

Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan Village of Canal Winchester, Ohio

Introduction

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an introduced pest that is killing ash trees in Ohio and other areas. Since its discovery in Detroit in 2002, the borer has spread, killing virtually all ash trees in its path. The Village of Canal Winchester, Ohio must and shall prepare for the arrival of this pest on three fronts - street trees, trees in public areas and the education of owners of ash trees on private property. (Trees on private property having potential targets should they fail and fall should be considered). Trees in woodlands that have no potential targets will not be of concern in this notice.

No one can determine when the insect will arrive in Canal Winchester. Our best estimate is an arrival of one to ten years. EAB can travel easily in firewood and nursery stock and it is possible that it will arrive much sooner despite state and federal quarantines of infested regions. The Canal Winchester Street Tree Advisory Board and Urban Forester agree that proactive measures should be taken before an infestation occurs, to prevent a crisis in public safety, budgeting and logistics. Interpretation of aerial photos have revealed that only 15% of the village is presently covered with tree canopy to slow rainwater, cool and purify the air we breathe, provide beauty for our village and supply homes for urban wildlife. It is important to realize the critical nature of replacing the loss in canopy coverage by the removal of ash trees by man and nature. Your Street Tree Advisory Board (STAB) has adopted an ash tree replacement program. The following elements of the village's plan have been adopted, and are subject to change should state or federal policies dictate. The Urban Forester of The Village of Canal Winchester is the lead person responsible for plan implementation. Working with the Street Tree Advisory Board, the Urban Forester will provide public education regarding EAB as a routine service, and an annual report to the Village Service Committee will be prepared.

Street Trees

The Village will gradually remove and replace native and horticultural forms of ashes (approximately 200 trees) in street rights of way and public places. The removals will begin in 2007 with trees in poor condition being removed first. Approximately 10% of the ashes will be removed each year (over a ten year period) and replace with other species of trees until all ash trees in public rights of way are removed. All adjacent residents will be notified of removals.

Removals will be dispersed over neighborhoods to lessen impact on aesthetics and property values.

Requests from residents will be honored when possible. This includes residents who request removal of trees in a timely manner.

Protective pesticide treatments have not proven 100% effective. The Village does not plan to treat any trees. Treated trees may kill 80 - 90% of the pests, prolonging the inevitable demise of the tree. Treatment of private trees with pesticides may be applied at the residents' discretion and expense. The village and the State of Ohio are not recommending treatment of any ash trees in non-quarantined areas at this time.

Tagged Ash Street Trees in Village rights of way that are removed and replaced by other species will be replaced at the expense of the village's street tree maintenance fund or supplemental funding.

Park Trees

Specimen ash trees will be replaced by other species, planted by our crew or others. Dead standing/failed trees in woodlands will be replaced by natural regeneration.

Trees on Private Property

There are perhaps a thousand or more ash trees on private property in the village. No reliable inventory exists, and ash density varies by neighborhood, woodland and old fencerows exist throughout. The decision to treat, remove, or retain trees rests with the property owner at this time. Residents should consider many variables when evaluating options, including tree size, location, and condition. Potential targets, should the tree fail is of paramount concern in this office. Your village urban forester and advisory board are here to help, use us!

The village will enforce the relevant sections of the Village Code of Canal Winchester 1191.05 to manage dead, diseased, or damaged trees which are deemed by the Municipality to be a menace to the public peace, health and safety. Private trees that are a threat to private property will be inspected as complaints are received (complaint based/driven).

It would be prudent for residents to establish a relationship with an ISA Certified Arborist now in the event that ash evaluation, and/or removal is desired in the future. Contractors should be able to provide proof of liability insurance and worker's compensation coverage. The Village also encourages residents to replace trees lost with species appropriate for the site. (For example, do not plant oak trees under over-head lines.) Your Street Tree Advisory Board advises you to plant new trees (No Ash Please) in advance of a certain EAB infestation. Ash removal and replacement is a way of preserving Canal Winchester's beautiful urban and outlying neighborhood woodlands and critical canopy coverage.

Contact:

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