

**VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN
EMERALD ASH BORER
MANAGEMENT PLAN**



Chapter I

Introduction, Background and Goal of Management Plan

Introduction: 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 confirmed in 15 states, including Illinois, and has been found in over 200 communities around the Chicagoland area alone.



Adult Emerald Ash Borer



Emerald Ash Borer Larvae

Background: The Village of Homer Glen has made a continued commitment to protect and enhance our urban forests. The Village's dedication can be observed throughout our municipal tree policies, our policy to protect existing hardwood trees from new developments and our continued status as a "Tree City USA" community.

In 2012, the Village is planning to survey the Village's parkway Ash tree population. The Village has thousands of parkway trees. We will be surveying these trees to determine the exact number of Ash trees that we have on public property and to establish the extent to which the Village's tree population could be vulnerable. This survey will include the condition of Ash trees.

The Village does not and will not have an inventory of Ash trees planted on private property. One can assume, due to their popularity and speed of growth, that there are thousands of Ash trees planted on private property here in Homer Glen.

Goal of Management Plan: 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.

This plan only pertains to Ash trees located in public right-of-way as well as other public property owned by the Village of Homer Glen. The Village's management plan is simple and starts with an assessment of the Ash tree. Trained Village staff, or a Village contractor, will assess the tree's overall health, as well as its location. The Village will have Ash trees removed that are either dead or show a severe decline/distress.

There are eight (8) identifiable signs and symptoms of EAB infestation that the Village looks for during its assessment. 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



Ash trees located in public right-of-ways, that are not dead or are not showing signs of decline/distress, will not be removed. Please call the Village of Homer Glen at (708) 301-0632 for additional information.

Chapter II Management – Public Trees

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 the public parkway trees, adjacent to their property, chemically treated. If a resident chooses to treat their public parkway tree(s), they must inform the Village (708-301-0632) so that the tree can be monitored. It is Illinois state law that only licensed pesticide applicators can apply chemicals in a public right-of-way (ROW).

If an infestation occurs, the resident will be notified in writing that the public parkway tree will be removed. No reimbursement, for the chemical treatments residents place on public parkway trees, will be forthcoming from the Village.

C. Removal

If a trained Village staff member, or a qualified Village contractor, determines that an Ash tree is infested or more than 50% deceased, the tree will be 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

The Village of Homer Glen does not currently have a parkway tree replacement program. 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 (Fiscal year begins May 1).

The replanted trees will include a variety of appropriate species to achieve a broad diversity of parkway tree plantings according to the Homer Glen Tree Ordinance.

Property owners may plant trees in the public parkway, adjacent to their property. They must inform the Village by calling the Village Hall at 708-301-0632. No permit is required. Residents can select the type of tree to plant from the Village's approved list of acceptable parkway trees.

Chapter III Management – Trees on Private Property: Response to Resident Inquiry

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 Village (708-301-0632).

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

A. Assessment of Trees on Private Property

In response to resident inquiry, trained Village staff, or a Village contractor, will meet with residents at their private property to assess the condition of their Ash tree(s).

B. Recommendations – Infested Non-Hazardous Trees on Private Property

If an Ash tree is determined to be infested, the resident will be notified. Property owners are allowed to treat Ash trees on their private property themselves. Common treatment includes Imidacloprid (Merit, Xytect, Bayer Advanced), Emamectin Benzoate (TREE-äge) and Dinotefuran (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. Property owners may choose to remove an infested non-hazardous tree and will be given guidelines for stumping and grinding of infested materials issued by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

C. Recommendations – Infested Hazardous Trees on Private Property

If the Ash tree is deemed to be hazardous, the resident will then be contacted by Village Building Department/Code Enforcement personnel, in writing, that the tree is considered a public nuisance and requires removal within thirty (30) days. Included in this notice will be the guidelines for stumping and grinding of infested materials issued by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Chapter IV Tree Materials Handling

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

The Village of Homer Glen will continue its efforts to educate Homer Glen residents on matters related to the Emerald Ash Borer. The Village will continue to use the forms of communication listed below.

- 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 Homer Township Public Library, Village Hall and other available facilities.
- D. Homer Glen News Weekly e-mail blast 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 and the Emerald Ash Borer website at www.emeraldashborer.info