



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Emy Maloutas
801-972-7804

City Schedules Liberty Park Tree Removals

Sap-eating bugs infect about a dozen large pines, most trees still healthy

SALT LAKE CITY – A recent survey of Austrian and Scotch Pines growing throughout the City's historic Liberty Park has led to the discovery of a tiny pest that is wreaking havoc on a small portion of the over 400 mature trees that grow throughout the 80-acre property.

Black Pineleaf Scales are in a group of insects that feed on pine needles, causing visible symptoms such as discoloration, stunting and shedding of needles. Factors that increase tree vulnerability to Black Pineleaf Scale include age, moisture stress, root damage, air pollution and proximity to trees that are host to this or other pests.

Currently, there are 15 pine trees in Liberty Park with advanced functional and aesthetic deterioration due to Black Pineleaf Scale. The removal of these trees is scheduled for the week of June 27 and is not expected to disrupt regular park operations. Tree plantings will take place in the fall in areas where trees are removed.

Salt Lake City Parks and Public Lands Director Emy Maloutas said the tree removal work should be completed before the start of the July 4 weekend. Monitoring and treatment for the Scales will be ongoing.

To provide some protection for pine trees in the park that are not symptomatic, an application of insecticidal soap will be applied. The active ingredient of the soap is potassium salt – an environmentally friendly product that dehydrates the immature pests. Timing of the application is critical and linked to when the Scales are immature crawlers. The application of soap will occur at night when the park is not in use. Depending on weather, application may be within the next 3 to 6 weeks. There is no restriction to park access or use following treatment of the trees.

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