

**EMERALD ASH BORER  
TREE REMOVAL PROCESS  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**1. When will ash trees be removed in my subdivision?**

The Tinley Park Public Works Department is looking to have all Emerald Ash Borer-affected ash trees removed by October 2014. The Village of Tinley Park has 127 subdivisions, and crews could spend several months in each subdivision. Public Works will determine which subdivisions to work in based on the number of dead ash trees and their size. Some areas are more highly affected than others. There are currently 8,067 ash trees that need to be removed in the Village of Tinley Park.

**2. What is the Village doing about replacing ash trees that were infested with EAB?**

The Village Board is reviewing removal and funding options that have been presented by staff. The Village's top priority at this point is removing ash trees for safety reasons.

**3. Will the Village be able to trim dead branches away?**

It is the homeowner's responsibility to take care of tree maintenance on their private property, as well as trees that are on the parkway. If a homeowner is unable to perform trimming and maintenance activities by themselves, it may become necessary to hire a contractor to perform maintenance on their behalf.

**4. If I have a dead ash tree in my parkway, do I need to report it to the Village?**

The Village already has done a full inventory of all trees in town, so it is unnecessary to report a dead ash tree in the parkway as the Village already is aware of it.

**5. What criteria did the Village use for treatment of a parkway tree?**

Criteria are budget-driven. It is cheaper to remove a smaller tree than a larger, more established tree. Last fall, trees were selected for treatment based on good or fair conditions, as determined by a licensed arborist. In addition, these trees had to be 13 inches or more in diameter. Because they are in good or fair condition, these trees have a better chance of survival than trees that are in worse condition. Trees that qualified for treatment have already been attended to. Residents were notified in writing that their parkway tree qualified for treatment. In the instances in which homeowners were already treating their own trees, the Village's treatment was deferred.

## **6. Can the Village or the homeowner incur liability if a tree branch comes down and hurts someone, or damages property?**

The only relevant aspect of liability is if some mechanized action performed by the Village of Tinley Park caused the damages. In the case of damages being caused by the Emerald Ash Borer, the Village cannot be held responsible and has been actively pursuing a swift resolution to the problem.

- As of June 2012, Public Works or other contracted service providers began removing the most critical of diseased ash trees. There are 127 subdivisions in Tinley Park, and Public Works started in one of the oldest subdivisions, Brementowne, because of the size of the trees there, as well as the extent of their decline. Removal of trees will continue one subdivision at a time until the Village Board has reviewed other options.
- The Village has communications in place for our residents through Tinley Park's website, brochures, FAQs and individual mailings. Information includes characteristics of an infested ash tree; how to detect signs and symptoms of the beetle; stressors such as the size of the beetle (which is no larger than a penny); and a description of the size and shape of the beetle's exit hole.
- In September 2012, Davey Resource Group began an inventory of all Village trees to determine the status of about 30,000 trees.
- In May 2013, Kinnucan Tree and Landscaping was contracted to perform treatments to Emerald Ash Borer-infected trees that may eliminate further infestation. About 600 ash trees were treated at no expense to the homeowner.

## **7. How many ash trees are in the Village? Will they be removed?**

There are approximately 10,000 ash trees in the Village out of about 30,000 total trees. The Village received grant money for the purpose of determining the number of trees in Tinley Park and whether an ash tree was infested with the Emerald Ash Borer. Results of this inventory were completed last fall. All trees have been classified according to the tree status and rated in one of five conditions: good, fair, poor, critical and dead. All ash trees classified as poor or worse will be removed. (*See the graph on the next page*)

|           |          | Diameter Class (inches) |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |        |
|-----------|----------|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|--------|
|           |          | 1-3                     | 4-6   | 7-12  | 13-18 | 19-24 | 25-30 | 31-36 | 37-42 | 43+ | TOTAL  |
| Condition | Good     | 5                       | 43    | 39    | 11    | 0     | 1     | 0     | 0     | 0   | 99     |
|           | Fair     | 56                      | 698   | 1,006 | 511   | 50    | 8     | 3     | 2     | 0   | 2,334  |
|           | Poor     | 98                      | 1,282 | 3,780 | 1,812 | 242   | 34    | 5     | 3     | 1   | 7,257  |
|           | Critical | 6                       | 25    | 231   | 293   | 82    | 18    | 2     | 0     | 0   | 657    |
|           | Dead     | 6                       | 11    | 55    | 51    | 28    | 2     | 0     | 0     | 0   | 153    |
|           | TOTAL    | 171                     | 2,059 | 5,111 | 2,678 | 402   | 63    | 10    | 5     | 1   | 10,500 |

\*All numbers are estimated.

|                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>1,847 Trees (No Action)</b> | <b>586 Trees Treated</b>  |
| <b>8,067 Trees Removed</b>     | <b>10,500 Trees Total</b> |

### 8. What if I have a dead tree in the parkway that isn't an ash tree?

For many years, the Public Works Department has had a tree removal program whereby dead trees are removed throughout the winter months when snow plowing demands are at a minimum. This remains in place; however, the ash trees have added tremendously to that process. If you have a dead tree in your parkway other than ash, please contact the Public Works Department and they will process this information for removal.

### 9. What if I want to replace a tree that has been removed and that sat on Village property? Can I do it myself, and will I have to do it at my own expense?

Residents can replace trees on Village property, but they must plant a tree that is listed on the Village's species list, which is available at:

[www.tinleypark.org/index.aspx?NID=311](http://www.tinleypark.org/index.aspx?NID=311)

Residents will not be reimbursed now or in the future for trees they plant on Village property. Residents who chose to replace trees on Village property themselves must call the Public Works Department at (708) 444-5500 before they proceed.

**\*\*These FAQs will be continually updated as more information becomes available.**