

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan Village of Versailles, Ohio

Revised March, 2013

Purpose: By implementing the provisions in this management plan, the Village of Versailles is attempting to reduce the disruption to its urban forest caused by the infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Taking a proactive approach to this invasion will enable the Village to address public and private needs in an efficient and effective manner.

The Village will endeavor to distribute and budget costs associated with certain and massive tree death over a manageable time period, as well as lessen the social and economic impact that such an extensive loss will have on the quality of life in our community.

This plan applies throughout the Village on all public properties where ash trees are currently growing, as well as on private properties where such trees may encroach upon the public rights-of-way or other public properties.

Administration: The Village of Versailles and Street Department staff will be responsible for implementing this plan and seeing that its provisions are carried out.

Definitions:

Canopy Cover: The amount and distribution of leaf area, which is the driving force behind the urban forest's ability to produce benefits for the community.

EAB: Emerald Ash Borer

Non-EAB Host Species: Trees that are not in the genus *Fraxinus*.

Public Rights-of-Way: Property where Village roadway, sidewalks, and utilities are located.

Urban Forest: Village trees

Village: Village of Versailles, Tree Commission, Administration, and Staff

Ash Removal: The Village will maintain an inventory of all ash trees growing on its right-of-way, in parks, and on other municipal properties. For each ash tree, a record of its location, size, and condition will be maintained. An estimated budget and time frame will be generated from the inventory data. The Village will systematically treat or remove all affected ash trees. Tree removal and treatment will be prioritized, with hazardous trees being removed or treated first; followed by those that are no longer assets to the community (dead, dying, diseased, or mis-sited). Utilities contractors will

be encouraged to remove or treat all affected ash trees within public right of ways and easements as part of their normal maintenance activities. This must be done in a timely manner. An ash tree inventory spreadsheet or database will be updated to record the removal or treatment and status of each ash tree.

Village employees, with the approval of the Village Administrator, are permitted to evaluate, treat, or remove and replace with another variety, any Ash tree deemed infected by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) disease without prior approval of the Versailles Tree Commission. Tree Commission members will be notified of all removed trees at next Tree Commission meeting immediately following the removal of any infected trees.

Wood Utilization and Disposal: The Village will control the use of the wood generated during the removal program in compliance with existing state regulations.

Communications: The Mayor, Village Council, Tree Commission, and department heads and residents will receive periodic briefings through Tree Commission and Council meeting reports, the monthly Progress Report newsletter, local cable channel 18, area newspapers, and the Village website.

Education: Staff and Tree Commission members are urged to attend state seminars addressing the EAB problem and to keep current with the latest information through the various educational web sites. Residents will receive EAB updates through the Progress Report newsletter, local cable channel 18, and the Village website.

Canopy Replacement and Care: As the budget permits, removed public Ash trees can be replaced with non-EAB host species that will enhance the planting site and add to the diversity and general health of the urban forest. Trees will be planted in accordance with Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association/Ohio Division of Forestry Tree Planting Specifications. Plants will be budget-based and prioritized by canopy cover goals as identified by the Tree Commission with guidance being provided by the Ohio Division of Forestry.

Private Ash Trees: The Village will create and maintain an EAB informational page on the Village's website (www.versaillesohio.cc). A copy of the Village's EAB Management Plan will be available on this website. The Village can provide guidance for replanting through a list of desirable trees that has been adopted by the Tree Commission. Additionally, citizens are encouraged to take immediate action to treat or remove any tree deemed infected by the Emerald Ash Borer disease. Village personnel are trained to assess trees suspected of being infected with the EAB and are available to help citizens determine a proper plan of action.

Contact List:

1. Wendi Van Buren, Regional Urban Forester, 777 Columbus Ave 5-A, Lebanon, OH 45036, 513-932-6836, e-mail: wendi.vanburen@dnr.state.oh.us

2. eab@agri.ohio.gov
3. www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab
4. www.ashalert.osu.edu
5. www.ohiodnr.com/forestry

Approved Contractors: An approved contractor list is in place and maintained by the Village for related needs. <http://www.versaillesohio.cc>.

Tree Removal & Trimming Contractors

American Municipal Power, Inc. Forestry Services
Shawn Greer
3224 Irish RD
Magnolia, Ohio 44643
(330) 866-3996

Eagle Tree Service
Steve Barga
218 Lyndhurst Drive
Piqua, Ohio 45356
(937) 773-5565

Gehret Nursery, Inc.
Ted Gehret
12155 St. Rt. 66
Minster, Ohio 45865
(419) 628-2984