

Treeways

2019 - 04

EAB and You

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is killing ash trees in the City of Sunfish Lake. A few this year, more next year, and many more after that. EAB overwinters as living larvae that emerge beginning around May each summer. When actual temperatures reach -28 degrees F. emerald ash borer larvae in standing trees begin to die. The longer the temperature is continuously at or below -28 degrees F the more EAB larvae are killed. This does not change the losing end game for our native ash trees, but it does delay inevitable losses. Reforestation planning and beginning to replant with other species should begin before losing all your ash trees.

Nearly all ash trees in Sunfish Lake are on private property. With respect to EAB infested ash trees, the City is primarily concerned about trees that are along city streets and near trails in city parks. The City's primary focus with respect to public area trees is safety. Trees on private property may also be of concern if they could fall or drop major branches onto a city street.

Some private properties in Sunfish Lake have no ash trees, others have one or several, and a few properties have dozens or more. An individual ash tree with significant landscape or historical value can be treated with insecticide and saved but a grove of ash trees or a woodland with many ash trees will be lost. Once a tree is substantially infested with EAB it can no longer be saved and it may become a safety issue within a year after death. The City Forester has more EAB information available.

A woodland full of dead ash trees could become a wildfire hazard so it pays to be pro-active to prepare or change your landscape to reduce the likelihood of damage due to a wildfire. Preparation could lead to a reduction in damage or injury if a wildfire ever occurs. The City Forester has "Firewise" literature available and he is available for a free consultation regarding wildfire awareness and mitigation and other tree concerns.

Jim Naves
Sunfish Lake City Forester
612-803-9033
jim@lstrees.com