

Fredericton

City of Fredericton Managing Emerald Ash Borer Backgrounder | February 2020

- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has advised that while the emerald ash borer (EAB) poses no threat to human health, it has already killed millions of ash trees in Canada and the United States. It was first found in Canada in 2002.
- EAB is a major economic and environmental threat to urban and forested areas in North America. Damaged ash trees pose a public safety risk with the potential for dead and/or dying trees to fall over and/or drop branches hurting people and damaging property.
- Fredericton's Parks & Trees staff have been monitoring the situation since 2008.
- Emerald ash borer was discovered in Edmundston, NB and Bedford, NS in 2018. It was found in Oromocto, NB and Moncton, NB in 2019.
- The 2018 discoveries prompted City Council to ask staff for a plan to manage the City's ash tree population in anticipation of the pest's arrival, and in an effort to mitigate potential devastation and financial burden.
- Parks & Trees staff estimate that there are 2,300 ash trees along the right away of City streets and tens of thousands of ash trees along City trails and waterways, in City parks and on private property.
- The management plan that was developed included four parts:
 1. To **detect** the presence of Emerald Ash Borer in the region.
 - As learned from other areas, monitoring ash trees for signs of EAB infection is difficult, with most damage occurring under the tree's bark. Often trees are dead or dying before EAB is detected.
 - The City has used a series of "sticky" traps to detect the presence of EAB moths: 35 traps were placed in 2019; 50 in 2020. No adult beetles were found.
 - The Maritime College of Forest of Technology has branch-sampled 150 ash trees looking for signs of EAB.
 2. To **treat** some significant City trees.
 - The TreeAzin Systemic Insecticide is being used by the City of Fredericton to treat significant ash trees. A tree must be treated biannually for the insecticide to be effective.
 - 30 trees were treated with TreeAzin in 2019, with 80 being treated in 2020.
 - It is too expensive to treat every ash tree in the city.
 - Homeowners may choose to treat ash trees on their own property.
 3. To **remove** ash trees to minimize rate of spread and ensure preservation of public safety.
 - It is recognized that neighbourhoods with a large ash proportion will be greatly impacted.
 4. To **replant** different tree species once an ash tree has been removed.
 - Staggered removal and replanting of different species of trees, over several years, will result in the least impact on the City's overall tree canopy and the creation of a more disease resistant tree population.
- The management plan also called for an education component. The result was the creation of an emerald ash borer information page on the City's website – www.fredericton.ca/AshBorer.
 - The web page includes information about EAB, ash trees, and a reminder to not transport untreated firewood to the city.
 - It also provided an update about insect traps and treatment of certain ash trees and an outline of the Parks & Trees EAB management plan.
 - Social media posts promote information around emerald ash borer, with the goal of driving traffic to the website.
- CFIA regulates this pest to protect Canada's forest, municipal trees and nurseries. They continue to work with federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations partners and organizations to slow the spread of the pest.