

1. Emerald Ash Borer Management Options

Staff presented Emerald Ash Borer Management options. Option No. 1 - " Treat best and replace remaining", for an emerald ash borer management plan for public ash trees within the City. Emerald ash borer (EAB) is a non-native invasive insect which kills ash trees. It is currently in the Twin Cities Metro area, with the closest confirmed infestation being in Bloomington, MN. Emerald Ash Borer has proven to kill all ash trees which are not chemically treated and an infestation within Shakopee is inevitable.

City staff completed an inventory of City managed trees in 2014. It was determined that 1 in 3 publicly managed trees are ash. A higher percent of street trees are ash compared to park trees, as seen below.

34% of street trees are ash (1500 ash trees)

18% of park trees are ash (500 ash trees)

Certain parks have a much higher percent of ash-Riverview (100%), Hiawatha (88%), Tahpah (36%), Lions (27%).

Based on the experiences of communities who have faced EAB, it is highly beneficial to take a proactive management approach versus waiting for EAB to kill trees and responding. Taking no management actions before EAB is confirmed in our community will be more expensive, and will take a much higher ecological, aesthetic, and social toll.

Staff presented five options for managing EAB. The options include different combinations of ash removal, replanting, and chemical treatment (protecting trees). A cost/benefit analysis was performed for each option. Option 1: Treat best and replace remaining was chosen.

Staff informed the Council that on March 9th, 2015, the Parks & Recreation Board voted unanimously to recommend Option 1- ' Treat the best ash trees and replace the remaining' to City Council. It protects— 40% (-750) of the public ash trees and removes and replaces the remaining 1100 trees). About 140 ash trees would be removed/replaced each year for the next 8 years with this option. Those trees proposed to be protected are in general the largest most healthy ash trees.

Moved by Councilmember Kathi Mocol, Seconded by Councilmember Jay Whiting Motion to direct staff to move forward on Option No. 1 - " Treat best and replace remaining", for an emerald ash borer management plan for public ash trees within the City.

Vote: 5- 0