

City of Clayton Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Plan Update

January 28, 2022

Overview & History

The purpose of this update is to document and track the progress of the City of Clayton Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Preparedness Plan. Since the inception of this plan, new information and management strategies have developed which have influenced a new approach in the way we manage the spread of EAB in our ash street trees. Clayton's EAB preparedness plan began in January of 2015 as a management strategy which centered around the removal of a percentage of ash trees and the treatment of the remaining ash population to prolong mortality. This would occur every year over a 6-year period until all city owned ash were removed. The continuance of this plan would have resulted in a loss of 7.5% of our street tree population. Every year the city removes approximately 200 additional trees due to hazardous conditions or declining health. The consequences of also removing several hundred ash trees makes the loss of trees and tree canopy very visible in our community. This initial course of action was resulting in the substantial removal of mature trees and was accelerating a shift in our urban forest from large, beautiful trees that provide many benefits to smaller ones that are decades away from maturity.

2021

- **5 total residential ash trees removed**
*Completed by a contracted tree service.
- **52 total ash trees treated**
*On a 3-year treatment cycle.
*Completed by a contracted tree service.
- **157 total non-ash trees removed**
*Completed by a contracted tree service.
- **194 trees planted**
*Combined residential and business district.

Current Approach

With new advancements in chemical treatment and looking at the cost/benefit analyses, we have shifted to a new approach that is resulting 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 excellent condition and are between 12 and 34 diameter inches. These demographics total 211 remaining ash 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 past year (2021) is the third 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.