



## **Hazardous Tree Removal**

In March, 2011, the Village of Deerfield discovered the local presence of a highly destructive insect known as the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The Emerald Ash Borer is a small, metallic green, non-native invasive pest whose larvae feast on the trunks of ash trees, ultimately disrupting their ability to transport nutrients and causing the tree's eventual decline and death. The EAB infestation in Deerfield was discovered near Lake Cook Road and Wilmot Road where an ash tree was found with the tell tale symptoms (see back of page for typical signs of EAB infestation). The Village then authorized an inventory of all ash trees within the public right of way. The Deerfield Park District intends to perform a separate evaluation of the ash trees on their property.

The Village's certified arborists have completed the ash tree survey. From that it has been determined that a number of the parkway ash trees are unhealthy and pose a hazard. When ash trees decline and die, they become brittle and dry very quickly, compared to other tree species. This is why it is important to remove dead or declining ash trees in a timely manner.

We regret to inform you that the survey identified a Village ash tree on your parkway which is unhealthy and/or poses a hazard. The Village or its contractor will be removing this tree within the next few weeks. If this tree is large it will be a drastic change in the appearance of the street and your property. There will be more daylight reaching nearby plants and structures. Feel free to inform your neighbors of these pending impacts. Though no conclusive evidence of EAB was found in this tree during the inventory, it does not mean EAB is not present. The tree stump removal is a separate activity and will be completed at a later date. The disturbed parkway will be restored with black dirt and grass seed.

If you have ash trees on your property we encourage you to inspect them for signs of EAB. For your reference, we have included ash tree identification on the reverse side of this letter.

The Village has a cooperative tree planting program called the 50-50 Tree Program where the homeowner and Village share in the purchase of the parkway tree. Deerfield residents are encouraged to participate in this program to replace the removed tree. If you think your parkway ash tree will eventually be removed you may want to consider planting a new tree near the one to be removed. It will be better able to fill in the void when the ash tree is removed. Trees contribute to maintaining higher property value and beautify the Village. This 50-50 program is offered for both spring and fall planting. Please contact the Engineering Department for a 50-50 Parkway Tree Program Information Packet. Email your request to [engineering@deerfield.il.us](mailto:engineering@deerfield.il.us) or telephone Michelle at 847.317.2490.

If you have any questions or concerns about the ash tree removal please telephone Public Works at 847-317-7245 or via email at [publicworks@deerfield.il.us](mailto:publicworks@deerfield.il.us). For more information on EAB please visit the Village of Deerfield website at [www.deerfield.il.us](http://www.deerfield.il.us).

**\*Note:** Homeowners are responsible for locating and notifying the Village about their water (irrigation lines/ heads), electrical (outdoor lighting/ dog containment) and gas (gas lights) lines in the right of way, prior to tree removal. These uses are just a few examples. The Village of Deerfield will not be responsible for damage to private improvements, vegetation or private walkways and fences resulting from tree removal, restoration and/ or re-planting. Please locate all facilities prior to the work.

Many good resources about ash trees and EAB exist on the internet. Here are some excerpts from the Morton Arboretum at [www.mortonarb.org](http://www.mortonarb.org).

### **Trees on Private Property**

There are may be many thousands of large and small ash trees on private property. No reliable inventory exists, and ash density varies by neighborhood. Property owners are urged to monitor their trees for EAB. The decision to treat, remove, or to retain private trees rests with the property owner. Residents should consider many variables when evaluating options, including tree size, location, and condition; access to the tree; potential targets should the tree fail; property value; shade, heating, and cooling values; treatment techniques, efficacy, and costs; proximity of EAB infestation; and intangible values.

It would be prudent for residents to establish a relationship with an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist now, in the event that ash evaluation, treatment, or removal is desired in the future. Contractors should be able to provide proof of liability insurance and worker's compensation coverage. In order to comply with the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) the contractor must have signed the State's EAB Compliance Agreement. Please reference [www.agr.state.il.us](http://www.agr.state.il.us) for a list of IDA compliant contractors in our area. The City also encourages residents to replace trees lost with species appropriate for the site, or to plant new trees in advance of EAB infestation and ash removal as a way of preserving the tree lined streets.

Each tree to be removed on private property does require a permit if larger than 8 inches D.B.H. (D.B.H. is diameter at breast height or 4.5 feet above grade.) The permit can be filled out at the Village Hall, Public Works or on-line. The fee is waived for ash trees.

Characteristics of trees infested with EAB include the presence of sucker growth or 'water sprouts', dieback from the top of the tree downward, woodpecker damage, S-shaped feeding galleries, splits in the tree bark and D-shaped borer exit holes.