

# BOULEVARD TREE MAINTENANCE AND EMERALD ASH BORER



# BOULEVARD TREE MAINTENANCE & EAB

- Why are we talking about this now?
  - EAB has been confirmed in Hastings.
  - Coincided with staff review and update of EAB Plan.
  - Staff review of ordinance and policy.
  - Development of treatment program for park ash trees.
  - Need to address maintenance of boulevard trees.
  - Approximately 22% of boulevard trees are ash.



Ashland Street



# BOULEVARD TREE MAINTENANCE & EAB

- What is Emerald Ash Borer?
  - EAB is an invasive insect that attacks and kills ash trees.
  - This pest most likely arrived in the U.S. with shipping materials in the late 1990's and early 2000's.
  - EAB has spread across the Midwest, decimating ash tree populations.



# BOULEVARD TREE MAINTENANCE & EAB

- What is the threat?
  - EAB feed on ash trees, bore into them and lay their eggs.
  - Young EAB live inside the ash trees and feed on the tree causing injury.
  - Once they mature, EAB exit the tree.



EAB Larvae



"S" shaped gallery



Emerging EAB

# BOULEVARD TREE MAINTENANCE & EAB

- Threats continued...
  - EAB infestations cause extensive damage to the host trees.
  - Within 2 or 3 years the tree will die, and will become hazardous.



# BOULEVARD TREE MAINTENANCE & EAB

- Threats continued...
  - There are approximately 1,000 ash trees within boulevards in Hastings.



# BOULEVARD TREE MAINTENANCE & EAB

- What can be done?
  - Insecticide treatments are effective.
    - Contractor applied or property owner applied treatments are available and effective.



Healthy trees protected with insecticide next to unprotected trees.



Same street six years later.



# BOULEVARD TREE MAINTENANCE & EAB

- What can be done?
  - Removals are also effective.
  - Removals dramatically change the character of a neighborhood.





# BOULEVARD TREE MAINTENANCE & EAB

- What can be done?
  - Trunk injection treatments are precise and safe.
  - Multiple small holes are drilled around the base.
  - Steel “needles” are inserted to deliver the insecticide.
  - The insecticide is “taken up” by the tree and delivered systemically within 1-2 weeks.
  - Trunk injection protection for 2 years per treatment.



Tree “IV” style treatment equipment



Pneumatic Injection style equipment



# BOULEVARD TREE MAINTENANCE & EAB

- What has the City done?
  - Boulevard and Park tree inventories
  - Updating EAB Plan
  - Communication and Education Effort
    - Began with Fall 2016 City Newsletter
    - Continues with Spring 2017 Newsletter
  - Maintaining relevant content on City website
    - Will keep information current and add additional content and resources.



# BOULEVARD TREE MAINTENANCE & EAB

- What else will the City do?
  - Will work with tree service providers on treatment cost “not to exceed” rates for Hastings residents
  - Trunk injection of 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the ash trees in parks annually
  - Will conduct periodic inventory updates



# BOULEVARD TREE MAINTENANCE & EAB

- What can property owners do?
  - Identify trees on your property and boulevard
  - Have suspicious trees evaluated
  - Proactively treat ash trees on your property and boulevard
    - Contact tree care services to get price quotes for insecticide treatment
    - Investigate treatments that can be applied by homeowners
    - Evaluate the pros and cons of treatment types
    - Maintain records of treatments and boulevard tree maintenance



# BOULEVARD TREE MAINTENANCE & EAB

- Next steps...
  - City will continue to communicate with residents
  - City will continue to help educate about EAB
  - Evaluate effectiveness of treatments
  - Re-visit the topic periodically

