

Friday, February 17, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



PROJECT ASH TREE REMOVAL UNDER-WAY AT WOODLAWN PARK

The City of Welland is cautioning users of Woodlawn Park to take notice of tree removal signage throughout the woodland areas of the park. The city has made a priority of removing dead and dying ash trees throughout the area for public safety. Woodlawn Park is a commonly used public area that spans over 16 acres of woodland and natural pond.

The City of Welland obtained the services of a professional arborist company to remove 700 to 800 trees within the park. Although the entire park is not closed to the public, specific parts will be closed while the tree removal project is in progress. All areas closed to the public will be marked with proper signage.

Aurelio Magazzeni, Supervisor of Forestry for the City of Welland says a tree removal project of this size would typically last four to five weeks, but could last longer, depending on weather and ground conditions. "These trees need to be removed quickly and professionally, and need to be done with minimal damage to the existing live trees," said Magazzeni. "This is a gradual process due to the safety of the public and the safety of the arborists; however, once the project is complete residents will be able to enjoy existing rare native species through the park." The Supervisor of Forestry advises the public to be mindful of signage and stay away from areas designated for tree removal.

The City has initiated a tree removal management plan that will eventually remove 23% of Welland's green canopy. The invasive ash borer was detected in Canada as early as 2002, and has infested Niagara significantly over the past several years. To find more information on the Emerald Ash Borer visit the Plants, Pests, and Invasive Species information found at inspection.gc.ca.

-30-

Contact:

Aurelio Magazzeni, Supervisor of Forestry
905 735-1700 Ext. 3021
aurelio.magazzeni@welland.ca
www.welland.ca