

Emerald Ash Borer 2015 Year End Update/ 2016-17 Action Plan

General Committee

March 21, 2016

Presented by: Barb Rabicki, Director, Operations

Agenda

- 2015 Accomplishments
- Budget Update
- Woodland and Naturalized Areas
- Challenges
- Future Steps

2015 Program Accomplishments

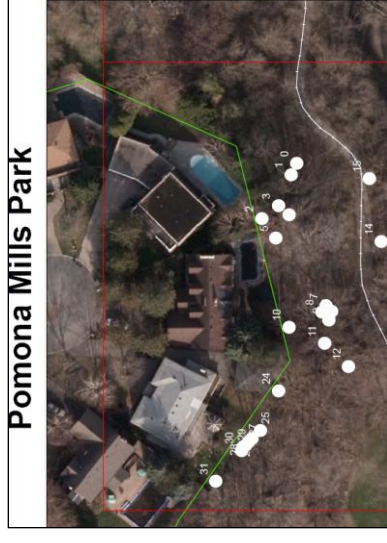
- Injections: 395 trees completed
- Removals:
 - Street and Parks: 5,000 completed on target
 - Woodlands: 50% completed on target
- Planting: over 6,000 trees completed on target
- Tree inventory
 - 105,00 Street plus 45,000 Parks – 150,000 total completed on target
- Woodlands: 1,800 greenspaces with approx 1,500 trees removed
 - 100% of risk assessments completed
- Communications strategy – Markham ‘Tree Talk’ success

2015 EAB Program Costs

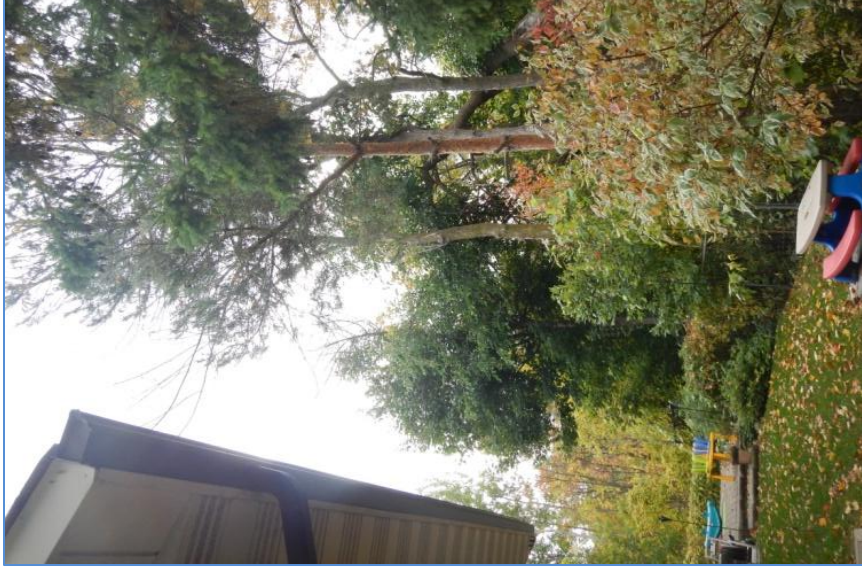
	2015 Approved Budget	Actual Cost
Tree Removals	\$795k	\$576k
Tree Replanting	\$2,295k	\$2,350k
Stump Grinding	\$410k	\$570k
Tree Injections	\$50k	\$49k
Communications Strategy	\$50k	\$28k
Tree Removals – Woodlands	\$428.6k	\$277k
Personnel and Other Costs	\$500k	\$503k
Total	\$4,529k	\$4,353k

Woodland and Natural Areas Update

- Areas
 - 1,800 greenspaces including parks and City-owned open-spaces.
 - Parks/woodlands/easements/waterways, Markham Green, unnamed parcels
 - All parcels have been assessed for risk, excluding Rouge Park
 - Includes tree risk assessment of all non-manicured areas within 10m of private properties, buffer zones of parks, and trails
- Trees
 - 2,800 ash trees to be removed
- Removal work
 - 2 contractors ongoing
 - Removals will continue through 2016



Risk Assessments – Trees Marked for Removal



Financial Considerations 2013-2017

	Actual 2013/2014	Actual 2015	Forecast 2016	Forecast 2017	Total
Removals – Street and Park (# of trees)	9,800	5,000	2,000	400	17,200
Removals – Woodlands (# of trees)	--	1,500	2,800	--	4,300
Replanting (# of trees)	730	6,000	6,000	4,450	17,200
Total Costs	\$1.97M	\$4.35M	\$4.31M	\$2.47M	\$13.10M

- Estimated total EAB program cost of \$13.1M
 - Included street and park trees in manicured areas of parks
 - Excluded costs associated with woodlands
- Woodland tree removal, pruning, and clean up is expected to continue into late 2016

Financial Considerations 2013-2017

- The total EAB program cost at \$13.10M is funded \$6.45M to-date.
- Council approved a 0.5% tax rate increase in 2013 to fund the EAB infestation, equivalent to annual funds of \$0.59M.
- At the completion of the EAB program anticipated by 2017, the EAB reserve fund will be in a deficit position of (\$6.06M).
- Annual funds of \$0.59M will be used to replenish the reserve which will take approximately 10 years to fully recover the total program cost of \$13.1M.

Challenges

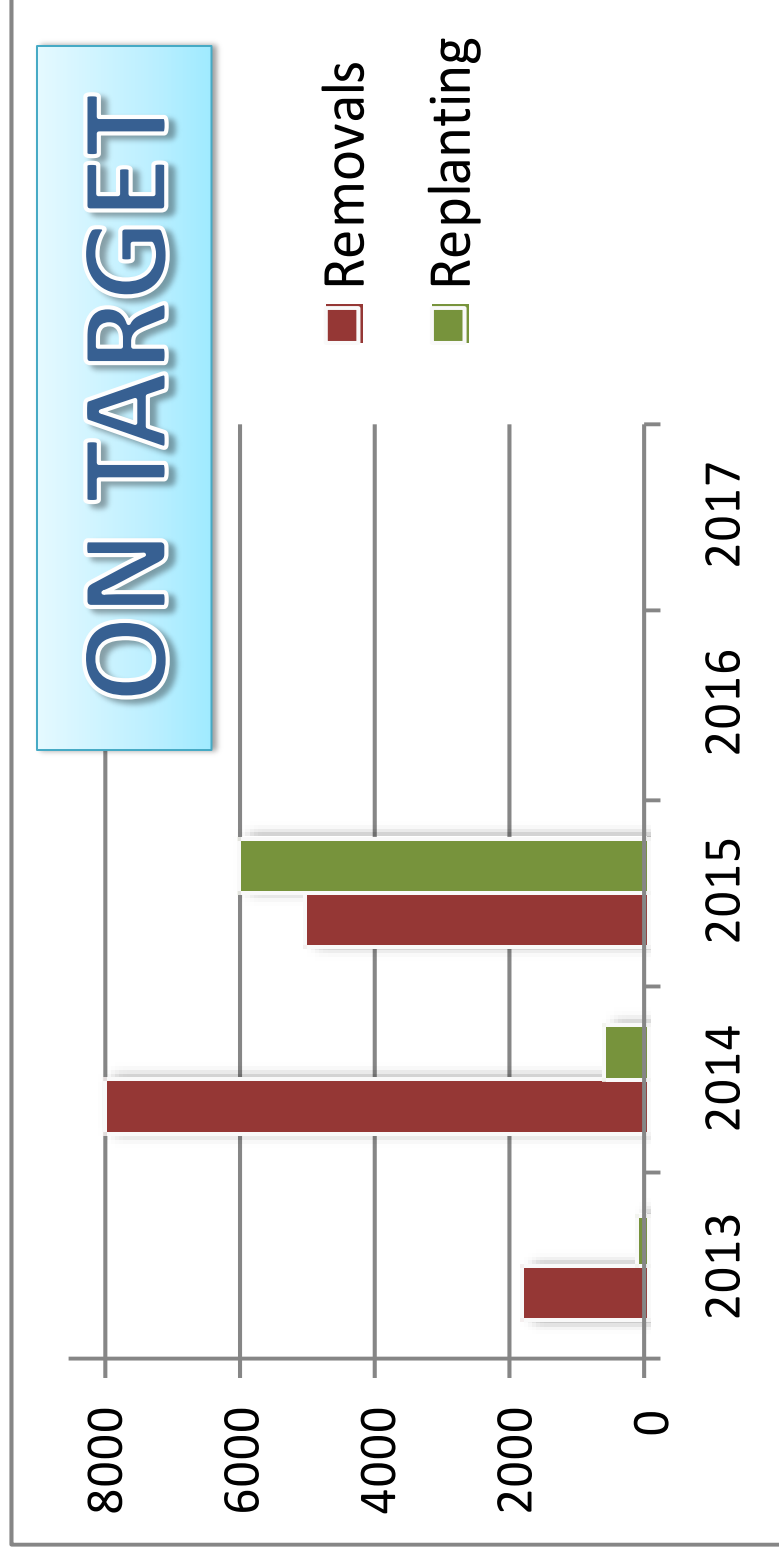
- Nursery stock
 - Depletion due to competition from other municipalities
- US/Canada \$ exchange:
 - Nursery stock being shipped to United States
- Caliper size:
 - Substitution of smaller trees
- Asian Longhorned Beetle
 - potential threat:
 - Diversification of replanting program critical



Future Steps

- 2016
 - 2,000 trees to remove; 4,000 to stump; 6,000 to plant
 - Continue and complete woodlot removals
 - Inject healthy ash after spring reassessment (2016-2017)
 - Continue strong communications strategy including 'Tree Talks', Markham portal update, social media campaign, and printed publications
- 2017
 - 400 trees remain (or some treated); 2,200 stumps; 4,450 to plant
 - Assess need for woodland replanting
 - Undertake woodland replanting, if necessary
 - Continue to expand and develop strong urban forest strategic planning
- 2018 Onwards
 - Periodically reassess and take action

Tree Removal and Replanting Plan



Thank You

