



# EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) MANAGEMENT PLAN

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# Chapter I

## Introduction, Background and Goal of Management Plan

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The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive, non-native wood boring beetle that feeds on the cambium (the inner bark) of ash trees. The beetle is responsible for the loss of tens of millions of trees in the state of Michigan. Native to China, the EAB is a slender, elongated (1/2 inch long and 1/8 inch wide) metallic green beetle. The EAB larvae causes the primary damage to Ash trees, as they feed on the cambium, thereby disrupting the tree's ability to transport food and nutrients.

It is unknown how the beetle arrived in the United States, but it is likely that it was found in solid-wood packing material that is used in cargo ships. The EAB has been reported in 11 states, including Illinois, and has been found in 80 communities around the Chicagoland area alone.



Adult Emerald Ash Borer



Emerald Ash Borer Larvae

The Village of Cary has made a continued commitment to protect and enhance our urban forests. The Village's dedication can be observed throughout our municipal tree policies (Chapter 12.20 of the Village's Municipal Code), our policy to protect existing hardwood trees from new developments and our continued status as a "Tree City USA" community.

In 2006, the Public Works Department surveyed the Village's parkway Ash tree population. The Village has approximately 6,500 parkway trees, of which, 1,800 (28%) are Ash trees. This survey includes the conditions of the trees and is updated every two (2) years.

Although the Village does not have an inventory of private Ash trees, one can assume a similar percentage (10% - 20%) of private trees are Ash trees, due to their popularity and speed of growth.

**The goal of this management plan is to slow the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer through a measured, sustainable approach to assessments and removals, in an effort to reduce the potential impact of losing the Village's Ash tree populations throughout the community.**

The Village's management plan starts with an assessment of the Ash tree. Staff will review the tree's overall health, as well as its location. Ash trees that show a severe decline or are incorrectly located shall be removed.

There are eight (8) identifiable signs and symptoms of EAB infestation that staff looks for during their assesment. They include:

- 1). D-shaped exit holes
- 2). S-shaped galleries beneath the bark



- 3). Woodpecker damage



4). Crown die-back



5). Excessive sucker growth



6). Bark splits



7). Presence of larvae

8). Presence of adult beetle

This analysis of the tree's condition determines the next step in the process, which is "Tree Management" on both public and private property.

## Chapter II

# Management – Public Trees

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The management of the Ash trees located on public property will be guided by one or more of the following four (4) plans.

A. No Action

Healthy Ash trees that do not show any signs of infestation are a benefit to our tree population and can continue to have a positive environmental impact. These trees will not be removed and will be considered “No Action” trees. The Village will continue to monitor the health of these Ash trees to determine if conditions change.

B. Chemical Treatment

Since the discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer, numerous chemical treatments have been developed and approved for use. Unfortunately, as with any chemical treatment, there is no guarantee of success and most varieties require annual treatment. This approach to the Village’s public Ash trees is cost-prohibitive. The Village will continue to monitor chemical advances to determine if, and when, they may be used in future plans to combat the EAB.

Property owners are allowed to have their public parkway trees chemically treated. If a resident chooses to treat their public parkway tree(s), they must inform the Public Works Department so that their tree can be monitored. It is Illinois state law that only licensed pesticide applicators can apply chemicals in a public right-of-way (ROW). Should an infestation occur, and after the resident pays to have their public parkway tree chemically treated, the resident will be notified in writing that the tree will be removed without any reimbursement for the chemical treatments.

C. Removal

If a Village staff member, who is certified in EAB training, identifies two (2) or more signs of the EAB, or determines that an Ash tree is 50% or more deceased, the tree will be considered infested and placed on the Village’s removal list. Trees shall be removed in order of when they were identified, however, hazardous trees will be given priority.

D. Re-planting

As the Village Board makes revenue available, Village staff will work to re-plant the removed public parkway trees. The availability of funds will be determined by the Village Board, on an annual basis, as set forth by the Village budget. The re-planted trees will include a variety of appropriate species to achieve a broad diversity of parkway tree plantings.

## Chapter III

# Management – Private Trees

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The Village acknowledges that many residents and businesses have Ash trees on their private property. As such, the Village will not require healthy Ash trees to be removed from private property until mandated by law. If an owner suspects possible EAB infestation on their private property, they are to immediately contact the Public Works Department.

The management of the Ash trees located on private property will be guided by the following plan.

A. Assessment

EAB trained staff members will meet with residents at their private property to assess the condition of their Ash tree(s).

B. Removal

If an Ash tree is displaying two (2) or more signs of infestation, the resident will be notified that the tree is infested and that it needs to be removed. The resident will then be contacted by Village Code Enforcement personnel, in writing, that the tree is considered a public nuisance and requires removal within ten (10) days. Included in this notice will be the guidelines for stumping and grinding of infested materials issued by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

C. Chemical Treatment

Property owners are, of course, allowed to treat Ash trees on their private property themselves. Common treatment includes Merit, Treeage and Safari. The most common type of treatment is soil drenching, which, unfortunately, can lead to water contamination if not properly applied. Residents need to be aware that no treatment has proven to be 100% effective and if a treated tree(s) becomes infested, removal will be required by the Village.

## Chapter IV

# Tree Materials Handling

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All Ash tree wood and waste need to be handled according to state and federal regulations. All tree stumps need to be moved eight inches (8") below the surface of the ground. Tree logs need to be taken to a landscape waste yard that is in full compliance with Illinois Department of Agriculture regulations.



## Chapter V

# Public Education

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The Village of Cary will continue its efforts to educate Cary residents on matters related to the Emerald Ash Borer. The Village will continue to use the following forms of communication:

- A. Written correspondence to owners of infested Ash trees and/or residents who will need to have a public parkway tree, by their home, removed.
- B. Village newsletter articles.
- C. Information and brochures at the Cary Public Library, Village Hall and the Public Works Department facilities.
- D. Cary News Weekly articles.
- E. Village website postings.
- F. Media releases

Additional information can be found on the Illinois Department of Agriculture's website at [www.agr.state.il.us](http://www.agr.state.il.us) and the Emerald Ash Borer website at [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info).