

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan For the City of Bowling Green

Plan Purpose:

By implementing the provisions in this management plan, the City will take a proactive approach and attempt to spread the cost over 8 years. More than 662 ash trees at one time could be a liability problem if the ash trees are not removed. The loss of every tree on entire streets in some neighborhoods could have detrimental effects on home values, quality of life and safety in those locations. We can remove and replant in accordance with Chapter 99 Ordinance on Trees in those locations to lessen the impact as possible.

Administration of Plan:

The City Administrator, City Arborist, Public Works Staff and Parks and Recreation Department will be responsible for the implementing and follow up on the provisions of this plan.

Communications:

The Mayor, City Administrator, City Council, Tree Commission and department heads will receive periodic updates through the proper channels. All media relations will follow standard operating procedure through the Public Information Official.

Ash Tree Removal:

The City Arborist and state urban forester (Emerald Ash Borer Specialist) will conduct an ash tree inventory of ash trees grown in city parks, rights-of-way, and on city owned green spaces. The data will be collected as location, size, and condition of each tree. An estimated budget and time frame will be generated from the information gathered. The City will remove all ash trees within City limits. Tree removal will be prioritized based on hazardous trees, those in poor condition and trees with infrastructure installation damage to be removed first. We will assess neighborhood and streets lined with ash trees and schedule removals to lessen the negative environmental impact and aesthetic impact. Utility contractors will be encouraged to remove ash trees within their easements. An ash tree database will be created to update, and be used to prioritize and record the removal, or status of each tree. Before the trees are removed each property owner will be informed in writing by the City Arborist.

Wood Disposal:

The Arborist Division and Public Works Department will not dispose of any wood outside the quarantine area except at approved sites.

Canopy Replacement:

As budget permits, all ash trees removed will be replaced with non-host specific species that will enhance the planting site, are appropriate for the planting site and add diversity. Trees will be planted in accordance with Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association/Ohio Division of Forestry Tree Planting Specifications and be in the 1 ½" to 3" caliper range. Plantings will be budget based and prioritized by canopy cover goals as

identified by the City Arborist with recommendations from the City of Bowling Green Tree Commission. No plantings will be made that cannot be adequately maintained. All new plantings will conform to the “10-20-30” tree species diversity rule.

Postponed Work:

While financial, staffing and equipment are focused on EAB Management Plan some usual services may be delayed. Trimming and removals requests will be prioritized. Only hazardous or emergency situations will be expedited while executing the EAB Plan.

Private Ash Trees:

We strongly recommend that private owners remove ash trees on their property. We will not order any private owner to remove their ash trees unless it becomes infested. Once infested, Chapter 99 Trees: Section 99.02, 99.03, 99.04 ('65 Code, § 945.02) and (Ord. 7241, passed 5-3-04):

§ 99.02 ARBORIST TO CONTROL TREES.

(A) The Arborist is given full jurisdiction, authority, control, supervision, and direction of all trees which now or which may hereafter exist upon any public place in the city; and over all trees which exist upon any private property when, in the Arborist's opinion, such trees constitute a menace to public property, public safety, or public welfare of the city.

(B) The Arborist is also given full jurisdiction, authority, and control in connection with the issuing of permits hereinafter provided for. In the exercise of any of the powers herein granted, the Arborist shall have the authority to delegate all or such part of his/her power and duties with respect to supervision and control of trees to the Arborist's subordinates and assistants in the employ of the city as the Arborist may from time to time determine.

('65 Code, § 945.02) (Ord. 7241, passed 5-3-04)

§ 99.03 PERMIT REQUIRED.

No person shall plant, prune, remove, cut, climb, or injure any tree existing on any public place in the city, or authorize or procure any persons to do so, or remove or tamper with any device placed for the protection of any such tree, or attach any rope, wire, chain, sign or other device whatever either to such tree or to any device placed for the protection of such tree, or authorize or cause the same to be done, without having first obtained written permission from the Arborist to do so.

('65 Code, § 945.03) (Ord. 7241, passed 5-3-04) Penalty, see [§ 99.99](#)

§ 99.04 REMOVAL OF TREES ON PUBLIC PROPERTY.

(A) No person shall prune, brace, cable, spray, or otherwise perform work on a tree in a treelawn or other public place without the property owner first obtaining a permit from the Arborist. The person obtaining the permit shall abide by the standards as set forth in this chapter.

(B) The Arborist shall keep all trees standing upon any public place in the city trimmed so that the branches of such trees projecting over any public sidewalk, private driveway, or into any public street beyond the curb line shall not conflict with the public welfare.

(C) The Arborist shall have the right and duty to trim any tree existing on any public place in the city so as to insure the public safety or to preserve the function or beauty of such public place. The Arborist shall further have the right to remove any such tree or any part thereof which is in an unsafe condition or which, by reason of its location or nature, is injurious or detrimental to other public improvements in the city, or is infected with any injury, fungus, insect, or other pest or disease which cannot otherwise be controlled.

(Ord. 7241, passed 5-3-04) Penalty, see [§ 99.99](#)

§ 99.05 ABUSE OR MUTILATION OF PUBLIC TREES.

(A) Unless specifically authorized by the Arborist or his/her designee, no person shall intentionally top, damage, cut, carve, transplant, or remove any tree or shrub located on public property; attach any rope, wire, nails, advertising posters, or other contrivance to any tree or shrub located on public property; allow any gaseous liquid or solid substance which is harmful to such trees or shrubs to come in contact with them; or set fire or permit fire to burn when such fire or the heat thereof will injure any portion of any tree or shrub located on public property.

(B) No person shall excavate any ditches, tunnels, trenches, alley or driveway within a radius of ten feet from any public tree or shrub without first reading obtaining approval from the Arborist and an excavation permit from the Public Works Director or his/her designee.

(Ord. 7241, passed 5-3-04) Penalty, see [§ 99.99](#)

Contacts & Links for the State of Ohio:

Ohio Department of Agriculture:

EAB Hotline: 1-888-OHIO-EAB OR 1-888-644-6322

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

Ohio Division of Forestry

Website: <http://www.ohio.dnr.com/forestry/eab/default.htm>

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Wood County Extension

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