plantsoon
-the program concluded with the students helping to plant a Chestnut Oak

Cornell Cooperative Extension:

-cosponsored a student leadership program with CCE
-students from Salamanca
-our volunteer stations were: history of arboretum, pollinators, pruning and maintenance, and demonstration of Plantsoon/QR codes
-arboretum volunteers also provided the "dessert bar" for he CCE "Creatures of the Night" program in October

Pond:

-we installed a solar fountain in the pond with volunteer manpower, which saved a lot of funds
-the hope is the fountain will improve the health of the pond, while adding to the beauty of the arboretum
-we also started a program designed by Smith Creek Fish Bond that addresses nutrient management and bacteria control of the pond with a goal of clearing the pond

Dwarf Conifer Garden:

-new addition this year
-located on path near patio of Town Center
-consists of seven small conifers that typically stay below 5 feet in height, various heights and color

-their habits can be upright spreading, or spherical

Pet Waste Elimination:
-pet waste has always been an issue in the arboretum since its an ideal space to walk your pet
-we installed containers for disposal at the entrance and bags are available in two locations

Group B Tourism Grant:
-we have applied to the Cattaraugus County Group B Tourism Grant
-funds must be used to attract tourists to our area
-grant funds for the arboretum would be used for a new flyer design

Field Trips:
-tour of Cornell Botanical Gardens in May
-tour of new arboretum in Allegany State Park in September
-the trips are open to all volunteers

Nannen Wreath Making:
-the very popular class was done again by Nan Miller in early December
-education about pines and a variety of nature's things that can make your wreath truly stand out !

Education Programs:
-we are aligning with Cornell Botanical Gardens to continue to offer some zoom type programs to any member of the community

Volunteers:
-we have a strong group of volunteers that makes it all possible!
-in the summer we do a cookout after a Monday morning workday
-we do a final luncheon as a thank you in October
-"winter connections" : coffee and muffins once a month for volunteers

New Trustee:
-Paul Timkey joined us as a new trustee this year

I hope this gives you a good idea of the programs we are using in the Nannen Arboretum to promote the role of trees in nature. If you have any questions, please reach out to me or any trustee for information.

Thank you,

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Trustees:
Michael Braun, Vice President
Laurie Barrera, Treasurer
Blair Hamilton
Diane Smith
Gretchen Plough
Ed Chapman
Paul Timkey