



Haverhill

Economic Development and Planning
Conservation Department
Forest Management Committee
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • JULY 23, 2013

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Timber Harvest to Begin at Clement Farm Conservation Area

As part of the City of Haverhill's Forest Management plan, active timber harvesting is scheduled to occur in Clement Farm Conservation Area beginning the week of July 22nd. The City's Forest Management plan goals are to enhance the quality of the City's forests; create a resident firewood program; 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 weeks to complete. There will be use of heavy equipment on the property to properly conduct the timber harvesting operation. As such, the Conservation Area, including the open meadow on the southerly side of the property, will be closed to the public as a safety precaution during the operation. The ball fields and their public parking lot will remain open for evening league play only.

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. A condition of the sale is that Hopkinton provide seven (7) cords of fuelwood for use by the City in its pilot "Home Fuelwood Program". This program will allow Haverhill residents the opportunity to purchase locally produced fuelwood for their own private use. Look for more details on this program in the near future.

All proceeds from these timber sales, 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 and the full use of the ball fields.

Mayor James J. Fiorentini stated:

"This program gives residents an opportunity to purchase locally produced fuelwood through the City's Pilot Program.

"Next year, we hope to expand the program to other forest areas."

In May of 2011, 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 assisting for the development of this Plan was provided by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Early in 2012, the Committee contracted the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Ecological Extension Service to conduct a wildlife habitat analysis of the property. Audubon studied the property through last winter and spring and provided the Committee with a number

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of recommendations for proceeding with active forest management on the property, while being attentive to wildlife and songbird habitat needs.

Mr. Gouldrup used these recommendations and the Forest Management Plan to draft a Forest Cutting Plan for active and responsible management of the forest on this property. In November of 2012, the Committee conducted a second public site walk with residents to discuss the active management of this property and review the trees proposed for harvesting this winter. The Plan has since been approved by MassDCR.