

## **City Ash Tree Removal PSA**

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has killed tens of millions of Ash Trees in the United States. Its prime target is White, Black, Blue and Green Ash trees. EAB is not a "business as usual" tree pest. Widespread, rapid ash tree die-off occurs within a few years of local EAB detection. Once present in an area, EAB ash trees become brittle and dry and decline very quickly within 1 to 4 years.

EAB is now considered to be permanently established in the upper Midwest and with current control tools eradication of this invasive insect is not possible. The only guaranteed method to control the EAB is to remove the host ash tree. Because the impacts of EAB can be acutely high, many communities have chosen to soften the impact through preemptive removal and replacement of their public ash trees.

Since EAB was discovered in Wisconsin, Sun Prairie Forestry staff began making firm decisions towards the response to EAB. The City of Sun Prairie has reviewed our urban forest and conducted an inventory of all ash trees along our streets in July 2015. Our inventory and surveys have identified a presence of EAB throughout the city. We will not be able to save many, if any, ash trees. The City of Sun Prairie will lose 20% of our urban trees due to this insect.

Department of Public Works staff will be working with contractor (Wright Tree Service Inc.) to begin removing ash trees in early October. The stump will be removed and the disturbed area restored with topsoil, grass seed and straw mulch blanket. All ash street trees will be removed and no exceptions will be made for trees destined for removal during this process. The goal is to have the ash tree removal project completed during the fall and early winter of 2015.

The sooner we begin removing our ash trees at risk, the sooner we can begin re-planting a diversified urban forest for the future. It is the City's intention to replace as many ash trees as possible within 5 years of the ash tree removal. If you wish to have a tree planted sooner, a \$150.00 donation may be presented to the City of Sun Prairie's Arbor Day fund for the purchase, planting and mulching of a new tree. If you do not want a tree replaced, please submit the request in writing to: City of Sun Prairie Forestry Department, 300 E. Main Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

For more information about EAB, visit [www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov) or [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info).

Please call the City of Sun Prairie Emerald Ash Borer Line at (608) 825-0708 if you have any questions or concerns about Emerald Ash Borer in our city. Thank you.