BOULEVARD TREE MAINTENANCE AND EMERALD ASH BORER



- 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.





- 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.





- 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



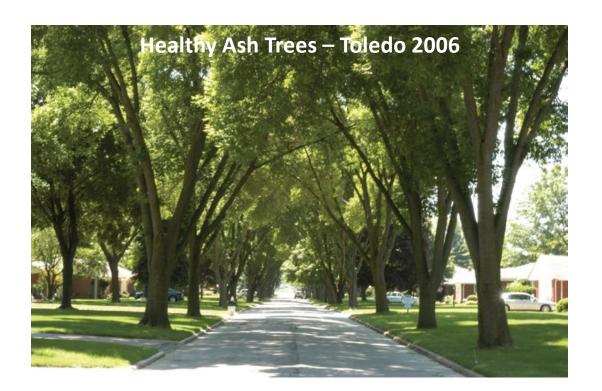
"S" shaped gallery



Emerging EAB

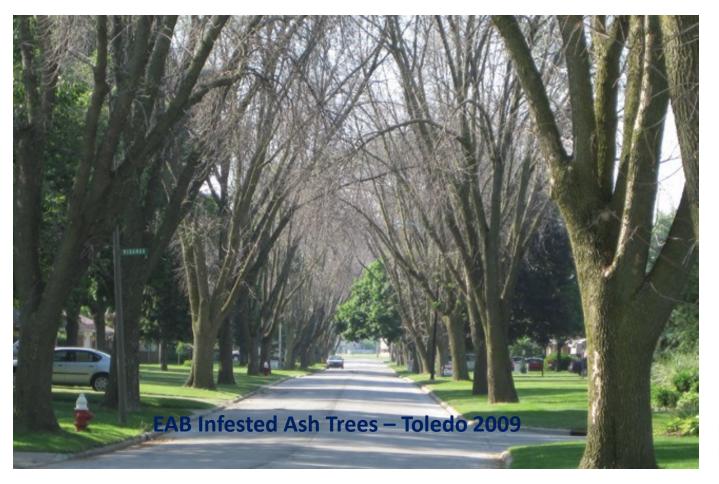


- Threats continued...
 - EAB infestations cause extensive damage to the host trees.
 - Within 2 or 3 years the tree will die, and will become hazardous.





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





- 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.



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



- 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.







- 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.



- 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 $1/3^{rd}$ of the ash trees in parks annually
 - Will conduct periodic inventory updates



- 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



- 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

