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PRESS RELEASE

**CITY OF WATERTOWN TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO
DEVELOP TRAILS AND EXPAND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT IN
THOMPSON PARK**

Beginning later this week, the City of Watertown will resume efforts to maintain overgrown vegetation in Thompson Park, with a specific emphasis on the removal of invasive species such as Common Buckthorn, Honeysuckle and Oriental Bittersweet. Invasive species continue to be an issue in Thompson Park as these non-native species have completely taken over certain areas in the park and choked out native species in others.

Work will begin along the North Entrance Drive with roadside clearing of brush, followed by select brush removal near the Franklin Street entrance to the park in the vicinity of North Bourne Walk.

This work will be followed up by a trail development project sponsored by the Friends of Thompson Park to be held on April 17, 2021. The Friends will lead efforts to develop new walking trails in areas near the West (Gotham Street) Overlook. This work will build upon a trail enhancement project that began last summer near the corner of Thompson Boulevard and Gotham Street.

Later this spring and summer, City Parks and Recreation Department Staff will continue trail enhancement and development work in areas throughout the park to improve trail access for the public.

Thompson Park was designed in the early 20th Century by John and Fredrick Law Olmsted Jr., sons of Frederick Law Olmsted, who design New York City's Central Park and many other grand parks throughout the United States and Canada. All invasive species removal and trail development will be done with a keen understanding and thoughtful consideration of the original design intent and existing conditions within the park. Some of the clearing will seem drastic and harsh at first, but it is necessary for restoring the Park's historic landscape.

For further information or questions, please contact the City's Planning and Community Development Department at (315) 785-7741 or the Parks and Recreation Department at 315-785-7775.

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