

## **Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan for the City of Oxford, Ohio**

By implementing the provisions in the following Emerald Ash Borer management plan, the City of Oxford is attempting to mitigate the disruption to its urban forest that would be caused by the potential and pending infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Taking a proactive approach to this infestation will enable the City of Oxford to address public and private needs in an efficient and effective manner.

Presently, Oxford has approximately 3,120 trees in public right-of-ways, parks, city facilities, and cemeteries, of which 411 are Ash trees. On eight acres of woodland located by the Class IV compost facility and the closed sanitary landfill, Oxford estimates approximately 213 additional Ashes are present, for a total of 624 Ash trees on public lands. Oxford intends to distribute the costs associated with the certain and massive tree death that will accompany the impending EAB infestation over a manageable period of time. This proactive approach to the certain loss of Ash trees from an EAB infestation should lessen the social and economic impact that such an extensive loss will have on the quality of life to the community and allow for the plantings of replacement trees.

This Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan (Plan) applies throughout Oxford on all public properties where Ash trees are currently located, as well as on private properties where such trees may negatively impact the public right of ways or other public properties (per Oxford's Codified Ordinance Chapter 935.10 and 935.13).

The Service Department for the City of Oxford shall be the responsible party for implementing this Plan and ensuring that its provisions are carried out in an appropriate manner.

### *Definitions*

**Caliper:** The diameter of a trunk's cross section as measured at 4 ½ feet above the adjacent grade.

**Compliance Agreement:** Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) approval for the movement of regulated items outside of a quarantined zone.

**Regulated Items:** All Ash wood, all non-coniferous firewood, and Ash wood chips with sizes greater than 1-inch in any direction.

**Street Trees:** A tree located on land between property lines on either side of all streets, avenues, or ways (including alleys) within the City and those trees abutting a street or public place located within the public right of way or public easement (Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 935.01(d)).

### *Ash Removal*

As outlined above, Oxford has 411 Ash street trees located in publicly accessible streets, parks, and cemeteries. These trees have been inventoried as part of Oxford's ongoing urban forestry operations, as well as by several projects by Miami University students. The City also estimates the presence of approximately 213 Ash trees in an eight acre woodland area by Oxford's class IV compost facility/closed landfill, for a total of approximately 624 Ash trees on Oxford public lands. An estimated budget and timeframe shall be generated from the inventory data, enabling Oxford to systematically remove all of its Ash trees. Ash tree removal is currently prioritized, with hazardous trees being the first to be removed, followed by those that are no longer assets to the community (dead, dying, diseased, or miss-sited). Ash tree removals are also prioritized over the removal of other species of trees in similar conditions. Utility contractors are encouraged to remove all Ash trees within their easements as part of their normal line clearance activities. An Ash tree inventory spreadsheet shall be created, updated, and used to prioritize and record the removal, treatment or status of each Ash tree.

### *Proactive Pesticide Treatment*

Oxford currently is utilizing a systemic chemical insecticide soil soaking treatment of 112 Ash trees at the recently developed Oxford Community Park. These Ash trees have been recently planted (since 2003) at a cost of approximately \$30,800, and tend to be smaller in size (2-to 4-inch caliper) relative to Ash trees elsewhere in the community. Oxford will continue to evaluate the treatment of these trees, and shall re-assess the treatment program upon the detection of the EAB within or in close proximity to the community.

Oxford currently has no intention of prohibiting the treatment of street trees by private citizens at their cost, but reserves the right to remove or order the removal of any street Ash tree that is diseased or dead (per Oxford's Codified Ordinance Chapter 935.10 and 935.13).

### *Wood Utilization and Disposal*

Currently, Oxford retains wood chip grindings from small diameter branches generated during periodic urban forest tree maintenance. This feedstock is stored at Oxford's Class IV compost facility for potential use at City facilities or as bulking agents from leaf and yard waste compost. Project specifications for periodic urban forestry projects performed by contractors shall include requirements that their handling of Ash wood must comply with the Compliance Agreement for the handling of regulated items. Wood that cannot be used for lumber, turning, firewood, or mulch shall be disposed of according to ODA specifications.

### *Canopy Replacement and Care*

As the budget and funding permits, all removed public Ash trees shall be replaced with non-EAB host tree species that are intended to enhance, are appropriate for the planting site, and add to the diversity and general health of the community's urban forest. Trees shall be planted in accordance with standard industry practices, be at least 2-inches in caliper, and be obtained from reputable sources. No planting shall be made that cannot be adequately maintained.

*Private Ash Trees*

Oxford shall create and maintain an EAB informational site on the City's website. Removal of dead and/or diseased trees (including Ash trees) is mandated under Oxford's Codified Ordinance Chapter 935.10 and 935.13.

*Contact List*

For Oxford's urban forest inquiries in general:

City of Oxford Service Department

Telephone: 513-524-5206

Email: [dtreleaven@cityofoxford.org](mailto:dtreleaven@cityofoxford.org)

For municipal tree EAB inquiries:

Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry

Wendi Van Buren, Regional Urban Forester

Telephone: 513-932-6836

Email: [Wendi.VanBuren@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Wendi.VanBuren@dnr.state.oh.us)

For private trees EAB inquiries:

Ohio State University Extension Service, Butler County

Don Eberwine

Telephone: 513-887-3722