



Building Markham's Future Together
Journey to Excellence

Emerald Ash Borer 2015 Update

**General Committee
May 26th, 2015**

Prepared by Barb Rabicki, Manager – Parks Operations

City Actions: 2011- 2014

- July 2011: EAB confirmed in Markham
- Preliminary ash inventory undertaken – approx. 9% of Markham's urban trees
- Pilot project: Ashton Meadows treatment
- EAB Strategy developed
- Report to Council November 2012 – EAB Program \$15 million
- Council approved a 0.5% tax increase in 2013 to fund the total EAB program cost of \$13.1M for street and park trees
- Communications strategy initiated
- 2014: City-wide street and park inventory initiated
- Tree treatment, removals, stumping, and replanting initiated

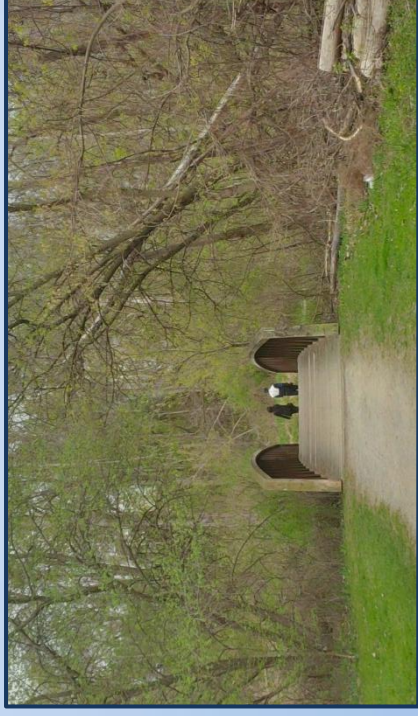
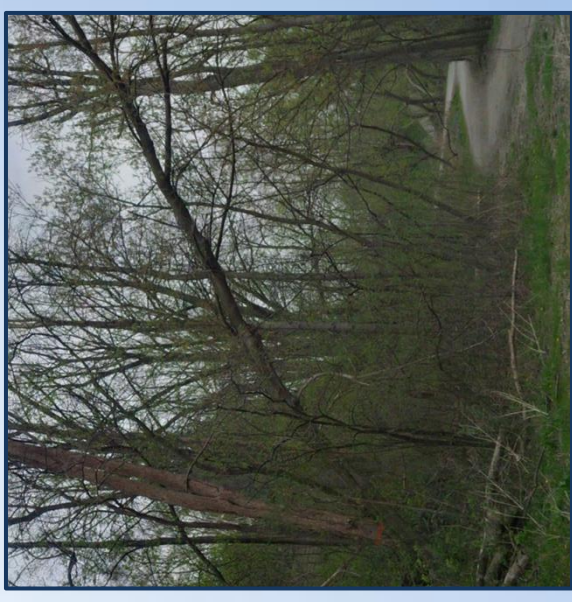
2015 Action Priorities

- Street and park inventory: 133,000 trees completed to date
- Re-assess and treat 354 treated street trees, if viable
- Street and park ash removals – 5,000
- Boulevard stump removals – 7,000
- Tree replanting program – 6,000
- Expanded strong communications strategy
- Inventory of trails, park buffer zones and woodlands adjacent to private properties underway

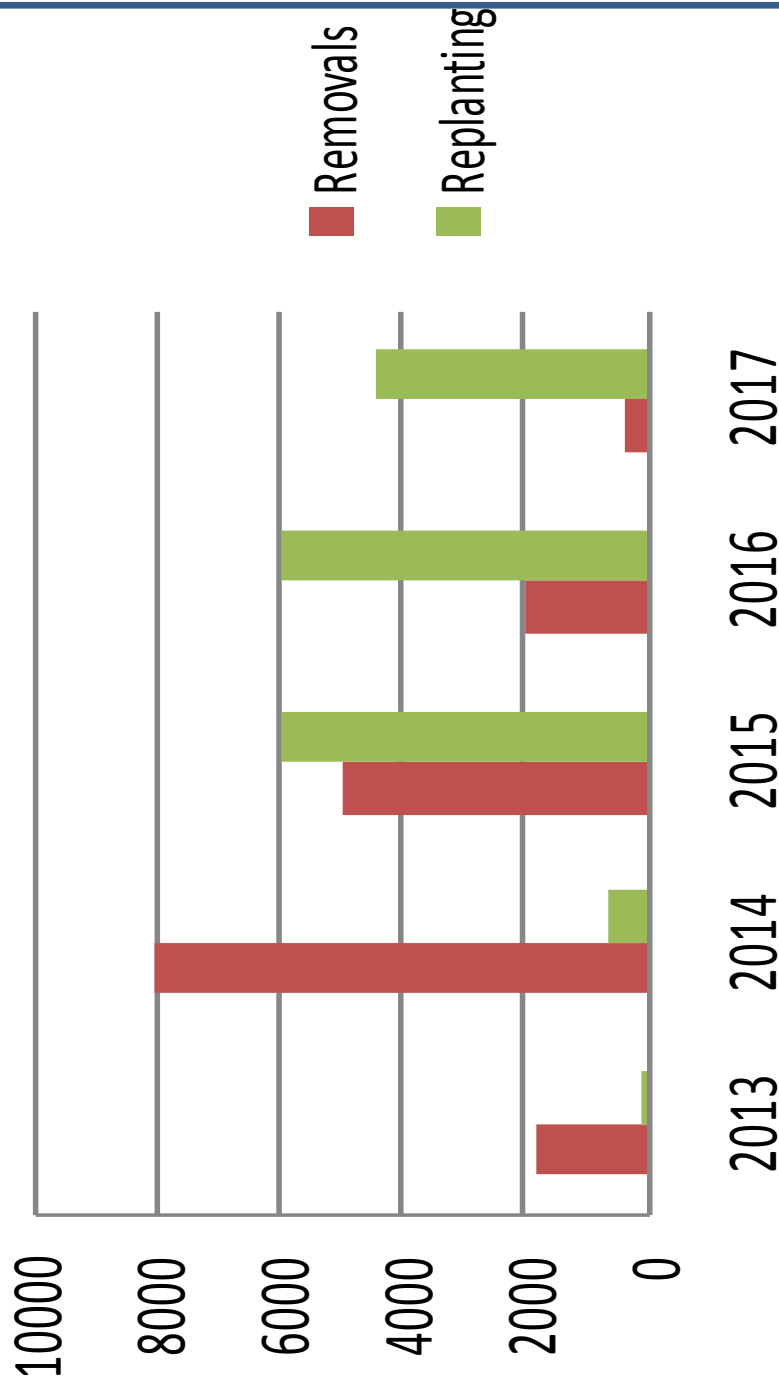


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Tree Inventory and Risk Assessment On-Going



Tree Removals and Replanting Plan



2014 Tree Removals

	Total # of Tree Removals in 2014
City of Toronto	15,000
City of Markham	8,000
York Region	3,500
Durham Region	1,400
Town of Richmond Hill	1,000
Town of Newmarket	100
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville	15
Town of East Gwillimbury	3

Communications Strategy

- Internal:
 - ❑ Checkmark & eNews articles; Contact Centre staff briefing and display; Electronic Information Boards (EIBs); Council newsletters
- External:
 - ❑ Portal: update EAB Major City Projects page inc. Tree Talk schedule & Woodchips map
 - ❑ Social Media: promote 'Tree Talk' & information on Facebook & Twitter; new Video on YouTube focusing on private trees
 - ❑ EIBs: City facilities & Tim's TV
 - ❑ Print: admail postal drops and posters for 'Tree Talk'
 - ❑ Reaching over 80 ethnic media outlets including print and online publications, radio, TV and social media



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Community outreach and
education program with
City arborists at local facilities



	Date	Time
Main St Farmers Market with Science Rendezvous Fair	Sat May 9	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Woodhill Garden Centre	Fri May 22	12:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Milliken Mills CC- Lobby (West)	Sat May 23	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Cornell CC – Lobby	Wed May 27	4:00 PM- 8:00 PM
Angus Glen CC- Lobby (Lower Pool)	Sat June 6	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sheridan Nurseries	Sat June 13	9:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Unionville Stiver Mill Market	Sun June 14	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Markham Village Music Festival	Sat June 20	12:00 PM- 8:00 PM
Canada Day Celebrations	Wed July 1	12:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Globalfest Pan Am	Various	Various
RBC Childrens Music Festival	Sat Aug 22	12:00- 8:00pm

Financial Considerations

	Actual 2013/2014	Budget 2015	Forecast 2016	Forecast 2017	Total
Removals (# trees)	9,800	5,000	2,000	400	17,200
Replanting (# trees)	730	6,000	6,000	4,450	17,200
Costs	\$1.90M	\$4.50M	\$4.00M	\$2.70M	\$13.10M

- Estimated total EAB program cost of \$13.10M
 - ☐ Included street trees and trees in manicured areas of parks
 - ☐ Excluded costs associated with woodlands
- Assessments initiated in 2015 indicate significant risks in the woodland areas, requiring removal of trees on trails, and in park buffer areas and woodlands adjacent to private properties
- Approximately 2,000 ash trees were removed in 2014 due to the ice storm. The associated costs have been submitted to the Province for potential reimbursement. As well, City received favourable pricing for tree removal and tree replanting contracted services. These funds will be redeployed to address the woodland areas. Staff will substantiate the savings associated with the 2,000 ash trees.
- The total program cost remains unchanged at \$13.10M at this time. Further assessment of woodland trees is required to determine potential impact, if any, on total program cost.

Financial Considerations

	\$ in millions
Total program costs	13.10
Amount funded as of May 26, 2015	(4.14)
Life Cycle Replacement and Capita Reserve Fund	(1.78)
EAB Reserve Fund	<u>(1.78)</u>
Remaining funding requirement	7.18

- Council approved a 0.5% tax rate increase in 2013 to fund the EAB program, equivalent to annual funds of \$0.59M
- The EAB reserve fund will be in a deficit position of (\$6.00M) at the completion of the EAB program anticipated by 2017
- The EAB reserve fund will be replenished with the annual funds of \$0.59M, approximately 10 years to fully recover the total program costs of \$13.10M

Looking Forward: 2016-2017 Action Plans

- Re-assess remaining street & park ash trees
- Injections of healthy ash
- **2016:** 2,000 trees removed; 4,000 stumped; 6,000 replanted; woodlot removals
- **2017:** 400 trees removed (or treated); 2,200 stumped; 4,450 replanted; woodlot removals; woodlot replanting

Future Potential Threats

- Example: Asian Longhorned Beetle
- Strong CFIA response
- Top 5 preferred host trees:
 - ☐ Maple
 - ☐ Elm
 - ☐ Poplar
 - ☐ Willow
 - ☐ Birch





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