ASH TREE PLAN

Subject: Important Ash Tree and Emerald Ash Borer Update

The Grounds Committee has compiled updated information on the status of ash trees and the serious threat of the invasive pest Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a growing and concerning issue over the past decade in Hunter’s Ridge and the City of Leawood. The beautiful trees that line our neighborhood streets are approximately 90% ash trees, and you have likely started to notice the effects of the infestation of EAB as many neighbors have recently chosen to cut down their ash trees. Unfortunately, this will—and already has—impacted the beautiful tree-lined streets of Hunter’s Ridge.

**Most, and likely all, untreated ash trees in Hunter’s Ridge have EAB at this time. Per recent expert opinion, the untreated trees are likely past the point where treatment may save them. Please continue reading to learn of the recommended next steps.**

**What is EAB?** EAB is an exotic invasive beetle. Ash trees are killed because the EAB larvae feed on the soft material between the bark and the wood, thereby interrupting the trees supply of water and nutrients. EABs also spread to other ash trees nearby.

1. **What are the signs and symptoms of EAB?**
	1. Canopy Dieback: starts from the top down. Thinning of the crown will occur until the tree is bare and heavily infested.
	2. Epicormic Shoots: sprouts grow from the roots and trunk. The leaves are often larger than normal.
	3. Increased Woodpecker Activity: Bird peck while foraging creates larger holes when extracting insects.
	4. Bark Splitting: Vertical fissures on the bark due to callous tissue formation. Galleries should be visible under the exposed bark split.
	5. Serpentine (S-Shaped) Galleries: Larval feeding creates galleries shape weaving across the woodgrain. Packed with frass (mix of sawdust and excrement).
	6. D-Shaped Exit Holes: Happens upon emergence of adult beetles.
2. **Do you have ash trees on your property? Next steps…**
	1. **Diagnosis**
		1. **Tree is currently on a treatment plan and in good health→** great, keep treating every two years. Prune in late fall and winter months. Thanks for taking early mitigation steps to save your ash tree/s!
		2. **Tree is not currently on a treatment plan→** request an ash tree health evaluation by a reputable arborist OR send a picture of the tree to the JoCo Extension office and seek their advice (garden.help@jocogov.org or 913-715-7050)
	2. **Treatment or removal**
		1. **Reputable arborist confirmed EAB→** most trees are too infected at this point for bi-annual treatments to be effective. Infected trees need to be removed as their health will continue to decline, and EAB can continue to spread to other trees in the area.
		2. Removal of trees is best during the late fall and winter months when EAB is dormant inside the tree.
		3. **Please grind tree stumps!** Per City of Leawood, all stumps of street trees shall be removed below the surface of the ground.
	3. **Replant**
		1. We encourage planting a new tree if an ash tree has been removed, so the number of trees in our community do not drastically decline.
		2. The City of Leawood made changes to the ordinance pertaining to street trees. IMPORTANT: Review City of Leawood tree planting guidelines here:
			1. [Hrha.net](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fhrha.net%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cnicholas.driscoll%40nb.com%7C8cb17cc5a7be40f06c0408da795fda9a%7C3f06a216e79847d39b0631482aa5a648%7C0%7C0%7C637955750911035887%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=aCJqQqPgIbQgQXhnfMw3o%2BL91%2BQ7Bxs74irZAOtzJgg%3D&reserved=0): under Resources, Documents, there is a folder (right at top of list) called "Street Trees"
				1. The "Leawood Tree Committee HOA Letter" is what was provided as a one-pager on tree placement guidelines.
				2. "Tree Placement" graphically depicts planting guidelines.
				3. "City of Leawood Street Tree Information" is the actual section of the ordinance pertaining to street tree placement. It does include more detailed info, including the responsibility regarding stumps.
			2. Leawood’s Tree Committee page ([https://leawood.org/committees-and-boards/tree-committee/](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fleawood.org%2Fcommittees-and-boards%2Ftree-committee%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cnicholas.driscoll%40nb.com%7C8cb17cc5a7be40f06c0408da795fda9a%7C3f06a216e79847d39b0631482aa5a648%7C0%7C0%7C637955750911035887%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=siZLZxRjgfDF3zpEI8Yku3fKLby8J9ius%2BTJIVwpQTQ%3D&reserved=0)) has a plethora of additional resources including the list of recommended trees to plant: [https://www.leawood.org/wp-content/uploads/Parks/TreeCommittee/largestreettreelistrestrictedlist.pdf](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.leawood.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2FParks%2FTreeCommittee%2Flargestreettreelistrestrictedlist.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cnicholas.driscoll%40nb.com%7C8cb17cc5a7be40f06c0408da795fda9a%7C3f06a216e79847d39b0631482aa5a648%7C0%7C0%7C637955750911035887%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=WiCWbRKvBsJRfZHjr7s36u0eSjHi%2FABMg50NE66MJiE%3D&reserved=0)

(Please note, individual owners are responsible for the mitigation and maintenance of any trees existing between sidewalk and street, not HRHA nor the City of Leawood.)

More information on EAB: <https://www.kansasforests.org/forest_health/current_pests/emeraldashborer.html>

Thank you for taking the time to review this very important information. We hope homeowners will make a plan, if you haven’t already, to address the EAB/Ash Tree issue in Hunter’s Ridge.

* Grounds Committee