

City of Westminster
Parks, Recreation, and Libraries Department

Forestry Section

Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan

Updated 10/28/20

Goals

- a) To prepare the City for the potential impacts of an EAB infestation
- b) To preserve as many healthy, well-located City-maintained ash trees as possible
- c) To inform, educate, and assist private tree owners

Monitor ash populations for EAB

- a) Update the inventory of City-owned ash trees as needed, assigning a preservation priority number. Preservation priority will be based on the location, condition, and size of tree. **On-going**
 - 1) Location - High priority will be given to trees located at City facilities, street medians, tree pits, and memorial trees. Park and street rights-of-way locations receive a second priority. Trees on non-irrigated sites and poor site locations are not candidates for preservation.
 - 2) Condition – High priority will be given to trees in good condition and second priority to trees in fair condition. Trees in poor condition are not candidates for preservation.
 - 3) Size – High priority will be given to trees greater than 10” and less than 24” diameter. Trees 8-9” and over 24” diameter receive second priority. Trees in the 2-7” diameter class are candidates for removal and replacement.

The results of the 2014 Ash Tree Inventory updates showed 1,713 City-owned ash trees of which 1,261 trees are recommended for preservation pesticide treatments. 452 City-owned ash trees are recommended for removal and of those 235 are recommended for planting replacement trees.

- b) Use current methods of detection
 - 1) Pheromone (large purple) Traps placed in four locations throughout the City
Summer 2019

- 2) Create “Trap Trees” by girdling the bark to stress the tree and attract EAB on five ash trees throughout the City. Removal and inspection of those trees occur the following winter. **Summer 2019**
- 3) Branch sampling when pruning/removing City-owned ash trees **On-going**
- 4) Inspect private trees as requested by owner **On-going. Inspected private trees near Broomfield EAB location at 128th Ave. & Zuni St. in Sept. 2019**

Insecticide Treatment Options

- a) Preventive treatments of emamectin benzoate, as a trunk-injected insecticide on trees larger than 8”dbh. Emamectin benzoate is effective for 2-3 years and trees will be placed on a 3-year treatment cycle. Treatments on approximately 400 City-owned ash trees will be completed per year by a contractor. **Approximately 600 trees a year were treated in 2019 and 2020 by Taddiken Tree Company**

Ash Tree Removals

- a) Remove City-owned ash trees that are unhealthy or in poor locations by Forestry Section staff during the normal pruning rotation before the EAB infestation arrives. 452 ash trees are recommended for removal as identified in the 2014 tree inventory update. **On-going; 91 ash trees were removed year to date in 2020**
- b) Remove dead City-owned ash trees by Forestry Section staff as needed after the EAB infestation is present.
- c) Remove dead City-owned ash trees in natural areas (along streams and canals) by Forestry Section staff as the trees become hazards.

Replacement Plantings

- a) Discourage planting of ash trees in residential and commercial areas. The Forestry Section has not planted ash trees for several years.
- b) Promote diversity of tree species when planting.
- c) Plant trees in existing empty planting spaces. **On-going; 175 trees planted by Forestry Section staff and contractors in 2020**
- d) There are 235 planting spaces identified in the 2014 tree inventory update from ash trees that should be removed.
- e) Plant trees under existing ash trees to become established before the ash trees are removed.

Community Education and Programs

- a) Educate and inform the public through the website and other forms of media. **On-going**
- b) Educate and inform City elected officials and staff through presentations, trainings, and tours. **On-going**
- c) Promote replacement plantings through the ReLeaf Westminster Tree Rebate Program and PRL Advisory Board grants to HOAs. **On-going**
- d) Promote preventive insecticide treatments through PRL Advisory Board grants to HOAs. Create a Save Our Ash Rebate Program for homeowners that preventively treat their ash trees. **Potential Future Programs**

Code Enforcement

- a) Streamline process for sending removal notices. **On-going**

Wood Waste

- a) Provide firewood to Standley Lake campers from Forestry Section tree removals. **On-going**
- b) Save logs from Forestry Section tree removals and utilize local sawmills to mill lumber. **On-going**
- c) Distribute excess grindings from City Limb Recycling Program to Free Mulch pick-up locations. **On-going**