



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
LEADING BOLDLY, WORKING TOGETHER*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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DATE: June 4, 2014

Phone: 815-987-5763

PUBLIC WORKS TO REMOVE BLIGHTED ASH TREES

Rockford, IL – Beginning the week of June 9, 2014 the Public Works Forestry Division will begin an aggressive removal program of city owned ash trees; targeting Ash Trees with 50% or more of their leaf canopy showing signs of distress. The tree removal program is a result of the destructive effects of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) disease.

EAB was confirmed within the City of Rockford in July of 2011 by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Until now, the effects of this beetle have been minimal, however it has become apparent that it is becoming more widespread and is causing dramatic canopy loss in many of area ash trees. Although the Forestry Division has treated approximately 10% of the city owned ash tree population, the remaining 7000 ash trees will eventually all be removed.

The criteria the Forestry Division is following at this time in determining which trees will be removed will be an assessment to determine if the tree has declined to the point of 50% or more canopy loss. If it is determined that this is the case, the tree will be marked for removal and city staff will provide notification to the resident or homeowner at the time the tree is marked in the form of a letter left at the residence. Contact information is provided on this notification in the event respective residents have questions. City owned ash trees are defined as those trees found in the public right-of-way or on city-owned property.

Included in a separate attachment to this press release is a citywide ash tree density map showing the areas of the city that will suffer the greatest impact as they have the highest concentrations of city owned ash trees. However in the short term, the areas most affected that will be targeted for removals this summer are:

Area bordered by Samuelson Rd., S. Mulford Rd., Broadway, and Kishwaukee St.

Area bordered by Auburn St., the Rock River, Elmwood Rd., and N. Central Ave.

Although these areas are the primary concern at this time, it does not preclude the Forestry Division from expanding the target areas as necessary in order to remove additional ash trees as they fall into decline. Updates will be provided at various stages of this ongoing removal process as deemed necessary by the Public Works Dept.

Citizens may call the Forestry office at 815 987-5764 if questions arise or to request a replacement tree.

For further information please contact:

Mark Stockman (815) 987-5731

Tim Hanson (815) 985-4635

Please see Appendix A & B on the following pages.

Appendix A



Healthy Green Ash Tree

Appendix B



Green Ash Tree with 50% to 60% Canopy Loss