City of Clayton Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Preparedness Plan Update

June 26, 2019

Overview & History

During the past 4 years, from the completion of our original EAB preparedness plan to today, new information and management strategies have developed which have influenced a new approach in the way we will manage the spread of EAB in our ash street trees. Our 6 year EAB preparedness plan beganin January of 2015 and outlined a management strategy that included the removal of select ash trees and the treatment of other ash trees to prolong mortality. The continuance of this plan would result is a loss of 7.5% of our street tree population. Yearly the city removes approximately 200 dead or hazardous trees, the consequences of also removing several hundred ash trees is very visible in our community. This current course is resulting in the substantial removal of large trees and is causing a shift in our urban forest from large beautiful trees that provide many benefits to smaller ones that are decades away from maturity.

2019

- **41 total ash trees removed**
  ***Completed by a contracted tree service.

- **80 total ash trees treated**
  ***treatment cycle extended to 3 years**
  *Completed by a contracted tree service.

128 total non-ash trees removed
***Completed by a contracted tree service.**

- **198 trees planted**
  ***160 residential trees**
  ***38 business district trees**

Future Approach

With new advancements in chemical treatment and looking at the cost/benefit analyses, we are shifting to a new approach that will result in the retention of nearly 40% of our original ash population. After speaking with urban forestry experts and entomologists it is clear that retaining a population of ash trees for the duration of the infestation is a viable management strategy and a strategy that will work better for our community and our unique urban forest. The population of ash trees best suited for preserving are those that are in fair to good condition and are between 12 and 28 diameter inches. This demographic totals 231 remaining ash trees distributed across the city. The process for treating these trees will be to administer trunk injections on 1/3 of this population every year, thereby minimizing the financial impact of treating the entire population on any single year. This year (2019) is the first year of ash treatments on the new cycle. We will continue to monitor the impact of the emerald ash borer and the trees for the effectiveness of the treatments as well as any hazardous conditions that may occur naturally or from other sources. This plan may then be adjusted based on these observations and assessments. With this approach we hope to save approximately 40% of our ash trees that were originally scheduled for removal.