



EAB MANAGEMENT PLAN

PURPOSE

The City of Gahanna's decision to take a proactive approach to monitoring and removing Ash Trees infested with the Emerald Ash Borer is in response to the current infestation of trees in the community. Trees dead or dying pose a threat to people or property, as well as to persons using public venues where trees may drop dead material. Ash trees are self-pruning, and as such, will drop branches without warning and therefore present a hazard. Although pesticide treatments are available, there is no hard data showing that when used pesticides eradicate the EAB. Therefore, the city will invest its funding in the removal of trees rather than in the prevention of EAB through pesticides. However, the city will not discourage residents from treating their trees with pesticides.

ASH TREE REMOVAL

Approximately 16% or 1400 inventoried street and parkland trees are Ash Trees in the City of Gahanna. The Department of Parks & Recreation's first priority is public safety; therefore, all publicly owned Ash Trees located in parks and parkland, residential street trees, rights-of-way, and municipal properties will be inspected for infestation. The inventory will be conducted by the city arborist. Trees will be inventoried by location and condition of the tree. Each tree will receive a numerical rating- [1- remove; 2- marginal; 3- monitoring] Trees rated 1- remove- will be deemed hazardous to personal and public property and will receive first priority for removal. Residences with more than one street tree and rated both a 1 and 2 will have both trees removed at the same time to save on costs. The City will contract with a certified tree removal company to remove the trees. Stumps will be ground by the City Parks Department. An Ash Tree spreadsheet as well as a Geographic Information System mapping device have been created specifically for the purpose of tracking Ash Tree status rating, to removal, to replacement. Removal of trees rated 1- remove- and 2-marginal- will be completed by the end of 2011. Trees rated 3- monitoring- will be re-evaluated on an annual basis beginning April 2012.

PROTECTIVE PESTICIDE TREATMENT

The City of Gahanna will not treat infested trees with insecticide due to funding limitations. The City will provide residents with information about pesticides as well as informational resources for choosing the insecticide which is right for them. See appendix for resources.

WOOD UTILIZATION AND DISPOSAL

The City of Gahanna will follow the quarantine regulations and requirements of the Ohio Department of Agriculture stipulating in Rule 901:5-56-03 that, in summary states, "...it is illegal to move ash trees, ash logs, ash branches, ash wood chips, ash bark, and all hardwood firewood out of Ohio's quarantined areas. The materials can move freely within, but cannot leave a contiguous quarantined area." Ash Tree wood in the City of Gahanna, located in Franklin County, a quarantined area, infested with Emerald Ash Borer may not be moved out of Franklin County. In the City of Gahanna it is legal to dispose of ash wood by chipping to 1" or smaller, burn it, or recycle it with yard waste.

COMMUNICATIONS

The City of Gahanna will communicate to the Mayor, City Council, Parks and Recreation Board, Landscape Board, and the Public through departmental meetings, council meetings, mass mailing notifications, and a webpage dedicated to providing current, up-to-date information on the progress the city is making towards removal of infested ash trees and canopy replacement. The city will provide its EAB management Plan to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

CANOPY REPLACEMENT AND CARE

Currently, the City of Gahanna is not requiring homeowners to replant after the trees have been removed. Homeowners are encouraged to continue making Gahanna's street tree canopy an amenity in our community. Replacement trees species have been chosen for each street and homeowners need to reference the list for appropriate selection. Each homeowner is required to notify the Department of Parks & Recreation of the tree selected when replanted, so the city can add it to the inventory of street trees in Gahanna.

POSTPONED WORK

The Emerald Ash Borer has done significant damage to ash trees in our community, including our parks. A significant number of resources have been dedicated to the infestation and the removal of trees. The pruning program has been significantly impacted and resources that were originally dedicated to other projects have been reassigned to eliminate the ash tree hazards. This issue will continue to impact the budget and the community until the elimination of the insect from our area.

PRIVATE ASH TREES

Ash trees infested with the EAB and growing on privately owned property will be treated or removed at the homeowner's expense. A homeowner should consult with an arborist for professional recommendation.

CONTACT LIST

Ohio Division of Forestry
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
OSU Extension
Rob Wendling, City Arborist

BUDGET

Budgeting for ash tree removal will be done on a bi-yearly basis and will be appropriated as funding is available.

APPENDIX

City of Gahanna. <http://www.gahanna.gov/departments/parks/eab.aspx>

Ohio Department of Agriculture Emerald Ash Borer Program.
<http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/plant/eab/eabquarantine.aspx>

Ohio Extension Factsheet. *"Insecticide Options for Protecting Ash Trees from Emerald Ash Borer and Their Effectiveness"*.

http://www.emeraldashborer.info/files/Multistate_EAB_Insecticide_Fact_Sheet.pdf