

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Department of Agricultural Resources

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### ***PUBLIC HEARINGS: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN***

Pursuant to the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations (333 CMR 11.00) in order to apply pesticides to control vegetation to maintain Rights-of Ways, the Department of Agricultural Resources must approve a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP). The VMP is intended to justify the need to control vegetation, identify target vegetation, describe the intended methods of control, describe methods for identifying sensitive areas, describe operational guidelines for applicators, outline a program of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) designed to reduce the use of herbicides, and describe alternative land use activities. The following community is advised that the **City of Worcester** proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:**

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.05 the Department of Agricultural Resources will conduct a regional hearing to receive public comment on the proposed Vegetation Management Plan for the City of Worcester, as prepared and submitted by: Ms. Stephanie Hanson, Project Manager and Principal Scientist, Comprehensive Environmental Inc.

To provide all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed VMP, a public hearing will be held at the following location:

May 20, 2019, 11:00am-12:30pm  
Worcester Dept. of Public Works & Parks Headquarter  
20 East Worcester St., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Worcester, MA 01604

#### **Plans Available for Review Prior to Public Hearings:**

Section 11.05 (3)(d) of the ROW Management Regulations provide: "At least 21 days prior to the end of the public comment period, the applicant shall send a copy of the proposed VMP to the chief elected official, the Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission in affected communities upon their request." Such request should be made to:

Mr. Matthew Labovites  
Assistant Commissioner of Operations  
City of Worcester  
Department of Public Works & Parks  
20 East Worcester Street  
Worcester, MA 01604

Copies of the proposed VMP are also available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources website at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/rights-of-way-vegetation-management-vmps-yops-and-notices> . It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public library:

Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square, Worcester, MA 01608

#### **Written Comments Requested**

The public hearing listed above will give interested parties the opportunity to present data, views or arguments, orally or in writing concerning the proposed VMP. Persons giving testimony are also requested to provide written comments. Written comments in advance of the hearing dates are welcome. The Department will accept written testimony concerning the City of Worcester VMP until the close of business (5p.m.) **Friday, May 24, 2019.**

Commentary should be sent to:

Rights-of -Way Program  
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources  
Pesticide Bureau  
251 Causeway Street  
Suite 500  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114