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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EMERALD ASH BORER DISCOVERED IN CITY OF WAUKESHA

City's First Detection of Invasive Tree Pest Confirms Threat to Private and Public Ash Trees

The emerald ash borer (EAB) was detected in the City of Waukesha for the first time on Tuesday, August 27th. During routine maintenance work, a Parks Department Horticulturist discovered the D-shaped exit holes in a declining Ash tree in Frame Park. Further investigation by Arborists discovered the larvae of the beetle just underneath the bark. State officials were notified and have since confirmed the finding.

The emerald ash borer is an invasive, metallic-green beetle first detected in North America in 2002 in Michigan. The insect infests and kills all North American ash tree species by feeding in tunnels below a tree's bark. These "galleries" disrupt water and nutrient transport, causing branch dieback and eventual death.

Emerald ash borer was first discovered in Wisconsin in Ozaukee and Washington counties in 2008 and has since spread to 16 additional counties. Waukesha County has been under Federal quarantine since 2012, when an outbreak was found in Mukwonago. "We've been monitoring the EAB threat since it was first discovered in Michigan," said Pete Traczek, Waukesha's Parks and Forestry Operations Manager. "It's been here for several years but difficult to detect in the early years. Now that it's been confirmed, we'll need the public's help to monitor the limits of the infestation.

Of the nearly 25,000 public street trees the City manages and is responsible for, over 5,000 are ash. In preparation for EAB, forestry staff has not planted Ash trees on city terraces since 2006. As a proactive measure, the City of Waukesha also began an integrated EAB management program in 2010. "We're trying to remain a step ahead by using a multi-tiered approach, treating the biggest and healthiest trees while removing ash that are currently on the decline." To date, nearly 45% of the ash population has received a preventative treatment. City arborists continually monitor, inspect, and remove stressed trees however, given our current budget; we won't be able to treat or replant all lost ash trees.

Signs of infestation include; tree canopy dieback, sprouting on the trunk or base of the tree, splitting bark on the trunk, or woodpecker damage on the trunk from larvae extraction. Adult beetles leave distinctive D-shaped exit holes in the outer bark, and a series of s-shaped galleries or feeding chambers under the bark. In regard to private homeowner trees, Traczek urges residents to watch for these signs of the beetle on their trees and reminds residents that the beetle can be unknowingly spread through the movement of infested firewood. State & Federal quarantines restrict the movement of firewood or ash products out of quarantined areas.

If you suspect your private tree may be infested or need more information, please visit / contact:

- www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/
- Wisconsin's EAB Hotline at 1-800-462-2803
- Waukesha County UW-Extension Horticulture Helpline@uwex1@waukeshacounty.gov (262) 548-7779
- Consult a professional tree care service for expert advice.



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