

An **Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan** for Clearcreek Township as approved by the Township Trustees on \_\_\_\_\_

**Background and Purpose:**

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a non-native insect that is currently attacking Ash trees in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Ontario, Canada. First identified in southeastern Michigan in 2002 and first identified in Ohio in February 2003, EAB has already killed an estimated 24 million Ash trees in those areas. A pocket of infestation was recently found in Springboro. Unless some means are found to eradicate it, EAB has the potential to kill literally all of the native ash trees in Ohio and all of North America. By implementing the provisions in this management plan, the Township is attempting to mitigate the disruption to its current level of public services caused by the present and future levels of infestation in Warren County. Taking an active approach to this infestation will enable the Township to address public safety needs in an efficient and cost effective manner. The Township will endeavor to distribute the costs associated with this certain and massive tree death over a manageable time period. The following elements of the Township’s EAB Management Plan have been adopted, and are subject to periodic revision as new empirical and scientific data about the borer is available. This plan is also subject to change should state or federal policies dictate.

**Scope:**

This plan applies throughout the Township on all locally maintained rights-of-way, and public properties where ash trees are currently growing. This plan does not apply to State Routes, County roads or City of Springboro roads.

**Administration of Plan:**

The Township Park Operations Manager, through the Township Maintenance Department, will be responsible for implementing this plan and seeing that its provisions are carried out.

**Ash Tree Removal:**

The Township has conducted an inventory of all Ash trees growing on its rights-of-ways, in parks, cemeteries, and on other public properties. For each Ash tree, its location, size and condition has been collected. An estimated budget and timeframe has been generated from the inventory data. The Township will systematically remove all of its inventoried Ash trees under authority granted by Section 5543.14 of the Ohio Revised Code, which states:

“...the Board of Township Trustees may trim or remove any and all trees, shrubs, and other vegetation growing in or encroaching onto the right-of-way of the township roads of its township, as is necessary in the board’s judgment to facilitate the right of the public to improvement and maintenance of, and uninterrupted travel on, township roads. The board is not required to compensate the abutting landowner for trimming or removing such trees, shrubs, and other vegetation as is necessary to facilitate these rights....”

The Township realizes that during our inventory process some trees that **are** Ash might have been missed and some trees that **are not** Ash may have been inventoried by mistake. We

welcome input from residents if they feel that either of these situations has occurred. Tree removal will be prioritized with hazardous trees (line-of-sight, utilities, sight-distance, leaning, fall zone) being removed first followed by those that are no longer assets to the community (dead, dying, diseased, miss-sited in easements or road rights-of-way). Utility contractors will be encouraged to remove all Ash within their easements as part of their normal line clearance activities. An Ash tree inventory database has been created, and will be updated and used to prioritize and record the status of each tree throughout the project.

**Notification:**

No removal of Ash trees will begin without adequate prior notification to affected homeowners. Ash trees selected for removal will be marked with an orange “X” and all residents on a street scheduled for Ash removal will be given written notice 3-4 weeks prior to removal beginning. The Township will keep the public informed through mailings, hand delivery of literature/door hangers, media and the Township’s web site.

**Postponed Work:**

While financial, staffing, and equipment resources are focused on the EAB Management Plan some usual services such as paving, striping, berming, and aesthetic trimming may either be delayed or put on hold indefinitely. The purpose of the Township’s current flail mowing program is to maintain line-of-site and keep vegetation from encroaching on the Township’s roadways. This program will continue as time and budget allow.

**Wood Utilization and Disposal:**

A random sampling of Ash wood from pruning and removals by the Township shall be inspected for EAB by looking for D-shaped exit holes and removing shavings of bark to find larval galleries. The Township will develop a plan to use the wood generated during the removal program. The plan will comply with the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s regulations for handling regulated materials. Wood that cannot be used for lumber, firewood, or mulch, will be disposed of according to ODA specifications.

**Communications:**

The Trustees, Administration, Department Heads and Park Operations Manager will receive periodic briefings through normal channels. All media relations will follow normal Township protocol.

**Private Ash Trees:**

Outside of the Township’s regularly maintained road rights-of-way and public grounds, there are many thousands of Ash trees growing on private property. No reliable inventory of these trees exists, and ash density varies by neighborhood. Property owners are urged to monitor the EAB’s movements. **The decisions to treat, remove, or retain private Ash trees 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; and proximity of EAB infestation.

The Township will enforce the relevant sections of O.R.C. Chapter 927.40:

“...the Board of Township Trustees may authorize an agent to enter upon any lands in a quarantined area within the subdivisions for the sole purpose of inspecting such lands for the existence of the pest for which the quarantined area has been established. Such powers of inspection may be exercised by any such subdivision, through its agent, solely to prepare a campaign within the subdivision against a pest for which a quarantined area is established.”

should it receive complaints about hazardous private trees. Staff is always vigilant for private trees that threaten public improvements or the street right-of-way, and this will not change. Private trees that are a threat to private property will be inspected only as complaints are received. It would be prudent for residents to establish a relationship with an ISA Certified Arborist now in the event that Ash evaluation, treatment, or removal is desired in the future. Contractors should be able to provide proof of liability insurance and worker's compensation coverage. The Township 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.

#### **Research and Treatment Options:**

Insecticides have shown potential for protecting trees from EAB, including soil-applied systemic insecticides, trunk-applied systemic insecticides, and protective cover sprays applied to the trunk, branches, and (depending on the label) foliage. Some formulations can be purchased and applied by homeowners. Others can be applied only by professional applicators. It is important to realize that success is not assured, and that trees will have to be treated each year. In many cases, it may be more cost-effective to remove and replace the tree. Insecticide applications have effectively protected Ash trees from EAB. However, in some research trials, trees have continued to decline from EAB attack despite being treated over successive years. In other trials, treatments have failed completely. The bottom line is that research on chemical control of EAB is still in the early stages, and we still do not have enough experience to know under what circumstances insecticide treatments will be effective over the long term. The Township would like to stress that residents should use caution when dealing with companies that offer a “magic bullet” to save Ash trees. To date there is no known treatment that is 100% effective at stopping EAB from infesting an Ash tree. Even just a few larva can eventually kill a small Ash tree. Unless a “magic bullet” is found in the near future, the Township will continue with its plan of removing rather than treating the Ash trees in our inventory.

#### **Term Definitions:**

*Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)*

The diameter (inches) of a trunk cross-section measured at 4 ½ ‘ above the ground.

*Quarantine Zone*

ODA and USDA -designated areas restricting the movement of regulated items.

### *Regulated Items*

All Ash wood and all non-coniferous firewood.

### *Compliance Agreement*

Official ODA and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) approval for moving regulated items outside of a quarantine zone.

### *Site-Distance Impeded*

Would a driver be unable to see a fallen tree in the road due to a curve or hill or vegetation growth?

### *Fall Zone*

Other than the roadway, where else could the tree fall (lawn, agricultural, structure, forest, driveway)?

### *Road Right-of-Way*

Generally, and for the purposes of the Township's Ash Tree Inventory, 18' from edge of pavement.

### *Ash Tree Removal*

Generally, trees will be cut as low to the ground as possible and a stump treatment will be applied to discourage re-growth. Trees in fencerows may be cut higher to avoid old fencing and a treatment will still be applied. Stump removal and tree replacement will be at the discretion of the Township on all public properties including the Government Center Grounds, Fire Station Grounds, Parks and Cemeteries. The Township will not engage in stump removal and tree replacement on private property.

### **Emerald Ash Borer Information Resources:**

**Ohio Department of Agriculture:** (updates and quarantine information):  
[www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab](http://www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab)

**Ohio State University Extension:** (homeowner information and ash tree ID):  
[www.ashalert.osu.edu](http://www.ashalert.osu.edu)

**Multi-state information and research:** [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)

**Ohio Division of Forestry:** [www.ohiodnr.com/forestry](http://www.ohiodnr.com/forestry)

**EAB Management & Planning:** <http://www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/eab/default.htm>

**Find an Urban Forester Near You:** [www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/urban/regions](http://www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/urban/regions)

**Find a Service Forester Near You (rural/woodlot landowner assistance):**

[www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/landowner/directory](http://www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/landowner/directory)

**US Forest Service EAB Site:** <http://na.fs.fed.us/fhp/eab>