

An Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan for the City of Strongsville

Dear HOA Board of Directors:

Enclosed please find information on the Emerald Ash Borer. The Emerald Ash Borer is an exotic pest from Asia that is responsible for the death of over 5 million ash trees in Michigan and Northwest Ohio. This pest is currently moving its way across the State of Ohio and has been recently found at mile marker 131 on the Ohio Turnpike.

The City of Strongsville urban forest is comprised of almost 15,000 street and park trees. Of these 5% or 750 trees in these public areas are Ash trees. This letter is notify you and educate you .’s objectives and the approaches that will be used to meet the anticipated impact of this pest on our Urban Forest.

The City’s primary objective will be community education, through public meetings, the cable channel (public serve announcements), the web page and press releases.

Anticipated Time line

February	2006	Education of City Tree Crews
March	2006	Set up detection trees (Ohio Department of Agriculture)
June	2006	Letters to Homeowner Associations with large ash populations
		City –wide fact sheet in new environmental flyer “ Keeping Strongsville Green ” -to all residents
July-Dec	2006 2007	Public information seminars Send letters to Homeowners – voluntary removals and replacements attempt 10% removal/replacement a year (for next 6 years)

The City of Strongsville urban forest is comprised of almost 15,000 street and park trees. Of these 5% or 750 trees in these public areas are Ash trees. Anticipated costs for the removal and replacement is \$300,000. (This does not include private property –residential cost)

This management plan details

- Ash removal
- Monitoring
- Wood Utilization and Disposal
- Communications
- Education
- Canopy Replacement and Care
- Postponed work
- Private Property Trees

Purpose

By implementing the provisions in this management plan, the City of Strongsville is attempting to mitigate the disruption to its urban forest 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 in our community.

This plan will encompass the entire City of Strongsville and will be implemented by the Coordinator of Natural Resources. The Coordinator will insure that all provisions are carried out.

Definitions

Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) – The diameter (inches) of the a trunk cross section measured at 4 1/2 ‘ above the ground.

Compliance Agreement – Official Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and ASDA 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.

Action Elements

Ash Removal

Review street tree inventory and prioritize a removal plan.

Monitoring

Identify possible sources of EAB importation into the community such as garden centers and firewood dealers; and monitor nearby ash trees for infestations.

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 or removals shall be inspected for EAB by looking for D-Shaped exit holes and removing the bark to find larval galleries. All possible sources of artificial EAB importation into the community such as nearby campgrounds, nurseries, 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 Council, Tree Commission and department heads will receive periodic briefings through normal channels.

All media relations will follow normal municipal protocol.

The City will communicate with public via:

- City Web page
- Cable Channel
- City publications
- Educational sessions on Ash identification and pest identification will be held as needed.

Education

City service department employees have already gone through training courses. Training courses will be held to educate the public and discuss the pending infestation and to provide ash and EAB identification tips. *Residents will also receive lists of licensed contractors in the City of Strongsville.*

Contractors who work with-in the City limits will be invited to attend training sessions.

Canopy Replacement and Care

As the budget permits, all removed public ash trees will be replaced with-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 to the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association / Ohio Division of Forestry Tree Planting Specifications and be in the 1 ¼” to 2” caliper range.

Postponed Work

While financial, staffing and equipment resources are focused on the EAB 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 replacement 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

Findlay, OH 45840-2320

Phone: 419-429-8304

Cuyahoga County OSU Extension 1-216-429-8225

US Forest Service

Website: <http://ncrs.fs.fed.us/4501/eab/>

Invasive Species

EAB Profile webpage: <http://www.invasivespecies.gov/profiles/eab>