



## **Council Adopts Diseased Tree Hardship Relief Program**

June 22, 2021 - The City Council recently adopted a Diseased Tree Hardship Relief program to help reduce the cost of boulevard tree removals and replacements for eligible residents. To be eligible, residents must meet qualifying income levels or have more than 4 affected boulevard trees requiring removal and replacement.

Residents in the North East and North Central area of Hastings with Emerald Ash Borer infested trees will soon receive notifications in the mail that their boulevard tree needs to be removed and replaced.

The City Forester will also begin to mark each of these infested trees with orange spray paint. Residents in the same area whose boulevard trees can be protected from EAB will also receive a notification advising they must protect the ash tree no later than July 31, 2021, and these trees will be marked with green spray paint.

Currently 54 boulevard ash trees have been identified for removal and replacement, and over 100 have been identified for protection.

It's been four years since Emerald Ash Borer was found in the city. Since then, the city and its partner Rainbow TreeCare have been educating residents on the importance of treating trees to protect them from EAB. They have also worked to protect many trees in the city that have been infested with EAB.

City ordinance requires residents to protect boulevard trees on their property, to remove those marked for removal due to disease and to replace the trees.

To learn more about discounted treatment options, the Diseased Tree Hardship Relief program or our EAB program, visit [www.Hastingsmn.gov/EAB](http://www.Hastingsmn.gov/EAB), or call the Parks and Recreation department at 651-480-6175.