

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Forest Preserve to remove more infected ash trees

GENEVA, IL — Ash trees infected with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) will be removed from two Kane County forest preserves, beginning next week.

EAB was first discovered in our County in 2006 and has progressively killed thousands of trees across the area.

Forest Preserve District staff will begin removing several hundred ash trees from Hampshire Forest Preserve and a contractor will remove another 50 from Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve. Tree removal is expected to last through March.

“To replace some of the lost ash trees, the District will be planting EAB-resistant trees, such as oaks, at Jon. J. Duerr Forest Preserve in May. We’ll also plant oaks next year in Hampshire,” said Drew Ullberg, director of natural resources for the District.

“All of the trees being removed are already dead or dying. We’ll chip or burn the infested trees, part of standard Department of Agriculture protocol for removal of EAB-affected trees,” Ullberg said.

The invasive pest was first discovered in the U.S. near Detroit, in 2002. Since that time, the EAB has killed more than 20 million ash trees in the Midwest. While the adult beetles nibble on foliage, they’re thought to cause little damage. The larvae, however, feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting a tree’s ability to transport water and nutrients, thereby killing the tree.

— MORE —

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Hampshire Forest Preserve is located at 44W780 Allen Rd., Hampshire. Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve is located at 35W003 Rte. 31, South Elgin.

For more information on the Emerald Ash Borer, visit the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Web site at www.agr.state.il.us or www.emeraldashborer.info.

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