

Sugar Grove Awarded Emerald Ash Borer Reforestation Grant

The Village of Sugar Grove was recently awarded an EAB Reforestation Grant through the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus on behalf of the United States and Illinois Department of Agriculture. The receipt of this grant will allow the Village to begin to replace parkway trees that were lost due to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and to continue to remove Ash trees that are dead, in severe decline, or pose a significant risk of hosting the EAB. The Village will be working with the Suburban Tree Consortium to plant as many native species as possible. The replacement program is scheduled to begin late April/early May. The majority of plantings will be in the hardest hit area, the Windsor Pointe Subdivision.

On July 1, 2008, the Illinois Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Sugar Grove. Unfortunately in 2008, the economic conditions changed and while the Village continued to remove trees infected by EAB, the parkway tree replacement program had to be suspended. The Grant will allow reforestation efforts to resume.

To date, 2,088 of the Village's parkway trees have been inventoried with 607 of those being Ash species (approximately 30 percent). The Natural Path Urban Forestry completed this inventory to determine the number of Ash trees Village-wide and the anticipated impact of the infestation. A key was established to determine the condition of Ash trees: E - Excellent, G - Good, F - Fair, P - Poor, V - Very Poor and D - Dead. This key allows for a measured approach for monitoring Ash trees. Those in excellent to fair condition are not yet scheduled to be removed and will continue be monitored. This monitoring approach gives the Village the ability to modify the EAB response plan should new information or techniques become available to halt the EAB infestation or to save already infected trees.

While the Village's Public Works Department cannot remove infected trees on private property the Streets & Properties Supervisor will meet with any resident that is concerned about an Ash on their property and recommend what if any action may be necessary.

For further information on the EAB, or if you suspect you have an EAB infestation please contact the Public Works Department at publicworks@sugar-grove.il.us or call 630/466-7508. Information on the Emerald Ash Borer can also be found at www.sugar-grove.il.us/Dept_PW/EmeraldAshBorer.htm.