



EMERALD ASH BORER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Overview:

In 2002, the emerald ash borer (EAB) was identified in Michigan. The insect originates from Asia and is thought to have reached the United States through infested wood pallets. Since then, the EAB has killed millions of ash trees as it has now migrated into Southwest Ohio. To date, there are no treatments that have been identified as successfully saving an infested ash tree or preventing the EAB from infesting those ash trees it comes in contact with. By implementing the provisions in this management plan, the City will take a proactive approach and attempt to spread the cost associated with an EAB infestation over a 10-year period.

The City has removed the Ash tree from the list of acceptable trees that can be planted in the City. This information has been forwarded to the developers that are active in the community and to the area tree providers.

It has been the City's policy to remove dead trees in the public right-of-way for a number of reasons. A well-managed street tree program enhances the aesthetics and quality of life within the community. The City has a long history of managing a successful tree program as is evident in our designation as a Tree City USA Community since 1991. Additionally, there are liability issues associated with not managing dead trees in the public right-of-way. A City's failure to remove known potential public safety hazard could create liabilities for the City. This plan stipulates that the City will systematically remove the public ash trees, either before or after infestation by the EAB, as is supportable within the annual operating budget.

Administration of Plan:

The Service Director will be responsible for implementing the provisions of this plan.

EAB Management Plan Action Items:

1. *Complete Inventory existing Ash Trees* –Attachment A shows the location of the ash trees that are currently inventoried as of December, 2006.

2. *Removal of existing Ash Trees* – The majority of ash trees in the public right-of-way are less than 8” caliper diameter and have been planted in the past 5-10 years in new residential developments. The City will prioritize the removal of larger diameter public ash trees beginning in 2007 and systematically remove all public ash trees over the 10-year period of the plan.
3. *Wood Disposal* – The City, or designated contractor, will not dispose of any wood outside the quarantine area except at approved sites.
4. *Canopy Replacement* – All ash trees removed from the public right-of-way tree lawn areas, and highly visible public property (e.g. memorial tree walks, park entrances) will be replaced with non-host specific species. Trees will be planted in accordance with the Ohio Division of Forestry Tree Planting Specifications and shall be a minimum of 2” caliper. Plantings will be budget based and prioritized by canopy cover goals as identified by the Service Director with recommendations from the Shade Tree Commission.

Based on the current ash tree inventory, it is estimated that the replacement of existing public ash trees will cost approximately \$125,000 over the 10-year period.

5. *Private Ash Trees* – The City strongly recommends that private owners evaluate the options of chemical treatment versus ash tree removal in determining the best course of action.
6. *Communication Plan* – The City will use all available resources including its website, City newsletter, Channel 6 programming, and direct mailings to Homeowner’s Associations to educate the public regarding the EAB threat and the status of this management plan.