City of Piqua Emerald Ash Borer Emergency Management Plan

Purpose

The *Emerald Ash Borer* is an exotic pest from Asia that is responsible for the death of over 5 million ash trees in Michigan, Indiana and Northwest Ohio. This pest is currently moving its way across the State of Ohio and has recently been found in an infested ash tree at the southbound rest area along Interstate Highway 75, near Piqua in Miami County. The origin of the infestation is unknown, but likely resulted from the movement of firewood, ash tree nursery stock, ash logs, or other ash tree materials. Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) surveyors will further investigate the size and origin of the infestation before determining how to proceed. In the meantime, ODA has quarantined all of Miami County, making it illegal for citizens to move ash trees, parts of ash trees and all hardwood firewood outside the quarantine zone. Violators face fines up to \$4,000.

The City of Piqua's urban forest is comprised of tens of thousands of trees of diverse species growing on the City right-of-ways, in public and community parks, golf courses and private residence's. **The Emerald Ash Borer Emergency Management Plan** is an outline of the City's primary objectives to educate the public of the impending destruction of ash trees by the EAB throughout the community, the immediate eradication of this pest by removal of existing ash trees within the community and the revitalization of replanting diverse species of trees in the recovery effort of this sudden and devastating loss to thousands of native ash trees in and around Piqua.

Applicability

The Emerald Ash Borer Emergency Management Plan applies throughout the City on all public properties where ash trees are currently growing, as well as on private properties where such trees may negatively impact public right-of-ways or other public properties.

Administration

The City of Piqua Public Works department in conjunction with the Engineering and Parks and Recreation departments will be responsible for the implementation of the Emerald Ash Borer Emergency Management Plan and seeing that its provisions are carried out in a timely, confident and orderly manner.

Definitions

Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)

The Diameter (inches) of a trunk cross section measured at 4' above the ground.

Compliance Agreement

Official Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) approval for moving regulated items outside of a quarantine zone.

Quarantine Zone

ODA-designated area restricting the movement of regulated items.

Regulated Items

All ash wood and all non-coniferous firewood.

Ash Removal

The City of Piqua will conduct an inventory of all ash trees growing on its right-of-ways, in parks and on other municipal properties. For each ash tree, its location, size and condition will be collected. An estimated budget and timeframe will be generated from the inventory data. The City will systematically remove all of its ash trees. Tree removal will be prioritized with hazardous trees being removed first followed by those that are no longer assets to the community (dead, dying, diseased or miss-sited). Utility contractors will be encouraged to remove all ash trees within their easements as part of their normal line clearance activities. An ash tree inventory spreadsheet or database will be created, updated and used to prioritize and record the removal, treatment or status of each tree.

Monitoring

Identify possible sources of EAB infestation into the community such as garden centers, firewood dealers the City's compost and recycling center; and monitor nearby ash trees for infestation. Create a detection tree program.

Strategically locate non-asset ash trees will be annually selected and prepared as detection trees. These trees will be girdled before April 1st and removed for examination in August. If an EAB infestation is discovered, a through survey of the surrounding area will be made and acted upon. All ash wood from pruning and removals shall be inspected for EAB by looking for D shaped exit holes and removing the bark to find larval galleries. All possible sources sources of artificial EAB importation into the

community such as nearby campgrounds, nurseries, refuse, compost and recycling locations, firewood dealers and firewood piles will be monitored.

Wood Utilization and Disposal

The City will develop a plan to use the wood generated during the removal program. The plan must comply with the Ohio Department of Agriculture's regulations for handling regulated materials. Wood that cannot be used for lumber, turning, firewood, or mulch will be disposed of according to ODA specifications.

Communications

The Mayor, City Manager, City Commission, Tree Committee and department heads will receive periodic briefings through normal channels.

All media will follow normal municipal protocol.

The City will communicate with public via:

- City of Piqua web page at www.piquaoh.org
- Access Piqua Television Association (APTA)
- Piqua Daily Call
- Educational sessions provided by the Parks and Recreation Department on Ash tree identification and pest identification to educate the public on this current plant/pest condition.

Education

A training session for in-house staff, contractors and residents will be held to discuss the pending infestation and to provide ash and EAB identification tips.

Canopy Replacement and Care

As the budget permits, 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 the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association/Ohio Division of Forestry Tree Planting Specifications and will be in the 1 ½" to 2" caliper range. Plantings will be budget based and prioritized by canopy cover goals as identified by the City Engineer. Those areas needing the most trees to reach their goal will be planted first. No plantings will be made that cannot be adequately maintained.

Postponed Work

While financial, staffing and equipment resources are focused on the EAB Emergency Management Plan, some usual services will either be delayed or put on hold indefinitely.

Private Property Ash Trees

The City will create and maintain an EAB Information Page on the City's website. To Assist the residents, the city will offer curbside pick-up chipping and disposal of infested trees. In the Spring and Fall the City will purchase non-EAB host large canopy trees. Residents and businesses interested in acquiring trees at a wholesale price may purchase trees through this program.

Contact List

Ohio Department of Agriculture

EAB Hotline: 1-888-OHIO-EAB or 1-888-644-5322

Website: http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab

Ohio Division of Forestry

Website: http://www.dnr.ohio.gov/forestry/eab/default.html

Marianne Prue EAB Urban Forester 952-B Lima Avenue Findley, Ohio 45840-2320

Phone: 419-429-8304

Wendi Van Buren
Regional Urban Forester (Miami County)
Division of Forestry
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
777 Columbus Avenue 5-A, Lebanon, OH 45036-1607
Phone (513) 932-6836 Cell (614) 670-2653
http://www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/urban

Emerald Ash Borer Website: http://emeraldashborer.info

OSU EAB Website: http://ashalert.osu.edu/