EAB is STILL Here: EAB Preparedness in Hennepin County

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Natural Resources Partnership Meeting

December 1st, 2015
• Welcome: meeting goals and agenda
• What are cities doing?
• What is HC Government doing?
December 2015 EAB Quarantine Extent
Potential impact of EAB on trees in Hennepin County

- 45 cities in HC
  - 40 within 15 miles of EAB infestations

- ~6 million trees in maintained areas
  - ~15% or nearly 1 million of the total trees in the county are ash trees
What are cities doing?

Average HC City:

- Has a tree inventory (63%) and *ash* pop. of 19,600 trees\(^1\)
  - 14% of total canopy comprised of ash
  - 79% of ash trees > 5” diameter
  - 38% of ash trees > 12” diameter
- Has a plan for wood disposal (87%) and some staff trained for tree disease id and removal (52%)\(^2\)
- Has conducted EAB education/outreach for citizens (78%)\(^2\)
- Is willing to work collaboratively on this issue (87%)\(^2\)

\(^{1}\) MN DNR
\(^{2}\) HC Environment and Energy
What are cities doing?

Average HC City:

- Does not have EAB plan (74%), EAB-specific ordinances, or dedicated funding for dealing with EAB (78%)\(^2\)
- Has not explored local wood markets (61%) and has not identified additional marshalling yards or disposal sites (59%)\(^2\)
Expected ash mortality in HC

Cumulative proportion of ash killed

Annual dead ash aboveground biomass

Cumulative ash mortality

Dead ash biomass (dry tons)

Year


25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
0

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 1

0 5,000 10,000 15,000 20,000 25,000
What is HC doing?

Our efforts are two-fold:

– Internally, leading EAB response across departments/groups within HC government
– Externally, determining our county-wide role
What are we doing internally?

Estimated ~15,000 ash on Hennepin County property across multiple departments/work areas

- Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (e.g., 55 miles of corridor such as the Midtown Greenway)
- Facilities Services (e.g., 117 facilities such as libraries)
- Real Estate (e.g., 615 tax forfeited properties)
- Transportation and ROW (e.g., 571 miles of road corridors)
What are we doing internally?

– Creating a unified inventory across departments and work areas

– Drafting an EAB Plan
  • Staged removal (5-7 years) and replacement (2:1) across facilities and corridors
  • Treatment of environmentally significant trees (5-7 years)

– Using a gravel bed nursery to promote an increase in canopy and an increase in tree species diversity

Overall, looking for ways to creatively and cost effectively manage for EAB and increase county-wide tree canopy
Example: HC Disease Tree Program

- Focus has been Dutch elm disease and oak wilt
- All county corridors are examined for diseased trees in late-summer/fall
- Hundreds of removals over winter
- Expanding program to begin staged removals and replacement of ash adjacent to other diseased trees
Example: HC Gravel Bed Nursery

- Adult Corrections Facility – Plymouth, MN
- 40’ x 90’
- 500 trees
- 14 species/varieties
- Fully irrigated
- Room for expansion
- Existing greenhouse
- Centrally located in county
- 2015: 9 projects, 300 trees planted (~$80/tree)
What are we doing externally?

• Determining the role of the county, we are:
  – Coordinating communication between HC organizations (e.g., Natural Resources Partnership)
  – Providing information and technical support
  – Supporting lobbying for state financial support for EAB efforts
  – **Evaluating** need for marshalling yards and avenues for utilization of ash wood
  – **Evaluating** a funding program for EAB-related projects