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Emerald Ash Borer Long Term Management Plan – Annual Update Information Report

Report Number: 2018-21

Department(s): Public Works

Author(s): Jeff Bond

Date: April 18, 2018

In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any member of Council may make a request to the Town Clerk that this Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an annual update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) long term management plan and the current status of the highly detrimental pest. Additional background information on EAB can be found in past reports PWS 2012-14, PWS 2012-73, PWS 2013-46, PWS 2015-11, PWS 2015-59, and PWS 2016-33.

Background

The Town has completed an inventory of all street and park trees, which totaled 32,115 (open spaces and woodlots have not been inventoried). It is now known that there are 3079 Ash trees on the road allowance and staff estimate an additional 1500 ash trees in park lands and wood lots, combined they make up approximately 9.5% of our overall canopy.

Trees located on boulevards along with park trees that require removal are being replaced with new trees consisting of various species including native where possible based on planting criteria and a few non-native species. Only woodlot trees adjacent to residential properties and trails that patrons use are being removed due to health and safety reasoning. PWS will be monitoring the woodlots for new regeneration, if needed, seedlings will be planted at a later date with Neighbourhood Networks annual plantings.

Discussion

The Town will continue to take a balanced approach to EAB, which protects the most significant and healthy Ash trees and also removes and replaces trees that have succumbed to EAB. A total of 659 significant and healthy Ash trees have been injected and treated with TreeAzin®. These trees will continue to be injected (every second year) and treated to ensure their survival. The following criteria was used to determine treatment:

- Trees are located on municipal owned lands
- Trees are of historic or cultural value
- Trees are to be structurally sound and in good arboricultural health
- Trees over 20cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)
- Trees have no more that 20% dieback in the crown
- Trees do not have the potential to interfere with utilities
- Trees do not show any other insect infestation or disease problem

The decision to treat a tree requires a qualified and certified arborist to review the tree's condition. Although, a tree may fit within the identified criteria; it may not be deemed treatable based on the available funding, prioritization, or other unique circumstances.

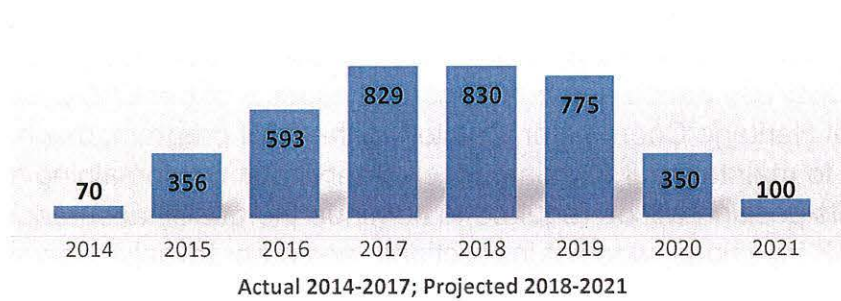
The Town has further developed communications with the public through enhancements to the Town's website, mail out to all households in Newmarket, local advertisement in Snap and Era Banner, booths at the local Farmers Market and Home Show.

To date there have been no formal homeowner inquiries requesting protection of Town owned Ash trees abutting private property or within the boulevard, which are not already being protected by the Town.

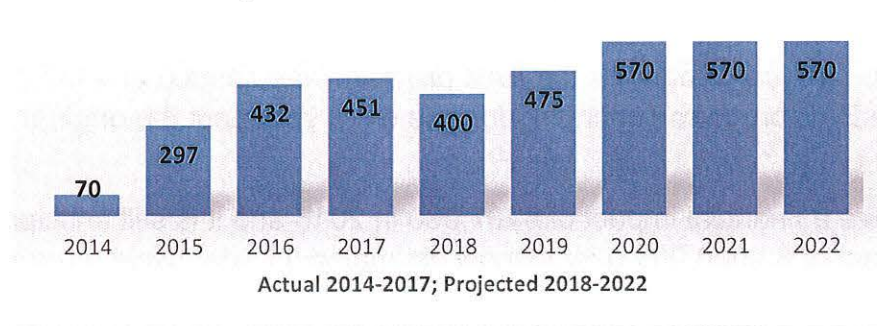
2018 marks the peak of ash tree removal with approximately 830 trees being removed due to the effects of EAB. The estimates below are based on current workload and environmental trends that are occurring.

The number of street and park tree removals will steadily decline to zero by 2022. At which time staff will be increasing the tree replacement program.

Trees removed



Replacement Tree planting



Conclusion

The Ash tree removal and replacement program is on track to be completed by 2022. Staff will be required to complete yearly injections of TreeAzin for the life cycle of the qualified Ash tree, approximate cost would be \$35,000 yearly.

Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages

Living Well:

Deliver an efficient, effective and environmentally sound maintenance services to an appropriate level that achieves Council and/or Provincially mandated services levels, which meet public health and safety requirements and enhances quality of life while ensuring that system capital assets retain their value and are managed and funded according to sustainable, lifecycle based principles and practices.

Consultation

The Town continues to work in collaboration with the Region, surrounding municipalities, Lake Simcoe Region Conservations Authorities, LEAF and NEAC. Staff also continues to research and new developments regarding EAB.

Human Resource Considerations

All resources including contractors required to manage EAB program continue to be monitored by our secondment position of the Natural Heritage Coordinator, this position covers all quality assurance and quality control aspects of the EAB project. As a result of the Natural Heritage Coordinator monitoring the EAB program, this has allowed the forestry staff to maintain our standard level of service in the remaining tree canopy. In the future, this position will be required to continue the quality assurance and quality control of EAB injections, woodlot inspections, and other invasive species of plants and insects.

Budget Impact

Funding has been approved in the 2018 PWS budget for \$487,000. These funds are required in 2019 and beyond to continue managing EAB and implementing the Emerald Ash Borer Long Term Management Plan.

For 2018, the annual budget for the EAB program was capped at \$487,000, which will result in the EAB program continuing for one extra year past the original 10 year plan to complete.

EAB will have a financial impact of \$487,000 in 2018 and it is still anticipated to have an overall impact of \$2,600,000 over its now estimated 11 year cycle (currently in year 5). These works include the creation of the tree inventory, removal and replacement of trees, preventative injections and communication costs.

Summary costs from 2012-2017:

2012	\$ 17,301.50
2013 (Actual)	\$ 34,130.84
2014 (Actual)	\$169,322.42 (included inventory)
2015 (Actual)	\$214,808.72
2016 (Actual)	\$373,770.28
2017 (Actual)	\$460,113.13

Estimated budget costs for 2018:

TreeAzin® injection	\$31,500.00
Tree Removals	\$200,000.00

Stumping	\$80,000.00
Replacement Plantings	\$175,500.00
2018 Total:	\$487,000.00

Funding has been requested and approved in the 2018 budget for \$487,000. These funds are required to continue managing EAB and implementing the Emerald Ash Borer Long Term Management Plan.

As noted above, EAB injections of TreeAzin will be required yearly past the 11 year plan for the life cycle of the qualified Ash trees, the estimated cost will be \$35,000 yearly.

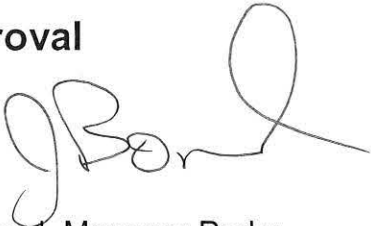
Attachments

None

Contact

For more information on this report, contact: Jeff Bond, Manager, Parks & Property Services, Public Works Services at extension 2582

Approval



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