

**City of Parma Heights
Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan
To Be Adopted by City Council August 2013**

Introduction

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an introduced pest (beetle) that is killing Ash Trees. Ohio is home to an estimated 3.8 billion ash trees. The first infestations by the EAB in the City of Parma Heights were noted in 2000-2002 in the city parks. Infestations later spread to tree lawn trees, where they were first observed in 2004.

Inventory

The Parma Heights Tree City Board, under the direction of Tree Consultant Richard Sidoti, conducts an annual inventory of the trees in the public rights-of-way (street trees), which has yielded an accurate inventory of ash trees so located. Additionally, the city has conducted an inventory of all ash trees located in parks, and on other municipal properties. This data is contained in spreadsheet form, and notes the location, size, condition and status of each tree. The inventory of street trees (tree lawn trees) in Parma Heights shows that approximately 3 percent of the urban forest is comprised of ash species: i.e. for the approximately 8,000 trees in the street tree inventory, approximately 240 are of the ash specie. Additional ash trees are located in the city parks, namely The Greenbrier Commons, Radlick Park, Reservoir, Kurtz Park, Stroud Park, and Nathan Hale, and on other municipal properties. Ash trees are also found on private property throughout Parma Heights and will require removal by property owners.

By formally adopting the City of Parma Heights Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan, the city has prepared an orderly plan of action for dealing with ash borer infestation and, furthermore, is demonstrating the need, and providing the example, for property owners to develop a plan for their response to this crisis.

Purpose

This plan applies throughout the City on all public properties where ash trees are currently growing, as well as on private properties, where such trees may negatively impact public rights-of-way or other public properties. Implementing the EAB plan will help the City of Parma Heights mitigate the disruption to its urban forest caused by the infestation of the borer. The proactive approach in the plan will distribute the costs, removal, and replacement of trees over a calculated time period and, by doing so, will lessen the social and economic impact of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation on the quality of life in the Parma Heights community.

Scope

In a series of planned phases, the EAB plan addresses ash trees which are located on all public properties throughout the City of Parma Heights with immediate emphasis placed on ash trees that pose a safety hazard to the adjacent public rights-of-way or public/private property. The EAB plan will be directed under the guidance of the Parma Heights Tree Consultant, Parma Heights Tree Board and the Director of Public Service and may be subject to revision due to the increased and/or decreased threat of Emerald Ash Borer.

Ash Removal & Reduction

The EAB plan calls for the removal of city ash trees in three phases: Phase 1 will consist of the immediate removal of 89 ash trees which pose a safety hazard to the adjacent public rights-of-way or public/private property; Phase 2 will consist of the removal of all remaining ash trees within the public rights-of-way (street trees) within a 3-5 year period and; finally, Phase 3, will consist of the monitoring and possible removal of ash trees on other city lands.

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

The afore-mentioned annual inventory has identified approximately 240 ash trees in the public rights-of-way, resulting in the following estimate of costs:

Tree Removal: 240 Trees @\$227.00 per tree = \$54,480.00

Tree Replacement (1¾"-2"): 240@ \$150.00 per tree = \$36,000.00

Total Estimated Cost: \$90,480.00

- **Timetable**

- Phase 1 - Trees are a danger and must be removed immediately.
- Phase 2 - Due to the large number of trees in this phase, the goal will be to remove and replace approximately 40 trees per year over a 3-5 year period.
- Phase 3 - Trees in this category will be monitored and moved into Phase 2 inventory as needed due to infestation. As Emerald Ash Borer spreads throughout Ohio and the county, the City of Parma Heights will conduct yearly evaluations of the remaining ash trees on municipal properties to ensure that these trees do not pose a threat to the safety and welfare to the users of these lands.

Removal work will be completed by contractors (chosen by bid process at time of required removal) certified by the International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborists or by the City of Parma Heights Department of Public Service under the direction of Tree Consultant Richard Sidoti or City Arborist Alan D. Klonowski.

The replacement of trees on these lands will be conducted as funds become available, either through municipal allotment or through grant funding. Areas where trees have already been removed will be considered as top priority for replacement planting.

Canopy Replacement and Care

All removed ash trees will be replaced with no-host species that will enhance the planting sites, will add diversity and promote the general health of the urban forest. The caliper of the trees will be no less than 1¾"-2". The proper species of trees will be selected by Certified Arborist Alan D. Klonowski to prevent electrical wires and other utilities impeding the growth and/or longevity of the trees. Plantings will be budgeted, chosen, and prioritized by canopy cover goals. An emphasis will be placed on planting native species. Selection of new trees to be planted within city limits on municipal property 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 species of tree or 30 percent of any family of tree will be planted.

Planting methods and overall care will meet the standards established by the Urban Forestry Tree and Management Plan of 1994 prepared by ACRT, Inc. for the City of Parma Heights. Planting sites located on rights-of-way, will have a tree lawn minimum width of four feet required for small planting sites, five feet for medium and eight feet for larger planting sites. The minimum distance between trees will be 20, 30 or 40 feet depending on planting site. All plantings will be least 35 feet from intersections and at least ten feet from hydrants, driveways, utility poles and streetlights.

Monitoring of Ash Trees

The City of Parma Heights Tree Board will actively participate in programs directed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources that work to monitor the spread of Emerald Ash Borer throughout the State of Ohio.

Private Ash Trees

The owners of ash trees on private property will be responsible for their removal. The City of Parma Heights will encourage a proactive approach to the removal of ash trees on private property. However, the City of Parma Heights 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 660.23 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Parma Heights.

Communication Plan

- The City of Parma Heights works to educate the public about Emerald Ash Borer and the threat that it poses to the urban forest of the city.
- As the removal/replacement plan is executed for ash street trees, proper notification will be sent to the homeowners.
- The Parma Heights Tree Board will provide frequent updates to the Mayor, City Council, and the Director of Public Service as the programs are implemented.
- Communication about the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan will be disseminated via the following media:
 - www.parmaheightsoh.gov
 - www.facebook.com
 - [Parma Heights App](#)
 - Mayor's Cityview Newsletter
- The Parma Heights Tree Board will hold public forums on the topic of Emerald Ash Borer to better educate the public about this borer and the threat that it poses.
- A training session for in-house staff, contractors, tree board, and residents will be held to discuss the pending infestation and to provide Ash and EAB identification tips.

- In the past, residents of the City of Parma Heights have stepped forward to purchase trees to replace their dead/diseased ash trees and will be encouraged to do so in the future. Upon request, the City of Parma Heights Tree Board will provide the private landowner with a detailed list of suitable replacement species and the City of Parma Heights Tree Board and Tree Consultant will be available to consult with individual landowners about their replacement trees.
 - Additionally, to encourage tree replacement, the city has implemented a Memorial Tree Program, whereby our residents can purchase a tree on behalf of a loved one, which will then be planted by city crews.

As a means of education for the public, the City will create and maintain an EAB Information Page on the City website detailing suitable replacement species and planting guidelines and with links to the following informational websites:

Websites

www.emeraldashborer.info

www.ohioagriculture.gov/EAB

www.dnr.state.oh.us/forestry

Contact:

For any questions, please call
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