

H4

# CATTARAUGUS COUNTY

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*Development – Progress – Workmanship*

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### *Ashford Timber Tract Talking Points*

#### *Why is the County cutting the trees on its Ashford property?*

- The Ashford Tract is over 70 years old and primarily composed of softwoods. This stand is past maturity and a large portion of trees for harvest have large diameters and are past the point of merchantability. These trees will be used for telephone/electric line poles. There is a high demand for these products as of April 2022 and the timing will allow the County to secure a good price for an otherwise over-mature stand.
- Removing the over-mature trees leaves remaining softwoods with smaller diameters (less than 18 inches) available for local mills. If the smaller diameter trees were left in place they would be at risk for blowdowns during wind events and lose marketability.

#### *What kind of trees are being cut?*

- Red Pine
- Scotch Pine
- White Pine
- Norway Spruce

#### *What kind of trees are not being cut?*

- Hardwoods such as Hard and Soft Maple, Black Cherry, Ash, and Oak.

#### *What areas are being cut?*

- All softwood species are being cut (approximately 153 acres) except for the areas surrounding the recreation pond located on Hebdon Road. The County is leaving this stand for the enjoyment of residents that visit the property.

#### *How does the County benefit from this timber harvest?*

- The County salvages over-mature timber making way for the next generation of trees. Removing these trees helps encourage natural hardwood regeneration and drives sustainability of the property.
- The harvest generates income which is re-invested in maintaining the County's reforestation and recreation properties.

#### *How long is the timber harvest project?*

- The contractor is expected to finish most operations by the beginning of summer 2022.

#### *What's the property going to look like after the timber harvest?*

- While all the tree poles or trunks will be gone, all the branches and stumps will be left behind. But, this is good as the decay process will provide the necessary nutrients and protection for new seedlings to begin growing.
- There will be no need to plant new trees on this tract. In 10 years, the area will be full of young trees and brush. In 25 years, it will be well on its way to a mature hardwood forest with little evidence of its softwood past.

#### *Have additional questions?*

- Please submit your questions at <https://www.cattco.org/public-works/contact>