

## Responding to Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). is an invasive, metallic green beetle that is devastating to all native ash species, including both stressed and healthy trees, and results in the death of the trees. EAB was first found in southeast Michigan in 2002 and has since spread to 30 states, and in May 2022 was identified within City of Dallas limits. The City of Dallas developed the Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan to provide a citywide coordinated response and to help the city and citizens plan to respond to the potential adverse effects of EAB. The primary goal of the Plan is to provide guidance through effective communication with the citizens of Dallas and to mitigate impacts through monitoring, inventory, and tree plantings.

EAB plan

<https://dallascityhall.com/projects/forestry/Documents/2022%20May%20EAB%20Action%20Plan%20Final2.pdf>

## Monitoring by Assessments and Traps

Beginning in December 2021, the Park and Recreation Department staff began assessments of ash trees in parks, golf courses, and trails. Ash trees with a trunk diameter that is 8 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) and above were assessed. The information for each tree was entered into a software called Tree Keeper. Staff assessed **1,456 ash trees in 372 parks**. Ash trees that are 17 DBH and above and in good condition will be treated with an insecticide for protection against EAB. **Seventy-five trees from 104 parks** were recommended for treatment by a contractor.

The department utilizes traps to detect the presence of the beetle.

- In Spring 2024, sixteen traps were placed at nine parks; two traps detected Emerald Ash Borer.
- In Spring 2025, eleven traps were placed in parks. Ten of the parks had one or more incidents of adult beetles collected.

Park Forestry team under the City Forester in Parks has identified the first round of Fifty Ash species trees for removal, based on location, level of dieback/decay, and public safety. In FY2025-2026, removals of identified Ash species trees in parks commenced.

## Tree Inventory

The Park and Recreation Department contracted for a LiDAR tree canopy survey of parks to be completed. LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology provides a detailed 3D representation of the Earth's surface, including tree canopies, allowing for accurate mapping of canopy height, density, and closure. The survey scanned 18,500 trees and focused on the following areas, downtown, White Rock Lake, Bachman Lake, Kiest Park, Centennial Parks (parks established pre-1925), Tenison, and Samuell Grand.



Emerald Ash Borer



PKR employee assesses an Ash tree



Treated Ash trees are tagged



Ash trees