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## PRESS RELEASE

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### CITY CONTINUES PROACTIVE REMOVAL OF ASH TREES IN THOMPSON PARK

To slow the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and minimize future risk associated with EAB infested ash trees, the City of Watertown Department of Public Works continues their latest round of strategic ash tree removals in Thompson Park. **20** ash trees will be removed as part of this effort.

Following the most current ash tree removal project in Thompson Park, removal efforts are expected to continue in areas of the city where higher infestation levels are observed. A total of **80** ash trees are expected to be removed during the 2022 calendar year. If adequate room is available, the city anticipates the replacement of all recently removed ash trees as part of the annual Spring DPW Tree Planting Project.

In late May 2022, **60** ash trees located along streets and in various parks, including **17** ash trees in Thompson Park, were treated via chemical injection to help protect them against the invasive beetle. The latest round of EAB treatments were made possible through the generous support of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program.

EAB was discovered in the City of Watertown in October 2019. EAB is an invasive beetle that targets and kills ash trees. As infestation levels increase within host trees, the movement of water and nutrients becomes increasingly restricted, ultimately causing tree mortality within a few years.

For questions or concerns, please reach out to City of Watertown Planner, Michael J. DeMarco, at (315) 785-7741 or [mdemarco@watertown-ny.gov](mailto:mdemarco@watertown-ny.gov).

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