



The Corporation of the  
City of St. Catharines

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## Trees to be tallied in the Garden City

**May 19, 2015** – A tree census is set to begin in a few weeks.

A comprehensive inventory of the City's nearly 50,000 boulevard trees will begin by the end of May, with trees evaluated for signs of decay and damaged or dead material in need of removal. The size, condition and pruning needs of trees will also be mapped so a final inventory can be uploaded to the City's GIS system.

The tree inventory project is part of the City's plan to better manage trees and ensure a healthy, sustainable urban forest across St. Catharines. The need for a tree inventory was realized following the introduction of the Emerald Ash Borer in 2014 – an infestation which wiped out thousands of trees across Ontario. Once completed, the tree inventory will allow staff to be more strategic in its tree maintenance and planning operations and better defend the City's urban forest against future invasive insects and infestations.

"This comprehensive inventory will help us to better understand the opportunities and pressures faced by our urban forest," said Jeffery Silcox-Childs, the City's Manager of Parks, Cemeteries, Forestry & Horticulture. "Knowing about any current or potential issues will allow us to plan long-term for tree planting, replacement and maintenance."

The inventory is being compiled by The Davey Tree Expert Company, with tree evaluations handled by arborists certified with the International Society of Arboriculture.

Arborists will become a common sight on neighbourhood streets, as staff from Davey will be working their way up and down every street in the city over the next three months to inspect boulevard trees. The project is non-invasive, but will require arborists to stop on residents' front lawns to visually inspect, document and map information about their trees.

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