



Emerald Ash Borer and Trees in Montgomery Parks

An FAQ for our Park Neighbors

Where did Emerald Ash Borer come from?

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a non-native invasive beetle from Asia that was first detected in the US in 2002 on Ash trees in Detroit, Michigan

Are all ash in Maryland affected by the borer? Yes, green, white and black ash trees are affected.

How does emerald ash borer spread? EAB is spread by moving infested wood, untreated ash products and nursery stock. EAB has been found throughout the state of Maryland so there is no limit on moving ash wood, products or nursery stock throughout the state. There is quarantine on moving any of these products out of the state. Once established, EAB can fly up to 15 miles to infest new trees.

Is Ash an important canopy tree in Montgomery County? Yes, Ash is one of the predominant canopy trees in many of Montgomery Park's Stream Valleys including Rock Creek and Sligo Creek. It is also a planted, landscape shade tree in parks.

How does the borer affect the tree? EAB larvae feeds on the inner bark of the Ash tree disrupting the trees ability to transport water and nutrients that are needed to survive. This causes branches and the entire tree to die.

How can I tell if an ash tree has EAB? As a newly infected tree shows little sign of the pest, it can be difficult to diagnose and detect that the borer is present. When symptoms start to appear, they include woodpecker feeding on larvae in tree trunks, D-shaped exit holes from emerging adult beetles in branches and trunk and serpentine galleries filled with frass when bark is removed on infested trees. Further along in the stages of infection, the tree will exhibit wilting foliage, dead branches and canopy dieback.

Are all size trees killed by the borer? Any trees greater than ½ inch diameter are vulnerable.

Once a tree has EAB how quickly will it die? A tree can die within 1-5 years

Where else has emerald ash borer been found? The beetle has been detected in over 20 states and Canada where it has killed millions of trees. It was first confirmed in Maryland in 2003 and in Montgomery County in 2012.

How can I tell if a tree is dead? If you are concerned that a tree on Parkland might be dead, contact the Montgomery Park's Service Center. You can call 301-670-8080 or email service.center@montgomeryparks.org Staff Arborists will inspect all work requests received through the service center and determine the necessary action to be taken.

Can anything be done to prevent EAB from killing Ash trees? All Ash will eventually die from this pest unless they are treated. Treatment via trunk injection is a very effective means of controlling the pest but it is very costly and not sustainable as each tree would need to be treated on a 2 year cycle. This is not an option for managing the large population of Ash in our Parks.

What is Montgomery Parks doing about EAB? Montgomery Park's Arboriculture Section is in the process of inventorying areas that we know contain the densest populations of Ash. We have confirmed the beetle in multiple locations, from stream valleys to developed parks.

Arborists will continue to inspect and identify trees that need to be addressed. Our number one priority is safety for park patrons, staff and property. Our plan is to remove EAB infested trees that pose a threat to people and property. We will prioritize removal of trees with highest priority based on assessments by staff trained in tree risk assessment.

What do I do about ash trees or dead trees on my property? Montgomery Parks does not assess trees on private property. If you call a local company with a certified arborist, they will be able to assess your trees and provide you more information.

Why is Montgomery Parks removing dead and dying Ash trees? Dead and dying trees are a hazard to people and property. To maintain safety standards, at times we might have to remove trees that are still alive due to the brittleness of EAB infected ash wood.

Will Montgomery Parks leave snags or wildlife trees? Ash trees in locations that are not a hazard to people or property will be assessed to leave in place for wildlife. Also, wood debris will be left on the forest floor in certain areas to benefit the forest ecosystem.

Why is Montgomery Parks leaving wood debris in certain areas? Moving debris is costly and the equipment used can be harmful to remaining trees, shrubs and the herbaceous layer of the forest.

How do I report a dead tree on Parkland including a dead ash? Report dead, hazard or infected trees to Montgomery Park's Service Center. You can call 301-670-8080 or email service.center@montgomeryparks.org

Staff Arborists will inspect all work requests received through the service center and determine the necessary action to be taken.

Will Montgomery Parks replace trees where Ash have been removed?

Areas where Ash trees are removed will be assessed for replacement trees. Maintaining the tree canopy is very important to Montgomery Parks.

What can you do to help? Report dead, hazard or infected trees to Montgomery Park's Service Center. If you are creating your own service requests, please note on the service request if the tree is an Ash so that we can track their locations. You can call 301-670-8080 or email service.center@montgomeryparks.org Staff Arborists will inspect all work requests received through the service center and determine the necessary action to be taken. Check Montgomery Park's Volunteer Page for opportunities to help with the replanting efforts (ADD webpage link)

Where can I find out more information on EAB

<http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

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