


Hamilton

# INFORMATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	January 20, 2020
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan Annual Update (ES20001) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Craig Murdoch Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

At the September 6, 2012 General Issues Committee meeting, Forestry staff presented the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan (Report PW10088(a)). On September 12, 2012, Council approved a 10-year funding strategy of \$2.6 million annually, to remove and replace 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 up to, and including, the end of 2019.

Removal of dead and dying trees is a requirement for public safety. Annually, Forestry staff inspect Ash trees by ward and prioritize necessary removals with priority given to dead and poor condition Ash trees that pose a health and safety risk.

Removal of infested Ash trees began in 2013. In 2014, it was observed that the infestation was occurring faster than originally anticipated, which required the removal of more than the targeted 2,300 trees from 2014 to 2018. For 2020, project targets are set for 1,800 Ash removals and 3,590 trees to be planted. Entering the final 3 years of the program, removals are becoming less frequent and the replacement plantings have become the focus of staff. This will ensure the 1:1 replacement target is met as per the Council approved EAB Management Plan.

Replacement trees are chosen from a wide variety of species to ensure a sustainable and diverse urban forest canopy and 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

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tree species that have been recommended by City of Hamilton's Arborists for the site-specific conditions.

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

Year	Removal Target	Actual Removals	Actual Replacements
2013	2,300	1,153	586
2014	2,300	3,783	1,860
2015	2,300	4,128	3,777
2016	2,300	3,013	1,096
2017	2,300	3,347	1,087
2018	2,300	2,765	1,978
2019	2,000	2,075	3,409
2020	1,800	TBD	3,590 (est)
Totals	17,600	20,264	17,383

Included in the EAB Management Plan is the treatment of Ash trees that are in good condition and prominent within the landscape. These trees are treated with TreeAzin, an injectable pesticide, that can slow the spread of EAB if treatment starts before the insects cause significant damage. 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. In 2019, 122 trees met the condition threshold and therefore warranted follow up treatment. Inspections will commence in Spring 2020 to determine if the 122 should be injected again this year.

As of January 2, 2020, life-to-date removal targets were exceeded by 4,164 trees. Targets for 2020 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.