

Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan For the City of Grove City

Plan Purpose:

By implementing the provisions in this management plan, the City will take a proactive approach and attempt to spread the cost over 10 years. More than 1,300 ash trees at one time could be a liability problem if Ash trees are not removed. The loss of every tree on entire streets in some neighborhoods could have devastating effects on home values and quality of life and safety in those areas. We can remove and replant in accordance to the 1136 Landscape Ordinance in those areas to lessen the impact as much as possible.

Administration of Plan:

The Service Director, Urban Forestry Staff and Parks and Recreation Department, will be responsible for implementing and follow up on the provisions of this plan.

Communications:

The Mayor, City Administrator, City Council, Tree Commission and department heads will receive periodic updates through normal channels. All media relations will follow normal municipal approval and protocol.

Ash Tree Removal:

The city forester and state urban forester (Emerald Ash Borer Specialist) will conduct an ash tree inventory of all ash trees grown in city parks, rights-of-way, and on city grounds. Data will be collected as to the location size, size and condition of each tree. An estimated budget and time frame will be generated from the information gathered. The city will systematically remove 90% of its ash trees. Tree removal will be prioritized with hazardous trees and those in poor condition to be removed first. We will then assess neighborhoods and streets lined with ash trees and schedule removals to lessen the negative environmental and aesthetic impact. Utility contractors will be encouraged to remove all ash trees within their easements. An ash tree database will be created to update, and be used to prioritize and record the removal, or status of each tree. Before trees are removed each property owner will be informed in writing by the Urban Forestry Staff.

Wood Disposal:

Forestry Division will not dispose of any wood outside quarantine area except at approved sites.

Canopy Replacement:

As budget permits, all removed ash trees will be replaced with non-host specific species that will enhance the planting site, are appropriate for the planting site and add diversity. Trees will be planted in accordance with the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association/Ohio Division of Forestry Tree Planting Specifications and be in the 1 ½” to 2” caliper range. Plantings will be budget based and prioritized by canopy cover goals as identified by the Service Director and Urban Forester with recommendations from the Grove City Tree Commission. No

plantings will be made that cannot be adequately maintained. All new plantings will conform to the “10-20-30” trees Species diversity rule.

Postponed Work:

While financial, staffing and equipment are focused on EAB Management Plan some usual services may be delayed. Trimming and removal requests will be prioritized. Only hazardous or emergency situations will be expedited while executing the plan.

Private Ash Trees:

We strongly recommend that private owners remove ash trees on their property. We will not order any private owner to remove their ash tree unless it becomes infected. Once infected, Code Section 1136.16 and 1136.14:

1136.16 NOTICE TO REMOVE TREE; NONCOMPLIANCE: COSTS.

(a) Notice of Removal. The Service Director, his designee or the Urban Forester shall examine all trees that appear to be within 50 feet of any rights of way, easement or public utility line as described in [Section 1136.14\(a\)](#), and, if a tree is found to be dangerous or causing damage, he shall give to the tree owner or the person having charge and control of the tree, including an administrator or executor, written notice of his findings and request the removal of the tree by the owner or the person having charge or control of the tree within forty-five days. Proper service of such notice shall be by personal service, residence service or by registered mail; provided, however, that such notice shall be deemed to be properly served upon such owner or person having charge or control of the tree, including an administrator or executor, if a copy thereof is sent by certified mail to his last known address. (Ord. C118-88. Passed 12-5-88.)

(b) Procedure for Noncompliance with Removal Notice. Upon failure of the person or persons to comply with the notice to remove any tree in accordance with subsection (a) hereof, the Service Director, his designee or the Urban Forester shall cause the tree to be removed by use of City forces and equipment or by hiring of private individuals and equipment. Upon completion of such work as is required to remove the tree, the Service Director shall cause the expenses and labor costs incurred to be determined and a statement therefore to be mailed to the affected person. (Ord. C118-88. Passed 12-5-88.)

(c) Written Return to County Auditor; Lien Upon Property. If statements have not been paid within sixty days after mailing, the Director of Finance shall make a written return to the County Auditor of the action under [Section 1136.16\(a\)](#) and this section, with a statement of the charges and a proper description of the premises. Such amount, when allowed, shall be entered upon the tax duplicate and a lien upon such lands from and after the date of entry and shall be collected as other taxes and returned to the Municipality with the General Fund.

(Ord. C11-96. Passed 2-20-96.)

1136.14 TREES ADJACENT TO PUBLIC STREETS OR WITHIN PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY.

(a) Any property owner may plant or cause to be planted within the public street adjacent to the property they own those trees of 2" caliper or greater that have been approved or recommended by the Service Director, his designee or the Urban Forester. All trees shall be planted so as not to interfere with sight distances at intersections, the maintenance or operation of utilities and the paved street surfaces.

(b) All trees planted within the public street, whether or not they are on the recommended and approved tree list of the Service Director, his designee or the Urban Forester, shall be subject to pruning and removal when it is determined by the Service Director, his designee, the Urban Forester or Director of Public Safety that trees constitute a health or safety hazard or when they have become unsightly, diseased or dead.

(1) Tree topping. No person shall, as a normal practice, top any tree within the public rights-of-way. Topping is defined as the severe cutting back of limbs to stubs larger than three inches in diameter within the tree's crown to such a degree so as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree.

(2) Height of limbs over sidewalks and streets. Tree limbs extending over a sidewalk shall be trimmed to such an extent that no portion of the same shall be less than seven feet above the sidewalks. Tree limbs extending over the streets shall be trimmed to such an extent that no portion of the same shall interfere with the normal flow of traffic.

(3) Abuse or mutilation of public trees.

A. Unless specifically authorized by the Service Director, his designee or the Urban Forester, no person shall intentionally damage, cut, carve, transplant, or remove any tree or shrub; attach any rope, wire, nails, advertising posters, or other contrivance to any tree or shrub; allow any gaseous liquid, or solid substance which is harmful to such trees or shrubs to come in contact with them; or set fire or permit fire to burn when such fire or the heat thereof will injure any portion of any tree or shrub.

B. No person shall excavate any ditches, tunnels, trenches, or lay any driveway or sidewalk within the radius of ten feet from the trunk of any public tree or shrub without first obtaining written approval from the Service Director.

(4) Placing of materials on public property. No person shall deposit, place, store, or maintain upon a public place of the City, any stone, brick, sand, concrete, or other materials which may impede the free passage of water, air, and fertilizer to the roots of any tree growing therein, except by written consent of the Service Director.

(c) All species and varieties of evergreen trees and upright evergreen shrubs (which exceed 3'-0" at mature height) shall not be permitted for planting in public rights of way.

(Ord. C11-96. Passed 2-20-96; Ord. C58-97. Passed 11-17-97.)