

Save Saratoga's Elms

Problem? A valuable City asset is under imminent threat. Graceful elms offer a living link to our storied past & valuable ecosystem services

Best response? PREVENT further spread of Dutch elm disease

APRIL 2014: Remove and properly dispose of sick & dead elms

JUNE 2014: Begin 3-year cycle of injecting healthy elms

Devise city-wide strategy for rapid removal of dead and dying elms

Communicate with public and with tree owners

Timetable: remove as many as possible before April 2014 emergence of elm bark beetles

Plan for 3-year cycle for fungicide injection to healthy specimen elms:

10 elms >30"; 9 elms 20"-30" (all but three are city-owned)

Timetable: about 7 trees annually, beginning in June 2014

Chapter 220-6 of Saratoga Springs' City Code provides authority for requiring removal and for performing work on private land

Questions & challenges?

- Educate the public
- Work with private landowners
- Set priorities
- Find budget & private resources
- Active monitoring for new cases in 2014

**Sustainable
Saratoga** 

*Advocate.
Educate.
Act.*

www.sustainablesaratoga.org

Email us at trees@sustainablesaratoga.org

Can We Save Saratoga's Historic American Elms?

April & June 2014 may be our last chance



Killed by Dutch elm disease, 2013



Our largest elm is surrounded by sick elms

The stately, iconic beauty of our surviving American elms provides a living link to Saratoga's storied past.



Still healthy, 2013



Killed by Dutch Elm Disease, 2013

THE SAD FACTS?

Dutch elm disease surged in Saratoga in 2012-13

Spring 2012: 11 American elms > 30" in diameter
15 American elms > 20" in diameter

By Fall 2013: at least 5 of those are dead,
4 more are seriously ill

Saratoga's American Elms - 2013.09.16



This map shows diseased trees encircling our glorious downtown elms

Dutch elm disease is caused by a fungus. Elm bark beetles spread the fungus. Each spring, in April, beetles migrate from destroyed trees to infect healthy trees.

OUR BEST ELM STRATEGIES?

Most effective is

PREVENTION

(=removal of dead elms &
preventive injection of healthy)

Treatment
(=pruning & injection)
is at best a long shot

“...**Cities which [...]** leave [sick and dead] trees standing to be removed [later...] **will face significant losses.**”

“...the **best and most [cost] effective disease management program [is]** intensive sanitation (**prompt removal** of infected trees).”

R. Jay Stipes (2000)

“The Management of Dutch Elm Disease”

Removal:

Saratoga has a **large backlog of standing dead elms**, both on private and public land. These should be **removed by April 2014.**

Add'l new cases should be removed promptly.



Killed by Dutch elm disease, 2013

Treatment: “At 5% yellow, injection of fungicide offers reasonable hope; at 10%, treatment becomes a long shot; a tree with 20% yellowed leaves is a dead tree”

Tom Zetterstrom
Founder, Elm Watch