

Ash Canopy Replacement Plan

Frequently Asked Questions

Remove. Replace. Respect the environment.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle that attacks and kills ash trees. As North American ash trees have no immunity to EAB, it will eventually kill all ash trees in Minneapolis. To lessen the impact, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is proactively removing ash trees and replacing them with other species.

What is the status of Emerald Ash Borer in Minneapolis? Since being first discovered in Minneapolis in 2010, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been confirmed in multiple locations, including park properties and boulevard trees.

How many ash trees are there in Minneapolis?

More than 30,000 boulevard ash trees line Minneapolis streets in addition to approximately 10,000 ash trees located on park properties. There are also an estimated 200,000 ash trees on private property. Whether on public or private land, all ash trees are destined for infestation by EAB.

What is the MPRB's plan for managing the inevitable loss of ash trees due to EAB?

It's important to remember that all ash trees will become infested with EAB and die. At present, there is no way to stop the spread of EAB, so the issue becomes not if an ash tree will die but when. The MPRB has chosen an approach that removes and replaces boulevard and park ash trees over time in a manageable, proactive and thoughtful manner. This phased approach will be accomplished through our Ash Canopy Replacement Plan.

How many boulevard ash trees on a block will be removed each year?

Although a block's canopy may consist of more than one tree type, only ash trees will be removed. The MPRB plans to remove no more than 20 percent of the existing tree canopy on a block during a single season. To put that in context, if a city block has 25 boulevard trees of any species, no more than five ash trees will be removed in a single season.

(Note: boulevard ash trees that are confirmed or suspected of being infested are marked for removal and taken down as soon as possible and are not counted toward the 20 percent above.)

30,000	Boulevard ash trees
10,000	Ash trees on park properties
4,700	Ash trees removed since 2010
21,800	New trees planted since 2010
7,800	Trees to be planted in 2014

For more information on Emerald Ash Borer:

www.minneapolisparcs.org/EAB

To see maps of boulevard ash trees by neighborhood:

<http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1220>

Some cities are choosing to treat ash trees with insecticides. Why isn't the Park Board chemically treating ash trees?

The MPRB takes its role as stewards of Minneapolis' natural resources very seriously. Not only do we work to protect our urban forest, but also the soil, water bodies, and other environmental elements that support it. Certain insecticides used to kill EAB are known to be partially responsible for the decline of bees. Since the long-term impacts to birds, pollinators and other species that ingest the insecticides used to kill EAB are unknown, the MPRB has chosen to use the most environmentally sound, insecticide-free approach possible.

The current level of infestation of EAB in Minneapolis has not yet reached the point where large numbers of ash trees are dying and posing a hazard to the public and surrounding properties. Cities treating ash trees are essentially buying time to safely manage removal of trees according to their own schedule. By proactively replacing ash trees now the MPRB can avoid the need for chemical treatment.

Insecticide manufacturers are heavily marketing their products and services to cities, neighborhood groups and homeowners using aggressive marketing tactics. Unfortunately, what they often fail to mention is that ash tree insecticide treatments are only effective against EAB infestations for a limited time. For continued protection against EAB, treatments are required every one to two years for the life of tree. The estimated one-time cost to treat all 40,000 MPRB ash trees would be more than \$5.5 million. That cost would need to be repeated every one to two years for the life of the tree.

Can homeowners treat the boulevard ash tree in front of their home with insecticides?

The MPRB's plan is to replace boulevard ash trees and replant a different species tree. However, homeowners may choose to treat a boulevard ash tree adjacent to their property with insecticide that adheres to state and local regulations. Since restricted-use insecticides are used, homeowners are required to hire a licensed and permitted tree care company. (Visit <http://bit.ly/1ewZ4XE> for list.) Homeowners are required to pay for any and all treatments.



Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

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