

Emerald Ash Borer Strategic Plan

Village of Granville, OH

Purpose

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

The EAB is an introduced pest that is killing ash trees in Ohio. Since its discovery in Detroit, Michigan, the EAB has been responsible for killing all ash trees in its path. The Village of Granville must prepare to manage this pest on three fronts: street trees, park trees and trees on private property. Therefore this plan will apply throughout the Village on all public properties where ash trees are currently growing as well as on private property where ash trees may create a hazardous condition for public rights-of-way or other public properties (e.g. parks).

Evidence of EAB infestation, in the form of “D” shaped emergence holes, was discovered in February 2012 in the downtown area of Granville. The discovery of adult emergence holes indicates that adult EAB were present in May-June of 2011 (time of emergence of adult beetles) and perhaps before. The Village Tree & Landscape Commission (TLC), working in conjunction with the Granville Services Department, will be responsible for implementing the plan and feel some early measures should be in place to prevent a problem with public safety, budgeting, and logistics.

A total of **230 ash trees** (**158 White, 59 Green, 7 blue, and 6 European** represent **6.4%** of Granville’s urban forest of ca. **3,568** street trees (10-12% when park trees are included) in the most recent tree inventory (December 02, 2006). All public right-of-way trees are considered to be in “good” condition. The TLC recommends that a majority of the existing ash trees be left standing as long as the tree canopy displays no significant evidence of distress or “die back.” Since it is unlikely that all ash trees would be infected at the same time and/or die at the same rate, by allowing the trees to continue to flourish and provide beauty and shade in the Village, removals can be more easily handled by the Services Department over a prolonged period of time (see Street Trees below).

Street Trees

1. The Village will remove infested and/or dead ash trees on street rights-of-way. Those in the “large” category (25” DBH and greater) presenting a public hazard will be removed first as the cost of removal for trees of the size greatly exceed the cost of removal of smaller trees. Large trees adjacent to power lines may require the aid of AEP. NOTE: All adjacent property owners will be notified of planned removals and subsequent replacement plantings.
2. Resident requests reporting dead or infested ash trees on a right-of-way in front of their property, will be honored as soon as possible. Additional ash trees may be removed depending on the severity of infestation at specific sites.
3. The Village does not intend to apply pesticide treatments. At this time, such treatments have not proven to be entirely effective in deterring the infestation of the EAB.
4. As the budget permits, ash trees will be replaced with other species which will enhance the site and add to the diversity of the urban forest. Plantings will be in the 1 3/4” to 2” caliper range to comply with Ordinance 40-2005, Section 909.11. The TLC will determine which replacement species will best suit the site of the removed tree.

5. Infested wood will be handled by the Village within the guidelines established by the Ohio Department of Agriculture.
6. As a result of possible increased EAB removals, some usual services may be delayed or temporarily put on hold.

Park Trees

1. At this time, no inventory exists of the ash trees in Village parks. It is not our intent to inventory these trees.
2. 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.

Trees on Private Property

1. We acknowledge there are numerous ash trees on private properties in Granville. No reliable inventory exists and the density varies with the size of the property.
2. The Village will enforce the relevant section of Ordinance 40-2005, Section 909.03. Trees on private property that threaten public safety, pedestrian or vehicular traffic, will be inspected and, if found to fall under the terms of the Ordinance, will be handled by the Village. All other ash trees on private property are the responsibility of the property owners.
3. Property owners are urged to monitor the EAB infestation. The decision to remove or otherwise maintain ash trees on their property rests with the owners. The Village encourages residents to replace trees lost with a tree appropriate for the site. Local garden centers as well as the TLC, would be willing to offer species suggestions if requested to do so.
4. To assist the residents, the Village will offer curbside pickup, chipping and disposal of infested trees.

Communication

1. The Mayor, Village Manager and Village Council will receive periodic briefings through the normal channels.
2. All media relations will follow normal Village protocol.
3. Communication with the public will be by means of:
 - a. Village Web Page
 - b. Mailed flyers or brochures at the Village Office desk.

Budget

1. Requests for additional funding for ash removal/replanting can be anticipated in Village budgets for the next two (2) to four (4) years.
2. Average cost (estimated) for removal of one tree (estimated by Services Department) is \$625.00. This estimated cost includes chipping and stump grinding.
3. Estimated cost of replacement trees as specified is \$250.00 per tree or ca. \$10K if 40 trees are replaced per year (estimate based on 2012 costs).