



# City of Oak Park Heights

14168 Oak Park Blvd N. • Oak Park Heights, MN 55082 • Phone (651) 439-4439 • Fax 439-0574

**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

## **CITY OF OAK PARK HEIGHTS-2022 MN DNR PREPARING FOR EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) GRANT AWARD**

**Post Date: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 2022**

OAK PARK HEIGHTS, MN – The City of Oak Park Heights was recently awarded the 2022 Preparing for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. This grant will provide Oak Park Heights with \$119,597.40 that the City is to use towards:

- Costs of removal and stump grinding of 100 ash trees within City Boulevard Right-of-Ways and City Parks infested with EAB, ash trees with poor form, defects, risk factors, etc.
- Costs of planting 110 trees-replacement trees will be selected to increase diversity in the City's tree canopy to work toward the 20-10-5 guidelines

The emerald ash borer is a non-native destructive wood-boring pest of ash trees (*Fraxinus spp.*). These beetles lay their eggs in ash bark crevices. Larvae later emerge and feed underneath the bark of the ash tree before exiting the tree as adult beetles in one to two years. This process results in the death of the ash tree and leaves many ash trees posing a public hazard. Oak Park Heights has ash trees throughout the community, many of which have unfortunately been impacted by the emerald ash borer.

This grant will provide the City of Oak Park Heights with additional funding to remove these hazardous trees, plant new and diverse tree species on City property, and plan for the future of our City's tree canopy. Careful consideration will be given as to which trees to remove, with the City electing to take down those that pose the greatest hazard to the public.

The City plans to begin tree removals Fall 2022 and plans to start replanting Spring 2023 (as weather conditions permit). The work to be done through funding of this grant must be completed June 2024.

Please contact the City Arborist, Lisa Danielson with any questions regarding this grant at 651-439-4439 or email [ldanielson@cityof oakparkheights.com](mailto:ldanielson@cityof oakparkheights.com)