

Treeways

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EAB Update 2025

Chainsaw sounds put our neighbors in Sunfish Lake on high alert. We are a Tree City, we love our trees and woe to anyone taking down any live trees without a good reason. Much recent tree removal is due to the death of ash trees infested by emerald ash borer (EAB). All green, white and black ash trees in the City that were not preventatively treated with an injectable insecticide by now will be killed by EAB. Please note, mountain ash is not really an ash and is not attractive to EAB.

Especially during winter, we can see the results of woodpecker activity on EAB infested ash trees. The light-colored patches of bark flaked off by woodpeckers are termed “blonding” and are a sure sign of EAB infestation. Any heavily infested ash tree located where it could potentially damage your home or injure people when branches fall should be removed as soon as possible. **An EAB infested ash tends to start dropping large branches within about 10 months after dying. Dying or dead EAB infested ash trees should not be climbed due to safety concerns from falling branches.**

A neighborhood that had a high population of green ash is located near St. Anne’s Church. Recent years have seen nearby property owners clearing dead and dying ash and woody invasive species like buckthorn. Sight lines through the woodlands there are more open now than they have been in decades and this is all due to dead tree and woody invasive species removal. Projects like this create opportunities to replant with diverse native tree species. On the other hand, leaving the space unplanted is an open invitation to buckthorn and other invasive species because they are such aggressive competitors for new open and bare ground. Invasive species removal projects do not require a special permit unless the disturbed soil area will be greater than one acre in size.

Storms, diseases, invasive species removal and EAB all can create open spaces in our common woodlands. Any new open space is an opportunity to add new and healthy new trees. Choosing replacement trees wisely will help diversify your woodland tree population and help it become more resilient and more interesting. For new tree recommendations, please contact your Certified Arborist or your City Forester.

EAB infested ash tree removal does not require a special permit. Ash trees out in the woodlands away from homes may be removed but this is not required. Please call the City Forester at 612-803-9033 or Jim_nayes@mac.com if you have questions or concerns.