

City of Clive Iowa

Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan



Prepared by 2011 Clive Tree Committee

Approved by the 2012 Parks and Recreation Board, February 6, 2012

Approved by the Clive City Council April 19, 2012

Updated by the Clive Parks and Recreation Board, March 3, 2014

Approved by the Clive City Council March 6, 2014

Purpose

The purpose of this management plan is to outline the City's objectives and the approaches that will be used to meet the current and anticipated impact of the emerald ash borer on ash trees throughout the City. This plan is intended to serve as a blueprint so City administrators and residents can follow with a high level of confidence. The plan takes a proactive approach to a possible emerald ash borer infestation that will enable the City to address both public and private needs in an efficient and effective manner. Still the plan must remain adaptable to fit the unique circumstances that this pest may bring to the City of Clive.

Emerald Ash Borer

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a small green invasive wood-boring beetle that attacks and kills ash trees. The adults live on the outside of ash trees feeding on the leaves during the summer months. The larvae look similar to white grubs and feed on the living plant tissue (phloem and cambium) underneath the bark of ash trees. The trees are killed by the tunneling activity of the larvae under the trees bark, which disrupts the vascular flow. The metallic green beetle is native to Asia and was transported to the United States on wood pallets and crates. Originally discovered in the Detroit, Michigan area in 2002; the pest has also been found in Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri and two Canadian Provinces. Since its discovery, the EAB has been responsible for killing millions of ash trees throughout these infested areas of the country. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources states EAB is 100% fatal to our native ash trees of any size, age, or stage of health. Research continues with insecticide options at Ohio State University, Michigan State University, Purdue University, the University of Wisconsin and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Some success has been noted in insecticide treatments protecting ash trees from EAB prior to infestation, while successful treatments may be limited in trees which have an infestation and noted that trees exhibiting more than a 50% canopy decline are unlikely to recover, even if treated with insecticides. As this pest continues to spread, additional damage to ash trees is expected in these new areas. Trees that have been attacked by EAB can die in as little as two years.

Work Plan

While no one can accurately predict when the insect will arrive in Clive, it has been detected in several counties in Iowa. The City, working in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and other regulatory agencies, will address efforts to refine and further develop this EAB plan as additional information becomes available.

Tree Inventory: In the fall 2008, City staff conducted an inventory of ash trees in City parks and other public property, 714 ash trees were identified on public property. Using the field GPS unit, the location of each tree and the perceived general condition of each tree was noted and has been stored in a database for easy retrieval. Additionally there are 65 ash trees in the public right of way for which the City will have responsibility for removal. In December of 2011, the inventory was revisited and the following changes are noted. Due to additional land area that has been added to the City park system and a more detailed inventory effort, the ash tree count on publicly-owned land has now risen to 812 trees with the public right of way trees remaining constant at 65.

Training: Staff training on EAB identification and its signs and symptoms will be an ongoing effort. Key staff will continue to attend training sessions as provided by the DNR, IDALS, ISU and other opportunities as they become available.

Community Education: EAB information and links to other web sites will continue to be available on the City web site. City staff will also develop a dedicated City web page with information for dealing with EAB as well as information regarding the statewide quarantine. Additionally, articles will be included in the City newsletter in a timely basis.

Survey & Detection: Staff will continue to monitor signs for EAB during tree maintenance efforts and will respond to requests from residents to inspect private property trees. The City will provide pertinent EAB information for private property owners on its web site to aid in the decision process.

Preemptive Removal: Recognizing the benefit of mitigating the costs associated with EAB, the City will work to identify and gradually remove native ash trees in parks and on other City-owned property. In addition, property owners with ash trees in the street right of ways (parking) will be notified of any plans by the City to remove those trees and those trees will not be replaced. Removals will begin with trees identified as a possible hazard or trees displaying a characteristic that would tend to promote the early onset of EAB such as broken or damaged limbs or bark, epicormic sprouts or other conditions of poor tree health. Trees that are eight inches or less in diameter at breast height will be removed and as funding allows replaced with another tree from available nursery stock. Trees in the Greenbelt Park that are removed will only be replaced with native Iowa tree species.

Since the EAB has been confirmed in several Iowa counties, and a statewide quarantine is in effect, the City will examine all ash trees in the parks and on other public property, except those in the Greenbelt Park. Certain trees in the Greenbelt Park may also be examined, however because of the number of trees in the park; it is not feasible to examine each tree. It should be noted that current information states treatment of ash trees for EAB should begin when the pest has been found within fifteen miles of the tree to be treated.

The City will continue to stay informed with the latest available information concerning EAB and any treatment options that may become available.

Ash trees in public property or ROW will be preemptively removed during the spring of 2014.

EAB Infestation: An EAB infestation will be verified by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the United States Department of Agriculture. Due to the number of counties in Iowa with confirmed infestations, the Iowa DNR has now issued a statewide quarantine. In quarantine, regulated articles cannot be moved out of the quarantined area. Regulated articles are described as: the emerald ash borer, ash logs with bark, ash nursery stock, hardwood firewood, and other living, dead cut or fallen tree material including ash chips that do not meet size specifications along with any other article or product determined by an inspector as a risk of spreading EAB.

As an infestation is determined, the regulatory authorities will determine an approved method for disposal of ash tree debris which may include heat treatments, incineration or chipping to meet a specific size restriction of the chips. It must be noted that it is anticipated that these methods for disposal will be in place prior to the infestation reaching the City.

As the disposal of debris is determined, the City will begin efforts to remove additional ash trees either dead or alive and/or infested ash trees that were not removed with the initial preemptive removal during the spring of 2014 in the following order:

1. Public property trees including those at City Hall, Dymond Public Safety and other public buildings, street medians including any ash trees in roundabouts or traffic circles. Note: as this effort begins property owners with trees in the street right of ways (parking) will be notified of ash trees in the parking adjacent to their property and their planned removal. The City will be responsible for removing these trees.
2. Park trees:
 - a. Trees that constitute a hazard to life safety;
 - b. Trees that constitute a hazard to public or private property; and
 - c. Other trees as required by regulatory authorities.

Current City staff will be utilized as much as possible to effectively manage the response to an EAB infestation. Staff from all departments may have duties reassigned to assist with this effort as determined by the level and nature of the infestation. Contractors may also be utilized as needed to assist with the workload and in particular instances where the City's equipment is inappropriate to safely address a specific tree removal or insecticide treatment.

As the budget allows, trees that are removed will be replaced with a variety of landscape trees at a rate of 1.2 trees planted for every tree removed.

Trees on Private Property: The City acknowledges that there are numerous ash trees on private property. Currently, the City has no reliable inventory for ash trees on private property. Without such an inventory, assessing the magnitude of the effort that will be required to address the possible destruction of ash trees by the EAB is not possible. At the current time, it is the intent of the City to enforce the tree ordinance concerning removal of trees and stumps, section 7-5-7 of the Clive Code of Ordinances.

7-5-7: Removal of Trees and Stumps

Dead or Diseased Tree Removal on Private Property: The owner or person in possession of private property shall remove any trees constituting a hazard to life or property, or trees harboring insects or disease which constitute a potential threat to other trees within the City located on the private property within the City. If the owner or person in possession fails to remove any such tree, the City may serve notice on the property owner requiring the property owner to do so within thirty (30) days. If the property owner fails to remove any such tree within that time, the City may perform the required action and assess the costs against the abutting property.

Property owners are urged to monitor the EAB movement. The decisions to maintain, remove, or treat ash trees on private property rests with the property owner. The City does encourage property owners to replace trees lost as a result of EAB with an appropriate landscape tree. If the removal of a private ash tree leaves a developed residential lot with less than the Ordinance requirement of having two over-story trees the resident will be required to replace the removed trees. The City will have a list of recommended appropriate trees available to property owners.

Disposal of Debris: Regulatory authorities will provide a determination of disposal requirements upon quarantine of an area. Debris that is removed from a quarantined area shall be chipped in a size of 1 inch by 1 inch. Debris may also be burned or incinerated depending upon local burning regulations and debris may also be buried. Other requirements may be provided by State regulators. Options currently available to the City include chipping to the appropriate size and or hauling logs to Metro Waste Authority's compost facility, or bury the debris. The amount of chips from tree removal may also stretch available resources and a special burn permit may be needed to manage the volume of chips or possible disposal of chips at an out of the City landfill may become necessary.

Communication and Contact Information: If the public suspects a potential detection of the EAB, Leisure Services Director, Todd Seaman, or staff should be the first point of contact. The office phone is 515-223-5246, email tseaman@cityofclive.com or the park maintenance supervisor, Jeff Thielen, may be reached at 515-224-0160 or email jthielen@cityofclive.com. If staff confirms a reported potential detection of EAB, staff will notify the City Manager and will contact the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Robin Pruisner at 515-725-1470, email Robin.Pruisner@iowaagriculture.gov and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Emma Bruemmer at 515-281-5600, email Emma.Bruemmer@dnr.iowa.gov. Staff will provide the state officials with all pertinent information to allow the appropriate regulatory authority to confirm the potential detections of EAB in the City.

Media releases will follow normal City protocol.

Communication with the public will be with media releases and through the City web site and newsletter.

Chapter 5

Trees

January 30, 2012

Section:

- 7-5-1: Definitions
- 7-5-2: Planting Restrictions
- 7-5-3: Public Tree Care
- 7-5-4: Tree Topping
- 7-5-5: Duty to Trim
- 7-5-6: City Abatement — Assessment of Cost
- 7-5-7: Removal of Trees and Stumps
- 7-5-8: Landscape Plan
- 7-5-9: Penalty

7-5-1: **Definitions:** For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

DBH: A commonly used term referring to the diameter of a tree at breast height (4½ feet).

Park Trees: Trees, shrubs, bushes and all other woody vegetation in public parks having individual names and all areas owned by the City, or to which the public has free access as a park.

Parking: That part of the street right of way in the City not covered by sidewalk and lying between the property line and the curb line; or, on unpaved streets, that part of the street right of way lying between the property line and that portion of the street usually traveled by vehicular traffic.

Private Trees: Trees, shrubs, bushes and all other woody vegetation on private property to which the City has no responsibility.

7-5-2: **Planting Restrictions:** No trees, shrubs, bushes or woody vegetation shall be planted in any parking or within island medians of divided streets unless otherwise permitted by the Council.

7-5-3: **Public Tree Care:** Except as limited by section 7-5-2 of this chapter, the City has the right to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees, plants, and shrubs within the lines of all streets, avenues, stands and public grounds, as may be necessary to ensure public safety or to preserve or enhance the symmetry and beauty of such public grounds.

7-5-4: **Tree Topping:** It is unlawful as a normal practice for any person to top any street tree on public property. “Topping” is defined as the severe cutting back of limbs to stubs within the tree’s crown to such a degree so as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree. Trees severely damaged by storms, diseases or other causes, or certain trees under utility wires or other obstructions where other pruning practices are impractical may be exempted from this chapter at the determination of the City.

7-5-5: **Duty to Trim:**

A. **Private Trees:** Every owner of any tree overhanging any street or right of way within the City shall prune the branches so that such branches do not obstruct the light from any streetlamp or obstruct the view of an street intersection and so that there is a clear space of eight feet (8’) above the surface of the sidewalk and fifteen feet (15’) above the traveled surface of the street. Said owners shall remove all dead, diseased or dangerous trees, or broken or decayed limbs which constitute a menace to the safety of the public. The City has the right to prune any tree or shrub on private property when it interferes with the proper spread of light along the street from a streetlight, interferes with the visibility of any traffic control device or sign or violates the terms of this subsection.

B. **Trees in Parking:** In the case of trees existing in the parking, the owner or person in possession of the abutting property shall keep the trees on, or overhanging the street, trimmed so that all branches will be at least fifteen feet (15’) above the surface of the street and eight feet (8’) above the sidewalks.

7-5-6: **City Abatement — Assessment of Cost:** If the abutting property owner or person in possession of the abutting property fails to trim the trees as required in subsection 7-5-5B of this chapter, the City may serve notice on the abutting property owner requiring the property owner to do so within thirty (30) days. If the property owner fails to trim the trees within that time, the City may perform the required action and assess the costs against the abutting property for collection in the same manner as a property tax.

7-5-7: **Removal of Trees and Stumps:**

A. **Dead or Diseased Tree Removal on Private Property:** The owner or person in possession of private property shall remove any trees constituting a hazard to life or property, or trees harboring insects or disease which constitute a potential threat to other trees within the City located on the private property within the City. If the owner or person in possession fails to remove any such tree, the City may serve notice on the property owner requiring the property owner to do so within thirty (30) days. If the property owner fails to remove any such tree within that time, the City may perform the required action and assess the costs against the abutting property for collection in the same manner as a property tax.

- B. **Removal of Stumps:** All stumps of park trees and trees in the parking shall be removed below the surface of the ground so that the top of the stump does not project above the surface of the ground, except trees in the Greenbelt Park.

7-5-8: **Landscape Plan:**

- A. **Submission of Plan — Required Information:** In connection with the submission of a site plan, site plan amendment or preliminary plat for approval by the planning and zoning commission and the Council, the applicant shall submit a landscape plan, which must contain at a minimum the following information:
 - 1. The location of all existing trees four inches (4”) in diameter or larger, when measured at the DBH, on public or private property, specifying the size, species and condition of such existing trees (any such existing trees to be removed shall be noted);
 - 2. The location of all new plant material to be planted on the property, shown by size and species; and
 - 3. A landscape plan filed in connection with a preliminary plat need only show the outline of existing trees and foliage, clarifying the drip line area of trees with the use of “clouded” areas of individual or clumping of trees.
- B. **Preliminary Plat Evaluation:** In evaluating any preliminary plat or site plan for approval, the commission and the Council shall consider the following issues addressed by the landscape plan:
 - 1. Whether an excessive or unnecessary number of existing trees are to be removed, taking into consideration the City’s goal of preserving existing trees and any reasonable alternatives available to the developer;
 - 2. All site plans in zoning districts shall be planted with a variety of trees and shrubs which are substantial in size and number, and are in accordance with the City’s policy on recommended trees;
 - 3. Whether the applicant has provided for the replacement of existing trees to be removed, at other locations on the property;
 - 4. Whether the landscaping provides a visual buffer, where necessary, from the surrounding property including headlight screening for streets; and
 - 5. Whether the streets, sidewalk and lots are laid out in a manner to preserve existing trees, where feasible, and whether the applicant has provided for fencing off or protecting trees during construction, to the extent feasible.

- C. **Protection of Existing Trees Not Being Removed:** Any and all existing trees which are not to be removed pursuant to the landscape plan shall be clearly identified and, prior to the issuance of a grading permit, shall be protected at the construction site by fencing located around the drip line of the tree, where feasible, maximizing the protection of the root zone area of the tree. The foregoing fencing requirements may be waived or modified by the City if the trees to be saved are not located in an area where construction is occurring.
- D. **Council Approval Before Permit Issuance:** Prior to the issuance of any grading permit or demolition permit for the development of any property that will require site plan or plat approval, the applicant shall disclose to the City whether any existing tree, four inches (4") in diameter or larger, when measured at the DBH, are to be removed. If any such trees are to be removed, the City shall not issue a grading permit or demolition permit until a site plan or preliminary plat has been approved by the Council. This is not to include occupied single-family dwellings, duplexes or townhouses. Prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, a new residential unit shall have, at a minimum, two (2) trees not less than one inch (1") in diameter.
- E. **Illegal Tree Removal — Remedial Action:** If any trees are removed in violation of an approved site plan or plat, the owner or developer shall plant three (3) times such number of trees, of equal caliper on such plat or site plan. If it is impractical to replace such a tree with an equal caliper tree, then several trees of a smaller caliper, totaling in aggregate, the caliper of the improperly removed tree, shall be required. The specific number and size of such trees shall be determined by the City. For purposes of example only, if one 8-inch (8") caliper tree is improperly removed, the City may require: 1) that three (3) 8-inch (8") caliper trees be planted; 2) that six (6) 4-inch (4") caliper trees be planted; or 3) that twelve 2-inch (2") caliper trees be planted. If it is impractical to place all of such trees on that particular plat or site plan, the City may require that some of the trees, be planted on public property, such as in a park.
- F. **Diseased or Damaged Plantings — Replacement:** If trees, vegetation or other landscape materials shown on an approved landscape plan shall become diseased or substantially damaged at any time after the landscape plan is approved, the owner of the property shall promptly replace such trees, vegetation or landscape material to bring the property in compliance with the landscape plan.
- 7-5-9: **Penalty:** Unless another penalty is expressly provided by this chapter for any particular provision or section, any person violating any provision of this chapter or any rule or regulation adopted herein by reference shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisonment not to exceed thirty (30) days.