

EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) PLAN
VILLAGE OF COTTAGE GROVE, WISCONSIN

Adopted: July 14, 2011

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 Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, and Ontario, Canada. Since its discovery in Detroit, Michigan, the EAB has been responsible for killing all ash trees in its path. The Village of Cottage Grove must be prepared to manage this pest on three fronts; street trees, park trees and trees on private property. Therefore this plan will be applied 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 right-of-ways or other public properties, including parks and open spaces.

While no one can predict when the insect will arrive in Cottage Grove, it has already been detected in the following Wisconsin counties; Brown, Milwaukee, Crawford, Kenosha, Ozaukee, Vernon and Washington as of August 2010. The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee (PRFC), is working in conjunction with the Cottage Grove Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department. The PRFC will be responsible for implementing the plan and feel some early measures should be in place before infestation occurs to prevent a problem with public safety, budgeting and logistics.

According to the Cottage Grove tree inventory, ash trees represent about 17% of Cottage Grove's urban forest of 2500(+/-); including park trees. Of those trees, all public right-of-way trees would be considered in 'good' condition.

The PRFC recommends that 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 to the Village, removal can be easily handled by the Public Works Department over a prolonged period of time. The PRFC will continually research additional techniques and protocols as they become available and deemed necessary.

STREET TREES:

1. The Village will remove dead ash trees on street rights-of-way. Those presenting a public hazard will be removed first.

EMERALD ASH BORER PLAN – Cottage Grove, WI

NOTE: All adjacent property owners will be notified of planned removals and subsequent replacement plantings.

2. Resident requests reporting a dead ash tree on a right-of-way in front of their property, will be honored as soon as possible.
3. The Village will determine whether chemical treatments are viable upon infestation. At this time, chemical treatments such as Tree-age are being implemented by very few communities and are a costly method of deterring EAB infestation. The cost effectiveness of using chemical treatments will be researched and added to the Cottage Grove EAB protocol as needed.
4. As the budget permits, ash trees will be treated or replaced with other species which will enhance the site and add to the diversity of the urban forest. Planting will be in the 1.25” to 2” caliper range to comply with the Village ordinance. The PRFC will determine which replacement species will best suit the site of the removed tree.
5. Diseased wood will be handled by the Village within the guidelines established by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

PARK TREES:

1. At this time, the tree inventory includes trees in all Village parks.
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 PROPERTIES:

1. We acknowledge there are numerous ash trees on private properties in Cottage Grove. No reliable inventory exists and the density varies with the size of the property.
2. Infected trees on private property that threaten public safety, pedestrian or vehicular traffic will be inspected and will be handled by the Village or their designee. All other ash trees on private property are the responsibility of the property owners.

EMERALD ASH BORER PLAN - Cottage Grove, WI

3. Property owners are urged to monitor the EAB movement. 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 nurseries as well as the PRFC, would be willing to offer specie suggestions if requested to do so.

COMMUNICATION:

1. The Village President, Village Administrator and Village Board of Trustees will receive periodic briefings through normal channels.
2. All media relations will follow normal Village protocol.
3. Communication with the public will be by means of;
 - a. Village website
 - b. Mailed flyers or brochures at the Village Office desk.

BUDGET (once plan is executed):

1. Average cost (estimated) for removal of one tree (developed by the Public Works Department):
 - \$ 425.00
 - (Includes chipping and stump grinding)
2. Replacement cost:
 - Based on average tree cost of \$250.00
 - Based on 40 trees per year
 - \$10,000
3. Tree-age Treatment Plan:
 - Based on approximate cost of \$1.20 per inch (2 year treatment plan)
 - Based on average Village of CG tree – 4 inches
 - Example: 4” tree = \$4.80 (2500 four inch trees = \$12,000)

Submitted: July 14, 2011

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