

# THE CHARGING STATION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF A<sup>2</sup>ZERO AND  
THE ANN ARBOR OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATIONS



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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

This month's newsletter was written by the City of Ann Arbor Circularity Team, whose work spans sustainable food to natural resources to community resilience to zero waste. Pictured above from left to right: Jayla Lowry (Americorps Member), Azella Markgraf (Sustainable Food Coordinator), Sean Reynolds (Senior Analyst), Annika Moran (Americorps Member), Mason Edison (Americorps Member), Bryce Frohlich (Community Resilience Specialist), and Claire DeBlanc (Circularity Coordinator). Not pictured: Genevieve Rattray (Sustainability Manager) and Ashley Currey (Americorps Member).

 Keep an eye out for this symbol for things you can do right now to advance sustainability!

**TAKE ACTION!**



*The Circularity Team at a recent strategy session where they created vision boards for their work in 2026.*

## WELCOME

Welcome from the City of Ann Arbor's Office of Sustainability and Innovations (OSI). In this issue of the Charging Station, OSI is delighted to share details about ways that you can get involved with sustainability this Earth Month. If you are interested in learning more about any of the organizations featured in this issue, more detail can be found on our website: [www.a2gov.org/sustainability](http://www.a2gov.org/sustainability). As always, thank you for your interest in sustainability activities in Ann Arbor!

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Equity and justice are at the center of A<sup>2</sup>ZERO and staff in OSI are continuing to ground our work in these critical principles. In that light, we'd like to take a moment to honor the geographic and historic space we share. We acknowledge that the land the City of Ann Arbor occupies is the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe and Wyandot peoples. We further acknowledge that our city stands, like almost all property in the United States, on lands obtained, generally in unconscionable ways, from indigenous peoples. The taking of this land was formalized by the Treaty of Detroit in 1807. Knowing where we live, work, study, and recreate does not change the past, but a thorough understanding of the ongoing consequences of this past can empower us in our work to create a future that supports human flourishing and justice for all individuals.

# WHAT COMES AFTER 10,000 TREES

THE WORK CONTINUES AFTER ACHIEVING THIS A<sup>2</sup>ZERO GOAL



*Trees available at a previous FreeTree giveaway.*

When the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Plan was created, one of the many actions included in the pathway to community-wide carbon neutrality was to plant 20,000 new trees in the community – 10,000 on public property and 10,000 on private property. To achieve that private property goal, the 10,000 Trees Initiative was established – and four years later, that goal was achieved. Now, the total number of trees planted on private property is over 11,000. This investment in our tree canopy means healthier ecosystems, cleaner air, less flooding and erosion, better water quality, reduced summer temperatures, increased carbon sequestration, and lower energy usage for cooling buildings. We're not stopping now – the 10,000 Trees Initiative is continuing to get trees in the ground and is branching out into other approaches to make our community's tree canopy as healthy and resilient as possible.

The FreeTree Giveaway program has been a staple of the 10,000 Trees Initiative since 2021, and there are no plans to change that. Through this program, residents of Washtenaw County can sign up to receive free tree seedlings to take home and plant on their property. This annual event is coming up soon – the 2026 FreeTree Giveaway will be on April 25th at Mitchell Elementary School (registration is now closed). In addition, the 10,000 Trees Initiative now collaborates annually with the Washtenaw County Conservation District (WCCD) to provide coupons for the WCCD's Fall Tree and Native Plant Sales.

A healthy, vibrant tree canopy doesn't come about just through plantings – it's also important to maintain existing trees. In recognition of this, the 10,000 Trees Initiative, in collaboration with Greenstreet Tree Care, is now offering free tree maintenance work to residents within pre-identified eligible communities. Greenstreet's certified professionals will be available to meet with property owners and assess tree maintenance needs, prune trees for health and public safety, and remove dead trees or, if necessary, remove trees that pose a safety risk.

# WHAT COMES AFTER 10,000 TREES

THE WORK CONTINUES AFTER ACHIEVING THIS A<sup>2</sup>ZERO GOAL

Additional no-cost tree planting work will be available in these eligible communities through a collaboration with Margolis, Inc.

Funding for both of these programs is provided by the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program, in partnership with American Forests. 100% of the funds will go towards the eligible communities, which were identified based on tree equity data - meaning this historic investment will be a critical factor in advancing tree equity within Ann Arbor and ensuring that a healthy, diverse, and vibrant tree canopy grows throughout our entire community.

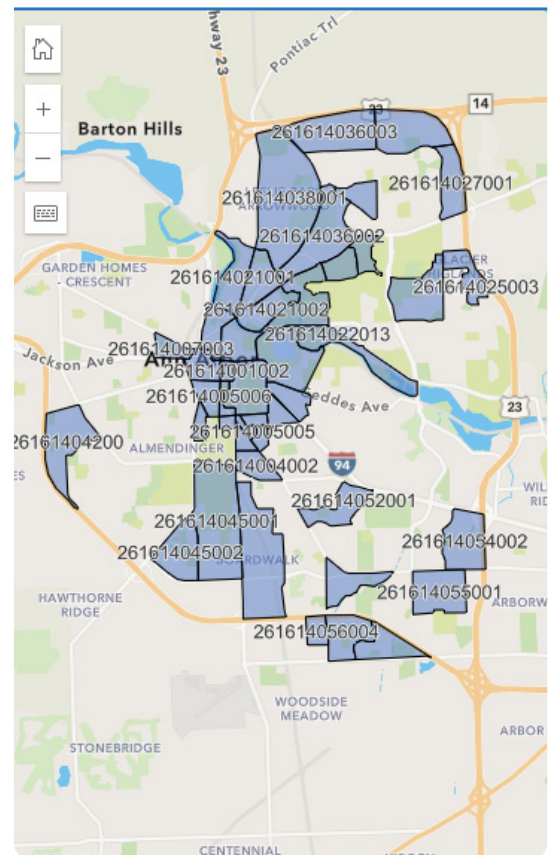
With all of this work happening, it's more important than ever that our community stays connected with our trees. To that end, the 10,000 Trees Initiative has begun offering tree education and engagement opportunities. Available on our webpage are 13 Neighborhood Tree Walks.

These Neighborhood Tree Walks are self-guided tours of many of the city's neighborhoods, chock full of tree identification tips, fun tree facts, and details about the local history of each neighborhood. Plus, guided versions of these walks are planned for spring, summer, and fall – along with a series of workshops focused on tree identification, tree care, and the connections between trees and our daily lives. Stay tuned for more information on these engagement opportunities.

Whether you're looking to plant new trees, maintain and protect existing trees, or learn about our community's trees and their importance in our lives and our work towards a carbon-neutral community, the 10,000 Trees Initiative is a great place to start. Learn more about this work at [a2gov.org/10ktrees](http://a2gov.org/10ktrees).




Tree Planting and Maintenance Eligibility Map



The Tree Planting and Maintenance Eligibility map.

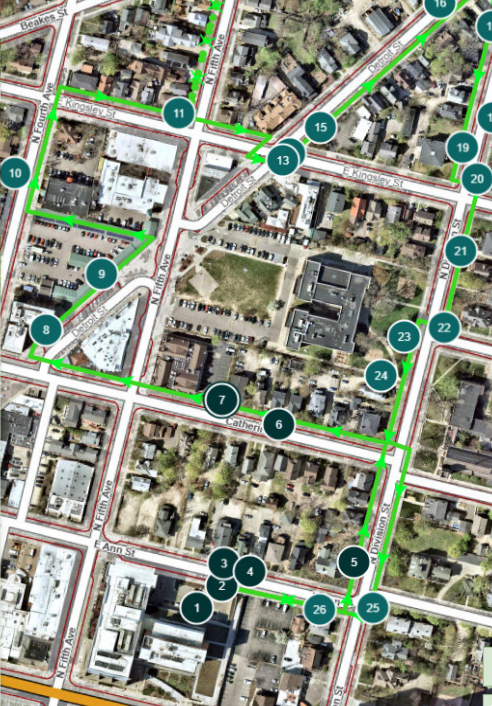
Ann Arbor Tree Walk - Kerrytown



**Little Leaf Linden**

*Tilia cordata* | Non-Native

Fun Facts: The earliest recordings of Linden trees date back to 760 AD in Germanic and Norse countries. It is said to be the favorite tree of Norse goddesses Freyja, the goddess of love, and Frigga, the goddess of



# ELECTRONICS COLLECTIONS

EXPANDING SOLUTIONS FOR ELECTRONICS

In October 2024, OSI launched an electronics collection program in collaboration with Comprenew. This program was created to provide opportunities for Ann Arbor residents to confidently dispose of electronics in a sustainable and ethical way. This is increasingly important since e-waste is the fastest growing solid waste stream globally.

From October 2024 to October 2025, OSI hosted four collection events for Ann Arbor residents. In total, around 700 residents registered and 62,000 total pounds of materials were processed. From these four events, 90,000 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions were reduced, which is equivalent to 48.5 acres of forest sequestering carbon!

Since the community had such an enthusiastic response to this program, the City decided to expand it and is offering six collection opportunities in 2026. The 2026 electronics calendar began in March, with the first ever secure drop-off receptacle available in City Hall. Within two days, the receptacles were full, including the two backup receptacles. On the horizon, OSI has four drive-through collection events, scheduled for April 25, June 6, August 8, and October 24. These events are free to attend and require registration. Another secure drop-off receptacle will be available at City Hall after the holidays for select season-specific items.

The City continues building this program with Comprenew, a non-profit IT-asset disposition provider based in Grand Rapids, Michigan and the only e-Steward certified recycler based in Michigan. The e-Steward certification is a global standard for responsible electronic waste management, requiring adherence to strict data security, environmental justice, and waste management standards. These e-Steward standards include thoroughly vetting

## ELECTRONICS COLLECTIONS BY THE NUMBERS

ACROSS 4 EVENTS IN 2025...

**90,000 LBS OF GREENHOUSE  
GAS EMISSIONS REDUCED,  
EQUIVALENT TO 48.5 ACRES OF  
FOREST SEQUESTERING  
CARBON**

**~700 RESIDENTS  
REGISTERED**

**62,000 POUNDS  
OF PROCESSED  
MATERIALS**



*Items dropped off at an event in 2025.*

# ELECTRONICS COLLECTIONS

EXPANDING SOLUTIONS FOR ELECTRONICS



all downstream vendors, ensuring that electronic waste is not sent to other countries unless done in a responsible way as laid out in the [Basel Convention](#), prioritizing reuse and refurbishment before recycling in alignment with the waste management hierarchy, securely handling data, and [more](#). Additionally, Comprenew gives back to the Michigan community and uplifts circular economy practices. They run a [Connect All Michigan Program](#) (CAMP) to offer free and reduced-cost computers to low-income students. Comprenew uses refurbished computers that they collect to run this program.

Access to proper electronics disposal is essential, since electronics should not be placed in regular curbside recycling or the trash. Placing electronics in your curbside recycling exposes workers to [hazardous materials](#) that they are not equipped to handle. Disposing of electronics in the trash allows harmful materials in the devices to be leached into the environment, [impacting environmental and human health](#). Additionally, electronics contain valuable materials that can be recovered and reused, but only if they are processed at the proper facilities.

Although access to proper electronics recycling is an important part of sustainably managing electronics, extending the lifespan of devices is also a part of the equation. Simply handling electronics with care, keeping them clean, keeping them from extreme temperatures, protecting with a case and/or screen protector, managing storage, optimizing battery life, and repairing your electronics, are powerful ways to reduced e-waste. Ann Arbor's [circular economy map](#) can be used to find places to get your electronics repaired locally and keep your devices from becoming e-waste. For more information, visit [a2gov.org/electronics](http://a2gov.org/electronics).



# A<sup>2</sup>ZERO CLIMATE ACTION HERO

JEFF JACKSON IS APRIL 2026'S HERO

Beginning this year, the Office of Sustainability and Innovations started recognizing and celebrating Climate Action Heroes operating right here, in our community. These Heroes are individuals who are taking steps to help the community achieve its A<sup>2</sup>ZERO goal of making a just and equitable transition to community-wide carbon neutrality by the year 2030. The ideal Climate Action Hero is someone who inspires others to make positive change.

Each month, a Hero will be selected by the Office of Sustainability and Innovations from all nominated applicants. Selected Climate Action Heroes will be celebrated with a column in the Ann Arbor Observer, as well as in this newsletter and on OSI's social media. In 2026, all Climate Action Heroes will also be recognized at an awards ceremony.

Individuals are encouraged to celebrate the Climate Action Heroes in their lives by nominating them at [OSI.A2GOV.ORG/HERO](https://OSI.A2GOV.ORG/HERO). Anyone can submit a nomination, but the Hero themselves must live or work in Ann Arbor.



Jeff Jackson is the founder and owner of Happy Planet Running, a zero-waste event service that helps race events across southeastern Michigan collect and divert waste. Races can generate a lot of waste, from packet pick-up, aid stations, food areas, the start and finish lines, swag, and more. Jeff helps these events create a Zero Waste plan tailored to each race that details how to mitigate, collect, and divert 95% or more of all waste generated.

At the left, Jeff (middle) can be seen posing with Race Director Eva Solomon of Epic Races and other race staff, with the small amount of landfill after serving several hundred runners and spectators. Races can otherwise generate dumpsters full of waste – this is a big achievement!

Jeff is noted for his resourcefulness, dedication, and passion educating others about zero waste. After events, race staff receive a detailed sustainability report. Landfill mitigation and diversion are key elements of turning our linear economy into a circular one, where waste is reduced and items are reused.

## JEFF JACKSON

### ZERO-WASTE RUNNER

"Jeff does an excellent job educating others about the zero waste movement and about different waste mitigation strategies," said Sara, who nominated Jeff as this month's Hero.

Happy Planet Running has provided services to over 150 events, including running races from 5K to ultramarathons, bike races, triathlons, ski races, and even a snowshoe race. They've composted or recycled over 35 tons of material! The Office of Sustainability and Innovations is delighted to celebrate Jeff as our next A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Climate Action Hero for his effort and impact. Learn more about Happy Planet at [happyplanetrunning.com](https://happyplanetrunning.com). Learn more about building community and tackling climate change with your neighbors at [the Office of Sustainability and Innovations website](https://www.osi.a2gov.org).

**Thank you Jeff for being a Climate Action Hero in our community!**  
Submit your Hero at [OSI.A2GOV.ORG/HERO](https://OSI.A2GOV.ORG/HERO)

# COLLABORATOR HIGHLIGHT

## CIRCULAR ECONOMY ACTION PLANNING WITH KITTALI WEIDNER LLC

This month, we spoke with Sushma Kittali-Weidner, Director of Kittali Weidner LLC, to learn more about the work she is doing with her team to help OSI create a Circular Economy Action Plan.

“I’ve spent over twenty years helping global businesses advance sustainability, including circularity. Ann Arbor has been my home for more than fifteen of those years. I launched Kittali Weidner LLC in 2024 to advance these learnings, and the Circular Economy Action Plan has been a wonderful opportunity to apply them to my community.

I’m lucky to work with an incredible team. Gary Miciunas is a recognized pioneer in making buildings and workplaces more circular. Andrew McCue spent six years with Metabolic in Amsterdam on circular cities and food systems, and helped build Boulder, CO’s circular economy roadmap. Laura Novich mapped how New Yorkers repair their clothes and textiles, making the invisible visible. Larry LaMotte has spent decades rescuing building materials and led a major deconstruction study in Brookline, MA.

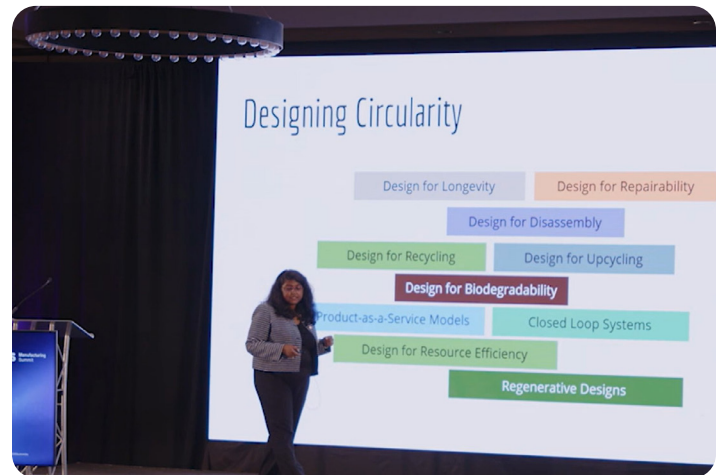
A huge portion of a city’s carbon footprint is hidden in the things we buy, use, and throw away. Circular strategies tackle this by keeping materials in use longer: buying smarter, repairing more, reusing what we can, and rethinking alternate uses. Circularity also means strengthening local food systems that shorten supply chains and reduce waste, and restoring natural systems through practices like composting, soil care, habitat restoration and land stewardship.

The foundation the Office of Sustainability and Innovations team and partners have built is extraordinary, and we’re building on it together. Ann Arbor is already a community where neighborhood swaps, composting programs, fix-it clinics, local food networks, and packaging return loops are part of everyday life. Many cities start from scratch; Ann Arbor has a living foundation to build on.

Our process centers on listening and learning. The strategies that emerge will reflect what we hear: real barriers, real opportunities, and what the community is ready to build together. The opportunity we see is in connecting what’s already happening, making these efforts reinforce each other, and exploring new territory.

Circular Economy Action Planning is structured in three phases and is well underway. We’ve completed a baseline assessment, internal interviews, and established both an Internal Steering Committee and an External Advisory Board. We’re now deep in discovery, conducting one-on-one conversations with local businesses, institutions, and community organizations, benchmarking leading circular cities, and preparing a digital survey for broader input. Every discussion reveals something exciting. Every conversation reminds me of why I want to do this work.

Our goal is a living plan Ann Arbor can act on right away and evolve over time. Clear priorities and a roadmap get things moving, but the real power is in a process designed to adapt as the community grows, and new solutions emerge. We hope this becomes a model for what’s possible when a city has the desire for a local, circular economy.



*Sushma presents on designing a circular economy.*



*Circular economy brainstorming with the Circularity Team at OSI.*

# COLLABORATOR HIGHLIGHT

THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Office of Emergency Management shares how they help build resilience in Ann Arbor.

## What is the Office of Emergency Management, and what do you do?

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM), housed under the Ann Arbor Fire Department, is dedicated to ensuring Ann Arbor is prepared for all hazards—whether weather-related, technological, or human-caused. OEM focuses on the four phases of emergency management: preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. We plan for large city-wide events, oversee all emergency planning, manage the Emergency Operations Center, and conduct comprehensive training and exercises. OEM also maintains the city's outdoor warning siren system and the A2 Emergency Alert System to ensure timely public notification. With a commitment to protecting and supporting everyone who lives in, works in, or visits Ann Arbor, OEM works year-round to strengthen the city's safety and resilience.

## Management is different from response. How do you help manage the before, during, and after of emergencies?

Emergency management focuses on coordination, communication, and support across all phases; not just the moment something happens. Before an emergency, we work with partners to identify risks, create plans, train responders, and educate the public. During an emergency, we help coordinate information, resources, and decision-making—often through the EOC—so responders can focus on field operations. **After an emergency, we support recovery efforts, help document damage, connect communities to resources, and identify ways to improve for the future.**

## What do your immediate responses look like?

Our immediate response depends on the situation, but typically includes:

- Activating the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) if needed. (Pictured on the next page!)
- Coordinating with police, fire, public works, and other partners.
- Sharing accurate, timely information with the public.
- Supporting resource requests (personnel, equipment, mutual aid).
- Monitoring the situation and helping leadership make informed decisions.



*Sydney Parmenter, Emergency Manager (left), and Michaelyn Osmonson, Emergency Management Specialist (right).*

## What are the best ways for residents to be alerted of emergencies in the area?

We use multiple systems because no single method reaches everyone:

- **A2 Emergency Alert System:** This system allows the City of Ann Arbor to contact thousands of residents quickly via phone, email, or text in the event of an urgent situation. We encourage anyone who lives or works in Ann Arbor to sign up for these alerts at [www.a2gov.org/alerts](http://www.a2gov.org/alerts).
- **Outdoor Warning Sirens:** The City of Ann Arbor operates a system of 22 sirens spread across the city. This is an outdoor warning system only. **Sirens are not intended to be heard indoors. They are meant to warn people to seek shelter inside and turn to other sources for additional information regarding the situation. The sirens can be activated for any event that makes being outdoors unsafe—not just tornado warnings!**
- **Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA):** These alerts are sent to cell phones for urgent, life-threatening situations and do not require registration. Ensure you are already enrolled by checking your phone's notification settings.
- **Social Media and A2gov.org:** The City of Ann Arbor will share emergency messages on their social media accounts, as well as update the City's urgent emergency webpage. Any critical information regarding an ongoing situation will be updated at [www.a2gov.org/urgent](http://www.a2gov.org/urgent).

Each tool serves a different purpose, so the best approach is to sign up for alerts and stay connected in multiple ways.

# COLLABORATOR HIGHLIGHT

THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



*The Emergency Operations Center, the home of large-scale coordinated emergency response in Ann Arbor.*

## **Resilience is an important part of our A<sup>2</sup>ZERO goals. How does resilience factor into your work?**

Resilience is at the core of what we do. It's about helping our community not only withstand emergencies but recover quickly and come back stronger. This includes reducing risks before disasters happen, supporting vulnerable populations, building strong partnerships across the community, and learning from past events to improve future outcomes. A resilient community is one where everyone plays a role in preparedness and recovery.

## **What are you looking forward to as your work progresses?**

We're always looking to grow and strengthen our programs. Some key priorities include:

- Expanding community outreach and education.
- Enhancing emergency plans and exercises.
- Strengthening partnerships across agencies and organizations.
- Improving communication tools and accessibility.
- Ultimately, the goal is to build a safer, more prepared, and more connected community.

## **How can residents get involved?**

Residents play a critical role in emergency preparedness. Some simple ways to get involved include:

- Signing up for local emergency alerts at [www.a2gov.org/alerts](http://www.a2gov.org/alerts).
- Building an emergency kit and making an emergency plan.
- Staying informed about local risks.
- Checking in on neighbors—especially those who may need extra help.

Prepared communities start with prepared individuals, and even small steps can make a big difference.

# FROM THE A<sup>2</sup>ZERO COMMUNITY COOKBOOK

VIEW THIS RECIPE AND 70+ MORE AT [OSI.A2GOV.ORG/COOKBOOK](https://OSI.A2GOV.ORG/COOKBOOK)

## RAMP PESTO PASTA

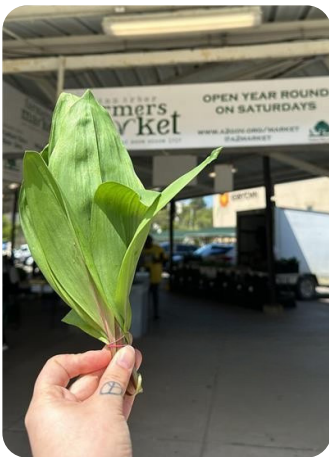
From the Kitchen of: Madeline Mariasy, Community Member



**Preparation Time:** 10 minutes | **Cook Time:** 12-15 minutes | **Yield:** 4 bowls

**Common Allergens:** Wheat (Optional), Tree Nuts, Milk

This pesto utilizes ramps, otherwise known as wild garlic! Ramps are a leafy wild vegetable with a pungent flavor similar to garlic. They are native to the Midwest and Appalachian regions of the United States and are a rare and prized ingredient for chefs due to their unique flavor, limited availability, and short harvest season.



Madeline feels lucky to be able to purchase ramps at the Ann Arbor farmers market. This meal helps them feel “connected to our local ecosystem,” while embodying the flavors of spring and early summer!

Madeline loves sharing this recipe with others to help them celebrate local, native food options and support local farmers markets.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Prepare pasta according to the instructions on the package. Reserve  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of the pasta water before straining.
- Gently wash and chop the ramps.
- Add the ramps, walnuts, parmesan, and lemon zest to a food processor or blender. Pulse a few times to combine the dry ingredients.
- Slowly add the olive oil into the food processor, and pulse until a desired pesto texture is reached. Taste the pesto and add salt, pepper, and lemon juice as desired.
- Return the drained pasta to the pot, add the pesto and some pasta water if needed to help the pesto stick to the noodles. Stir to coat the pasta in the pesto.
- Garnish the pasta with extra parmesan cheese and red pepper flakes (optional)
- Serve and enjoy! Madeline likes this dish with a piece of local, crusty bread.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 pound rotini or radiatore pasta (or pasta of choice)
- 1 bunch ramps, roughly chopped
- 1/2 cup toasted walnuts, chopped
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese, grated (or nutritional yeast)
- Zest of 1/2 a large lemon
- 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- Salt & pepper, to taste
- Red pepper flakes, to taste (optional)

### FORAGING FOR RAMPS:

Though ramps are delicious, wild ramp populations are declining due to overharvesting. It takes 5-7 years for one ramp to grow!

Foragers should be careful not to harvest the entire plant or patch of ramps. Try cutting just one leaf, and leave the rest of the plant to continue growing.

Please forage responsibly!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Lawn Care Rebates.** The City of Ann Arbor is launching a newly expanded rebate program for electric yard care equipment beginning April 2026. This program will allow residents and businesses to trade in gas yard care equipment and receive a rebate for electric or manual equipment of the same type. These rebates can be used to purchase manual or electric yard care equipment including leaf blowers, snow blowers, lawn mowers, hedge trimmers and more at any retailer. The rebate amount will be up to 100% of the cost of a new piece of manual equipment or up to 50% of the cost of a new piece of electric equipment. To receive a rebate, residents and businesses will be required to trade in old gas-powered equipment by recycling it through the process laid out at [osi.a2gov.org/rebates](https://osi.a2gov.org/rebates).

**Recent Sustaining Ann Arbor Together Grant Winners.** Two community projects have been selected to receive funding through the Sustaining Ann Arbor Together (SA2T) grant program, totaling \$17,500. The SA2T grant program helps local community groups develop, resource, and complete small-scale projects supporting sustainability in Ann Arbor. Current awardees include:

- SunBundle | \$7,500 to support the distribution of 1,000 pairs of refurbished athletic footwear and more than 500 athletic and wellness care bundlers to youth in under-resourced communities.
- Ann Arbor Joy Ride | \$10,000 to support the purchase of a specialized e-bike designed to give older adults and people with limited mobility the opportunity to experience the joy of cycling with the help of volunteer “pilots”.

**8th Cohort of A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Ambassadors were welcomed into the Ambassador Program!** The A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Ambassador Program invites and trains community members to explore pathways for advancing local sustainability initiatives, resilience, and carbon neutrality in Ann Arbor. More than 150 community members have already become A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Ambassadors, and we look forward to working with this new cohort!

**Thank you to everyone who brought their enthusiasm to the Electronics Collection Receptacle March 9th!** THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the electronics drop-off at City Hall! We received an enthusiastic response from the community and in a matter of hours, the secure drop-off receptacles were filled with electronics to be refurbished or recycled. We’re honored that the Ann Arbor community has such a passionate interest in responsible disposal of electronics, and while this drop-off is now closed, we encourage residents who are interested to go to [a2gov.org/electronics](https://a2gov.org/electronics) to learn about any of the many upcoming larger collection events. The next event will be April 25 and registration is open now [osi.a2gov.org/april26electronics](https://osi.a2gov.org/april26electronics).

**Thank you to everyone who brought their enthusiasm to the FreeTree Giveaway Registration!** THANK YOU to everyone who expressed their interest in registering for the FreeTree Giveaway on April 25! This event also received an enthusiastic response and in a matter of hours, all trees available for this giveaway were reserved. We’re honored that the Ann Arbor community has such a passionate interest in taking home trees, and while registration is now closed, we encourage residents interested to subscribe to the 10,000 Trees newsletter for the latest updates at [a2gov.org/10ktrees](https://a2gov.org/10ktrees), and to attend the A2 Climate Teach-In (information on next page) for a chance to snag a few leftover trees from the FreeTree giveaway event.

## CONNECT WITH A<sup>2</sup>ZERO

Click the links below to see the latest updates, events, and more!

[Facebook @A2Zero](#)

[Instagram @a2zero2030](#)

[YouTube](#)

[a2zero.org](https://a2zero.org)

[Join our mailing list](#)

[LinkedIn](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**VEGMICHIGAN FOOD SAMPLING** | *Sat. April 4,  
11 AM - 1PM | Arbor Farms Market*

VegMichigan and A<sup>2</sup>ZERO are excited to work with Arbor Farms Market to provide free plant-based samples at the farmers market.

**WATER@MICHIGAN 2026: ENERGY AND WATER NEXUS** *Thurs., April 9, 9 AM - 5 PM | UM Palmer Commons*

This event will bring together researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and community leaders to examine how water systems and the energy transition are reshaping Michigan, the Great Lakes region, and beyond. Learn more at [graham.umich.edu/wateratmichigan/2026](https://graham.umich.edu/wateratmichigan/2026)

**VEGMICHIGAN PLANT-BASED DINNER MEETUP** *Wed. April 15, 12 - 1 PM | Seva*

Come join us for a delicious dinner at Seva! Seva has been serving the community since 1973. Their vegetarian menu has many fully vegan options for us to choose from! Learn more at [VegMichigan's website](#).

**MONTHLY CLOTHING SWAP** | *Thurs. April 16, 4 - 7 PM  
Location TBD*

In addition to donating and finding new items for free, this swap will give participants the opportunity to learn how to dye fabric with natural dyes and receive take-home instructions for revitalizing clothes at home! Mending with All Hands Active will also be available, so participants can bring items with minor flaws to be mended and either swapped or kept. RSVP at [lu.ma/a2zeroclothingswaps](https://lu.ma/a2zeroclothingswaps) to receive updates.

**PARK WORKDAY** | *Fri. April 17, 3 - 5 PM | Location TBD*

Join OSI on the third Friday of each month to take care of one of Ann Arbor's many parks! Activities during these workdays may include cutting invasives, picking up trash, and other physical handy work. Please come wearing close-toed shoes and clothes suitable for outdoor work. Visit [osi.a2gov.org/events](https://osi.a2gov.org/events) for updates on this event.

**THE ROAD HOME FREE SCREENING** | *Thurs. April 23,  
6 PM | Michigan Theater*

The Ann Arbor Housing Commission has been working with Kameron Donald of Breyko, 2x Emmy Award Winner, over the past year to document our local housing and homeless systems work in Washtenaw County. [Showings of this documentary at the Michigan Theater are free, but tickets must be reserved ahead of time online.](#)

## EARTH MONTH HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrate, take action, and join the movement at these big events this April with A<sup>2</sup>ZERO!

**EARTH DAY FESTIVAL** | *Sun. April 19, 12 - 4:30 PM | Leslie Science and Nature Center*

The Ann Arbor Earth Day Festival is an annual celebration coordinated by the Ann Arbor Earth Day Festival Planning Committee, a coalition of local environmental nonprofits and agencies. This free, family-friendly event features displays; hands-on activities; live entertainment; green building and commuting technologies; energy topics; water awareness; sustainable agriculture; and more.

**A2 CLIMATE TEACH-IN** | *Sat. April 25, 1 - 5:30 PM  
Mitchell Elementary School*

Returning for its fourth year, this year's annual Climate Teach-In will be Saturday, April 25. This free event provides residents the opportunity to learn not only from local sustainability leaders but other community members as they create and innovate climate solutions. Register now at [a2cliamteteachin.com](https://a2cliamteteachin.com).

**ELECTRONICS COLLECTION** | *Sat. April 25, 10 AM - 1 PM | Ann Arbor Community Reformed Church*

Drop off unwanted electronics to prevent waste by facilitating reuse, refurbishment/repair, and, as a last resort, recycling of these devices. Registration is limited. Visit [a2gov.org/electronics](https://a2gov.org/electronics) to learn about accepted items and register.

**FREETREE GIVEAWAY** | *Sat. April 25, 10 AM - 4 PM  
Mitchell Elementary School*

This event has filled up. Please visit [a2gov.org/10ktrees](https://a2gov.org/10ktrees) for more details and to be notified of the next event!

**2026 SUSTAINABILITY FORUM: CELEBRATING THE A<sup>2</sup>ZERO COMMUNITY COOKBOOK** | *Wed. April 28,  
6 PM | Ann Arbor District Library Downtown Branch*

Join OSI and members of the local food community for the 4th session of the 2026 Sustainability Forums to celebrate the recent release of the A<sup>2</sup>ZERO Community Cookbook! Hear from City staff, local food leaders, and contributors of the cookbook about how building community through food makes Ann Arbor a more sustainable and resilient City.