

MACOMB EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) READINESS PLAN

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a small, green insect that has been recently introduced from Asia. It was discovered in the Detroit, MI / Windsor, Ontario area in 2002. Since its discovery, it has killed over 20 million trees in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Maryland and Canada. The disease is fatal to all species of American ashes, regardless of age or condition.

In June 2006, EAB was found in Kane and Cook counties in IL. LaSalle and DuPage became the third and fourth Illinois Counties with confirmed infestations in July of 2007. The EAB is difficult to detect, especially in newly infested trees. In both Michigan and Illinois the observation of tree death didn't occurred until two or more years after initial infestation. This delay between infestation and detection is what makes eradication so difficult. EAB, on its own, spreads at a rate of ½ - 2 miles per year. However, it is more rapidly and widely spread by moving firewood and infested trees from removals and nursery stock.

The value of shade trees to Macomb residents (appraised value and benefits value) greatly exceeds their costs. Trees provide shade and lower summer temperatures. Leaves transpire water which provides additional cooling. Trees intercept storm water, prevent erosion, sequester carbon, remove air pollutants, and release oxygen. These are qualities that can be quantified. Trees can also have a positive psychological and sentimental value that is more difficult to quantify. Macomb has between 300 and 400 ash trees on City property and an estimated 1,200 – 1,600 ash trees on private property.

The City of Wilmette, IL (which has EAB) calculated a per tree cost of \$675, which includes removal, stump grinding, restoration, and replanting costs. This does not include the appraised value and benefits value that works out to roughly \$1,000 per inch in diameter. If Macomb were to be hit by EAB, the estimated removal and reforestation costs to the City for its public trees (using the Wilmette, IL model) could come to more than \$200,000 if contracted out. That does not factor in the appraisal and benefits values. The estimated costs for homeowners for removal and replanting of the estimated 1,200 private trees is over \$800,000 plus the loss of appraisal, benefit, psychological, and sentimental value. Therefore, it is imperative that the City of Macomb swiftly develops a program to prevent the introduction of the Emerald Ash Borer.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Macomb EAB Readiness Plan is:

- 1) if possible, prevent EAB from coming to the Macomb area;
- 2) establish a detection program; and
- 3) if introduced, execute an eradication program

PREVENTION STRATEGY

There is no contiguous forest between Kane and McDonough counties. The most likely method for introduction is through the movement of infested logs, firewood or nursery stock.

A. Control of firewood

1. Identify all firewood vendors in Macomb and develop education and information program for them on EAB (distribute posters).
2. Identify all area firewood users (such as campers at the City's Spring Lake Campgrounds) and make sure there is a prohibition program from bringing in outside firewood. This policy is already in effect at the Lake Argyle.
3. Develop a permit program (Macomb Tree Ordinance) for firewood vendors ???
4. Prohibit the removal of any ash tree part, by anyone, within the City limits without inspection by the City Forester or his/her representative ???
5. Identify those in the Macomb area who operate saw mills and develop education and information program for them on EAB
6. Develop a program to inform residents moving to Macomb about EAB and a firewood inspection program (use Realtors)

B. Control of nursery stock

1. Identify all nurseries in Macomb area and determine extent of ash tree inventory
2. Prohibit (Macomb Tree Ordinance) the purchase or use of all U.S. *Fraxinus* species within the City limits. ???

C. Education and Awareness Campaign

1. Public Relations Spokesperson: Macomb will designate a spokesperson to distribute all information concerning EAB through all local and area media.
2. Though normal billing for utilities, EAB information and brochures will be distributed to Macomb residents.
3. Interaction with Western Illinois University: Some students attending WIU are from quarantined areas. Therefore, the City will work with WIU to promote EAB awareness for the campus community.
4. Macomb and WIU will conduct EAB free awareness conferences for residents, woodland owners, nursery managers, firewood vendors, park managers, etc. for the greater western Illinois region. ???

DETECTION STRATEGY

A. Inventory

1. Update the computerized 1995 City street tree inventory to reflect locations of new ash trees planted and those removed using written records.
2. Determine how to identify all ash trees on private property ???
3. Evaluate health and condition existing of ash trees on City property and develop *a* systematic removal/replacement program focusing on those trees already in poor condition

B. Inspection

1. Make sure Macomb Tree Ordinance allows for inspection and removal of declining ash trees on both public and private property
2. Make sure Macomb Tree Ordinance allows for systematic inspection of firewood on both public and private property ???
3. Develop a program to inspect firewood brought into the community when new residents move to Macomb ???
4. Prohibit the removal of any ash tree part, by anyone, within the City limits without inspection by the City Forester or his/her representative ???

ERADICATION STRATEGY

If or when the EAB is detected in Macomb, the Eradication Strategy will be implemented

- A. EAB Readiness Action Team and Responsibilities: The EAB Readiness Team will include the Macomb City Forester, the Tree Board Chair, and Technical Advisor

City Forester: Will administer all aspects of Macomb EAB program and monitor all fiscal impacts for prevention, detection and eradication programs

will assist in conducting ash tree inventories, will assist in inspection of dead and dying ash trees ???

Tree Board Chair: Will oversee implementation of EAB program, make recommendations to *the* Macomb's City Council and assist with EAB awareness program.

Technical Advisor: Will work with State and Federal officials to remain current on EAB movement within the State, locate funding for projects relating to EAB, and assist in WIU/Macomb involvement in implementing EAB awareness programs for Macomb and western Illinois region.

Fee contracting for inspections of declining ashes ???

- B. Upon EAB detection, IDA and APHIS will be contacted immediately for confirmation

IDA: Warren Goetsch, Chief, Bureau of Environmental Programs, State Fairgrounds
POB 19281, Springfield, IL 62702-9281, 217.785.4233

APHIS PPQ: Jeffrey Coath, EAB/ALB Supervisor, 2300 Devon, Suite 210, Des Plaines,
IL 60018 847.299.6939

- C. Upon EAB confirmation Macomb's PR spokesperson will notify area media

- D. Identify a site for burning disposal of diseased ash trees. This site could also be used for disposal of other infective diseased trees, such as those removed due to oak wilt. Secure burning permits, if needed, from the Illinois EPA.