



City of Oak Park Heights

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PRESS RELEASE

EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) DISCOVERED IN OAK PARK HEIGHTS

Post Date: MONDAY, JULY 12TH 2021

OAK PARK HEIGHTS, MN – The City Arborist, Lisa Danielson recently discovered signs of the emerald ash borer (EAB) while performing a requested tree inspection on private property. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) confirmed emerald ash borer presence in the City of Oak Park Heights on Monday, July 12th 2021. Some tell-tale signs of EAB infestation in ash trees are woodpecker holes, thinning canopies, and epicormic sprouts.

The City of Oak Park Heights encourages residents to look for signs of the emerald ash borer (EAB).

There are several things residents should look for when checking for emerald ash borer.

- **Be sure you've identified an ash tree.** This is an important first step since EAB only feeds on ash trees. Ash have opposite branching – meaning branches come off the trunk directly across from each other. On older trees, the bark is in a tight, diamond-shaped pattern. Younger trees have a relatively smooth bark.
- **Look for woodpecker damage.** Woodpeckers like EAB larvae and woodpecker holes may indicate the presence of EAB.
- **Check for bark cracks.** EAB larvae tunneling under the bark can cause the bark to split open, revealing the larval (S-shaped) tunnels underneath.

Contact the City Arborist. If you feel your ash tree may be infested with EAB, please contact Lisa Danielson, City of Oak Park Heights Arborist, 651-439-4439 or ldanielson@cityofoakparkheights.com



Emerald ash borer larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves nutrients up and down the trunk. Ash trees in Minnesota are highly susceptible to the destruction caused by this invasive insect. The state has approximately one billion ash trees, the most of any state in the nation.

The biggest risk of spreading EAB comes from people unknowingly moving firewood or other ash products harboring larvae. There are three easy steps residents can take to keep EAB from spreading:

- Don't transport firewood. Buy firewood locally from approved vendors, and burn it where you buy it;
- Be aware of the quarantine restrictions. Be aware of the restrictions on movement of products such as ash trees, wood chips, and firewood; and,
- Watch your ash trees for infestation. If you think your ash tree is infested, go to <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab-info-homeowners> for resources on identifying EAB, how to hire tree care professionals, and insecticide options for protecting your ash tree.

It is also recommended to avoid trimming ash trees during the Emerald Ash Borer flight season May 1st-September 30th. This means that EAB adult beetles are emerging from infested wood or trees and flying in search of new hosts during this time.

The City has been preparing for the EAB arrival for several years and while there are limited steps to prevent community-wide infestations -the City has culled many ash trees on City properties and in the street boulevards. The City and expects to remove more in the next 24-36 months and would be replaced with a more diverse planting-type.

For more information on emerald ash borer, go to www.mda.state.mn.us/eab visit the City website www.cityofoakparkheights.com or contact the City of Oak Park Heights, Arborist Lisa Danielson at 651-439-4439 ldanielson@cityofoakparkheights.com

