

Treeways

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EAB Update 2023

Chainsaw sounds put our neighbors in Sunfish Lake on high alert. We are a Tree City and we love our trees and woe to anyone taking down live trees without a good reason. Much recent tree removal is directly due to the death of ash trees infested by emerald ash borer (EAB). All green, white and black ash trees in the City that have not been by now preventatively treated with an injectable insecticide will continue to be killed by EAB. By the way, mountain ash is not really an ash.

Infested ash trees are a buffet of EAB insect larvae for our downy, hairy, red bellied and pileated woodpeckers. Especially during winter, we can see the results of woodpecker activity on EAB infested ash trees. The light-colored bark patches caused by woodpecker pecking and feeding is called “blonding” and is a sure symptom of EAB infestation. Any heavily infested ash tree located where it could potentially damage your home or injure people when branches fall should be removed as soon as possible. An EAB infested ash tends to start dropping large branches within about 10 months after dying so dead/dying EAB infested ash trees should not be climbed due to safety concerns from falling branches.

Infested ash tree removal does not require a special permit. Ash trees out in the woodlands away from homes may be removed but this is not required. Please call the City Forester at 612-803-9033 if you have questions or concerns as the City will be removing a number of infested ash trees near City streets later this year. The general rule is that if an EAB infested ash tree is within 15 feet of a City street the City will remove the tree at no charge to the property owner. Infested ash trees and other potentially hazardous trees further that 15 feet from public streets are the responsibility of the property owner.

Your City Forester is available for consultation regarding tree and ecological questions at no charge. He may be reached at 612-803-9033 or Jim@LStrees.com.