



**Emerald Ash Borer  
Management Plan**

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**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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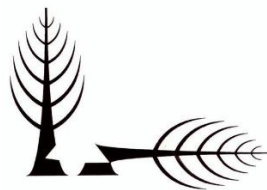
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## **PURPOSE**

By implementing the provisions of this management plan, the City is attempting to mitigate the disruption to its urban forest caused by the infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Taking a proactive approach to the potential infestation enables the City to address both public and private impacts in an efficient and effective manner. The City will attempt to distribute costs associated with the EAB over a manageable time period, and lessen the economic and social impact that an extensive loss of ash trees would have on the quality of life in our community.

In establishing this management plan, the City considered the following factors:

- Being proactive will allow the City to have greater control over the situation and minimize and better manage the impact and costs of EAB.
- Removal of diseased or declining ash trees will help prevent the more rapid spread and impacts of EAB in the community.
- There are optional chemical treatments available for both public and private ash trees which may assist in controlling the EAB over time.
- Reforesting the City with native tree species will increase the diversity and sustainability of the forest.

## **EMERALD ASH BORER BACKGROUND: THE PROBLEM**

*Agrilus planipennis*, commonly known as an emerald ash borer (EAB) has a natural range of eastern Russia, northern China, Japan and Korea. In the past decade, the exotic beetle found its way to the United States. The EAB is a bright green, metallic beetle with an elongated, slender body measuring 1/2 inch long. The adult beetles nibble on ash foliage, but cause little damage to leaves. Trees become infested when adult beetles lay eggs on the bark, which hatch into larvae that bore into the tree. The larvae tunnel in the phloem layer (between bark and wood) and disrupt the movement of water and nutrients, causing eventual death of the tree. The EAB was first discovered in Michigan in July 2002. It is suspected that the EAB arrived on solid wood packing material shipped from its native Asia. Without any natural predators or controls in North America the insect has spread to 14 states and two Canadian provinces.

Millions of ash trees have been killed with some cities reporting complete loss of all ash trees within 5 years of the EAB becoming established. There has been no stopping the devastation to the urban forest, though millions of dollars have been spent on prevention methods. The most current research shows that early sanitation efforts in Minnesota have helped slow the spread of EAB, but new infestation sites are being reported every growing season.

Emerald Ash Borer adults can fly at least half mile from the tree when they emerge. However, new infestations are most often created when people transport infested nursery ash trees, logs or firewood into uninfested areas. Shipments of ash trees and transportation of firewood has been regulated by the state to reduce the spread of EAB. Ramsey County is a designated as quarantine area, and transportation of ash wood outside of the County is prohibited. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is responsible for quarantine enforcement and penalties. Signs of EAB include: Splitting bark and or small “D” shaped exit holes where beetles emerge. Serpentine “S” shaped larval galleries underneath the bark. The presence of EAB or larvae. Symptoms of EAB infestation include:

- General thinning of canopy and increasing dieback of the ash tree
- Increased woodpecker activity
- Sprouting of new growth shoots from the base of the tree

### **APPLICABILITY**

This plan applies throughout the City on all public properties and public right of ways. Elements of the plan will also be applied to ash trees on private properties. The City will follow similar policies that have been used in dealing with the Dutch Elm and Oak Wilt diseases, with variations in removal requirements and timing. Municipal Code Chapter 38, Article II. Control of invasive species tree pests addresses tree removal when dealing with invasive species.

### **EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Resident education and ongoing outreach communication are key components of managing the impact of the EAB, especially as more information becomes available. Continued coordinated public information dissemination to residents and the media will be administered through the city’s website, newsletters, and social media. Public meetings will be conducted as necessary. The city will maintain a list of resources for homeowners from relevant agencies. As EAB activities occurs in isolated neighborhoods, direct communication will be made by the city to advise residents on the current situation of their boulevard or privately owned trees and activity in their neighborhood. Homeowners may treat their private trees, provided they use a licensed treatment contractor who adheres to the City’s standards to protect surface and ground water.

### **MITIGATION POLICIES**

Although it is impossible to stop the spread of invasive species like the EAB, the City of Wyoming’s EAB Management Plan is created to lessen the impact of the EAB on the City’s Landscape.

**1. Removal of EAB infested trees:** The City will update its diseased tree ordinance to require the removal of both public and private ash trees infested by the EAB to prevent the spread of the disease. Rules or requirements used for determining infestation will be per the Department of Agriculture or Department of Natural Resources guidelines.

**2. Preemptive removal of declining ash trees:** The City will begin some preemptive removal of declining ash trees on public property, even when EAB has not yet been identified. These ash trees could be located within City parks or in boulevard areas. The reasons for this ash reduction include:

- a) Removing declining trees before they are infested with EAB; and
- b) Allowing for reforestation with other species of trees; and
- c) Spreading the cost of tree removal over a longer period of time.

These tree removals will generally be completed by City crews or contractors in late fall and winter months as time and work schedules permit. The most critical period for movement of confirmed EAB ash trees is June and July. This is the period when adult beetles emerge from trees, begin feeding on foliage, and move to more trees to lay their eggs. During this time, it is best to leave these trees standing and not chance the spread of EAB by transporting beetle-infested wood to other areas.

The City will permit residents to use chemical treatments on either private ash trees or public ash trees in boulevard areas, given the following:

- a) Private contractors are to use only the approved trunk injection method.
- b) The injection treatment application must be done by City licensed tree contractor that is bonded, insured, and state licensed to apply commercial tree chemicals.
- c) The boulevard tree treatments need to be reported annually to the Environmental Officer for tracking.

**3. Wood utilization:** The City will publicize the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's regulations for handling ash wood removal. Chisago County is currently under a quarantine which prohibits the transportation of wood outside of the County. From September 15th to April 30th EAB-infested trees can be removed and transported only within the quarantine area, so long as they are promptly chipped to the required dimensions, less than 1"x1"x1". Any storm damaged ash trees during the active growth spring and summer period must be

chipped within the area before transportation to kill the EAB larvae. The City will identify marshalling yards for this work as necessary. Non-infested EAB trees can be removed from September 15th to April 30th using the normal process of transporting un-chipped wood to the Ramsey County Yard Waste Site.

**4. Monitoring and Tracking:** The City will track the spread of EAB in Wyoming and surrounding communities in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture or Department of Natural Resources. The City will also monitor trees that have been treated as reported by private contractors. The City will conduct a tree inventory to identify replacement and reforestation needs in the future.

#### **SUMMARY**

EAB will have a significant impact on Wyoming's landscape. The City's plan is designed to inform the public of new infestations, treatment options, removal requirements, and to provide a comprehensive proactive approach to addressing the EAB infestation.