



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

MOUNT PLEASANT, Michigan, Sept. 16, 2014 – Downtown Mt. Pleasant will soon have a variety of new trees in an effort to clean up the landscaping and rid the area of dead or diseased ash trees that were planted more than 15 years ago.

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.

The 20 new trees include Serviceberry, American Hop Hornbeam, Ivory Silk Japanese Lilac Tree, Princeton Gold, and Okame Cherry. They will be planted in early October, and City staff expects the project will be complete within a two-week timeframe.

“The Emerald Ash Borer has been attacking all the ash trees so we’ve steadily replacing them over the last few years.” said Downtown Development Director Michelle Sponseller. “We know removal of trees can be a sensitive issue for some community members but, 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. “Trees add visually to the streetscape and buffer noise as well. We have replaced more than 25 diseased ash trees over the last two years with diverse species to provide a variety of trees within downtown. By providing a variety, 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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