



## Village of Streamwood EAB Readiness Plan

### Introduction

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an introduced pest that is killing ash trees in Illinois, and at least 15 other states and Canada. Since its discovery in Illinois in July 2006, the borer has spread to most of the state. In July of 2010 the Emerald Ash Borer was confirmed on the north side of Streamwood by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Since then the Borer has been confirmed throughout the village.

The community of Streamwood must continue to prepare, mitigate and manage the damage of these pests on three fronts: street trees, park/public trees, and trees on private property.

EAB can travel easily in firewood and yard waste and is the main culprit for transport.

**As of August 2014, approximately 1,437 or 12% of the Village's street trees are ash. This figure includes inventoried specimens, and an estimate of sizeable ashes in public rights of way. As of August 2014 the village estimates approximately 20% of the inventoried ashes are rated in poor condition, 60% are in fair condition, and 20% are in good condition. Similar data for park and private ash trees is not available.**

**The village has removed over 2,063 ash trees from 2011 to August 2014. Approximately 912 trees were planted in the same time period.**

The following elements of the Village's EAB management plan have been adopted, and are subject to periodic revision as new information about the borer is available. This plan is also subject to change should state or federal policies dictate. The village of Streamwood's Public Works Department is the lead local agency responsible for plan implementation. Working with the Village Board, Streamwood will provide public education/information regarding EAB as a routine service.

### Coordinating Committee

Given the complicated nature of EAB, the importance of trees to our community and that ash are present on public and private property, the community has assembled a task force to monitor

EAB and to support the implementation of the plan. Our coordinating committee includes the following representatives:

1. Mike Kuncewicz, Village Forester & Forestry Foreman
2. John Ring, Forestry Maintenance II
3. Matt Mann, Public Works Director

## **Outreach**

Outreach is crucial to mitigating the impact of EAB. On an annual basis key staff outlined above must educate city officials of the magnitude of potential tree loss in our community. Staff must provide a detailed estimate of the potential costs to the community for tree loss and tree replacement. Externally, it is important to educate local advisory and tree advocacy groups on EAB biology, EAB quarantine compliance and instructions for local monitoring programs. Community contacts that the public can outreach are:

1. Village of Streamwood Public Works Department Forester, Mike Kuncewicz
2. Natural Resource Conservancy Commission, Matt Mann

Working through the aforementioned groups and using the community's communications tools such as the website and newsletter, we will implement a public education campaign to notify and educate residents about EAB and our community's action plan to begin removing poor-conditioned ash, plans for reforestation, and any proposed funding sources being considered to support funding of the program.

## **EAB Compliance Agreement**

The Community has entered into an EAB compliance agreement with the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The Compliance agreement requires the community to take necessary precautions to minimize and control the spread of EAB. Compliant agencies commit to contacting anyone giving, selling, or receiving ash or other hardwood, to inform them of the EAB quarantine area and the resulting restrictions on wood movement. Compliance Agreements are available at <http://illinoiseab.com/> under Quarantine/Compliance section

## **Street Trees**

1. The community will gradually remove and replace ash trees in street rights of way. The removals began in late 2011 and will continue in 2014. Poor condition trees will be removed first. Up to 28 % of the ashes will be removed annually depending on the condition of the trees, enabling the City to phase out ashes over a minimum of a six year period. All adjacent residents will be notified of planned action. Ash trees in good condition will not be removed unless necessary, and not until later years of this process.

2. Removals will be dispersed over neighborhoods to lessen impact on residents, aesthetics, and property values.
3. Requests from adjacent residents will be honored when possible. This includes residents who request removal of trees, as well as those who request that ashes be retained (in expectation that protective treatments will be applied by the resident). City code also includes an appeals process for residents.
4. Protective pesticide treatments may be effective, and may be applied at residents' discretion and expense. The community does not plan to treat street trees. Treated trees will be removed if treatments fail and EAB infests the tree.
5. Ash trees that are removed will be replaced as funds allow. Species diversity will be a planting objective to better protect our community's trees in the future, and planting will occur in fall per the Village's standard operating procedures. The Village will select trees from the IDA Reforestation List.

### **Open Space Trees**

1. There are many specimen ash trees in the Village's open spaces and parks, as well as many ashes in wooded areas. No inventory of these trees exists.
2. Specimen trees will be monitored. If trees are young and small, proactive removal will be unnecessary, as Village staff can remove these trees once infestation occurs. Removal of larger trees takes precedence.
3. Ash trees in wooded areas will be left alone. These trees will die once EAB arrives, but will be left in woods to fail and decompose unless they present a hazard, in which case they will be felled and left in the woods.
4. Specimen ash trees will be replaced. In wooded areas, natural regeneration will play a significant role in reforesting parkland, but invasive/non-native plants will create challenges.

### **Trees on Private Property**

1. There may be many thousands of large and small ash trees on private property. No reliable inventory exists, and ash density varies by neighborhood.
2. Property owners are urged to monitor the EAB's movements. **The decision to treat, to remove, or to retain private trees rests with the property owner.** Residents should consider many variables when evaluating options, including tree size, location, and condition; access to the tree; potential targets should the tree fail; property value; shade, heating, and cooling values; treatment techniques, efficacy, and costs; proximity of EAB infestation; and intangible values.
3. The Village will enforce the relevant sections of the **Village Code** should it receive complaints about hazardous private trees. Staff is always vigilant for private trees that threaten public improvements or the street right of way, and this will not change. Private

trees that are a threat to private property will be inspected only as complaints are received.

4. It would be prudent for residents to establish a relationship with an ISA Certified Arborist now in the event that ash evaluation, treatment, or removal is desired in the future. Contractors should be able to provide proof of liability insurance and worker's compensation coverage. The Village also encourages residents to replace trees lost with species appropriate for the site, or to plant new trees in advance of EAB infestation and ash removal as a way of preserving the tree lined streets.