

City of Muscatine Emerald Ash Borer Plan

With the eminent threat of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Muscatine, the Muscatine Parks and Recreation Department has been working to develop a plan to treat, replace, and handle selections of park site and Right of Way (ROW) Ash trees.

First note is that it is no longer if the Emerald Ash Borer arrives but when. Several local communities in Iowa are now infested. Our goal is to develop a team of City personnel and the private sector (i.e. garden centers, nurseries, Master Gardner's, Muscatine Branching Out, etc.) to help with implementing our goals and objectives to control the rush of questions and concerns that will occur. Proper training of staff in felling, handling of proper equipment and disposal as required by law will be implemented. We also plan to provide safe and efficient removal of dead ash trees from Muscatine City Property and the funds to replace Ash trees that die on City property.

Our Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan is as follows:

Healthy Ash Trees

We will leave healthy trees in our system until the time comes that we must address removal for any reason stated below. Any Ash trees that become damaged or hazardous, infested or die will be removed as quickly as possible. The City will treat healthy park site and a selection of Right of Way Street Trees.

Construction Sites – Healthy Ash Trees

Any healthy Ash trees that are in construction areas will be eliminated.

Street Tree Projects

Any project involving street tree removal or Ash tree removals will be replaced as time and inventory allows.

Replacement Tree Selection - Downtown

The selection of street tree replacement within the downtown business district are that no one tree variety should be over planted, with the intent to prevent any future tree problems such as the Emerald Ash Borer or the previous issue of Dutch Elm Disease.

The true benefits of replacing lost trees in our community can be found at www.treebenefits.com, which helps to calculate the carbon reduction benefits, storm water runoff, as well as electrical savings by entering the tree species, diameter of the tree and its location.

Between the corners, the smaller tree beds should be one of a couple selections, Cleveland Select Pear or a similar variety with a narrow form, The Ivory Silk Lilac, Dakota Pinnacle Birch, Purple Frost Birch, or Prairie Gold Aspen. In addition to having a varied tree selection available, these varieties all are resistant to Japanese Beetles as well.

For corner beds of larger size that would allow for larger trunk space at intersections and that do not interfere with stop signs, we would recommend Skyline Honey Locust, Princeton Sentry Ginkgos (male species only), or one of other similar columnar shaped trees, Crimson Spire Red Oak, Tulip Tree or Crimson Sunset Maple. These varieties are also resistant to Japanese Beetles and are all hardy to at least zone 4, which is one climate zone to our north.

Replacement Tree Selection – Right of Way Trees

A list of trees permitted for Right of Ways with 4 to 6 feet as to not impede traffic or pedestrian travel are as follows:

Japanese Tree Lilac
Single Stem Serviceberry
Narrow shaped, vase shaped Crab Apple
Adirondack
Marilee
Birch
Aspen

Ornamental Pears such as:
Cleveland Select
Valiant
Trinity

All of the ornamental pear trees listed have fewer fruit and are narrow upright varieties

Note: these selections are not banned at this time in Iowa, but other states have had issues of the trees hybridizing and becoming invasive.

A list of trees permitted for Right of Ways with more than 6 feet include, the above list as well as the following varieties:

Maple Sugar
Maple Black
Maple Red
Maple Norway
Hackberry
Thornless Honey Locust
Ginkgo, male species only
London Plane
Oak Swamp White
Oak English
Oak White

Oak Bur
Oak Red
Oak Scarlet
Linden American
Linden Little Leaf
Elm, Princeton
Tulip Tree
Iron Wood
Kentucky Coffee Tree
Zelkova
Beech

Note: All tree selections above are just an initial list. Different species or cultivars of these selections may be selected but must be approved by the Muscatine Parks and Recreation Department. This list is a selection from the ISU Extension and Urban Forestry Coordinator and has been approved by DNR.

Tree Nursery

The Muscatine Parks and Recreation Department has already begun to prepare for the EAB by starting a nursery at the Municipal Golf Course. These trees are intended to be a start on what will become a larger scale of development once the full extent of damage caused by the EAB is determined. Funds and resources should be provided ahead of the infestation to further the selection of trees available in the tree nursery.

Tree Donations

Muscatine Branching Out has in the past provided a great selection of trees to the public as well as the City of Muscatine every year. The City has also received several donation trees from private citizens and trees from DNR grants that have been planted in parks and other City properties.