



# **Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan** revised 2010

## **Introduction**

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an introduced pest, (Beetle) that is killing ash trees in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Missouri, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, and Ontario. Since its discovery in Detroit, Michigan in 2002, the borer has spread, killing virtually all ash trees in its path.

Over the last four decades, ash has become one of the most planted trees in the Midwest. Westerville's tree inventory shows 1,084 ash trees planted on tree-lawns, another 1000 trees in parks and an estimated 2000 in the electric easements. Thousands more ash trees are growing on other city property in wooded lots and stream banks as well as private property. EAB has been identified in Westerville since 2007 and we are estimating 10% of our Ash population is already infested with EAB.

## **Purpose**

Re-evaluating our management plan will help the City of Westerville mitigate the disruption to its urban forest caused by the ongoing infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer.

## **Scope**

This plan covers all ash trees that are currently growing as street trees, wood lots, or landscape trees throughout Westerville. The Parks Division, through the Parks and Recreation Department, will be responsible for implementing this Plan and seeing that its provisions are carried out.

## **Action Statement**

New data has lead The City of Westerville to begin chemical treatment for EAB. We will also continue to remove infested ash trees as necessary. Step one will be evaluating the condition of ash trees growing on Westerville rights-of-way, in parks, and on other municipal properties. Step two will be to remove trees that are infested and are no longer any benefit to the community with hazardous trees being removed first. The next step is to treat the highest priority trees following the latest data available.

Our ash tree inventory will continue to be maintained to prioritize and record the removal, treatment, or status of each tree. Should EAB become epidemic, some usual services will either be delayed or put on hold.

The Westerville Shade Tree Commission has developed a Residential Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan that is available on the City's website under Parks and Recreation Department, Shade Tree Commission Page. Residents will be responsible for any work they decide to have done on their property.

## **Replacement Trees**

All removed public ash trees will be replaced with non-host species that will enhance the planting site, are appropriate for the planting site, and add to the diversity and general health of the urban forest. Trees will be planted in accordance with Westerville Tree Planting Specifications. Plantings will be budget based and prioritized by canopy cover goals as identified by the Urban

Forest Manager. Those areas needing the most trees to reach their goal will be planted first, such as Suburban Residential (50% cover), Urban Residential (25%), and Central Business (15%). No plantings will be made that cannot be adequately maintained. All new plantings will conform to the “10-20-30” tree species diversity rule—no more than 10% of any kind of tree, 20% of any genera of tree, or 30% of any one family of tree.

### **Cost Estimates to cover EAB Management Plan**

Contract Ash Removal

\$10,000 per year

Replacement Trees

\$20,000 per year

Chemical Treatment

\$20,000 per year