

CITY OF YANKTON

EMERALD ASH BORER RESPONSE PLAN MAY 2018

This plan follows information being provided by the State of South Dakota Agriculture Department, is reviewed periodically, and updated with the latest recommendations from the SD Department of Ag.

GREAT PLAINS INITIATIVE

Since the emerald ash borer (EAB) started making its way westward, South Dakota and other surrounding states have been working to prepare for the arrival of EAB. Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota joined together to create the Great Plains Tree and Forest Invasives Initiative. This is a multi-state cooperative effort for education, mitigation, and utilization.

MITIGATION AS A PART OF THE GREAT PLAINS INITIATIVE

There are things that you can do on the community level to prepare your community for the arrival of EAB.

1. Begin by taking inventory of all ash trees within your community's right-of-ways, parks, and public green spaces. This will allow you to develop budget needs for labor and equipment, should large scale ash tree removals become necessary. An ash tree's life span is 100 years.

2015 City of Yankton Data:

594 Ash trees in Street ROW (over last two years about 30 trees removed)

96 in parks (approximately 75% of these have been removed)

13 at Cemetery- as of 2018 two left.

91 on Trail System

Lewis and Clark Campground- 20% of tree inventory was Ash, but as of 2018 it is down to 5% due to ash tree removals.

2. Work with local tree care professionals, and public works officials as the first line of EAB detection.

The City of Yankton has been setting out six traps from May through August over the past few years. These traps are supplied by the SD Dept. of Agriculture. Yankton County also sets out traps and coordinates locations with the City of Yankton. The SD Dept. of Ag's website for EAB is:

<http://emeraldashborerinsouthdakota.sd.gov/>

If a person believes an ash tree on their property may be infested with EAB, they are to contact the City's Urban Forest Specialist so an on-site evaluation can be made, 605-668-5231. The South Dakota Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry can also be contacted. The Mitchell office phone number is 605-995-8189 or the Sioux Falls office phone number is 605-362-2830.

3. Establish a formal plan to record and report inventory reduction (removals) and reforestation activities.

The formal plan is to reduce the City of Yankton's ROW and public green-space ash tree inventory to zero by 2023. Approximately 100 ash trees will be removed each year starting with any that are determined to be dead, diseased, or hazardous first, then removing the smallest of ash trees based on trunk diameter, and finally removing the largest trunk diameter ash trees.

During the 2019 budget meetings that take place in May and June of 2018, a plan will be discussed to provide some financial assistance to property owners who would like to replace the ash trees that are removed from the ROW and to also offer financial assistance to any property owner who would like to plant trees in the ROW.

The City of Yankton currently has a Boulevard Tree Planting Permit (no-fee) that needs to be completed prior to planting in the ROW. The link for this document is: <http://www.cityofyankton.org/home/showdocument?id=362>

If private property owners want information on how to determine if they could or should keep current ash trees on their property, they should refer to the Nebraska Forest Service's Selecting Trees for Emerald Ash Borer Treatments, as found at this link:

<https://nfs.unl.edu/Selecting%20ash%20for%20EAB%20trt%20full%20sheet.pdf>

4. Develop a communication action plan before the arrival of EAB. This will aid your community in the event of an EAB infestation.
5. Increase tree diversity by providing alternative tree species lists and discouraging the planting of ash.

The City of Yankton currently has a Boulevard Tree Selection Guide that the general public can refer to when deciding on what trees to plant in the ROW. The link for this document is:

<http://www.cityofyankton.org/home/showdocument?id=360>

The State of South Dakota has a list of trees which may be suitable for planting in the state, depending on what area of the state you reside in. The link for this information is:

<http://sdda.sd.gov/conservation-forestry/forest-woodlands-trees/south-dakota-tree-list/#>

If you have ash trees on your property, what are your options?

- Have the ash trees removed while they are still green and can be safely climbed. This proactive option is the cheapest—once the tree gets to the 20% dieback point costs for removal will increase substantially.
- Treat the tree. This is another proactive choice that is initially cheaper, but may be more expensive in the long run since treatments need to be done approximately every three years. This must be done by a certified arborist or pesticide applicator.
- Do nothing. This reactive option will be the most expensive. Either you will pay substantially more to get the tree removed once it becomes a hazard, or it will come down on its own. Depending on the location of the tree this could lead to property damage, injury, or lawsuits. Ash trees will look alive with only 20% canopy dieback, but these trees can fail with no warning and no wind. EAB causes the loss of moisture in the ash tree and the dried wood starts to decay on the inside. “Ash snap” will be the result and it can be very dangerous.

More information and resources are available at these links:

<http://www.cityofyankton.org/departments-services/parks-recreation/yankton-parks/urban-forestry>

<http://emeraldashborerinsouthdakota.sd.gov/>