



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Plan 2015 Update

Submitted by City of Madison EAB Taskforce

Overview:

EAB was officially discovered in our community in November 2013. Since that time, Madison Parks Forestry has taken the lead in implementing the EAB Response Plan recommendations that were originally adopted in 2012. The response plan required the EAB Taskforce, which was established in 2008, to report annually on EAB mitigation efforts, the latest research findings that might impact our response, and any key issues impacting the urban forest.

Below are the recommendations approved in the 2013 EAB Response Plan, followed by actions taken in 2014 and 2015.

Recommendations with 2014 and 2015 updates:

1. Implement a chemical treatment program for terrace trees 10 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) and above, excluding trees in poor condition or under power transmission lines.
2. Preemptively remove ash street trees in poor condition. Replace these trees.
3. Remove ash trees designated in poor condition or that are under power transmission lines during infrastructure maintenance projects. Offer property owners the option of removing fair or good condition ash street trees during infrastructure maintenance projects. Replace these trees.

Actions	2014	2015
Chemical Treatments completed*	4056	5827
Preemptive ash street tree removals	688	1597
Removals during infrastructure maintenance	136	70
Stump grubbing (facilitates tree replacement)	2287	2746
Trees replanted	246	498

*The original chemical treatment cycle was scheduled to be done over a two-year period. Research on the pesticide's effectiveness, found that a three-year cycle was appropriate and Madison Parks Forestry, beginning in 2016, will adjust their treatment cycle accordingly.

4. Provide property owners with the option of chemically treating publically owned park trees, at their own expense, through an Adopt-a-Tree program, that preserves legacy or high value trees and preserves tree canopy for environmental, economic or social reasons.

Actions	2015
Preemptive ash park tree removals	857
Stump grubbing (facilitates tree replacement)	982
Adopt-a-Tree Program for treatment of park ash trees	90

Key Issues:

City staff continued to meet with neighborhood groups that invited them to their neighborhood meetings.

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) process was followed and lead to the selection of a tree injection method that limited environmental impacts of the pesticide on people, water systems and pollinators.

The EAB Taskforce continues to monitor other pest and disease threats to our urban forest. In 2015 there were several nuisance calls regarding gypsy moth, however, after surveying the nuisance areas forestry staff did not find enough gypsy moth egg masses per acre to qualify for aerial treatment per Wisconsin DNR requirements.

A sawmill project was conducted in 2014 as part of a Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry Grant. Outcome of the project was that there is no market for lumber that has not been kiln dried. In 2015 a log auction process was developed and implemented in November.

Conducting non-emergency request tree work within four weeks per forestry policy will be suspended to stay on task with EAB plan recommendations. Request work will be logged and done as staff is available. Emergency tree work will be done as needed.

Contract Grow: As part of the adopted Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) mitigation plan, the City of Madison will be replacing an estimated 1,700 ash street trees. This is in addition to the nearly 2,000 other annual street tree replacements currently scheduled as other street trees are removed because they are dead, dying or diseased among other reasons. The City entered into a contract agreement with Johnson's Nursery, Inc. Each year, the nursery has planted a specific number of trees of different species, that can be delivered in the quantities and sizes that we need during our annual planting periods. Delivery of these trees will begin in 2018 and continue through 2023.