Ash Tree Removal in Your Yard

Information for residents and property owners

Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board
A Brief History
of Private Tree Condemnation
Dutch Elm Disease

Why 50 years of condemnation?

- Slow the spread of the pest
- Safety from deteriorating trees
- Cost savings - more expensive as they decline
Emerald Ash Borer

Updated ordinances in 2009
Discovered in 2010

Lots of media coverage
Private ash have been condemned since 2013
Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission
Seeing Green?

Green means Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

**Green X**
Non-symptomatic public ash tree to be removed. The Park Board will remove ash trees and stumps throughout the year. Replacement trees will be planted in the following year.

**Green ring**
Public ash tree infested with EAB will be removed as soon as possible.

**Green ribbon**
Non-symptomatic public ash tree that is part of the Park Board’s EAB awareness program.

[Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board](http://www.minneapolisparks.org/eab)
For more information about the MPRB’s efforts to mark, remove and replace public ash trees, visit the web page or call 612-313-7710.

On-tree Notice
Utility Bill Inserts

Emerald ash borer is in Minneapolis

Emerald ash borers are invasive beetles that kill ash trees, and they have now been found in Minneapolis. There is currently no known cure. Minneapolis has more than 200,000 ash trees, they make up more than 20 percent of our trees. Ash trees killed by emerald ash borer fall apart and become a hazard, so waiting for all of the city’s ash trees to become infected is not an option. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has begun removing sickly ash trees on public land in Minneapolis and replacing them to start replanting our urban forest now, which is important for our quality of life in Minneapolis.

If you think an ash tree is infested with emerald ash borer, report it at (651) 201-6684 or visit www.mda.state.mn.us/aab.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Forestry Division
Call (612) 319-2710 or visit www.minneapolisparks.org

Plant a tree

If you have space in your yard to plant a tree, now is a good time to start one. If you have an ash tree in your yard, planting its replacement now will give it a chance to start providing shade.

Prune your ash tree only in the fall or winter

The emerald ash borer is active now, and moving infected wood helps spread the pest. Prune your ash tree only when the beetle is dormant, after Labor Day and before May 1.

Symptoms of emerald ash borer infestation

Woodpeckers are the most obvious sign of emerald ash borer in a healthy-looking tree. The beetles also put D-shaped exit holes in the trunk (although they could be too high up to notice), split the bark, create s-shaped galleys underneath the bark and then the tree’s canopy.

Quarantine

Hennepin and Ramsey counties are part of an emerald ash borer quarantine. Firewood and any part of an ash tree, including lumber and branches, are not allowed to leave the counties, to help slow the spread of emerald ash borer to other areas.

If you think an ash tree is infested with emerald ash borer, report it at (651) 201-6684 or visit www.mda.state.mn.us/aab.
EMERALD ASH BORER IS KILLING ASH TREES ACROSS MINNEAPOLIS

All ash trees are threatened by emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive tree pest that attacks and kills ash trees. Are you prepared?

Do I have an ash tree on my property?

Branches, leaves grow opposite each other

Compound leaf with 5-11 leaflets

Diamond shaped pattern on bark

Paddle shaped seeds, found in clusters

Information about Private Ash
Ash Ribboning
Treatments

RESOLUTION 2010R-288
By Glidden and Gordon

Encouraging Minneapolis Residents to Exercise Precautionary Principles regarding Emerald Ash Borer.

Whereas, the urban forest contributes significantly to human health and environmental quality by cleaning the air, sheltering wildlife, catching water runoff, cooling our homes, and making our city more beautiful; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis has adopted a target of increasing the city's tree canopy from 26 percent to 30 percent of the city by 2030; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis is committed to environmental sustainability and efforts to systematically decrease the buildup of human-made chemicals and compounds; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis considers protection of our lakes, streams and drinking water a high priority and has adopted two water quality indicators as part of its sustainability tracking process; and

Whereas, the State of Minnesota has jurisdiction over regulation of insecticides; and

Whereas, the human-made chemicals in our environment are accumulating to levels increasingly toxic to human and ecosystem health and there is a lack of research on their cumulative impacts; and

Whereas, the long-term effectiveness of the insecticides being used to treat emerald ash borer has not been proven; and

Whereas, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is not funding pesticide treatment of any trees on public property, including boulevard trees;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis urges residents to protect the city's soil, water, flora, fauna and human health during the emerald ash borer infestation by refraining from applying insecticides to trees on private property.
Ash tree identification

- Opposite branching
Ash tree identification

- Compound leaves
- Darker green above, lighter green below
Ash tree identification

- Flat, winged seeds are dispersed by wind
Ash tree identification

- Diamond pattern on mature bark
- Smoother bark on small, young trees
Ash tree identification

- Mature trees can exceed 50 feet
Ash identification workshops
EAB & how it kills ash trees
What we look for
What we look for
Private tree condemnation: From identification to removal
Inspections
Inspections

Citywide Year Round
All Staff
Tree Inspectors Arborists Foresters
Inspections

Citywide
Year Round
All Staff
Tree
Inspectors
Arborists
Foresters

Care Needs
Hazards
Pests

Public/Private
Inspections

Citywide
Year Round
All Staff

Tree Inspectors
Arborists
Foresters

Care Needs
Hazards
Pests

Public/Private
Systematic
Watchlist
Your Ash Tree has Emerald Ash Borer and Must be Removed

An ash tree(s) on your property has been diagnosed with an infestation of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), which kills all types of ash trees. EAB is an invasive insect that is specific only to ash in the genus Fraxinus. To help slow the spread of EAB to healthy ash, your tree must be removed and disposed of.

A ring of green paint has been sprayed around your tree(s) so that you can tell which tree(s) must be removed because of EAB. A letter and number have been painted on the tree(s) for our identification purposes.

The condemnation of ash trees on private property is part of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board’s (MPRB) program to control EAB. It is authorized through city ordinances that declare infested trees to be a nuisance. These ordinances give the MPRB authority to enter private property for the purpose of finding infested trees.

In the near future, the owner of the property where the infested tree(s) is located will receive a detailed mailing that thoroughly explains the options that are available for removing the tree(s). If you still have questions after reviewing this mailing, you may call the MPRB Forestry Department. Please note that it is the property owner’s responsibility to remove an infested ash tree from private property. This does not include boulevard trees, which are the responsibility of the MPRB.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL WITH QUESTIONS UNTIL YOU HAVE RECEIVED AND READ A MAILING THAT IS COMING FROM THE MPRB

To learn more about EAB and how the MPRB takes care of our urban forest, you can visit our website at: www.minneapolisparks.org/eab
February 12, 2021

Notification Letter

[Content of the letter discussing the removal of tree and limb removal due to a potential violation of city ordinance.

The letter mentions the need to remove the tree and the associated costs, emphasizing the importance of compliance with city regulations.]

[Further details about the tree removal process, including the next steps and contact information for any questions or concerns.]
December 23, 2021

MINNEAPOLIS MINNESOTA

Subject: Notification of Special Bid to Remove Dead, Disposed, or Infected Trees

Dear Taxpayer,

The overwhelming majority of diseased and/or infested tree removals contracted through the MPRB are done through the solicitation of advanced bids. When advanced bids are taken, the cost estimate is based on the diameter of the tree. Contractors can do this without seeing each particular tree because through their experience they know what costs to expect. Having advanced bid prices based on tree diameter saves time and inspection costs.

There are occasions when a private tree that has been condemned due to disease or infestation is so difficult to remove that the MPRB must request an individual or special bid from our contractors. This typically occurs due to unusual conditions such as limited access to the tree, a location that is under the tree or conditions that require manually removing wood from the property. Because such conditions cause the contractor to incur higher costs, it would not be fair to use the advanced bid prices to remove the tree. The contractor takes these costs into consideration when calculating the special bid. By keeping special bid separate from advanced bid it is possible to keep the advanced bid prices reasonable. Due to unusual conditions involving your tree, the MPRB has requested that special bids be received.

To solicit your own removal bids because you may get the bid.

If you have any questions, please contact the Forestry Department at 612-375-7770. If you have any questions, please contact the Forestry Department at 612-375-7770.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Title]

[Department]
Notification of Bids Received
Letter

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

January 21, 2023

To: [Recipient's Name]

Re: Notification: The Special Bid Has Been Properly Registered

The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) has received a proposal under its Small Project Program for the removal of certain trees. The MPRB and City of Minneapolis Parks and Recreation have determined that these projects are within the guidelines and requirements established by the Board. In order to proceed, the MPRB must receive a formal proposal from the property owner.

The following information is provided in order to assist you in preparing a request for proposals:

SPECIAL BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED:

As a reminder, all contracts for the removal of trees are subject to the conditions set forth in the Small Project Program. Proposal packets can be obtained from the MPRB office or downloaded from the City of Minneapolis website.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS:

If you have any questions regarding the proposal process, please contact the MPRB office at (612) 375-7360.

Thank you for your interest in the Small Project Program.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

MPRB Official
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

No postage necessary.
Postage has been paid by:

MINNEAPOLIS PARK & RECREATION BOARD
FORESTRY DEPARTMENT
3800 Bryant Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409

Please provide information for one of the following two options:

Option 1. I hereby grant permission to the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, or its authorized agents, to immediately enter upon the following described land and premises located at:


with all necessary tools, equipment and labor for the purpose of removing and disposing of diseased elm and/or oak tree(s) and/or infested ash tree(s) identified as:


and agree to pay all removal costs as specified in the notification letter that accompanied this postcard.

Signature of Owner/Taxpayer ________________________
Phone ________________________ Home Phone ________________________


2. CHECK HERE... [ ] I have made my own arrangements for removal of the above-mentioned tree(s) by the deadline date.
Initial ________________________

The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board – Forestry Department appreciates your response.
Reinspection

No response

60 days
Reinspection

No response

60 days
April 22, 2022

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

SUBJECT: Assignment of Contractor to Remove Diseased Tree #1

Dear Taxpayer:

In compliance with Chapter 15 of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Code of Ordinance, removal of the infected, dead, or declining tree from your property, a 19** tree, has been assigned to [Redacted] as of May 19, 2021. This company can be reached by phone at [Redacted]. After the tree’s removal, we will make a final inspection to make sure the job is completed satisfactorily.

The contractor will attempt to contact you before entering onto your property in order to give you in advance an estimate of the time when you can expect the tree to be removed. However, if there are extenuating circumstances involved with the removal of your particular tree, (e.g., setting posts indoors, moving cars, fences, etc.) it would be helpful for you to call the contracting company directly if special instructions are necessary.

During the removal process of any tree, please keep in mind that some lawn depressions may be present. This is quite common and should be expected, as there is as much as three tons of wood in an average sized tree and it is nearly impossible to remove this amount of wood without these depressions sometimes occurring. If severe lawn damage or any other type of damage does occur, however, it will be corrected by the contractor. If you need assistance in setting a claim, please contact the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board’s Claims Representative at (612) 333-7700.

In regard to accidental cement damage during the removal of the tree (whether private or public walks, etc.) this presents an out-of-the-ordinary problem. It is very difficult to find a cement contractor willing to take on small scattered jobs, which means having to pay concrete at the site. Therefore, unusual delays in repairs may occur. Please inform us of any damage as quickly as possible and we will try to help the contractor expedite the repairs.

P.S. Attached are directions to the site and general information about the tree.
Contact from Contractor
Tree Removal
Stump

Not Removed

Less Cost

No Pest Risk
EAB Condemnations by Year
2017: 330
Total: 1077
2019

2019: 1697
Total: 3698
2021:

6905

Total:

13,375
Total: 18,206
Billing and Assessment Process
Billing and Assessment Process

• Once the Forestry Department has completed their work and an assessment is generated the process transitions to the Finance Department
  • Payments can be accepted once the assessment is generated

• First billing letters are generated and mailed
  • Cost of the tree removal, administrative charge ($80)
  • Financial hardship options insert is included in the mailing – initiate by November 15, 2023
  • Property owner has 45 days to pay in full to avoid interest
  • Payments can be made by Check or Credit Card
  • Partial payments are accepted
Billing and Assessment Process

- Second billing letters are generated and mailed in October each year
  - Cost of the tree removal, administrative charge ($80), interest factor (3.87%)
  - Included in mailing
    - Financial hardship options – initiate by November 15, 2023
    - Notice of public hearing and levying of the assessment
  - Payments due in full by November 29, 2023 to avoid levy
  - Payments can be made by Check or Credit Card
  - Partial payments are accepted

- Levying of Assessments
  - Public Hearing and Resolution to levy the assessments – November 15, 2023
  - Payments are accepted through November 29, 2023
  - Assessment Rolls due to Hennepin County November 30, 2023
  - Once levied partial payments are no longer accepted
Billing and Assessment Process

- Levied assessment is collected by Hennepin County through the property tax statement and shows up as a special assessment on the tax bill
  - Cost of tree removal, administrative charge ($80), interest factor (3.87%)
  - Amount spread over a five-year period
  - Can be paid off early – current year collected through property taxes – remaining amount paid in full
  - Financial hardship options can be utilized by homestead property owners
    - Special assessment deferral
    - Amount spread over a ten-year period
Financial Hardship Options
2019 Homestead Property Amounts

Outside ACP
- Levied 34%
- Not Levied 66%

Inside ACP50
- Levied 58%
- Not Levied 42%

Inside ACP
- Levied 57%
- Not Levied 43%

Significant difference in levied assessments between ACP & ACP50 areas
City of Minneapolis Deferment Program – Special Assessments

- Resolution 2021-312- Adopted October 6, 2021 – Reaffirmed the MPRB’s participation in the City’s Hardship Deferral Program for Special Assessments

- Deferment program for special assessments
  - Homestead property owners with financial hardship that meet one of the following criteria
    - Persons age 65 or older
    - Persons retired due to a permanent and total disability
    - Military reservists on active duty
  - Special Assessment is not forgiven
    - Levied and is a lien against the property
    - Deferred amount accrues interest until paid
    - Full payment is required when house is either sold, no longer “homestead” status, or hardship disappears
Additional Options - Available to All Homestead Property Owners

• Resolution 2021-312- Adopted October 6, 2021 – Provided additional support to homestead property owners experiencing financial hardship
  • The MPRB can forgive the MPRB administrative fee charged against the special assessment
  • The MPRB can offer property owners with hardship who do not qualify for or choose not to defer their assessment the ability to pay such assessment over a ten-year term rather than the standard five-year term
    • Annual amount due will be lower, however, the total interest paid will be higher

• Contact the MPRB Finance Department by **November 15th, 2023** to initiate either process

• MPRB recognizes we may need to go further and is looking for community input
State Legislative Update
MPRB Legislative Agenda

• **INVASIVE SPECIES/EMERALD ASH BORER:** The Park Board will work cooperatively with state agencies and other interested groups to promote state funding for community forestry to recover from EAB and measures to address AIS
  • Activity at the legislature around competitive grant programs funded with one-time and on-going funding. Working to get language to allow for grant funds to be used to assist low-income homeowners with EAB tree removal costs.

• **PROPERTY TAX RELIEF:** The MPRB supports the continued use and improvement of Minnesota Statute Chapter 290A. PROPERTY TAX REFUND as a mechanism for providing relief to homeowners paying property taxes and the MPRB supports the creation of a third type of homestead credit refund for special assessments for homeowners who qualify based on income.

• Legislative session scheduled to end May 22, 2023
www.minneapolisparks.org
Information Available on MPRB Website
Information Available on MPRB Website

Q & A: Private Tree Condemnation and Removal

December 14, 2023

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has inspected, condemned, removed and assessed damaged or infested trees on private property at the property owner's expense for more than 50 years. Recently, members of the public have asked questions about the MPRB's authority to do this work: its process for condemning trees and its communication with property owners about options for removing condemned trees and payment of removal costs that may be assessed.

Here, download or print a PDF version of this page:

- Q & A: Private Tree Condemnation and Removal (PDF)
- Q & A: Private Tree Condemnation and Removal - Hennepin (PDF)
- Q & A: Private Tree Condemnation and Removal - Minneapolis (PDF)
- Q & A: Private Tree Condemnation and Removal - St. Paul (PDF)

Get details on the ten-year payment and deferral options:

- Financial Assistance Programs - 2022 (PDF)
- Financial Assistance Programs - Annual (PDF)
- Financial Assistance Programs - Senior (PDF)
- Financial Assistance Programs - Social (PDF)
Information Available on MPRB Website

- Ash tree removal in your yard?
- Get info on the emerald ash borer infestation - including tree removal costs and payment options - at April meetings or online.
- I want to... EXPLORE ACTIVITIES, BROWSE SPORTS LEAGUES, LEARN ABOUT TREE CONDEMNATION AND REMOVAL, FIND A PARK OR DESTINATION, VIEW PARK AMENITIES, ATTEND A MEETING.
- Q & A: Private Tree Condemnation and Removal
- Q & A: Private Tree Condemnation and Removal - Hmong
- Q & A: Private Tree Condemnation and Removal - Somali
- Q & A: Private Tree Condemnation and Removal - Spanish
- Get details on the ten-year payment and deferment options:
  - Financial Hardship Programs – 2023
  - Financial Hardship Programs - Hmong
  - Financial Hardship Programs - Somali
  - Financial Hardship Programs - Spanish
City of Mpls Assistance

0% interest loans & grant programs

www.minneapolishomes.org
City of Mpls Assistance

0% interest loans & grant programs

www.minneapolishomes.org
Habitat for Humanity

grant funding for EAB removal

(612) 788-8169
Mike Robertson
mike.robertson@tchabitat.org

www.tchabitat.org/abwk
Habitat for Humanity

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Tree Planting

Minneapolis Arbor Day

Friday
April 28th 4-8pm

www.minneapolisparks.org/arborday
Tree Planting

Minneapolis Arbor Day

Friday April 28th 4-8pm

www.minneapolisparks.org/arborday
Tree Planting

Minneapolis City Trees Program (not MPRB)

Low or No Cost Trees

minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/environmental-programs/city-trees/
Tree Planting

Minneapolis City Trees Program (not MPRB)

Low or No Cost Trees

minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/environmental-programs/city-trees/
Questions?

Contact information:

www.minneapolisparks.org/trees

forestry@minneapolisparks.org

612-313-7710
Tree Planting

50% more per capita
$99.35 vs $66.56

ACP or POC50

Tree equity

look back

2010 – 1 : 1.2
2011 – 1 : 1.4
2012 – 1 : 4.2
2013 – 1 : 2.0
2014 – 1 : 1.4
2015 – 1 : 1.1
2016 – 1 : 1.2
2017 – 1 : 1.2
2018 – 1 : 1.4
2019 – 1 : 1.6
2020 – 1 : 1.6
2021 – 1 : 2.0
2022 – 1 : 1.5
2023 – 1 : 1.6