

SUBJECT: Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan – End of Program Update

TO: Council Information Package

FROM: Public Works
Roads, Parks and Forestry

Report Number: PWS-10-26

Wards Affected: All

Date to Committee: N/A

Date to Council: N/A

CIP Date 1/17/2025

Purpose:

This memo will serve as a final update with respect to the council approved 10-year management program for emerald ash borer (EAB) infested trees.

Background:

Since 2009, staff have been actively engaged in planning and management of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), as the invasive pest has devastated hundreds of millions of trees throughout Ontario, Quebec, and the United States.

The City's EAB management program concluded at the end of 2024. As part of the Council approved program, an annual operating budget of \$861,000 (funded from the tax base), has been committed to manage the removal, treatment, stumping, and replacement tree planting along roadways and manicured parks within the urban boundary.

In accordance with the Council approved Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP), the annual EAB funding was reallocated in 2025 to support UFMP initiatives and close service level gaps in forestry preventative maintenance, invasive species monitoring/management and planting programs.

Program Achievements:

The following is a list of accomplishments achieved over the 10-year term of the program:

- Approximately 11,000 ash trees have been removed from urban streets and parks. Another 2,800 have been removed in City-owned woodlands and rural environments which was unplanned and unbudgeted.
- Approximately 8,200 trees have been replanted through EAB program funding, and an additional 2,600 trees have been replaced with funding through the annual operating budget. The remaining 200 trees will be planted in 2025 to ensure the 1:1 removal to replacement ratio commitment is delivered upon.
- Management of ash trees in naturalized areas and woodlands has been completed on a case-by-case basis as they are brought to the attention of Forestry staff. This work was out of scope of the original management plan but has been addressed due to safety and risks to property. Initial field assessments have identified approximately 750+ moderate to large sized ash in woodland along property lines requiring further follow-up and risk assessment.

EAB Program at a Glance:

	<u>2014-2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Total Quantity</u>
Injections¹	5,668	230	225	214	87	21	9	6,454
Removals (Urban Street & Park)²	7,918	727	926	833	208	282	168	11,062
Removals (Woodlots)	1,731	0	173	417	151	227	67	2,766
Stumping (# of Trees)	4,570	914	1,020	600	927	297	306	8,634
Planting (EAB)	2,888	1,247	0	550	756	1,305	1,428	8,174

Planting (Non-EAB Budget)	0	0	0	563	563	776	714	2,616
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Note:

1) Injection quantities from 2014-2018 are approximate

2) Removal quantities do not include rural removals

Ongoing Invasive Species Management:

Despite the successful completion of the EAB management plan, invasive species will continue to pose a threat to the City’s Urban Forest (e.g. Sudden Oak Wilt, European buckthorn, Asian long-horned beetle). Ongoing monitoring and management of these pests is critical to ensure that substantive pest populations cannot gain a stronghold on the City’s urban forest, causing irreparable ecological damage, and financial strain to the City.

As threats arise, responses will be addressed as necessary through funding under the annual operating budget. Council and the public will be advised where threats are assessed as significant, and which require special response programs to be established.

Memo Details

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Attachments:

A.

B.

C.

Notifications:

Name

Title

Contact Info.

Memo Approval:

All memos are reviewed and approved by the Commissioner, Head of Corporate Affairs, Chief Financial Officer, and Commissioner of Legal and Legislative Services/City Solicitor.