

Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan The City of Fairfield

Purpose: By implementing the provisions in this management plan, the City of Fairfield is attempting to mitigate the disruption to its urban forest resources caused by the pending infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Taking a proactive approach to this invasion will enable the City to address public and private needs in an efficient and effective manner. The City will endeavor to distribute the costs associated with certain and massive tree death over a manageable time period, as well as lessen the social and economic impact that such an extensive loss will have on the quality of life for our community.

Applicability: This Plan applies throughout the City on all municipal properties, parks and rights-of-way, where ash trees are currently growing, as well as on private properties where such trees may negatively impact the public rights-of-way.

Administration: The Fairfield Parks & Recreation Department, along with the assistance of the Public Works Department, will serve as the lead agency responsible for plan implementation and follow-up on the provisions of this plan.

The EAB Management Plan is subject to periodic revision as new information about the borer becomes available. The plan is also subject to revision should state or federal policies change.

Ash Removal Plan: The City will use its inventory of ash trees growing on its rights-of-way, in parks, and on other municipal properties to estimate a budget and timeframe for systematically removing ash trees once the infestation has been detected within the city limits. 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 a DBH of 6" or under). Utility contractors will be encouraged to remove all ash 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: Strategically located non-asset ash trees will be annually selected and prepared as detection trees under the guidelines of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In accordance to the Ohio Department of Agriculture procedures, these trees will be girdled before April 1st and removed for examination in August.

Communications: The Mayor, City Council, Parks and Recreation Board, Community Forest Commission, and Department Heads will receive periodic written reports through normal channels.

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

The local newspaper, radio stations, City newsletter, and city website will be used to relate the “what” and “why” of this plan to residents and businesses. If necessary, “open houses” will be employed for public feedback. The City will use EAB posters, radio spots, and other media outlets to educate the public about EAB identification and regulations. The City will observe EAB Awareness Week with a proclamation and awareness activities. The Community Forest Commission will assist in the dissemination of information to the public.

Replacement Tree Strategy 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 Fairfield Codified Ordinance 901.04, Standards for Planting and Maintenance in and Adjacent to Public Ways. Plantings will be budget based and prioritized by canopy cover goals as identified by the Parks & Recreation Director (or his/her designee). 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.

High Value ash trees within public areas, as identified by the Parks and Recreation Department and in concurrence with a certified arborist, may be selected for chemical treatment methods, as budget permits.

Budget: The tree inventory, tree removal (in-house and contractual) and tree replacement programs of publicly owned ash trees as defined above, will be budget-based and prioritized by the City on an annual basis, through the City’s annual operating budget process.

The City will supply vehicles, equipment, field support, and personnel to assist in the implementation of the plan. All requests for assistance will be channeled through the Parks and Recreation Department.

Private Ash Trees: The City will create and maintain an EAB Informational Page on the City’s website. In the spring and fall, the City will encourage the purchase of non-EAB host, large canopy replacement trees. Residents and businesses interested in acquiring trees at a discounted price may purchase trees through this program from participating local nurseries. A list of these nurseries will be maintained by the City and available to citizens. The City will provide information on site selection, planting, and maintenance information to each participant in this program. The decisions to treat, remove, or retain private trees rests with the property owner, unless said tree is a hazard to the public right-of-way, in accordance with the Fairfield Codified Ordinance 901.04, Standards for Planting and Maintenance in and Adjacent to Public Ways.

To assist the resident, the City will continue to offer its monthly brush/limb drop-off chipping program, its drop-box pick up program, and its curbside pick up/chipping program for the disposal of infested trees.

Approved Contractors: To assist the public, the City will maintain a list of contractors certified by the Ohio Department of Agriculture through an official compliance agreement. This list will be available on the City's website and the ODA website. These contractors have agreed, through the compliance agreement, for the responsible pruning, removal, installation, and/or wood disposal services of EAB infested ash trees.

The City does not recommend specific arborists or tree care companies. The City strongly recommends using trained professionals who have achieved, and maintain, certification with the International Society of Arboriculture. A search engine for finding arborists with these credentials is available on the website listed in Appendix 1. For best results, search by state and city or state, city, and zip code.

Ask an Arborist: This information will be posted on the City's EAB website, and hardcopies will be available at all public facilities and forums.

Appendix 1

Contact List

City of Fairfield, OH

<http://www.fairfield-city.org>

International Society of Arborists – Find an Arborist

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/findArborist/findarborist.aspx>

Ohio Department of Agriculture

<http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab/>

Emerald Ash Borer Program – (888) Ohio-EAB (888-644-0322)

eab@mail.agri.state.oh.us

Ohio Department of Agriculture (Compliance Agreement)

<http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab/plnt-eab-compliance.stm>

Ohio Division of Forestry – EAB

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/forestry/>

Marianne Prue, Urban Forester

419-429-8304

marianne.prue@dnr.state.oh.us

Ohio Division of Forestry – Region 5

<http://www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/urban/regions/region5.htm>

Wendi Van Buren, Urban Forester

513-932-6836

Wendi.vanburen@dnr.state.oh.us

Ohio Division of Forestry – Landowner Assistance

<http://ohiodnr.com/forestry/landowner/default.htm>

Pat Migliozi, Service Forester

513-932-6836

pat.migliozi@drn.state.oh.us

OSU Extension Service

<http://butler.osu.edu/>

Steve Bartels, Extension Educator

513-785-6654

bartels.2@osu.edu

United States Department of Agriculture

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/

USDA Forest Service

<http://na.fs.fed.us/fhp/eab/>

Appendix 2

Definitions: Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) – the diameter (inches) of a trunk cross section measured at 4 ½' 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, all non-coniferous firewood

10-20-30 Tree Species Diversity Rule - No more than 10% of the trees should be in the same species, no more than 20% in the same genus, and no more than 30% in the same family (the 10-20-30 Rule).

Appendix 3

Anticipated Budget for Discussion Purposes (2007 based):

600 +/- Ash trees in public right-of-ways

50 +/- Ash trees on specific municipal properties (city building, village green and veterans memorial park)

Removal Costs (contracted) - \$600 +/- per tree (\$390,000)

Replacement Costs - \$300 +/- per tree (\$195,000)

Treatment Costs - \$60.00 per tree, per year.

Totals: \$585,000.00, phased over 10 year period, \$58,500/annual

*Ash trees within the parks system and golf courses are not included in above numbers.

Arboricultural Consulting Services (Ask An Arborist, LLC) \$60.00/HR, plus expenses