

City of Urbana

EMERALD ASH BORER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Adopted 11/11/08
Resolution No. 2232 of Urbana City Council

Introduction

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an introduced pest (beetle) that is killing ash trees in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Ontario, and most recently in Missouri. Michigan has lost over 15,000,000 trees and the count in Ohio is well over 300,000. The borer has not been found to be present in Champaign County. However, the county is currently under quarantine because the borer has been found in several counties that are contiguous to Champaign County.

The inventory of street trees in Urbana shows that approximately 10 percent of the urban forest is comprised of ash species. For Urbana, with about 1,300 trees in the street tree inventory, there are approximately 122 ash trees on the streets. There are also additional ash trees on city lands and city property. These lands include: Oakdale Cemetery, Melvin Miller Park, other parklands, Public Works Facilities, and Grimes Airport lands.

There are also many ash trees on private property in Urbana that residents may need to remove. By developing a plan, the city is demonstrating the need for everyone to develop a plan for the eventual impact of EAB in the city. Failure to plan will leave residents with unplanned expense and hazardous dead trees on private property.

Purpose

Implementing a management plan will help the City of Urbana mitigate the disruption to its urban forest caused by the pending infestation of the borer. Taking a proactive approach will distribute the costs over a calculated time period. By doing so, the social and economic impact of such loss should be lessened on the quality of life in the Urbana community.

Scope

This plan addresses ash trees which are located on all public properties throughout the City of Urbana. In addition, this plan addresses private properties where ash trees may pose a safety hazard to the adjacent public right of way or other public/private property. This plan addresses a ten year period that will commence in January of 2009 and end in January of 2019. This plan may be subject to revision due to the increased and/or decreased threat of Emerald Ash Borer. This plan will be directed under the guidance of the Urbana Shade Tree Commission and the Director of Administration.

Action Statement

The first part of the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan for the City of Urbana is the removal of ash trees within public right of ways (street trees) within a ten year period. An inventory is conducted annually by the Urbana Shade Tree Commission of the trees in the public right of ways (street trees). This inventory has identified approximately 122 ash trees in the public right of ways. An estimate to remove these trees was provided by a local contractor at an estimated cost of approximately \$125.00 per tree. The total removal cost, including stump removal, would be approximately \$15,250.00. A target goal would be to remove and replace approximately 12 trees per year over a ten year period. This removal work could be conducted by an outside contractor or by the City of Urbana Department of Public Works. If EAB is found to be present in the City of Urbana or Champaign County, then the number of removals per year may be increased. As the trees are removed, they will be replaced with 1 tree for every tree that is removed.

Estimated Cost for Removal and Replacement of Ash Trees on Public Right of Ways:

Tree Removal: 122 Trees @ \$125.00 per tree=\$15,250.00
Tree Replacement: 122 Trees @ \$125.00 per tree (1.5"-1.75" caliper)=\$15,250.00
Total Estimated Cost: \$30,500 + 10% inflation over ten years=\$33,550.00

The second part of the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan for the City of Urbana is the removal of ash trees within Oakdale Cemetery and Melvin Park as well as other city parklands. Currently, an inventory of Oakdale Cemetery has been conducted, and there are approximately 8 ash trees in the cemetery. An estimate for the removal of these trees will be conducted by year two of the 10 year plan. By year three of the 10 year plan, an inventory of ash trees at Melvin Miller Park and other city parklands will be conducted. After this inventory is conducted, a cost estimate to remove and replace these trees will be developed. During the ten year period, the inventories and cost estimates for Oakdale Cemetery and Melvin Miller Park will be used to develop a schedule for the removal and replacement of the ash trees on these lands. As these ash trees are removed, they will be replaced with 1 tree for every tree that is removed.

The third part of the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan for the City of Urbana will be the monitoring and possible removal of ash trees on other city lands. As Emerald Ash Borer spreads throughout Ohio and into the ash trees of Champaign County, the City of Urbana will conduct yearly evaluations of ash trees on city lands to ensure that these trees do not pose a threat to the safety and welfare to the users of these lands. These lands will not have a prioritized schedule for ash tree removal and replacement. The ash trees on these lands will be addressed as the Emerald Ash Borer takes a hold in the county. The replacement of trees on these lands will only be conducted if funds are available to do so.

Replacement Trees

All removed ash trees (street trees, cemetery trees, and park trees) will be replaced with no-host species that will enhance the planting sites and will add to the diversity and general health of the urban forest. Plantings will be budget based and prioritized by canopy cover goals. An emphasis will be placed on planting native species. All new trees will conform to the 10-20-30 tree species diversity rule which states that no more than 10 percent of any kind of tree, 20 percent of any genera of tree or 30 percent of any family of tree will be planted.

If a removed ash tree was planted in a location that is in violation of Chapter 905 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Urbana, then this tree will not be replaced. A suitable replacement may be planted close by to achieve canopy cover goals.

Monitoring of Ash Trees

The City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission will actively participate in programs directed by the Department of Natural Resources that work to monitor the spread of Emerald Ash Borer throughout the State of Ohio. Currently, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources is placing traps throughout each county, and the Urbana Shade Tree Commission has already been active in this process.

Communication Plan

The City of Urbana will work to educate the public about the Emerald Ash Borer and the threat that it poses to the urban forest of the city.

As the removal and replacement plan is executed for ash street trees, proper notification will be sent to homeowners via regular postal mail notifying them of the removal and replacement process.

The Urbana Shade Tree Commission will provide frequent updates to the Urbana City Council and the Director of Administration as the program is implemented.

Communication about the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan will be disseminated via the following forms of media:

- www.urbanaohio.com
- Urbana Daily Citizen
- Springfield News-Sun
- Channel 13
- Utility Bills

The Urbana Shade Tree Commission may choose to hold public forums on the topic of Emerald Ash Borer to better educate the public about this borer and the threat that it poses.

Private Ash Trees

The owners of ash trees on private property will be responsible for their removal. The City of Urbana would encourage a proactive approach to the removal of ash trees on

private property. However, the City of Urbana will not require a private property owner to remove ash trees on their property unless the tree becomes infested with Emerald Ash Borer. At that time, the city will revert to the process outlined for the removal of dead/diseased/insect ridden trees in Chapter 1339 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Urbana.

As private landowners remove ash trees on private property, they are encouraged to follow the guidelines for tree replacement mentioned in this management plan. In addition, the City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission will be available to consult with individual landowners about their replacement trees. The City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Preferred Tree List also provides the private landowner with a detailed list of suitable replacement species.

Contact List:

For any questions, please call:

Mayor's Office: 652-4300

Other Information: 1-888-OHIO-EAB

Websites

www.emeraldashborer.info

www.ohioagriculture.gov/EAB

www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/eab

www.dnr.state.oh.us/forestry