



MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** March 21, 2022

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers  
Dave Perrault, City Administrator

**FROM:** David Swearingen, P.E. Public Works Director / City Engineer

**SUBJECT:** Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan Discussion

Budgeted Amount:	Actual Amount:	Funding Source:
N/A	N/A	N/A

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**Council Should Consider**

- Council should consider the revisions of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan.
- Council should also consider contracting with Rainbow Tree Care to provide a discount to residents to treat existing ash trees on private property.

**Background**

Refer to Attachment A, Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan, for the background and history of EAB.

In 2016 and 2018, the City of Arden Hills treated a list of 37 trees with injected insecticide. The insecticide is 99% effective when injected into healthy Ash trees and will protect for 2 growing seasons. In 2021, the City treated 46 ash trees within public property for a total of \$3,895 and will continue to treat these trees every other year as needed.

On August 16, 2021 at the Council Work Session, staff brought this topic up for discussion to review the City’s current adopted Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan (2012) and receive feedback from Council if revisions to the plan were desired to better correlate with actions the City is taking on ash trees. Staff took the feedback from that Work Session and updated the plan which can be reviewed in Attachment A. Revisions included updates to more current information about EAB but mainly updates to the action the City is taking to respond to EAB.

At the February 22, 2022 Work Session, Council directed staff to retrieve a previous contract that included a discount to Arden Hills residents. This can be seen in Attachment C. Staff was also directed to bring back the quotes gathered for the treatment work contracted in 2021. This can be seen in Attachment D.

### **Discussion**

The intention of this discussion is to review the updated EAB Management Plan and provide an opportunity for Council feedback. Once staff has direction from Council on the plan, it will be brought forward at a regular meeting to formally adopt.

Currently, the City does not directly provide assistance or programs to residents related to diseased tree control. The City promotes Friends of the Parks and Trails Annual Tree Sale but, in 2020 and 2021, that program was suspended due to challenges from Covid, and after review of their website, there is no information shown for 2022. In 2021, the City contracted with Rainbow Tree Care to treat the City owned ash trees. Staff inquired if they provide services at a discount to residents to which they replied they offer approximately 30% off their standard rate when partnered with a City. After further discussion with Rainbow Tree Care, they stated their list pricing is \$9.20 per inch. They can offer \$6.70 per inch for residents and \$5 for the city in 2022 (cities get an even larger discount).

Attachment C is a copy of their professional services agreement. Staff is requesting direction from Council if there is interest in this program.

### **Budget Impact**

N/A

### **Attachments**

Attachment A – Revised Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan  
Attachment B – Current Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan (2012)  
Attachment C – 2014 Tree service contract  
Attachment D – Contractor quotes from 2021  
Attachment E – PSA with Rainbow Tree Care