

Forestry Program and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Update

November 16, 2021

City Council Meeting – Workshop



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Forestry Program – Related City Code and Guidelines

- 90.05 Regulation of Grass, Weeds, And Trees Along Streets, updated March 1995 (revisions proposed)
- 130.15 Shade Tree Disease And Shade Tree Pest Control And Prevention, updated December 2009 (revisions proposed)
- 151.113 Tree Preservation Regulations, updated April 2018 (no revisions proposed)
- 151.113 Tree Preservation Regulations, updated April 2018 (no revisions proposed)
- Forestry Specifications Manual, adopted 2009 (revisions proposed)
- Emerald Ash Borer Plan, adopted 2015 (update to plan proposed)



City Code 90.05 Regulation of Grass, Weeds, And Trees Along Streets - Proposed Revision

City Code indicates that all private trees that overhang public right-of-way/easement are considered private. Responsibility to trim and all expenses to trim overhanging branches are to be borne by the property owner and/or assessed to owner.

- Issue: Practice is for city to maintain overhanging branches as part of its routine canopy tree trimming program. City also trims hazard overhanging limbs of private trees if owner does not. City has not assessed owners for this work.
- Proposed Revision: Revise City Code 90.05 to reflect current practice and not assess these costs to property owner.

City Code 130.15 Shade Tree Disease and Shade Tree Pest Control and Prevention - Proposed Revision

City Code defines nuisance trees as trees that are infected with a disease or pest. When these nuisances occur and/or result in a dead or dying tree that poses a hazard, the city has the authority to require the property owner to remove the tree or limb.

- Issue: Sometimes difficult to identify a tree disease or pest. Hazard remains regardless of identification, but city can only require the removal with a specific disease or pest being identified.
- Proposed Revision: Revise City Code 130.15 to include a “dead or dying” tree as a nuisance, without the requirement of identifying a specific disease or pest.

***Note:** City does not have a proactive private tree inspection program, but rather a reactive, complaint driven program.



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Forestry Specification Manual - Proposed Revisions

Forestry Specification Manual was originally adopted in 2009.

- Issue: Miscellaneous items need updating, mostly routine.
- Proposed Revisions:
 - Technical and current practice updates
 - Proposed City Code 90.05 and 130.15 updates
 - Other miscellaneous updates
 - Recommended Tree Species list update (Appendix A)
 - Undesirable Species list update (Appendix B)

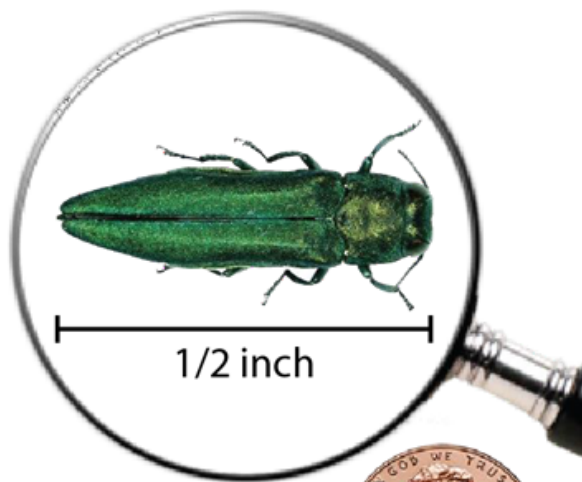
Emerald Ash Borer – Plan Update

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Plan was originally adopted in 2015.

- Issue: At the time, EAB did not have a known presence in Shakopee. EAB identified in January 2021 → dead trees.
- EAB Ash Tree Plan Update:
 - Treatment – added 30 trees, most notably in Lions Park
 - Removal – plan for 200 tree removals annual (4-5 years)
 - Replacement – maintain current program, 150 trees planted annually (increase planted trees as budget allows)

Emerald Ash Borer

Adult beetle



1/2 inch



Actual size



Larva of Emerald Ash Borer
(immature beetle).



EAB damage to inner bark of ash tree.



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EAB is spread to new areas through flight of insects and transport of infested firewood/woody material from ash trees.

History

- First identification in US was Michigan in 2002.
 - Likely initially showed up in 1990s
- First confirmed EAB in Minnesota May 14, 2009
- First confirmed EAB in Shakopee January 15, 2021

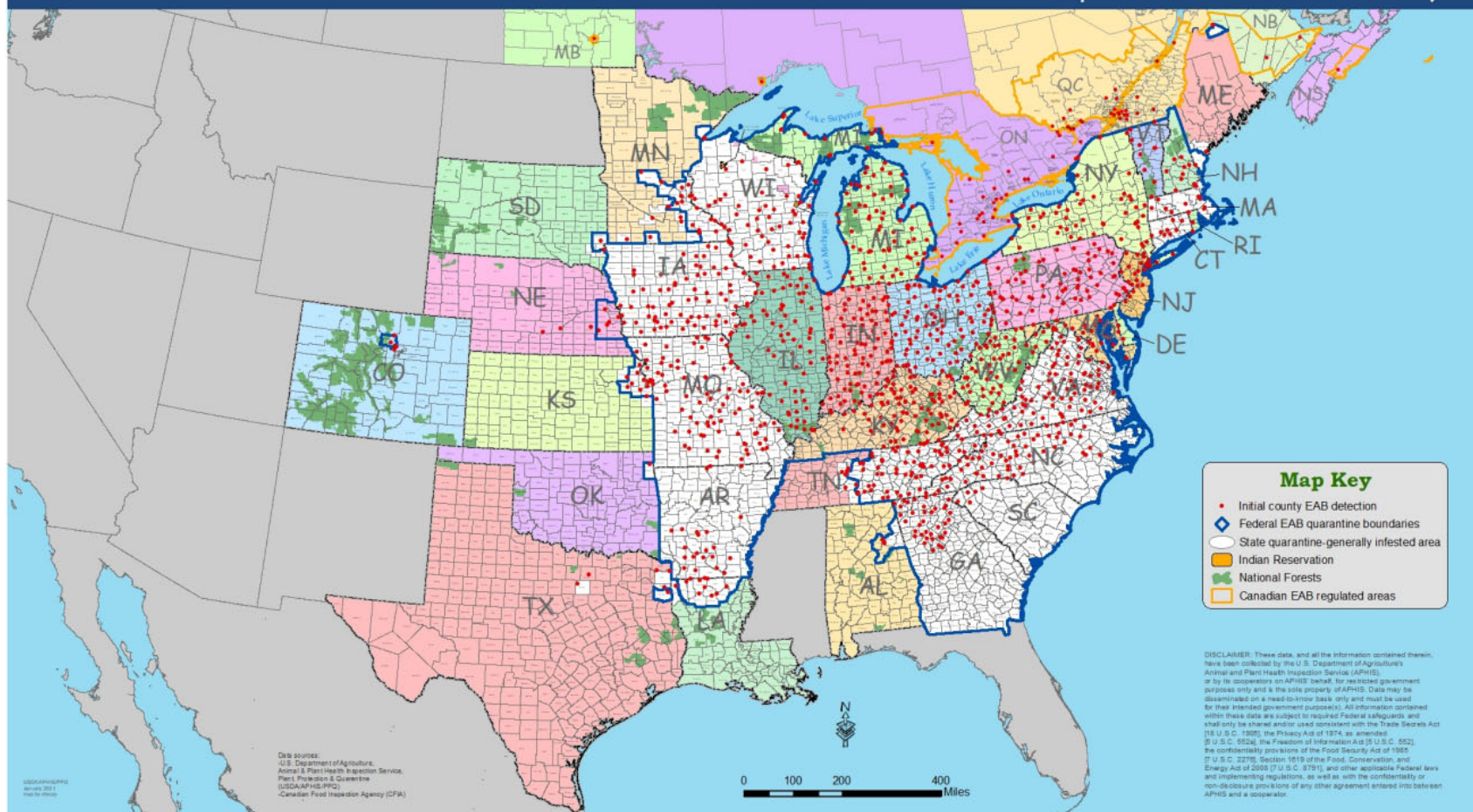


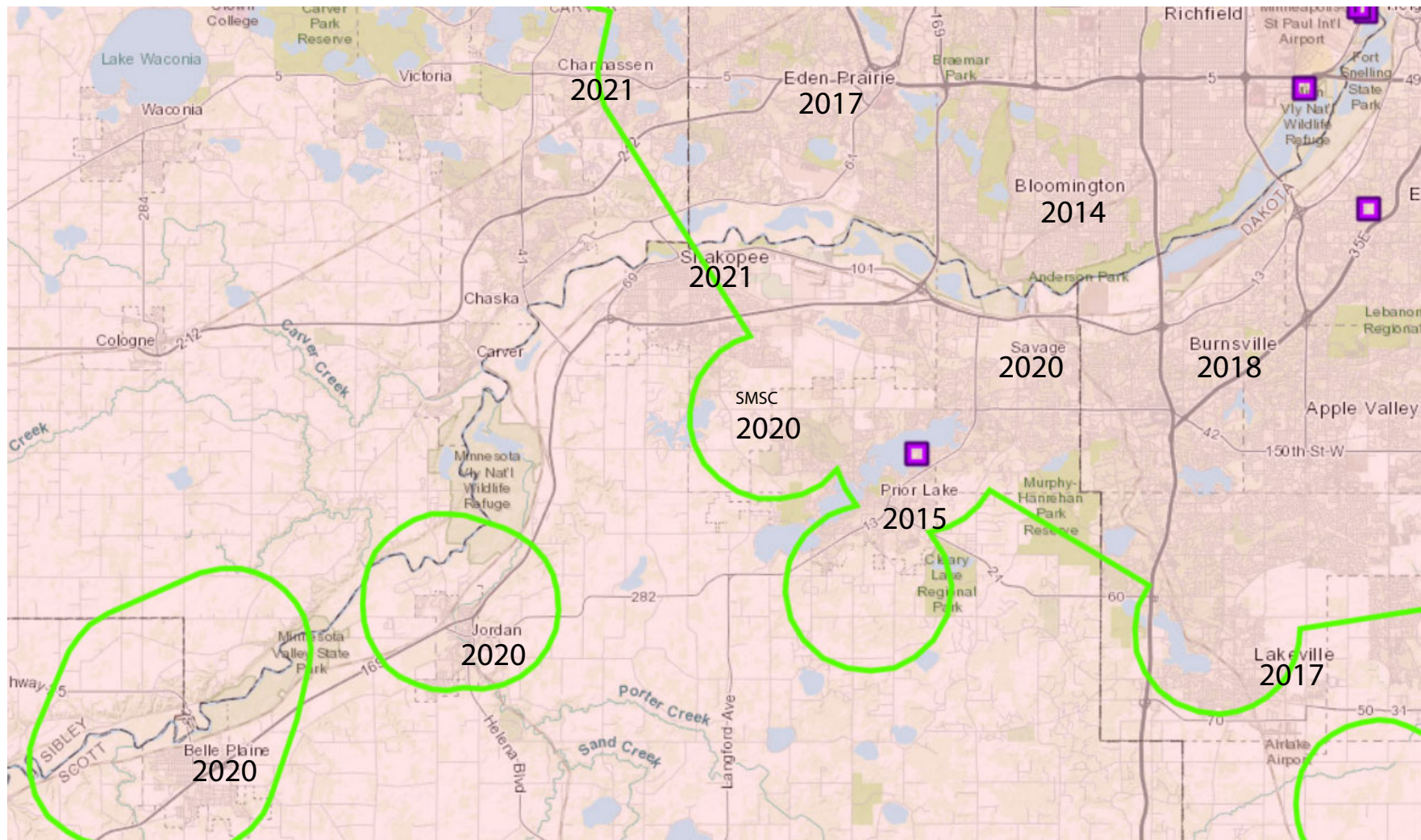
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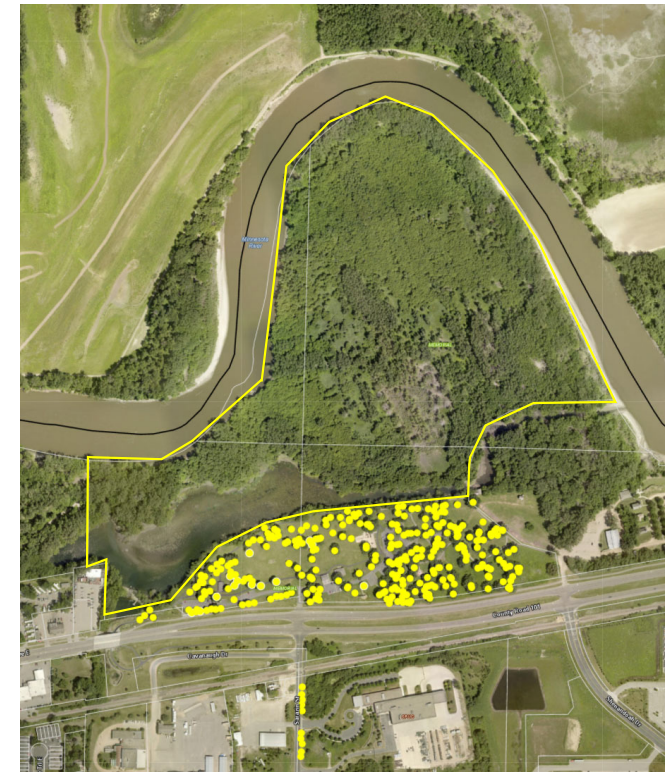
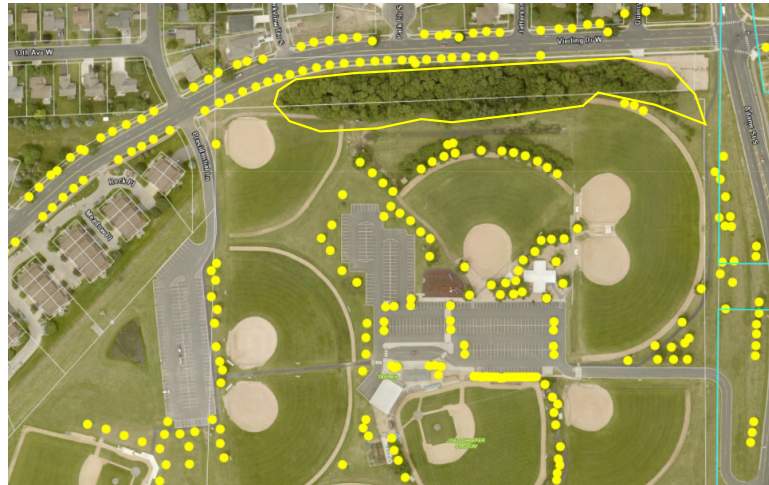


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Shakopee Tree Overview

- Total Inventoried Trees 8,248 (Parks and Boulevards)
- 1,437 are ash trees (17%)
 - 280 are located in parks
 - 1,157 are boulevard trees
- Wooded/natural areas not inventoried



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2021 Public Ash Tree Inspection



Healthy
72%
(1034 trees)



EAB Confirmed
Less than 1%
(7 trees)



Declining
27 %
(385 trees)



- Less than 1% Dead (9 trees)
- Less than 1% Hazard (2 trees)



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2021 Public Ash Tree Inspection

- Wooded/Natural Areas (not inventoried)



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Shakopee EAB Plan Overview

- City Council approved current EAB plan on April 21, 2015
 - Treat best and replace remaining



Goal with plan was to minimize this impact



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EAB Ash Tree Treatment

- Pesticide Treatment
 - Three-year rotation treating 542 trees
 - 61 located in parks (added 30 in 2021)
 - 481 located along boulevards
- Total ash untreated 895

Table 1. Numbers of ash trees treated by year.

Treatment Year	Phase	Treated Trees
2016, 2019	1	200
2017, 2020	2	166
2018, 2021	3	176



Lions Park

- 102 Ash Trees
- 24 treated



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EAB Ash Tree Removal

Looking back...

- 480 trees removed (2015-2020)
 - Poor quality, conflict with utilities, dead
- 2021
 - 4 removed in 2021 due to EAB identification
 - 7 more EAB have been identified and 9 dead trees identified.



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EAB Ash Tree Removal

Looking forward...

- Public Park and Boulevard Trees
 - Proactive removals, 200 annually (even if untreated public ash tree is healthy)
 - 4-5 years to remove the untreated ash trees
 - 100 city staff removals, no budget change. Work completed fall/winter, dependent on weather.
 - 100 contracted removals, cost approximately \$50,000
 - Grant opportunities (city received notice of \$100,000 grant award for EAB program for 2022-23)
- Public Natural/Wooded Area Ash Trees
 - No removal of infested or dead trees unless they are identified to be hazards.
- Private Trees
 - Notification for removals that are reactionary or as needed based on complaints and/or identified hazards. (If limited where city assistance is required, No Budget Change)



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Ash Tree Replacement/Planting

Current tree planting program summary

- Purchase 250 trees annually (this does not include construction projects)
- 150 trees for reforestation (parks and boulevards)
- 100 trees made available for the annual resident tree sale provided at a discount to residents

Continue replacement/planting of approximately 150 *public* trees annually. (No Impact to Tree Fund)

- Seasonal employees dedicated to watering and keeping new trees alive. Increasing tree planting may result in additional seasonal staffing and costs.
- 150 trees estimated to cost \$22,500 (\$150 per tree)
- Increase as budget allows



Questions? Discussion



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