



PRESS RELEASE
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Downtown to replace more trees

For Immediate Release

MT. PLEASANT, Michigan April 13, 2015 – Downtown Mt. Pleasant is scheduled to continue the replacement of dead and diseased with a variety of new trees in an effort to clean up and expand the tree canopy planted more than 15 years ago.

The 20 new trees include Serviceberry, American Hop Hornbeam, Spring Grove Dogwood, European Hornbeam, Prunus x Incamp “Okame.” They will be planted in early May, and City staff expects the project will be complete within a two-week timeframe.

Staff from the City Streets Department also will make adjustments to the tree wells, which are the metal grates that provide support around the trees.

“Over the last few years the Emerald Ash Borer has been attacking all the ash trees in downtown so we’ve been steadily replacing them as they reach the point of deterioration.” said Downtown Development Director Michelle Sponseller. “Because we have been replacing trees over the last few years and know the removal of trees can be a sensitive issue for some community members, we’re trying to be thoughtful on those we remove and to do so only when the tree has reached the end of its lifespan.”

The new trees are being brought in by Bay Landscaping of Bay City and are expected to grow and thrive significantly better than the ash trees.

“Trees enhance the environment in a number of ways wherever they stand. This is particularly true in an urban setting such as downtown Mt. Pleasant,” Sponseller added. “With this year’s tree replacement, the City has replaced more than 45 diseased ash trees over the last three years. By providing a variety of trees, we reduce the chance of any one disease destroying the entire urban canopy.”

To learn more about the project, contact Michelle Sponseller at 989-779-5348 or msponseller@mt-pleasant.org.

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