



Haverhill

Economic Development and Planning
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Timber Harvest to Begin at Winnekenni Park Conservation Area

As part of the City of Haverhill's Forest Management plan, active timber harvesting is scheduled to occur in Winnekenni Park Conservation Area, beginning the week of February 17th. This work specifically focuses on the forest's hemlock population, east of Kenoza Lake. This species of tree is substantially infested with the hemlock woolly adelgid. This adelgid is a tree-killing insect that feeds on hemlocks, causing needle drop, branch dieback, and tree mortality.

The City's Forest Management plan goals are to enhance the quality of the City's forests; create an educational forest stewardship trail; protect water quality; preserve scenic beauty; improve passive recreational opportunities; and enhance wildlife habitat. The timber harvesting process seeks to align with the Forest Management plan goals.

Work is expected to take approximately three to four weeks to complete. There will be use of heavy equipment on the property to properly conduct the timber harvesting operation. As such, this portion of the Conservation Area, will be closed to the public as a safety precaution during the operation.

Timber removed from the property during this operation has been sold through a competitive bid process to Hopkinton Forestry & Land Clearing, Inc. out of Henniker, NH. All proceeds from this timber sale, estimated to be around \$11,000, will be deposited into the City's Municipal Open Space Management Fund to cover the forestry costs already incurred by the City and to fund a sustainable forest management program for the rest of the City's forested areas. Following the completion of work, the Conservation Area will be re-opened to the public for passive recreational activities.

Mayor James J. Fiorentini stated: "This program continues to benefit our community by managing our beautiful forest lands. We hope to expand the program to other forest areas."

In March of 2012, the Haverhill Forest Management Committee met with local residents and conducted a site walk to review the Forest Management Plan drafted for this property by the City's forestry consultant, Gary Gouldrup of New England Forestry Consultants. Funding assistance for the development of this Plan was provided by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. In April of 2013, the Committee contracted the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Ecological Extension Service to conduct a wildlife habitat analysis of this property and the City's other forest lands. The purpose of the analysis is to provide the Committee with recommendations for proceeding with active forest management, while being attentive to wildlife habitat needs.

Early in October of 2013, the Committee conducted a second public site walk with residents to discuss the active management of this portion of the Conservation Area and to review the trees proposed for harvesting this winter. Mr. Gouldrup used this public input, Audubon's recommendations, and the Forest Management Plan to draft a Forest Cutting Plan for active and responsible management of the hemlock population on this property. MassDCR approved this Plan in November of 2013.

MAP SHOWING HEMLOCK HARVEST AREA

