



City of Burnsville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BURNSVILLE PREPARES FOR ARRIVAL OF EMERALD ASH BORER

Recently Approved Plan Dedicates Funds for Treatment, Removal of Public Trees

A little bug can do a lot of damage – which is why the City of Burnsville recently approved a plan to protect a portion of the City’s trees from the invasive Emerald Ash Borer.

While the Emerald Ash Borer has not yet been found in Dakota County, Burnsville City officials are preparing for its inevitable arrival. The plan, which was developed by City staff in conjunction with project consultant Rainbow Treecare, was approved by the City Council in April and will dedicate funding over the next 10 years to help protect some existing ash trees on public property, remove others that become infested and plant new trees.

The City has approximately 3,000 ash trees in its boulevards, 930 in parks and 14,300 in public woodlands. These 18,000+ public ash trees, in addition to the more than 22,000 ash trees found on private property, are all at risk if and when the ash borer enters Burnsville.

The dedicated funds will allow the City to treat 2,865 “legacy” ash trees in parks and boulevards prior to the arrival of the ash borer. It will also cover the removal of 1,100 poor condition ash trees on public property – 50 percent of which will be replaced with new trees.

Remaining trees would be left untreated, and only removed if necessary for safety reasons. The City plans to begin treating healthy trees in 2014, and remove approximately 150 poor condition trees in 2013.

Trees on private property will not be part of the City’s treatment or removal plan. Residents who wish to treat private trees can do so using the City’s contracted price beginning in 2014. Residents will also be encouraged to plant new trees, and volunteer to pay for treatment of existing ash trees in the public right-of-way in their neighborhoods. Residents are also reminded that ANY tree work done in the City must be done with a permit by a City-licensed tree contractor.

For more information on the City’s Emerald Ash Borer plan call the Forestry Department at 952-895-4508 or visit www.burnsville.org/EAB.

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