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City of Hastings Parks & Recreation

920 W 10th Street ▪ Hastings, MN 55033 ▪ Ph: 651-480-6175 ▪

ASH TREE PROTECTION NOTIFICATION

Date:06/24/2022

Dear Property Owner:

The City of Hastings has a large number of Ash tree species, all of which need to be protected from Emerald Ash Borer. As part of the annual forestry program, our forester identifies boulevard trees for property owners and checks for signs of infestation and protection. The Forester has identified one or more of your boulevard trees is an ASH TREE species and there is no evidence the tree(s) has/have been protected from Emerald Ash Borer. City Ordinance 90.05 requires property owners to care for and maintain boulevard trees abutting their property, which includes protecting ash trees from Emerald Ash Borer.

The City Forester will be marking ash trees requiring protection with green spray paint and you have options for protecting your tree(s) as outlined below.

Since 2017 the City has partnered with Rainbow TreeCare to offer discounted pricing for ash tree protection. The 2022 pricing from Rainbow TreeCare is \$6.70 per diameter inch of the tree. For example, protection for a tree measuring 20 inches in diameter will cost \$134 + tax for the 2- year protection through Rainbow TreeCare. There are circumstances where protection costs will be more than the standard \$6.70 per inch such as a current but manageable infestation of Emerald Ash Borer, a very large diameter tree, or a tree under stress. These circumstances will be addressed with the property owner once the tree care company has inspected the tree(s).

As the property owner you must have the boulevard tree(s) abutting your property protected or under contract to be protected from Emerald Ash Borer **as soon as possible and no later than** July 25th, 2022, at which time, the City Forester will hire Rainbow TreeCare to protect the tree and will send a bill for the full cost to you, the property owner. If you do not pay that bill, the full cost of protection will be certified and assessed through your property taxes.

Once your boulevard tree has been protected, please provide notification and a copy of the receipt to the City Forester, TJ Lucas. This can be dropped off at or mailed to the Parks & Recreation Office at 920 10th Street West, Hastings, MN. Documents can also be emailed to the Forester at TLucas@hastingsmn.gov.

Please feel free to contact the City Forester, TJ Lucas at 651-480-6177 or TLucas@hastingsmn.gov with any questions and if you need further assistance. Thank for protecting your Ash trees.

Sincerely,

TJ Lucas, City Forester