

Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan For the City of Dublin

Introduction

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an introduced pest that is killing ash trees in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Delaware and Ontario. Since its discovery in Detroit, Michigan in 2002, the borer has spread, killing virtually all ash trees in its path.

As of 2007, Dublin inventories show approximately 3200 (15%) of the City's 21,000 street trees are ash trees. 1500 ash trees are planted in parks. Thousands more ash trees are growing on other city property in wooded lots and stream beds as well as private property. The City of Dublin must prepare and manage for the arrival of this pest on three fronts – street trees, park/public trees, and trees on private property.

Plan Purpose

By implementing the provisions in this management plan, the City will take a proactive approach to mitigate the disruption to its urban forest caused by the pending infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Taking a proactive approach will enable the City to address public and private needs in an efficient and effective manner.

Administration of Plan

The following elements of the City's EAB management plan have been adopted, and are subject to periodic revision as new information about the borer is available. This plan is also subject to change should state or federal policies dictate. The Director of Parks and Open Space, and staff of Forestry and Horticulture, will be responsible for implementing and follow up on the provisions of this plan.

Communications

The Mayor, City Manager, City Council and department heads will receive periodic updates through normal channels. All media relations will follow normal municipal approval and protocol.

Street Trees

During the spring of 2007 ash trees were removed from major arterial roads such as Emerald Parkway, Rings Road and Woerner Temple Road. Since then systematic ash removal has been suspended. If there is a problem with an ash and it is not deemed a good candidate for treatment then the tree will be removed. Ash trees will be evaluated on their health, vitality, and location.

A soil injection program was started in the spring of 2008 in the Wedgewood Hills subdivision where ninety one ash were treated. Additional treatments will continue during the following spring months when the insect is most vulnerable to insecticides.

Contact the City Forester at 410-4701 should a resident like to provide pesticide treatments to the street tree (s) adjacent to their property. This will be done at the residents' discretion and expense. Treated trees will be removed by the City if treatments fail and EAB infests the tree.

Park Trees

There are many specimen ash trees in City parks, as well as thousands of ash in wooded park areas. In the spring of 2008 one hundred specimen ash within numerous parks were treated. These trees will be monitored as others in the parks. Ash trees in a wooded park will be left alone. These trees will die once infested by the EAB. They will be left in the woods to decompose unless they represent a hazard to public safety to park users, in which case they will be felled and left.

Wood Disposal

Parks and Open Space staff will not dispose of any wood outside the quarantine area except at approved sites.

Canopy Replacements

As budget permits, all removed ash trees 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 the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association/Ohio Division of Forestry Planting Specifications and be in the 2” to 2.5” caliper. All new plantings will conform to the “10-20-30” tree Species diversity rule – no more than 10% or any species of tree, 20% of any genera of tree, or 30% of any one family of tree.

Trees on Private Property

There are many thousands of ash trees on private property in Dublin. No inventory exists and ash density varies by neighborhood.

Property owners are urged to monitor the EAB’s movements. **The decision to treat, remove, or retain private tree rests with the property owner.** Residents should consider many variables when evaluating options, including tree size, location, and condition; access to the tree; potential targets should the tree fall; property value; shade, heating and cooling values; treatment techniques, efficacy, and costs’ proximity of EAB infestation; and intangible costs.

The City will enforce the relevant section of the Ordinance 153.134, Section K, through its Code Compliance program should it receive complaints about hazardous private trees. Private trees that are a threat to private property will be inspected only as complaints are received.

When hiring for insecticide control or tree removal it is encouraged to contact a qualified ISA Certified Arborist. Contractors should be able to provide proof of liability insurance and worker’s compensation coverage. The City also encourages residents to replace trees lost with species appropriate for the site, or to plant new trees in advance of EAB infestation and ash removal.