

## **City of Lakewood EAB Plan**

### **Plan**

1. Complete full inventory of all public owned land.
2. Inventory four one mile quadrants in the city and take random samples from ash on public property.
3. Education – web site and information sheets for the public and KTLV channel 8.
4. Plan for the removal and replanting of poor condition ash and project costs associated with both aspects (new trees average \$250.00 to \$300.00 each).
5. Make decisions on treatments by prioritizing ash with a DBH of eight inches or larger based on condition and location. There is also some valuable ash in the five to seven inch range that we may consider for treatment.

### **Private Property**

1. The present Ordinance addresses enforcement on trees that become infested. We will have to address the storage of ash bi-products from removals and shorten the time citizens have to comply with the removal citation.
2. Homeowners will be referred to the private contractors to do tree inspections.
3. Complaints regarding neighboring trees will be a difficult and time consuming task due to the nature of the insect and the difficulty in determining its presence.
4. Assistance Options
  - Financial assistance to homeowners for tree removal could be set up as an income based program in order to qualify but will still come with a high price.
  - Set a monetary reimbursement with proof of a receipt for services rendered. This more than likely would become an expensive option to have funded.
  - The city could establish a program that provides assistance for the replacement of trees. This could be a 50/50 cost share program like we had several years ago or a program where we provide trees at cost through the Denver Digs Trees program which includes all Front Range communities

### **Treatments on public owned tree**

1. Determine the cost of trees to be treated. It will cost \$3.10 per caliper inch to treat trees by hydraulic injection with Tree-age. The cost of the Arborjet unit is \$2,755.00 and the cost per inch does not include man hours. We could treat approximately 20 to 25 trees per day. Treatments will have to be done every two years for the remainder of the trees life span.
2. Costs for contractors to treat trees range from \$7.00 to \$12.00 per caliper inch.
3. Current operational budgets will not adequately fund the volume of anticipated removals on public property or cover treating priority trees.

## **Disposal site for ash bi-products**

1. This will have to be addressed through local and county governments.

## **Inventory status**

1. Inventory of park trees has been completed with a few minor exceptions. We are currently working on the major R.O.W.'s within the city. We have a total of 1,087 ash trees in our park system. Of the 1,087 trees 880 were determined to be in good condition. 180 of those trees were determined to be in fair condition showing some type of decline or structural concerns and 27 of the trees were in poor condition and will be scheduled for removal in the future. Fox Hollow is fifty percent complete with the majority of ash having been inventoried. The Homestead will be done after Fox Hollow and the R.O.W's are completed.

Presently there are 559 trees in parks that are over eight inches in DBH with a good to fair condition rating. The total DBH for these trees is 7,662 inches and at \$3.10 an inch to treat it would cost approximately \$23,752.00 every two to three years to address the need in parks only. There are 105 ash trees in the 5 to 7 inch range with a total DBH of 640 inches. If we opted to treat those trees the cost would be \$1,984.00 every two to three years. This cost is based on the insecticide treatment alone and does not take into consideration labor. These figures will increase in cost over time as chemical costs rise and the DBH increases. All of that information is available through the use of the inventory program and will be easy to access for a cost analysis. When the golf courses and the R.O.W.'s are completed there will be a significant change in the number of ash on public property. These figures should be available by the end of March if we complete the inventory.

## **Summary**

The trees on public property will be manageable but the major concern with the majority of municipalities is how to address trees on private property. This is an expensive situation to address and the more aggressive the approach is, the more expensive it becomes. Significant cost considerations include capital equipment for treatment, chemical cost, removal expense, replanting expense, and labor the largest component of all.