

# An Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan for the City of Findlay

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

The City will endeavor to distribute the costs associated with certain, massive tree death over a manageable time period, as well as to lessen the social and economic impact that such an extensive loss will have on the quality of life in our community.

This Plan applies throughout the City to all public properties where ash trees currently are growing, as well as on private properties (per ordinance 2007-103) where such trees may negatively impact public rights-of-way or other public properties.

The Public Works Department will be responsible for implementing this Plan and seeing that its provisions are carried out.

## Definitions

Quarantine Zone: ODA-designated area restricting the movement of regulated items.

Regulated Items: All ash wood and all non-coniferous firewood.

The City will conduct an inventory of all ash trees growing on its rights-of-way, in parks, and on other municipal properties. For each ash tree, its location, size, and condition will be collected. An estimated budget and timeframe will be generated from the inventory data. The City will systematically remove its infested ash trees. Tree removal will be prioritized with hazardous trees being removed first followed by those that are no longer assets to the community (dead, dying, diseased, or mis-sited). Utility contractors will be encouraged to remove all ash trees within their easements as part of their normal line clearance activities. An ash tree inventory spreadsheet or database will be created, updated, and used to prioritize and record the removal, treatment, or status of each tree.

## **Protective Pesticide Treatment**

### *Municipal Protection of Public Ash Trees*

Based on a citywide inventory of public ash trees and current municipal finances, the City will determine which, if any, ash trees will be chemically treated. Because research in this field is currently evolving, the City will monitor all treatments for their effectiveness and future use.

### *Private Protection of Public Ash Trees (trees within the public rights-of-way)*

Protective pesticide treatments may be applied at the residents' discretion and expense, with prior municipal notification. Treated trees will be removed if the municipality

determines the treatments have failed and EAB infests the tree. Before contracting with an approved licensed pesticide applicator for treatment, the resident should refer to OSU Extension factsheet "Insecticide Options for Protecting Ash Trees from Emerald Ash Borer and Their Effectiveness."

#### *Wood Utilization and Disposal*

The City will develop a plan to use the wood generated during the removal program. The plan must comply with the Ohio Department of Agriculture's regulations for handling regulated materials. Wood that cannot be used for lumber, turning, firewood, or mulch will be disposed of according to ODA specifications. Wood cannot be transported to or through counties that are not under quarantine for EAB. There is no problem transporting wood from Hancock County to any of the surrounding counties since they all are under EAB quarantine.

#### *Communications*

The Mayor, City Council, Shade Tree Commission, and City department heads will receive periodic briefings through normal channels. The City will create and maintain an EAB Informational Page on the City's website.

#### *Education*

A training session for in-house staff, contractors, tree commissioners, and residents will be held to discuss the pending infestation and to provide ash and EAB identification tips.

#### *Canopy Replacement and Care*

As the budget permits, all removed public ash trees will be replaced with non-host species that will enhance the planting site, are appropriate for the planting site, and add to the diversity and general health of the urban forest. In the spring and fall the City will purchase non-EAB host replacement trees. Residents and businesses interested in acquiring trees at a wholesale price may purchase trees through this program. The City will provide site selection, planting, and maintenance information to each participant in this program.

#### *Postponed Work*

While financial, staffing, and equipment resources are focused on the EAB Management Plan, some usual services will be either delayed or put on hold indefinitely.

#### *Contact List*

##### *For municipal tree EAB inquiries:*

Ohio Division of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry

Stephanie Miller; Urban Forester

EAB program organizational, technical, educational support

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*For private tree EAB inquiries:*

OSU Extension

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Public education support and facilitation

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*For general EAB inquiries:*

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