

Portion of Ludlow Reservoir To Close for Forest Management Activities

Northern Portion of Park Closed to Public Recreation Until Further Notice

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) is advising the public that portions of its Ludlow Reservoir watershed area will be closed to all recreation due to upcoming forest management activities.

In the interest of safety, starting March 1, 2019, visitors will not be allowed on any trails or in the forest past the two-mile marker on the paved recreation trail. The closure will be in effect until further notice. Signage and road blocks will indicate the point beyond which public access will be restricted. The closure is expected to last several months.

In December the Commission invited members of the public to its Ludlow Reservoir watershed forest for a guided walk to learn about upcoming forest management activities, including tree harvesting due to damage from gypsy moth infestations. Participants viewed areas that were impacted by the infestations in 2016, 2017, and 2018, which left large swaths of primarily oak trees fatally affected.

About the Forest Management Activities

Tree harvesting is guided by forest management and forest cutting plans approved by the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Careful selection and detailed marking of trees by a Massachusetts licensed forester have identified the trees to be removed and those to remain during harvesting. Not all

trees affected by gypsy moth will be removed. Tree harvesting is being utilized to promote a full spectrum of tree and shrub diversity and ages, including trees and shrubs that need to grow in full sun.

More information about the Ludlow Reservoir watershed management activities can be found at <http://waterandsewer.org/ludlow-reservoir-forest-management/>.

About the Ludlow Reservoir Watershed Forest

The Ludlow Reservoir, often referred to as the Springfield Reservoir, was built in the 1870s to supply the City of Springfield and Town of Ludlow with drinking water, and today serves as an emergency water supply surrounded by approximately 1,500 acres of forest. The primary role of the watershed forest land is to protect water quality by serving as a natural buffer to surrounding development. Active forest management plans and activities, including tree harvesting when necessary, are designed to maximize water quality protection by promoting a structurally diverse forest, made up of many different species, that is capable of regenerating itself over time.

END

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