



Hamilton

## INFORMATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	February 22, 2019
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan (ES19004) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Craig Murdoch, B. Sc. Director, Environmental Services Public Works
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

At the September 6, 2012 General Issues Committee meeting, Forestry staff presented the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan through Public Works Committee Report PW10088a. From this, Council approved a 10-year strategy of funding \$2.6M annually to remove one tenth (2,300) of the inventory of approximately 23,000 Ash trees each year.

This Information Update outlines the progress of the EAB Management Plan, which, at the September 6, 2012 General Issues Committee meeting, was requested to be provided annually. The information within is current to January 24, 2019.

Removal of infested Ash trees began in 2013. In 2014, it was observed that the infestation was accelerating faster than originally anticipated, which required the removal of more than the targeted 2,300 trees that year and each year since. Removal of dead and dying trees is a requirement for public safety. Forestry staff inspects Ash trees by ward annually and prioritize necessary removals with priority given to dead and poor condition Ash trees that pose a health and safety risk.

In 2019, staff focus is on removals as well as replacements, setting targets for 2019 at 2300 removals and 3550 trees to be planted. In the early years of the program, removals were the focus in mitigating risks to public health and safety. Entering the final 4 years of the program, removals will begin to decline with replacement plantings becoming the focus. This will ensure the 1:1 replacement target is met as per the Council Approved Management Plan.

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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The following table summarizes yearly removals and replacements since the beginning of the program:

Year	Removal Target	Actual Removals	New/ Replacements
2013	2300	1153	586
2014	2300	3783	1860
2015	2300	4128	3777
2016	2300	3013	1096
2017	2300	3347	1087
2018	2300	2765	1978
Totals	13800	18189	9884

Replacement trees are chosen from a wide variety of species to ensure a sustainable and diverse urban forest canopy. There are currently over 40 species offered for replacement planting. Where the replacement tree is adjacent to a residential property, residents are engaged in the selection process by being offered a choice from three tree species that have been recommended by City arborists for the site-specific conditions.

Included in the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan is the treatment of Ash trees that are in good condition and prominent within the landscape. In 2017, 150 prominent Ash trees were treated with TreeAzin, an injectable pesticide that can slow the spread of EAB if treatment starts before the insects cause significant damage. In 2018 after inspection, 125 of those trees met the condition threshold and therefore warranted follow up treatment. The treatment product is recommended to be used yearly or every other year depending on the condition of the tree and the level of infestation. Inspections will commence in Spring 2019 to determine if they should be injected again in 2019.

As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018, life-to-date removal targets were exceeded by 4,389 trees. Targets for 2019 removals and replacements are set to ensure the program meets overall program goals by the end of year 10.

If you require further information, please feel free to contact Sam Scarlett, Manager of Forestry and Horticulture at 905-546-2424 ext. 3919.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Not Applicable