



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Plan 2016 Update

Submitted by the 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 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, 2015 and 2016.

Recommendations with 2014-2016 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.

Street Tree Actions	2016	2015	2014
Chemical Treatments completed*	3,995	5,827	4056
Preemptive removals	1,650	1,597	688
Removals during infrastructure maintenance	100	70	136
Stump grubbing (facilitates tree replacement)	3,146	2,746	2,287
Trees replanted	889	498	246

*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, adjusted their treatment cycle accordingly.

4. Provide property owners with the option of chemically treating publically owned trees, at their own expense, through an Adopt-a-Tree program for ash trees in city parks

that preserves legacy or high value trees and preserves tree canopy for environmental, economic or social reasons.

Park Tree Actions	2016	2015
Preemptive ash park tree removals	1,420	857
Replacement tree planting in parks	945	191
Adopt-a-Tree Program for treatment of park ash trees	112	90

Key Issues:

City staff continued to meet with neighborhood groups as needed.

Parks Forestry continues to follow the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) process and maintains a tree injection method that limits environmental impacts of the pesticide on people, water systems and pollinators.

A partnership with Wisconsin Urban Wood (WUW) was formed to reuse and recycle ash tree removals in exchange for wood products.

Conducting non-emergency request tree work within four weeks, per Forestry policy, will be suspended so Forestry can 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. 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 2020. Renewal of the sole source purchasing of trees through Council resolution needs to occur in early 2017.

Another log auction process was implemented in November, 2016.

Forestry staff met with the Street Tree workgroup of the Sustainable Madison Committee (SMC) to explain procedures and policies related to EAB.

City Planning and Forestry, per a request from the Council, wrote a whitepaper on recommendations for tree preservation during private development projects.

With the 2017 tree planting session, Alder Kemble's Alder District will see the beginning of a full cycle (assessment, treatment, necessary removal, grubbing and replanting) of the EAB Plan.

New adoptions of park ash trees will be closed at the conclusion of 2017. All other adoptions in parks can be renewed as long as ash tree is in good condition.

Forestry continues to monitor other invasive threats to the urban forest. In 2016, several complaint calls were received in June and July about gypsy moth caterpillars and their defoliation of oak trees. Forestry staff surveyed affected addresses and documented gypsy egg masses in the fall. The number of egg masses found per acre determines if an area qualifies for gypsy moth treatment by aerial spray per Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Three areas on the east side qualified for treatment in spring of 2017.

In the month of July, the City experienced three significant storm events. This resulted in many street and park tree removals due to storm damage.