



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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TREE REMOVAL ALONG ARGO EMBANKMENT WILL RESULT IN INTERIM TRAIL AND MILL RACE CLOSURES INTO OCTOBER AS PART OF MDNRE AGREEMENT

ANN ARBOR, Mich., August 30, 2010 — City staff continues to carry out the plan outlined in the Argo Dam Consent Agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE). Currently, the vegetation management portion of the plan is in progress. This ongoing and lengthy process, which includes, in part, the careful and necessary removal of identified trees and vegetation from both sides of the embankment, will continue into October.

To meet the tree removal deadline identified by the MDNRE, both the embankment trail and the Mill Race will close Monday through Thursday beginning, Tuesday, Sept. 7 for the removal of nearly 100 dead or dying trees on the headrace embankment. Every Friday through Sunday these areas will reopen to the public for canoeing and use of the border-to-border trail until the project is complete. Signage will be placed at points of entry noting these closures and alternate route suggestions for pedestrians and bicyclists. During the weekly four-day closure, boat rental will be available at Gallup Canoe Livery for pond paddling and modified river trips.

In 2007 an inventory of trees on the embankment was conducted. At this stage of the vegetation management plan, trees on the embankment and in the swale that were identified “in poor condition or dead” will be removed as these trees pose a hazard to people and the stability of the embankment, per the agreement with the MDNRE. All logs and tops from the removed trees will be removed from the embankment. The stumps will be cut flush with the ground and painted with herbicide to prevent re-sprouting. No herbicide will be used within the 10 foot buffer surrounding the Purple Turtlehead (a state listed endangered plant species), unless MDNRE determines that it is safe to be used in this area.

It will be necessary to close the trail and mill race at the Argo embankment to minimize any hazards to the public during the tree removal process. Safety is our utmost concern, making the closure a necessity. In the next few days, Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation will post online a map of the impacted area and alternative trail route information at <http://www.a2gov.org/parks>; <http://www.a2gov.org/canoe> and <http://www.a2gov.org/government/Pages/ArgoDam.aspx>.

To learn more about Argo Dam and to read the consent agreement in full, visit <http://www.a2gov.org/government/Pages/ArgoDam.aspx>. For more information regarding both Argo and Gallup Canoe Liveries, visit www.a2gov.org/canoe, call (734) 794-6241 or (734) 794-6240.



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Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and is frequently recognized as a foremost place to live, learn, work, thrive and visit (www.a2gov.org/news). To keep up with City of Ann Arbor information, subscribe for e-mail updates (www.a2gov.org/subscribe), follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/a2gov>) or become a city fan on Facebook (www.facebook.com/thecityofannarbor). The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.