

Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan Springfield, Ohio

INTRODUCTION

The City of Springfield's decision to implement an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) plan is in response to the impending infestation of Ash trees in the community and to prevent a potential crisis to public safety, budgeting, or the City's urban forest. We hope to lessen the social and economic impact on the community by utilizing this plan. Through this plan the City will systematically oversee the removal of Ash trees located along public streets and on City owned properties. As of the end of 2006 it is estimated there were approximately 700 Ash trees located within the City's right of ways and another 1300 in highly visited public areas.

Considering the Emerald Ash Borer has not yet been detected in Clark County seems to afford us time to begin removals prior to EAB becoming a critical situation in the City. The following items of the City's EAB management plan will be utilized with the understanding these items may be revised as new information about the Emerald Ash Borer becomes available.

STREET TREES

The Service Department will be responsible for removing Ash trees from the City's public right of ways. These removals should begin in mid to late 2007. Prior to beginning removals, an inventory of the existing Ash trees will be conducted to determine exact locations and conditions of these trees. The order in which Ash trees are removed will be based on condition, size, and overall impact to the neighborhood and community. Ash trees in poor condition will be removed first. The City will attempt to remove between 70 and 100 Ash trees per year.

Ash tree removals will be spread throughout the City in order to lessen the impact on any one particular area or neighborhood. The Service Department will notify the property owners and residents of the various neighborhoods prior to beginning Ash tree removals in their area. The Service Department will maintain an inventory of all street trees removed.

Due to the large amount of work that will be involved with implementing this program, requests for routine Forestry services may be delayed or postponed. Hazardous or emergency situations will continue to receive a priority response.

TREES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

There are hundreds of Ash trees located on private property throughout the community that will be affected by the Emerald Ash Borer. Although there is no accurate count of how many or their exact location, there are numerous Ash trees that are close enough to the public right of way to cause concerns about public safety should they begin to die. The City currently utilizes codified ordinance 1323.02 (b) to deal with dangerous trees on private property with enforcement through the City's Code Enforcement Division. The cost of removing trees on private property and the disposal of any wood associated with these removals will be the responsibility of the property owner. The Service Department will continue to maintain a list of tree companies licensed to work within the City. This list is available on the City's web site or by contacting the Service Department.

WOOD DISPOSAL

The City currently takes wood waste to the C& S recycling yard on Dayton Avenue. There are no plans to change this source of disposal. Should the need arise to utilize other disposal sites, the City would consider re-opening its compost site located at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant on Dayton Ave.

Disposal of wood waste will be in accordance with ODA specifications and regulations.

CANOPY REPLACEMENT

It is the intent of this plan to replace the majority of street trees removed due to EAB. The replacement trees shall be 1 1/4" to 2" caliper and of diverse species to prevent monoculture plantings. Planting priorities will be determined by the Forestry Division, with planting being done in the Spring and Fall of each year. The City's overall financial condition will play a role in determining the ability to replace Ash trees that are removed each year.

In order to help maintain the existing canopy of the City, citizens are encouraged to replace their Ash trees as they are removed. The Forestry Division is available to offer advice on tree selection.