

West Allis Emerald Ash Borer Summary



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was first discovered in North America near Detroit, Michigan in 2002. Since then, the beetle has spread to Canada and more than a dozen states, including Wisconsin. The Emerald Ash Borer was found for the first time in Wisconsin in August 2008 near the community of Newburg, several miles northeast of West Bend.

Adult Emerald Ash Borer on a penny

To reduce the impact of the exotic Emerald Ash Borer pest, the Forestry Division began the precautionary treating of ash trees in 2009. The Forestry Division received a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Urban Forestry grant to update the ash portion of the City's street tree inventory and develop a plan to deal with the Emerald Ash Borer. The plan's main focus is to delay the full impact of the Emerald Ash Borer on the City's ash trees. The City identified and treated the healthier trees and scheduled the removal of those ash trees posing a hazard or in poorer condition. The proactive evaluation and treatment of these ash trees will spread the cost over many years in lieu of all at once if/when the ash trees are infected. The alternative of doing nothing would cause thousands of ash trees to die within a few years. The costs of removal, stumping and replanting would be excessive to the City. The following is a summary of City of West Allis Forestry's EAB Plan.

- All ash trees under and adjacent to utility wires will be removed with the assistance of WE Energies and where appropriate low growing species of trees will be replanted.
- The condition or general health of the trees was noted during a city-wide inventory update of all city owned trees and given a rating of good, fair and poor. Only the good and fair rated trees are being treated by the City.
 - Treatment cycle is every 3 years, beginning in 2009.
Cycle A, treated in 2009, 2012, 2015 = 923 ash trees.
Cycle B, treated in 2010, 2013, 2016 = 1133 ash trees.
Cycle C, treated in 2011, 2014, 2017 = 1120 ash trees.

- Ash trees rated as poor are scheduled for removal.
- Once the poor quality ash trees have been removed, the ash trees which were planted in very narrow walk to curb areas will be scheduled next for removal.



S-shaped patterns, called galleries, are created by larvae as they feed under the bark of an ash tree (here the bark is removed to make the gallery visible).



Second, third and fourth stage larvae

Emerald Ash Borer was first found in the City of West Allis in the spring of 2015 in an isolated spot adjacent to I-894 along South 101st St. In the spring of 2016 EAB was found in an ash tree being removed in the 1500 block of South 96th St. EAB has also been found in LaFollette Park. As a result of these finds, the Forestry Division is increasing its removal of poor quality ash trees to approximately 175 trees per year. This is in addition to the approximately 500 trees removed annually due to various other reasons. As a result, the City will incur:

- Increased cost of tree removals.
 - Increased labor and equipment designated for removals.
 - Increased brush and wood disposal expense.
- Increased stump grinding expense.
 - Increased labor and equipment use for stump grinding.
 - More costs to screen stump grindings (soil and wood fiber generated from grinding up the stump. The stump grinding by-product is then screened to recycle the soil for reuse to backfill the stump holes. The remaining wood fiber is disposed of.)
- Increased cost of tree planting.
 - Currently replacement tree planting is two years after a tree has been removed (there is currently a back log of about one thousand trees). This may need to be extended further.
 - More labor and equipment designated to planting.



A D-shaped emergence or exit hole, about 1/8 of an inch, is a sign of Emerald Ash Borer infestation.

For more information please contact the West Allis Forestry Division at 414-302-8811. For more information on Emerald Ash Borer go to <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/index.jsp>.