



**RECREATION AND PARKS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA
Tuesday, March 1, 2022
Council Chambers, City Hall
5:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order
2. Additions to and Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of RPAC Minutes from February 1, 2022
4. Presentation(s)/Public Comment
5. Reports:
 - A. Parks
 - B. Community Center & Recreation
6. New Business:
 - A. EAB Management plan
7. Old Business:
 - A. Community garden
8. Next Meeting: April 5, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.
9. Future Agenda Items
10. Adjourn



The Regular Meeting of RPAC was held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 5:00PM

RPAC Members present: B Raduenz, R Wilke, T Mercier, M Huntington, R Goggin; **RPAC**

Members absent: none **Advisory Members present:** Scott Schroeder, Allison Watkins

Meeting called to order by Vice R Goggin at 5:00 PM.

Approval of Agenda:

- Motion by R Wilke to approve the agenda as presented and seconded by T Mercier
- Voting in favor: B Raduenz, T Mercier, R Wilke, R Goggin, M Huntington; Members voting no: None
- Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

- Motion by R Wilke to approve the January 4, 2022 minutes and seconded by B Raduenz.
- Voting in favor: B Raduenz, T Mercier, R Wilke, R Goggin, M Huntington; Members voting no: None
- Motion carried.

Presentation/Public Comment:

Reports:

A. Parks:

- S Schroeder gave an update on the Parks.

B. Community Center and Recreation:

- A Watson gave an update on recreation programs and the Community Center, discussed future potential offerings of programs, and gave a quarterly update on memberships.

New Business:

A. Integrated Pest Management

- Schroeder discussed the importance of the City having a policy/plan on how pests are managed within the City. Motion passed for RPAC to adopt the policy/plan.

Old Business:

A. Community garden

- Schroeder discussed the possibility of the City renting the lot at the old presbyterian church. The City is still waiting to hear back from the owner. The City is waiting on Word of Life church group for approval to apply for grant monies to install a 60 plot garden on their property.



Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 1, 2022 @ 5:00PM

Items for upcoming meetings: EAB management plan

Adjournment:

- Motion by R Wilke and seconded by B Raduenz to adjourn.
- Voting in favor: B Raduenz, T Mercier, R Goggin, R Wilke, M Huntington Members
voting no: None
- Meeting adjourned.



*CITY OF LE SUEUR
RPAC UPDATE*

TO: RPAC Chair and Board
FROM: Scott Schroeder, Public Works Manager
SUBJECT: Park Staff Report
DATE: RPAC Meeting of Tuesday, March 1, 2022

PURPOSE

Park status updates.

Park Status:

- **American Legion:**
 - Resolution signed by council for DNR grant. Grant due by 3/31/2022
- **Cedar Ridge Trails:**
 - Nothing to report
- **Jo Eagle Anderson:**
 - Nothing to report
- **Le Sueur Dog Park:**
 - Nothing to report
- **Mayo:**
 - Nothing to report
- **Mothers Louise:**
 - Nothing to report
- **Pierre Le Sueur:**
 - Nothing to report
- **River:**
 - Nothing to report

Park Reservations: Staff is taking reservations for American Legion, Jo Eagle Anderson, and Mayo park shelters in the 2022 season.

ACTION REQUESTED

Recognize & accept this month's report from staff.



CITY OF LE SUEUR
REQUEST FOR RPAC ACTION

TO: RPAC Chair and Board
FROM: Allison Watkins, Recreation Manager
SUBJECT: Recreation Report
DATE: For the RPAC Meeting of Tuesday, March 1, 2022

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

To provide the RPAC Committee information to have a continued discussion regarding Le Sueur Community Center services.

The Le Sueur Community Center changed membership pricing in January, and we have been seeing an increase in membership numbers. We have also installed the new sign advertising our new membership price and facility features.

City Council has approved the cities request to proceed with an RFP related to the Recreation Facilities Master Plan. The final report submittal is August 15, 2022. This report will help guide city staff with the future of the community center and outdoor pool.

Project Updates

- Install the new dead lift platform. This will be attached to the Half Rack, so members can dead lift and drop weights without damaging the floor.
- Outdoor Pool diving board – the diving board needs to be replaced. This is a project that we are planning to have completed by the opening date for the pool.
- Building a skate rack for our new rental skates.
- Gutter replacement for the outdoor pool was approved in this year's CIP. These will be ordered in the next month and installed before the outdoor pool opening.

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Recognize & accept this month's report from Le Sueur Recreation staff.



City of Le Sueur

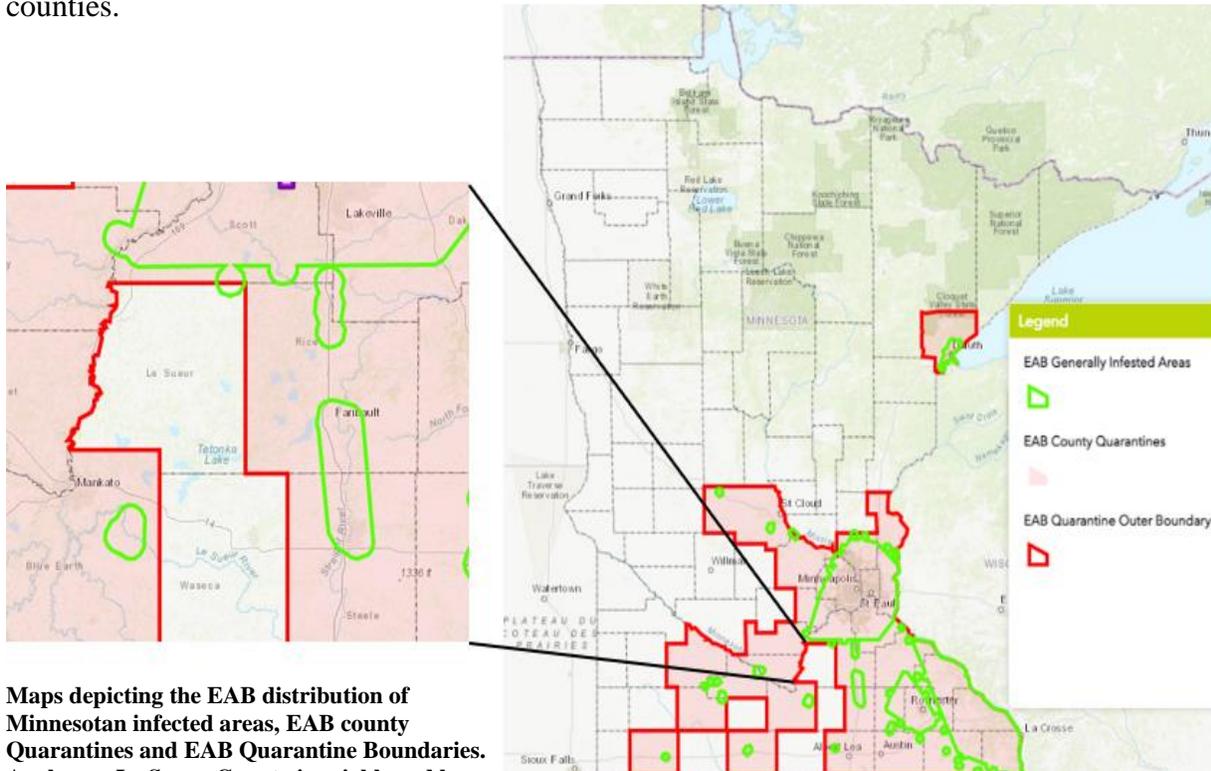
Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Management Plan

Introduction:

Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) or more commonly known as EAB, is a very destructive invasive pest to all species of ash trees (*Fraxinus spp*). Emerald Ash Borer is an exotic borer native to Asia with its natural range being in China, Japan, Mongolia and Korea. This invasive beetle was first discovered in North America in 2002, and has been confirmed in 35 states, including Minnesota.

Minnesota is the host to roughly one billion ash trees, making it the largest concentration of this shade tree species in the whole country. There is currently no resistance to EAB in our native ash trees. The green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*) and white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) are among the ash trees found in this northern state. Emerald Ash Borer was first found in St. Paul, Minnesota in 2009 and has been detected in many surrounding counties.



Maps depicting the EAB distribution of Minnesotan infested areas, EAB county Quarantines and EAB Quarantine Boundaries. As shown, Le Sueur County is neighbored by counties detected with known EAB, making it more susceptible for an EAB spread.



The Emerald Ash Borer adult beetle lives outside of the tree, not causing harm as does the larvae inside the tree disrupting the vascular system. During this immature stage, the larvae feed on the outer one inch of bark, which puts a halt to the flow of nutrients throughout the tree canopy. As the worm-like larvae tunnels around the innards of the ash tree, the slow process of dieback begins. The symptoms are less pronounced once initially infested, so by the time the symptoms are visible it is possible the EAB population has already grown and spread to other trees.

Ash trees are not only abundant within the City of Le Sueur, but they are an important component to our urban landscapes providing essential tree canopy. The question is whether the Emerald Ash beetle has been found within the county from known infestation sites. The potential of losing these trees if the EAB goes undetected within the ash trees could be detrimental to not only the economy but the environment as well. The cost of injecting, removing and even managing the ash trees of an infestation can be severely high.

Definitions:

- Quarantine Zones- Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) regulated areas that restrict the movement of any ash tree material.
- Public Right Away- A piece of land that gives the public works responsibility to maintain roughly 10-15ft back of curb onto parcel of land, which is considered the public right-away.
- Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)- Standard for measuring trees, the diameter (cross-section) is measured in inches from about 4.5ft above the ground.
- Host Species- All tree species of the *Fraxinus* genus, all which are susceptible to the Emerald Ash Borer invasive species.
- Known EAB Infested Sites- Known and designated areas where EAB has been found and documented of the infested ash tree.

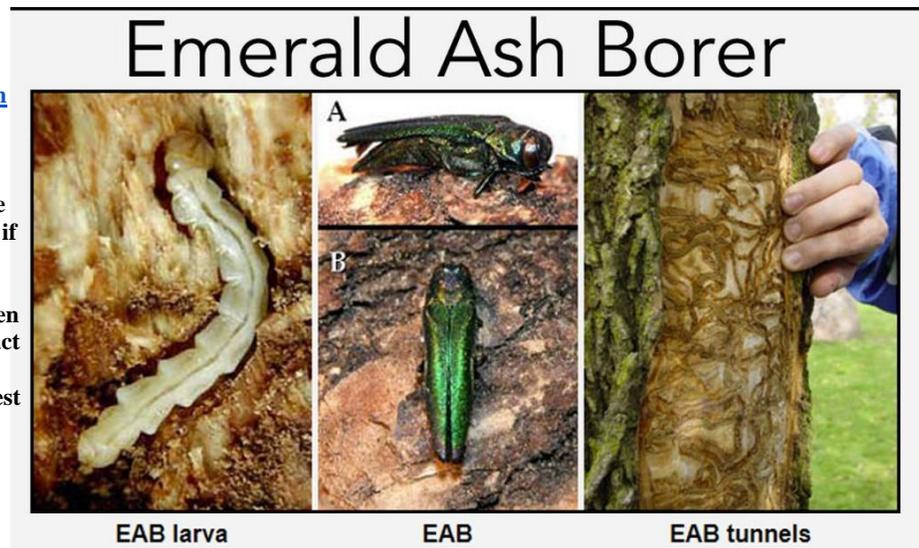
Purpose:

By implementing the provisions of the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan, the City of Le Sueur is attempting to prepare for the pending disruption that an EAB infestation has on urban forests. This plan helps mitigate specific strategies for the possible occurrence of an Emerald Ash Borer outbreak, along with some proactive approaches that help spread the costs in a manageable time period. The green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) has been planted extensively within both private and boulevard trees. To prepare for its arrival, policies and resources help show how tree mortality will impact the social, economic and quality of life in Le Sueur.

What is Emerald Ash Borer?

[Emerald Ash Borer](#), (*Agrilus planipennis*), is a quarantined non-native invasive wood bearing beetle that inconspicuously kills ash trees. Adult EAB are small, bright iridescent green beetles with a slender body of about 1/3"-1/2". Underneath their wings is a purple magenta color and their eggs are laid on a tree's bark. The larvae then bore into the tree and feed on the new wood, impacting the ash tree's ability to grow, suppressing the supply of nutrients. The larvae have white flat bodies and are roughly 1" long when fully grown. They feed until late fall and transform into pupae in late spring.

[Does My Tree Have Emerald Ash Borer \(EAB\)?](#) Many insect's Native to Minnesota have been Confused for the [EAB pest](#). So, Correctly identifying whether the beetle is Emerald Ash Borer and if the tree is an [Fraxinus](#) is quite critical. If you do concur or suspect that your ash tree has been infected with this nuisance, contact the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) on their Arrest the Pest phone, [1-888-545-6684](tel:1-888-545-6684)



[Symptoms of Emerald Ash Borer](#)

The first signs of an outbreak are non-noticeable, but the pest quickly kills, and the ash tree will usually die within four years of initial contact. Early detection is difficult, so noticing increased woodpecker activity and die-back of the upper canopy is one of the tall tale signs. The city is working towards a tree inventory of existing ash trees in boulevard and public land limits to help implement the impacts that a EAB infestation will have on Le Sueur.

- Increased woodpecker activity- they peck out outer bark while foraging to feed on EAB larva
- D-shaped exit holes 1/8" as adult beetles emerge from late May to August
- Bark splitting
- Canopy dieback- begins in the one-third top of canopy
- Serpentine (S-shaped) galleries situated under the bark- galleries in which larvae feed
- Epicormic Shoots growing from ash tree



Slow the Spread

Emerald Ash Borer naturally spreads within one to two miles annually. The beetle is spread through short distance natural flight and infested firewood through long distance. Without care, movement of infested material results in a wider and faster spread of EAB. [Proper management](#) and planning practices will help slow the spread and provide protection for the uninfected Minnesotan forests.

- Don't import infested ash material such as firewood into Minnesota
- Don't transport ash firewood unless [MDA certified](#)
- Remember that it is illegal to move non-coniferous firewood outside EAB quarantine zones
- Remain diligent on monitoring your ash tree to recognize the possible infestation of EAB

Action Plan Development

- **Education-** The City of Le Sueur is willing to strive and educate its residents on EAB management through public meetings, the city website, mailings, literature, community meetings, public meetings and local newsletters. The City and County members will keep in touch and stay in contact with the [Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(MDA\)](#) and other institutions concerned with the Emerald Ash Borer pest. The members will all maintain good communication and ensure the residents know the awareness of EAB and the management plan strategies they'll implement when there is an outbreak.

Tree Inventory

During the Fall of 2021, the city has been performing a tree inventory of all boulevard and public trees. The first process of initiating an EAB management plan is constructing a proper tree inventory. [Tree inventory](#) consists of attributes of the *Fraxinus* tree, including the location, size (DBH) and current condition of the tree. At minimum, there should be a tree inventory of all ash trees within the maintained park/boulevard areas to get a rough estimate of the cost of an Emerald Ash Borer infestation. The objective of the tree inventory will assess the current liabilities and values of the public ash trees to set forth preparation and action strategies.

- **Boulevard Trees-** The City will initiate a new policy that prohibits the planting of any *Fraxinus* species, to help diversify the tree canopy of Le Sueur and to eliminate the chance of a future EAB infestation. Ash trees that are in a poor condition will be marked for removal. Once EAB is discovered, the tree will be removed and disposed of properly. Replanting will be done after removal, with a certified Boulevard Tree List. Tree plantings will be done the following spring/fall. Pesticide control will be done to trees considered "Legacy Trees". These trees are defined to be trees of historical significance



or excellent condition. This method is more cost efficient, performing pesticide injection than tree removal/disposal.

- **Park Trees-** The number of ash trees within the maintained park areas will be targeted for removal if EAB is discovered. The City will establish detection trees and traps as needed, to help detect early EAB infestation. If an ash tree in a wooded area is found to be infested, proper removal may be initiated to help slow the spread of EAB. Ash trees that are removed in a maintained area will be replaced on the City's budget.
- **Private Trees-** Through proper educational efforts that the City offers, private property owners are encouraged to diligently monitor their ash tree for any signs of EAB. They can either contact a certified tree contractor or [MDA to arrest the pest](#). The City encourages property owners to diversify the tree canopy of Le Sueur and help try to buffer future infestation of EAB. Future tree planting suggestions are on the City's website, called the [Approved Boulevard Tree List](#).

Treatment

Using information gathered from the Tree Inventory will help estimate the damages that a possible outbreak/infestation of EAB can do to a city. Tree assessment software will be initiated for tree management process and removal costs.

- **Insecticide-** The City will properly determine which trees will be chemically treated in order to prevent the further spread of EAB. The city will monitor the effectiveness of this treatment process and the injections will be done by trained professionals. Trees of high priority will be up to the city inspectors, determining the importance and which loss of tree would be detrimental to the landscape. The city will not perform chemical treatment unless EAB is identified within 15-mile radius of Le Sueur. Chemical treatment applications will be implemented by the guidelines issued by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. If done properly and at the optimum time of year, the in-jectcal/spray treatments done will keep EAB away from healthy trees for a certain period. Various options for chemical treatment:
 - Trunk Injection
 - Soil Spray Application
 - Bark Spray Application

For more information about the different chemical treatment applications, please visit <https://chemjettreeinjector.com/emerald-ash-borer/>



- **Tree Removal-** Public ash tree removal will be based upon the risk to people and property of the City. Higher risked diseased trees will be removed first and prioritized, followed by those who have no beneficial value to the community. Qualified contractors issued by the City will properly remove the public tree, which will be replaced and replanted.
- **Waste Disposal Sites-** Le Sueur County currently has sites for the disposal of infected trees. Residents can dispose of their infected tree and yard waste at these surrounding facilities, which will help slow the spread of EAB.

Financial Considerations

The arrival of Emerald Ash Borer will increase the number of ash trees that will undoubtedly die and need to be removed within a short period of time. The creation of an EAB fund is recommended to be financially prepared for the possible outbreak of an EAB infestation. An EAB infestation in Le Sueur will result in hundreds of ash trees that will need to be removed for public health and safety reasons. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture and other federal agencies may award grants to communities that are currently facing issues with Emerald Ash Borer. Demand for grants may be affected by State and Federal budget cuts. The following estimation of costs is based on contracted services, as the total costs for professional services to properly dispose and remove the infected ash tree will be determined.

- **Removal-** \$700/per tree
- **Stump Grinding-** \$250/per tree
- **Re-Planting-** \$500/per tree

Conclusion

By implementing a proactive approach towards a possible Emerald Ash Borer infestation, the City of Le Sueur will implement this management plan as budgets permit. The City can position itself to manage the financial implications that EAB possesses, and the steps outlined above are based on current information of EAB. As new information arises, proper management practices will be initiated. Proper planning and preparing can mitigate the prevention of a possible EAB infestation/spread. This plan is subject to revisions, as the tree inventory is still underway. Revisions to this EAB Management Plan would be subject to City Council approval.