

Plaistow Town Forest Closure

In 2000 the Plaistow Conservation Commission contracted forester Charles Marino to prepare a Forest Management Plan (FMP-2000) for the Plaistow Town Forest and in the 2000/2001-time frame also contracted with Charles Marino to do some selective cutting on about 70 acres (no more than 7% - 8% of the trees were cut) and to raise a small amount of money for future forest maintenance. The staging area for that activity is now the parking lot for the Town Forest.

In 2016 the Plaistow Conservation Commission again contracted Charles Marino to update the FMP-2000 with 2 objectives: 1) do some selective cutting in the southern part of the Town Forest to help maintain forest health and 2) identify and treat where possible invasive species in the forest. The pandemic delayed these activities for about a year, but we are now ready to execute the forest management activities early this summer and should take about 4 to 6 weeks to complete. The staging area for this activity will be at the southern part of the forest with access from Carleton Path. The exact dates will be published as soon as they are available.

Unfortunately, the hemlock trees have been infested with the hemlock wooly adelgig (HWA), a scale (a type of insect) that is decimating hemlock forests in the northeast. Since there are no effective treatments available, it is all but a certainty that the HWA will kill nearly all the hemlocks in the town forest over the course of the next few years. This will result in thousands of dead and worthless hemlocks that will either need to be removed (with little or no value) or will be unsightly and pose a fire danger.

Mr. Marino recommends removing most of the hemlocks, leaving some in the hopes that extremely cold weather (below zero for numerous days) could slow the impact of the HWA and that an effective treatment may someday become available. The Conservation Commission agrees with Mr. Marino's recommendation.

During the forestry activity we are going to close a portion of the forest to all users for their safety as well as the safety of the foresters and loggers doing the work. Please observe the forest closed signs.

Plaistow Conservation Commission