



Public Works Street Tree Information

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A Few Frequently Asked Questions.....

Q: Who is responsible for the tree/s in front of my house?

A: Depending upon the location of the right-of-way, either Deerfield Township or the private property owner. In most neighborhoods within Deerfield Township, the right-of-way stops approximately six inches (6") behind the curb. However, in some of our older neighborhoods, the right-of-way extends beyond six inches (6"). If the tree is located WITHIN the right-of-way, then the tree is the responsibility of Deerfield Township. If the tree is located OUTSIDE of the right-of-way, then the private property owner is responsible for the tree.



Q: How do I find out if I am the owner of a tree in front of my house?

A: You may go to Warren County Property Search and see where the right-of-way is located in your neighborhood: <http://webmap1.co.warren.oh.us/flexviewer/index.html?config=config-auditor.xml>, or contact Billy Highfill at 513-701-6978 for assistance.

Q: Will Deerfield Township be replanting new trees to replace the dead trees they are removing?

A: No, Deerfield Township will not be replanting any street trees within the public right-of-way; nor should residents due to liability and the unauthorized placement of objects within the public right of way. If residents wish to replant trees, it should be done outside of the public right or way.





Street Tree Information

A Few Frequently Asked Questions... Continued

Did you know...

Since its discovery in southeastern Michigan in 2002, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetle has been found in:

- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- New Hampshire
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin

Q: The tree along my property frontage is within the public right-of-way, but I have been treating the tree. Will Deerfield Township still be removing it?

A: If a property owner has and is currently treating an ash tree along their frontage, but it's within the public right-of way, as long as the tree has more than 50% of its canopy, Deerfield Township plans to allow the property owner to continue to maintain that tree if they so choose. If the canopy is less than 50%, removal of the tree will be scheduled by the Township.

Q: When will the removal process begin and who will be doing the work?

A: Deerfield Township started in early 2014 by removing several trees identified by the Ohio Dept. of Forestry as imminent hazards. We will continue removing dead trees in some subdivisions this Fall with our Public Works Department. In 2015, we will be competitively bidding the bulk of the dead tree removal; but some removal will still be performed by Township crews.

Q: How will street trees that are on private property (outside the public right-of-way) be handled? Can the Township remove them as well?

A: If a dead/dying street tree that is located outside of the public right-of-way is declared to be a hazard to the traveling public—meaning, it has the potential to fall in the roadway—Deerfield Township will send a letter to the property owner asking them to remove the tree within a certain time period. If the tree is not removed within the specified time period, Deerfield Township has the authority to remove the tree according to the Ohio Revised Code and the Township's adopted tree policy. All costs associated with the removal will be billed to the private property owners in accordance with the Township's tree policy.

Q: Who do I contact at Deerfield Township for additional information?

- Eric Reiners—Director of Public Works—513-701-6974

- Billy Highfill— PW Project Coordinator—513-701-6978



The Scoop on Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an insect from Asia that is attacking the Midwest's ash trees. EAB is a member of the metallic wood boring beetle family. It attacks all native, North American ash trees regardless of the tree's health. Once an EAB infestation occurs, it kills the tree in three to five years.

EAB is believed to have arrived in the United States in shipping pallets or cargo from eastern Asia approximately 10 years before it was discovered. It was first identified in the Detroit, Michigan area in July 2002, and then in Lucas County, Ohio, in February 2003.

EAB is a slightly illusive insect because it spends the majority of its life under the bark. The larvae develop beneath the bark of ash trees and are flat, creamy white, with bell-shaped segments, and are about an inch long. Adult EAB are dark metallic green and a half-inch long.

EAB Life Cycle

From late spring through autumn, adult beetles mate, and the female lays 60-90 individual eggs on ash tree bark. The eggs hatch 7 to 10 days later, and the larvae tunnel into the tree just beneath the bark where they feed on the live tissue of the tree. The larvae's S-shaped feeding pattern, called *galleries*, disrupts the transport of water and nutrients, eventually killing the tree. Over the winter, the larvae remain under the bark. When warmer weather arrives, larvae enter the pupal stage and then transform into adults. The beetles emerge through the bark leaving behind 1/8 inch, distinctive D-shaped exit holes. The adults feed on leaves before mating and laying eggs, starting the cycle over again.



How to Tell if Your Tree Has EAB

There are several things that may indicate your ash tree has Emerald Ash Borer:

- Branch dieback at the top of the tree
- Vertical splits in the bark
- Sprouting on the trunk and at the base of the tree
- Scratched bark from woodpeckers feeding on the larvae
- Distinct 1/8 inch, D-shaped exit holes in the bark
- S-shaped, sawdust-packed galleries under the bark

EAB is very difficult to detect until a tree has been infested for at least a year because the larvae feed from the top of the tree first. When looking for EAB, it is important to peel off the bark to look for the larvae and the galleries.

EAB Contacts - To learn more about EAB, please contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture, 1-888-OHIO-EAB, or visit www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab

Planting a New tree? Here are a Few Recommendations...

by: Wendi Van Buren, Regional Urban Forester, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Planting plans are always about diversity. It is by planting multiple kinds of tree species that the community protects itself from losing mass amounts of tree canopy, and all the benefits that trees offer the residents from a pest or disease like EAB, ALB, gypsy moth, etc. Industry standards say to not plant more than 10% of any one variety of tree. This means that any type of tree Deerfield Township already has on the streets should not be planted. There are *lots* of great tree species that will do well in a large tree lawn, with no utility wires.

Don't Plant:

- Little-leaf Linden
- London Planetree
- Red Maple
- Silver Maple
- Flowering Pear
- Flowering Plum
- Sweetgum

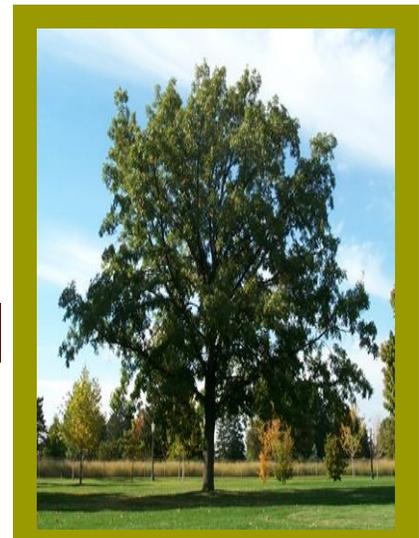
Instead consider Planting:

- Ginkgo or Maidenhair (male only)
- Thornless Honey Locust
- Kentucky Coffee Tree
- Tuliptree
- Black Gum
- Swamp White Oak
- Bur Oak



Pictured above: Swamp White

Pictured below: Bur Oak



Remember not all of these trees will work for your needs, and you need to do a bit of research on them before you begin planting them. There are always pros and cons for each kind of tree.

Remember that it is the large mature tree species that will offer the most benefits to your neighborhoods and community—as well as being the most cost effective choice for long term maintenance. To aid in your research, please take a moment to read [“The Large Tree Argument; The case for large trees vs. small trees”](#) article that is linked on the Township’s website, choosedeerfield.com.

As noted earlier, we are working with Wendi Van Buren from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to help develop and execute a project of this scope. Wendi is willing to share her expertise and experience with Deerfield Township and our residents during this process. For Wendi’s assistance, please first contact Billy Highfill (513) 701-6978, or bhigh@deerfieldtwp.com.



Emerald Ash Borer Impacts All Ohioans

Nurseries Stuck with Thousands of Trees. Woodland Owners at Risk of Losing Timber Investment. Heating and Cooling Costs on the Rise. These headlines may sound like the effects of a dwindling economy, but all of this is occurring because of a little green insect called Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). EAB's impact, both environmental and economic, is being felt all over Ohio. In fact, nearly one out of every 10 trees in Ohio is an ash, making the species an important component in Ohioans' yards, parks, tree-lined streets, and rural forests.

Ash is a major wetland and waterway tree, keeping our streams and rivers cool and clean. Tourist areas, campgrounds, parks, and schoolyards all are facing the loss of the shade and character visitors love. Ash offers forest diversity, valuable hardwood lumber, and protection for a number of other forest plants and animals. Not to mention, ash is a popular landscape tree. Community streets, parks, and yards all over Ohio planted with ash trees are facing the loss of property value, summer cooling effects, and massive removal costs as a result of EAB.

Estimated costs to Ohio residents and businesses for removal, disposal, and replacement of ash trees are in the billions of dollars over the next decades. Individuals need to keep a close eye on their trees and take the best action for the situation. Ash is a tricky species due to its structural nature: as it declines and dies, large branches break or the entire tree topples over soon after death. Therefore, the safety hazard created by EAB in communities littered with dead ash trees creates a costly and dangerous problem for municipal leaders and homeowners. Removing dead and dying trees cost significantly more to remove because of the unpredictable nature of the wood. Safely removing trees around homes, buildings, and backyards compounds the cost of dead tree removal. To head off these concerns, several Ohio communities are working to systematically remove ash trees ahead of the borer.

Respect the Quarantines- Don't Move Firewood

Ohio Department of Agriculture's (ODA) quarantine prohibits the movement of all non-coniferous firewood, ash trees and all parts of ash trees from being moved out of quarantined areas. Moving non-coniferous firewood or any ash tree material out of an EAB quarantined area may result in fines up to \$4,000. The Emerald Ash Borer Task Force encourages everyone to buy firewood locally and burn what you buy.

For questions about the EAB quarantine, please contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 1-888-OHIO-EAB or visit www.ohioagriculture.gov/eab. If you are interested in rural or community forest management assistance, please contact the Ohio Division of Forestry at 1-877-247-8733 or visit www.ohiodnr.com/forestry. For questions regarding yard trees and insecticide recommendations please contact your local Ohio State University Extension office or visit ashalert.osu.edu.

- EAB will attack any ash tree.
- The beetle can travel 1/2 mile on its own but can be moved long distances by human activity
- Symptoms can take 2-3 years to become visually apparent
- Untreated trees will die 4-6 years after the initial infestation



Removing an entire tree from your property?

Please keep in mind that if you have a whole tree cut down on your property, Deerfield Township WILL NOT chip and remove the whole tree. Our brush removal service is intended **ONLY for normal yard waste, and trimmings.** **Brush removal is not intended for whole tree removal.**

If residents are required to have an entire dead tree removed, they must dispose of the material on their own. The Township will not chip entire trees as part of our brush removal service.

If you have questions regarding our brush removal service, please contact:

Jim Houston or Billy Highfill at (513) 701-6958



<--CORRECT way
to stack brush for
removal.

INCORRECT -->



Last Call for Brush... October 27th - October 31st

A friendly reminder that Deerfield Township brush pick-up runs annually, from April through October.

Brush will be picked up Monday through Friday during the last **full week** of each month. Brush must be placed at the curb on Monday of the designated brush week by **NO LATER THAN 7:00 a.m.** Our Road Crews drive each street within Deerfield Township **one time** during this week. Due to the volume of brush, crews **will not** go back to your street if you place it at the curb past the deadline or after they have gone through.