

DRAFT

# Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan

City of Quincy

March 2014 (4th Coordinating Draft)

## **Introduction and Background**

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive, non-native insect that feeds on, and ultimately causes, the death of Ash trees. The beetle is metallic green in color and approximately one half inch in length.

The EAB was first discovered in the United States in Michigan in 2002 and is believed to have been transported to the United States from Asia on wooden shipping crates approximately 5 years prior to its discovery. EAB has continued to slowly spread from state to state most often through human activities like transporting infested Ash fire wood or Ash logs.

The EAB was first discovered in Illinois by the Department of Agriculture on June 9, 2006 in the Windings of Ferson Creek, a subdivision west of St. Charles in Kane County. Beginning in 2007, the Department of Agriculture began conducting EAB surveys and placing traps searching for the insect across the State

As of 2013 the closest identified EAB infestation site was in Knox County, approximately 80 miles from the City of Quincy. New infestation sites are identified every year. The current assumption is that the infestation will not be halted and all untreated ash trees in an infested area will die within eight years of the initial infestation.

### **Emerald Ash Borer**



## **The City of Quincy Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan**

The ash tree removal or treatment options described in this plan applies to trees public ash trees located on city right of way, parking lots or other city property.

The City of Quincy is committed to an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation manage plan for publicly owned trees that preserves selected high quality ash trees using insecticide treatments and reducing the impact on city resources by removing low quality ash trees prior to the arrival of the EAB.

This goal of this management plan is to apply a proactive, methodical approach to the EAB problem that reduces its impact on Quincy's urban forest and minimizes the strain on the City's resources.

### **Value of Trees** (<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/healthreport/urban.html>)

Forests and trees reduce air pollution by absorbing gaseous pollutants and filtering dust, ash, and smoke. A dense grove of trees about 50 feet wide reduces apparent loudness of noise by as much as 50%. Forests and trees buffer glare caused by lights and the sun, provide wind protection, and cool the air. They provide habitat for wildlife and improve the quality of our lives. Some of the savings related to trees are shown below.

National Averages show that a single tree reduces costs of air conditioning, erosion control, pollution control, and wildlife habitat.

<b>Lowers air conditioning costs</b>	<b>Reduces erosion control costs</b>	<b>Reduces pollution control costs</b>	<b>Provides wildlife habitat</b>	<b>Total Savings</b>
\$73.00	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$273.00

The aesthetic value of urban forests and street trees is difficult to measure. But trees have been found to increase the value of property. The value of a lot with trees averages 5-7% higher than a lot without trees. The increase in value can be as much as 20%, and lots with trees often sell faster than lots without them.

Runoff and erosion from storms is reduced because leaves slow water allowing it to soak into the soil. This reduces runoff by about 7% and reduces the need for erosion control structures. Smaller drainage pipes may be sufficient, thus saving money on materials, installation, and maintenance.

## **Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan:**

The plan has three stages:

### Stage One – Pre-infestation (Effective Now):

1. No planting of ash trees in the City of Quincy.
2. Conduct an annual inventory and evaluation of public ash trees.
3. Reduce the ash tree population by identifying unsafe, declining, damaged or other low value trees or trees planted under power lines and removing these trees. The City of Quincy will coordinate with Ameren to remove ash trees under power lines instead of trimming. The goal is to remove 30-50 of these trees each year.
4. Identify the disposal method to be used for both public and private trees to prevent untreated infested wood from being transported. Include management of EAB in the contract for the disposal site operator.

### Stage Two – Initial Infestation Identified (2014)

1. The Quincy Tree Commission will identify high value, quality ash trees for preservation by treatment with insecticide and begin a treatment program for these trees starting in 2014. The per year treatment budget would be set a no more than \$18,000. The number to trees treated depends on the size of the trees treated. In order to maximize the number of trees treated, trees with a trunk diameter between 10 and 18 inches will have priority. Trees outside this standard may be selected when their quality or location make them worth save.
2. The Quincy Tree Commission develop a public information campaign and provide information to the public on management options for private trees and provide information on proper ash tree disposal.
3. Begin the removal of all public ash trees that are not part of a treatment program by removing 30-50 per year. Priority will be to trees that are unsafe, dead or dying.
4. Identify the need for additional contracted tree removal each year and if needed, included the cost in the budget.

### Stage Three – On-going management

1. Continue to treat trees for 12 years from the initial infestation. (4 years beyond last non-treated tree death)
2. Continue to coordinate the proper disposal of ash trees
3. Continue untreated ash tree removal.

## Estimated Costs

### Tree Treatment: (Estimate only)

Annual Budget:	\$18,000
Annual Cost per Diameter inch:	\$15
Trees per year at 12" average:	100
Trees per year at 16" average:	75
12 year cost for treatment:	\$216,000 (\$18,000 x 12)

### Tree Removal: (Estimate only)

After the EAB arrives, the city will continue a phased reduction of the untreated ash tree inventory each year in a volume that fits within its capabilities. The volume of tree die off over the period of the EAB infestation will exceed the capabilities of the City forestry crews and contractors will be required. In order to maximize the number of trees removed by contractors, the City will develop contracts for tree removal that have the City completing removing and disposing of the downed tree. Using this method, the cost per tree will be significantly lower than for complete removal and disposal.

Cost will vary depending on size of the tree.

Assumed average cost to have a contractor take down a tree: \$400 per tree  
(Removal and disposal by the City of Quincy)

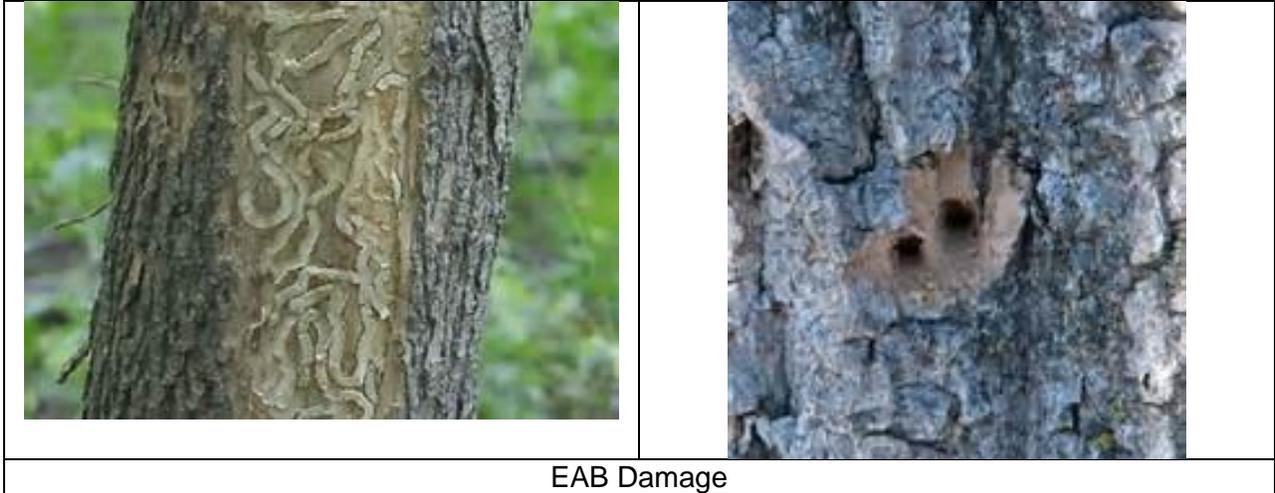
Cost of a contract to remove 80 trees:	\$32,000
12 year cost for removal:	\$384,000

<b>Total Annual Budget (Treatment and Removal):</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Total 12 Year Budget (Treatment and Removal):</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>

### **Public Information:**

At stage two the City of Quincy will begin a public information campaign that includes:

1. A public program to announce the arrival of the EAB in the Quincy Area.
2. Provides information on treatment options for private home owners.
3. Provides information on ash tree disposal



Current EAB information and map is available at the site below:

<http://www.agr.state.il.us/eab/>



