



CITY OF PARK RIDGE

505 BUTLER PLACE
PARK RIDGE, IL 60068
TEL: 847/ 318-5200
FAX: 847/ 318-5300
TDD: 847/ 318-5252
www.parkridge.us

Park Ridge Ash Trees and The Emerald Ash Borer

Public Trees

Current Total Parkway Tree Population – 19,865

Current Parkway Ash Population – 2,190

- Green Ash - 1,390 (7% of total parkway tree population)
- White Ash – 788 (4% of total parkway tree population)
- Blue Ash – 9 (.004% of total parkway tree population)
- Black Ash – 3 (.001% of total parkway tree population)
- European Ash - 2 (.001% of total parkway tree population)

Diameter Breakdown of Parkway Ash:

- 1-5" – 323
- 6-19" – 1151
- 20-34" – 646
- Over 35" – 70

If EAB is found in Park Ridge:

***Current Cost to Remove All Parkway Ash Trees - \$580,699.00**

*Cost is based on current prices charged by our tree removal contractor and includes stump removal. The above cost does not include restoration of the parkway.

***Estimated Cost to Replace All Parkway Ash Trees - \$766,500.00**

*Cost is based on current average Street Tree Consortium cost of \$350.00 per tree for the Spring 2007 planting season.

The Ash Species is the Third Most Abundant Parkway Species in Park Ridge

Areas with a significant amount of ash trees include:

- 1100 block of Busse Highway (along railroad tracks)
- 200 block of Ashland
- 100-400 block of S. Cumberland (Cumberland Park)
- 700-900 block of S. Courtland Ave.
- 1111 S. Dee Rd. (Maine South High School)
- 1775 and 1800 Dempster (Lutheran General Hospital)

Our Mission: The City of Park Ridge is committed to providing excellence in City services in order to uphold a high quality of life, so our community remains a wonderful place to live and work.

- 920 Granville (Mary Seat of Wisdom)
- 800 block of Marvin Parkway
- 800-900 block of N. Merrill
- 200-300 block of Northwest Highway
- N. Redfield Court
- N. Rose Ave.
- 1150 N. Western Ave. (Woodland Park)
- 700 block of Wisner St.
- 0-300 block of Lincoln Ave.
- 1600-2000 block of Manor Ln., Birch St., Habberton Ave. Walnut St.
- 1200-1600 block of Touhy Ave.
- 1000-1200 block of N. Delphia Ave.
- 200-500 block of N. Prospect
- 300-600 block of Devon Ave.
- 600-800 block of S. Western
- 400-500 block of W. Edgemont Ln.

Private Trees

An infestation of EAB will also impact the trees on private property since all ash trees within a given radius may require removal or become infested. The amount of private Ash trees can be estimated to be equal to or larger than the amount of public Ash trees. The Park Ridge Park District also has a substantial ash population and the loss of these trees would have a devastating impact on the visual appeal of the parks. The cost of removal will be higher on private property ash trees because of the greater inaccessibility to these areas.

The ordinance pertaining to diseased or infested trees needs to be amended to include EAB control and the storage of ash wood. The language should be made to include future nuisance pests or disease that may come into our community/United States through global trade.

Other Factors To Consider

The information presented above is strictly numbers – tree counts and projected costs. Additional factors, some less tangible than others, will need to be addressed should an infestation occur and will have a significant effect on Park Ridge’s Forestry staff and its Parkway Tree Management Program.

- **Initial Panic by the Public** – The more EAB is hyped in the media and its proximity to Park Ridge, the greater the volume of phone calls the Forestry division will receive. It is essential that the public is aware of this problem and that their assistance is needed to control the insect, but it must be approached in a rational, professional manner.
- **Visual Impact** – The loss of all or the majority of parkway trees on a given block will change the entire streetscape of that neighborhood. Even after replanting, a street that once had an established canopy arching over the road will now be a line of small, newly planted trees.
- **Emotional Effect** – Many people have emotional ties to trees, especially large trees or ones that may have been planted to commemorate a special event. If a resident is told that their tree needs to be removed, especially one that is not yet infested, Forestry staff will spend

considerable time explaining the process and tree removal permits and inspections will increase.

- **Timeliness of Removals** – Even though the City of Park Ridge has a reputable commercial tree company on contract for tree care, in the event of an infestation, given the enormous volume of trees, the removals may not happen in a timely manner and the infestation may spread to a greater radius. The same situation would be expected for residents removing trees on their private property, as they will also be competing for tree care services.
- **Limited Qualified In-house Forestry Staff** – Because of the small size of the EAB and the large parkway ash tree population, surveillance is very time consuming and labor-intensive. Should an infestation occur, there would be insufficient staff and equipment to conduct the surveillance of EAB in our community. Additionally, current Forestry calls to City staff require one full time person to respond adequately. Therefore, Forestry staffing may be insufficient to handle an influx of EAB calls without compromising other daily Forestry tasks. Current Forestry staffing would also be strained by an increased amount of tree removal permits requiring inspection on private property.
- **Limited Space at Public Works for Woodchips** – The large-scale removal of ash trees will generate an enormous amount of woodchips. There is very limited space in the Public Works yard for this material. An increase in brush may be generated if residents remove Ash trees themselves and put it out on their parkways for brush pick-up. Having the chips hauled away will be an additional expense. Additionally, extra expenses would be may be incurred by our contractor(s) with the movement of logs/chips generated from removals to Illinois Department of Agriculture certified processing sites and any fees associated with the dumping of such materials.
- **Limited Forestry Budget** – Should an infestation occur, where will the additional funding come from for removals and replacement? An Emerald Ash Borer infestation could greatly compromise current Forestry services along with other important City services.

PAUL
KIDGE

ARTICLE 14

CONDUCT AND OFFENSES

CHAPTER 19 INFESTED, INFESTED AND DEAD TREES

SECTION

- 14-19-1 Definitions
- 14-19-2 Inspection
- 14-19-3 Declaration of Nuisance
- 14-19-4 Removal by Owner
- 14-19-5 Abatement by City Authorities
- 14-19-6 Penalty

14-19-1 DEFINITIONS

“Infected” means the presence of a disease deemed a nuisance by the Illinois Department of Agriculture or the United States Department of Agriculture, the presence of circumstances that make it reasonable to believe that such a disease is present or the presence of any plant disease that is liable to spread to other plants, trees or shrubs to the injury of such plants, trees or shrubs or to the injury of humans or property.

“Infested” means the presence of a pest deemed a nuisance by the Illinois Department of Agriculture or the United States Department of Agriculture, the presence of circumstances that make it reasonable to believe that such a pest is present or the presence of any injurious insect or pest that is liable to spread to other plants, trees or shrubs to the injury of such plants, trees or shrubs or to the injury of humans or property.

14-19-2 INSPECTION

The officers, agents, servants and employees of the City are hereby authorized and directed to enter upon private property whereon there is located any tree having the appearance of being dead or suspected of being infected or infested, for the purpose of inspecting said dead or suspected infected or infested tree and removing therefrom samples or portions thereof to be tested to establish whether said tree is in fact dead, infected or infested.

14-19-3 DECLARATION OF NUISANCE

In the event that it is determined by said officers, agents, servants and employees of the City or by any forestry or agricultural laboratory, school or agency of the State of Illinois

that the tree from which said samples have been taken, is in fact dead, infected or infested, said tree and all dead wood, or debris, which, because of its condition may serve as a breeding place for such pests or diseases or enable transmission of such pests or diseases shall forthwith be and it is hereby declared to be a nuisance.

14-19-4 REMOVAL BY OWNER

The owner, or his agent or occupant, of the parcel of land on which said dead, infected or infested tree, dead wood, or debris exists shall forthwith remove and destroy the same or shall cause the same to be removed and destroyed, in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the City, within ten (10) days of notification to such owner, occupant or agent by the officers, agents, servants or employees of the City that said tree, dead wood, or debris situated on said parcel of land is in fact dead, infested or infected and is declared a nuisance. The notice shall include the following:

- a. the identity of the property, by common description;
- b. the tree(s) affected;
- c. notice that the dead, infected or infested tree(s) is a nuisance and that it is unlawful to permit the dead, infected or infested tree(s) to remain on the property;
- d. a request for the removal of the tree(s);
- e. notice that if the tree(s) is not removed within ten (10) days, the City will make necessary arrangements for the removal and destruction of the tree(s) and will charge the cost of removal and destruction to the owner or his agent or occupant; and
- e. instructions regarding the proper removal and destruction of each dead, infected or infested tree.

14-19-5 ABATEMENT BY CITY AUTHORITIES

In all cases where the owner, occupant or agent of the parcel of land on which said dead, infected or infested tree, dead wood or debris is located cannot be found or if found and notified as aforesaid neglects or refuses to abate said nuisance, it shall be lawful for the Municipal authorities of the City, its officers, agents, servants and employees, to abate the same by the removal and destruction of said dead, infected or infested tree, dead wood, or debris; and in that event the said owner, occupant and agent, or any of them, shall be charged with those expenses which may be incurred by the City in the removal or abatement of the dead, infected or infested tree, dead wood, or debris, as aforesaid, which expense shall be collected by the City by suit or otherwise in addition to the fine or penalty herein provided.

14-19-6 PENALTY

Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Chapter or who shall neglect or refuse to remove and destroy said dead, infected or infested tree, dead wood, or debris on any parcel of land of which said person is owner, agent, occupant or person in possession,

when ordered so to do or who shall interfere with the removal and destruction of such dead, infected or infested tree, dead wood, or debris shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each offense. A separate offense shall be deemed committed for each day on which said person shall continue to maintain said nuisance or to permit said dead, infected or infested tree, dead wood, or debris to continue to exist on said parcel of land.