

CITY OF ABILENE
TREE BOARD
MEETING AGENDA

June 26, 2018
at 5:30 pm
Abilene Public Library ~ Jordan Room
209 NW 4th St.

Agenda Item
Call to Order.
Approval of Agenda.
Approval of the Meeting Minutes – April 27, 2018.
Old Business. 1. Emerald Ash Borer Plan.
New Business. 1. Election of Officers. 2. Westar Planting Recommendation.
Comments.
Adjournment.

**CITY OF ABILENE
TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

April 27, 2018

Arbor Day ~ Fourth Grade Forester Program

Eisenhower Elementary – 1101 N. Vine Street at 9:00 a.m.

St. Andrew's Elementary – 301 S. Buckeye Avenue at 10:20 a.m.

Tree Board meeting followed at City Hall ~ 419 N. Broadway

Members Present: John Barbur, Jack Gilstrap, Christina Krause and Drew Snitker (Vice-Chair)

Members Absent: Johnny Kinder (Chair)

Staff Present: Jennie Hiatt and James Holland

Others Present: none

Call to Order – Welcome.

Snitker called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

Krause was present for the presentations/tree plantings, but had to leave prior to the meeting.

Approval of Agenda.

Gilstrap made a motion to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Barbur. The motion passed unanimously. (3-0)

Approval of Minutes – March 27, 2018.

Barbur made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Gilstrap. The motion passed unanimously. (3-0)

Business.

1. Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan.

Barbur discussed the presentation that he gave to the City Commission regarding a plan for the Emerald Ash Borer.

There was discussion.

2. Tree Inventory at Eisenhower Library Grounds – May 11th.

There was discussion.

It was suggested to let the public know about the tree inventory, so they can volunteer to help if they would like.

Comments.

The next meeting is scheduled for *May 22, 2018*.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus.

Minutes Submitted,

James D. Holland
Community Development Director

Minutes Approved,

Johnny Kinder, Chair or
Drew Snitker, Vice-Chair

Memorandum

Date: June 20, 2018

To: Tree Board

From: James D. Holland, Community Development Director

Regarding: Agenda Items for June 26th Agenda

1. Old Business:

- A. **Emerald Ash Board Plan**. Developing a City-wide response plan for the Emerald Ash Bore epidemic is a top priority for the City Commission. Previously the Tree Board had been provided a copy of the Lenexa plan, which could serve as a template for our response plan. Please review the Lenexa Plan and consider what the goals, elements, and approaches would be appropriate for our community. Once you provide this guidance, staff will work on a draft plan and consult with those who may have a role in implementing the plan.

2. New Business:

- A. **Westar Planting Recommendation** – The City is organizing a new annual neighborhood clean up initiative called “Make a Difference Week”. As part of this initiative, Westar is committed to planting 20 street trees in Abilene. Westar has asked the Tree Board to provide a recommendation on the species and location for these trees. The planting will occur in September. Included with this memorandum is a copy of the “Make a Difference Week” flyer. At the June meeting, the Tree Board may want to discuss it’s role in the “Make a Difference Week” project.



Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan

The City of Lenexa's EAB Management Plan

The City of Lenexa has made a continued commitment to preserve and maintain trees on city property. Evidence of this commitment includes our street tree ordinance, which requires one (1) street tree be planted for every 40 feet of public or private street frontage and the city's ongoing status as a Tree City USA community since 1988.

This management plan will serve as the City of Lenexa's guide to manage the city's publicly-owned ash trees and how the city will work with the property owners to manage private ash trees. The goal of this plan is to take a proactive, methodical, and measured approach to slow the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Lenexa, while attempting to minimize the impact of tree loss to Lenexa's neighborhoods. This management plan recognizes three important facts:

1. Infested and other distressed ash trees are a haven for the EAB and can promote the spread of the insect to other healthy trees; therefore these ash trees on public property must be removed.
2. Healthy ash trees that are not showing signs of distress or infestation are a positive part of Lenexa's urban forest. These trees will be preventatively treated and will remain until they are no longer healthy or infested, and then will be removed. This will help slow the loss of tree canopy in Lenexa's neighborhoods.
3. The removal of ash trees from our urban forest will change the landscape of the community. Reforestation where ash trees have been removed is essential for maintaining the appeal of our neighborhoods and emphasizing our continued commitment to the environment.

The management plan includes specific procedures the City of Lenexa will implement to manage the spread of the EAB within its borders. Included with the procedures in this management plan are tables identifying the potential financial impact of each component. The potential financial impact values identified herein are for planning purposes only and are subject to change as infestations of the EAB are found. To make the management plan easier to use it is separated into the following five key components:

1. Resident & Business Outreach and Education
2. City-Owned Ash Trees
3. Privately Owned Ash Trees
4. Updating of the EAB Management Plan
5. Important Contact Information

Resident & Business Outreach and Education

The City of Lenexa is committed to reaching out to residents and businesses and educating them about EAB and the impact it poses to Lenexa's urban forest, the city's actions to slow the spread of the EAB, and options for residents and businesses with private ash trees.

Outreach and education requires the resources of multiple departments including Communications, Community Development, and Parks & Recreation. These resources will be used to create and implement the following informational tools:

Informational Tool	Description
Informational Displays	When infestation increases, display boards will be put up at public facilities.
Door Hangers and Brochures	Distribution of informational door hangers will begin January 2014.
Newsletter Article	We will continue to use the <i>Lenexa Town Talk</i> and the <i>My Lenexa News</i> e-newsletter when new or pertinent information is available regarding EAB.
City Website	A webpage has been developed and will be continuously updated with current information.
Email Blasts	This will be used to inform Home Owner Associations.
Onsite Resident Meetings	If a request is made, a parks staff member will meet onsite with residents to answer questions and provide guidance as time and funding permits.
Presentations	City staff will have opportunities to educate local groups.

City-Owned Ash Trees

Overview:

The City of Lenexa has approximately 8,500 ash trees in our tree inventory and 468 in its parks, medians, and public building properties. The tree inventory, which is not all-inclusive, is of all city-owned trees and trees within the 15-foot landscape easement along city streets. This does not include heavily wooded areas and anything further back of that 15 feet (private property). The ash trees are a major concern because the majority of them are in highly visible areas along heavily traveled streets, and they represent more than 20 percent of our approximate 40,000 inventoried trees. To help slow the spread of the EAB, the city is taking a proactive, multi-faceted approach that will include: surveying of all city-owned ash trees, insecticide treatment of desired ash trees, removal of dead or declining trees, and replanting with acceptable trees where ash trees were removed.

Survey:

In March 2014, the Parks Department completed a survey of all city-owned ash trees from parks, medians, and public buildings and created a current benchmark of their condition. Employees (who hold the Certified Arborist Credential) assigned each tree a condition rating and measured the DBH (diameter at breast height). Attributes that were considered when assigning a rating were, but not limited to, leaf density, structural integrity, environmental stresses, apparent cavities, root flare/collar condition, crown dieback, fungal infections, insect damage, nutrient deficiencies, and heaving soil. This information was then used to categorize each tree on a scale of 1 to 3 (see table below). Trees rated 1 or 2 will be inspected on an annual basis and the results will be used to plan for continued treatment, monitoring, or removal of the ash tree. Trees rated a 3 will be scheduled to be removed and replaced as resources permit.

Tree Condition Rating Scale

Scale	1	2	3
Condition	Good Condition	Fair Condition	Poor Condition

Treatment:

Beginning in the spring of 2014, ash trees that are deemed desirable and rated a 1 or 2 with a trunk diameter of greater than 6 inches will receive an insecticide treatment. Each treatment is estimated to cost approximately \$60 per tree. The City of Lenexa will make a significant investment in the health of these trees and all will be candidates for retreatment on an annual or biennial basis, depending on the product used for treatment. The treatment of these trees will be with a trunk injection or soil drench of a proven insecticide. After each treatment and prior to additional treatments, parks staff will inspect the condition of the treated trees to determine the success level.

Tree Removal:

The City of Lenexa will use a combination of city resources and contractual services to remove 124 ash trees that were determined to be not desired, were rated a 3, and all trees that have a DBH of 6 inches or less. Estimated cost of removal will be anywhere from \$200-\$1,200 per tree, depending on size and location. City staff will also remove all stumps. All trees rated 1 or 2 will continue to be monitored on an annual basis, if these trees become infested by EAB or their conditions decline, they will also be removed. The city plans to have all removals completed by the end of 2015.

Reforestation:

City-owned ash trees removed as part of the EAB Management Plan will be replaced over time. The Parks Department's goal will be to replant trees within 18 months of the removal; however, replanting will be contingent on available funding. Replacement trees will be between a 2-inch and 3.5-inch caliper and will be planted by city staff or by a qualified contractor, depending on available resources. The estimated replacement costs will be approximately \$350 per tree. The following chart is a sample of acceptable tree species that could be used to replace the ash trees. Location, spacing, and the site conditions will be considered by the Parks Superintendent and/or the Landscape Supervisor for proper species selection and placement.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
Black Gum or Black Tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>
Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
Saw Tooth Oak	<i>Quercus acutissima</i>

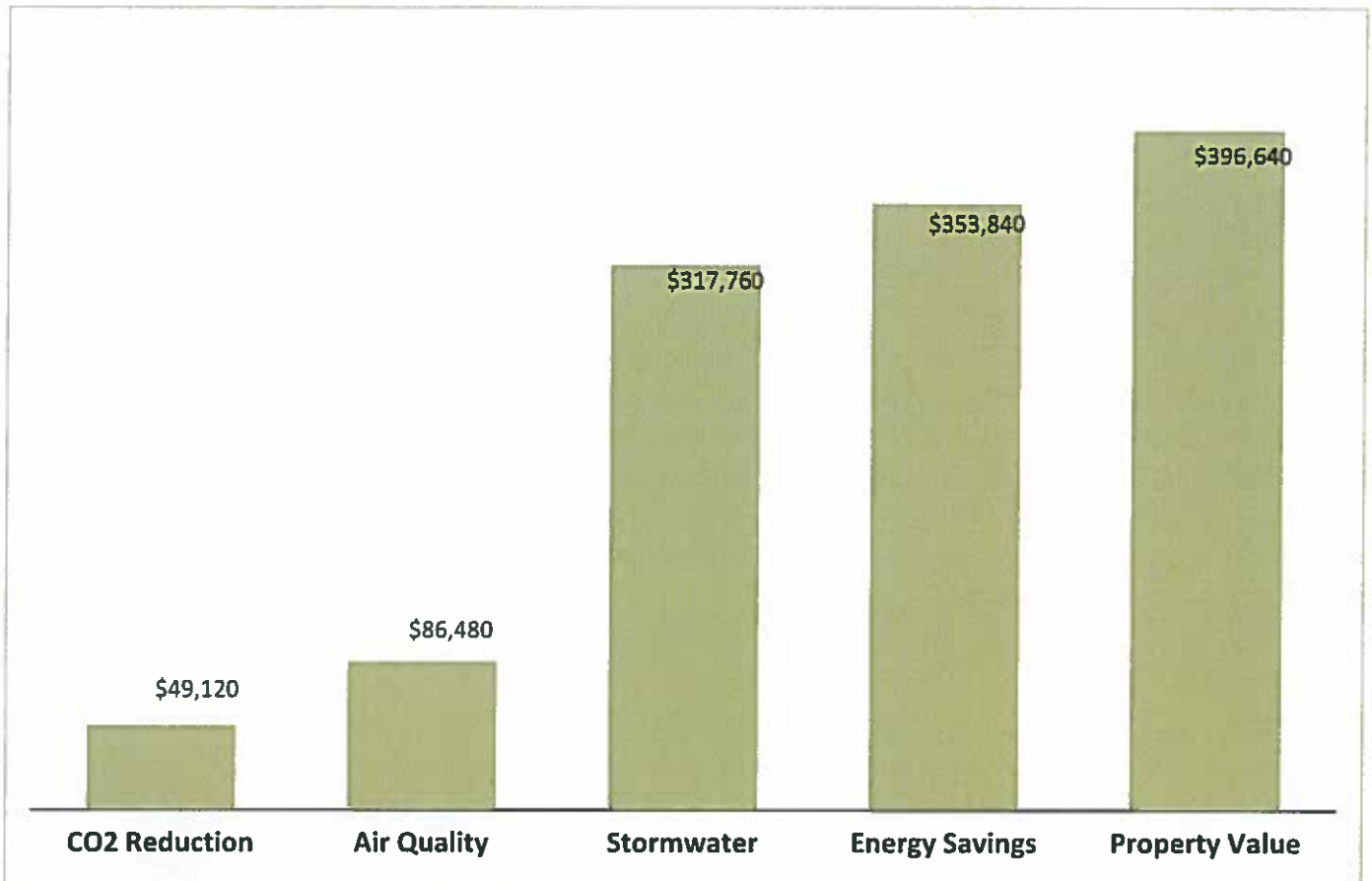
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
Greenspire Littleleaf Linden	<i>Tilia cordata</i> 'Greenspire'
Greenvase Japanese Zelkova	<i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Green Vase'
Shademaster Locust	<i>Gelitsia triacanthos</i> var <i>inermis</i> 'Shademaster'
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>
Shingle Oak	<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
Triumph Elm	<i>Ulmus</i> 'Morton Glossy'

Management Plan Implementation Costs:

The costs involved in implementing this management plan will include: the cost to preventatively treat all desired trees with insecticides, the costs involved in removal and disposal of all poorly rated and/or infested ash trees, and the costs associated with replacing trees that were removed. These costs will be fairly substantial, but necessary for the proper management of our urban forest.

Privately Owned Ash Trees (Includes Right-of-Way Street Trees):

The City of Lenexa recognizes that many residences and businesses may have ash trees on their property. There are approximately 8,000 ash trees in the city's right-of-ways alone. These trees were run through a tree benefit calculator. This calculator provides a variety of information, including total annual benefits that a tree provides, which includes such benefits as energy savings, CO₂ reduction, air quality control, stormwater runoff, and increased property values. Assuming an average DBH of 15 inches, the total replacement value for these ROW trees would be \$11,976,315 and their annual benefits exceed \$1,200,000. The loss of these trees would also have a significant impact on property values in the City of Lenexa.



Ash trees represent more than 20% of Lenexa's urban forest and are the most populous genus (*Fraxinus*). Second is maple (*Acer*). Although the city does recognize the benefits these trees provide, it does not treat or remove trees on private property. However, if the owner suspects that their ash tree might be infested with the EAB, they are asked to contact the Kansas Department of Agriculture, the local extension office, or a local certified arborist. Contact information is available on page 9 of this plan.

Consultation/Removal:

Upon request, a City of Lenexa certified arborist from the Parks Department will meet with property owners to help them determine if a tree on private property is an ash tree. General assessments will be offered on the health of the tree, questions will be answered, and residents will be advised on whom to contact for more specific diagnoses and treatment options.

If clear signs of the EAB are found on the tree in question during a consultation, the Parks Superintendent and/or Landscape Supervisor will notify the property owner and the city's Code Enforcement that the tree has been infested and will need to be removed. Removal of the EAB infected tree is the responsibility of the homeowner. The EAB infected tree(s) must be removed using methods approved by the Kansas Department of Agriculture. The Code Enforcement Department will send a follow up letter to the owner identifying the steps the resident must take to have the tree removed. See City Ordinance Section 4-1-D-2 R-5-B for full details.

Consultations will be scheduled as requested and as staff time allows. There is no cost for consultation with the Parks Department staff.

Treatment:

Property owners are able and encouraged to treat their private ash trees. These treatments are most effective as a preventative measure. Three common chemical treatments used for the EAB include: Imidacloprid (Merit, Xytect); Emamectin benzoate (TREE-age); or Dinotefuran (Safari, Transtect, Zylam). Owners wishing to treat their private trees should contact an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and/or the Kansas Arborist Association (KAA), who is also a Licensed Certified Pesticide Applicator by the Kansas Department of Agriculture, to discuss which treatment option is the best for their tree(s).

However, no treatment can be guaranteed to be 100% effective. If an infestation occurs, the property owner will be required to remove the tree. Residents or businesses that are required to remove their tree(s) due to infestation will not be reimbursed by the City of Lenexa for any treatment costs that were incurred.

Street Tree Replacement:

Due to the devastating nature of the emerald ash borer and the thousands of ash trees along our city's streets that will die once infested, the City of Lenexa has developed a replacement refund program for these ash trees. In order to help preserve Lenexa's urban forest and help ensure that property values do not drastically decline, the city plans to use excess funding from the Street Tree Fund to help ease the financial burden to property owners. The city is encouraging property owners who either replace their street trees that were removed due to EAB infestation or who proactively replace their tree to a non-susceptible species by providing a refund of 50% of the cost, up to \$200 per property.

In order to receive the refund, property owners must be replacing an Ash tree and must get pre-approval from the Parks Superintendent and/or Landscape Supervisor on the location of the tree planting. The property owner must replace with an approved tree species from the list above or a tree species that has been pre-approved. The property owner may purchase their tree where they prefer, but a valid receipt must be provided in order to receive the refund. The tree will need to be planted in accordance with city code and remain a street tree. Prior to issuing a refund, an employee from the Parks Department will visit the property to verify the street tree has been planted. Refund checks will be mailed to the property address and may take up to 4 weeks.

A set reserve amount per district will remain in the street tree fund. Once funds in excess of the reserve amount are exhausted, the refund to property owners will no longer be available.

Updating of this Management Plan:

This management plan will be reviewed by the Parks Superintendent or his/her designee and the Director of Parks & Recreation on an annual basis to determine if the plan is commensurate with the infestation level.

Important Contacts and Informational Websites:

City of Lenexa
Parks and Recreation
Department

www.lenexa.com
913.477.7141

Kansas State Research
and Extension

www.johnson.ksu.edu
913.715.7000

Kansas Forest Service

www.tinyurl.com/nxbmxtl
785.564.6698

Kansas
Department of Agriculture

www.tinyurl.com/np4e68g
785.296.3556

Kansas Arborists
Association

www.kansasarborist.com

International
Society of Arboriculture

www.isa-arbor.com

United States
Department of Agriculture

www.stopthebeetle.info

Emerald Ash Borer Information

www.emeraldashborer.info

Abilene Make a Difference Week - 2018 (Sat., Sept 15th – Fri., Sept 21st)

We have much to be thankful for living in Abilene. When people speak of Abilene, they usually do so with pride. Let's take our annual clean up week to the next level by volunteering to clean up the town and help our neighbors who are less fortunate. Let's **TAKE PRIDE** in our accomplishments and community. Everyone can give a little time that will collectively make a big difference. Let's have a "Make a Difference Week".

Goal

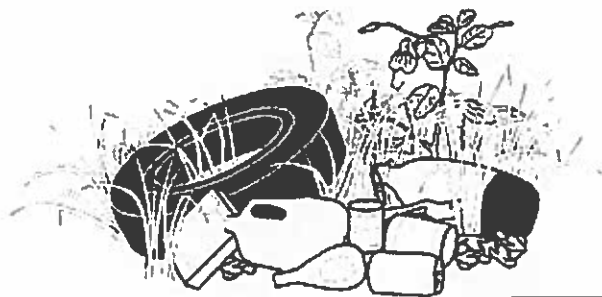
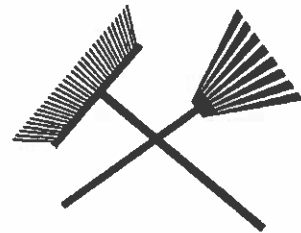
- Clean up 12 City blocks (sidewalks, yard, alleys);
- Remove 5 dead trees;
- Plant 20 street trees;
- Paint 4 houses;
- Remove 3 hazardous structures;
- Remove 100 abandoned tires; and
- Have at least 15 teams of 10 volunteers each.



How It Works

Community Development will help identify projects (big and small) that will improve the quality of life in neighborhoods. These items may include, but are not limited to:

- Vegetations, limb, and tree removal;
- Debris clean up;
- Tree planting;
- Fence repair;
- Gutter cleaning, house caulking, and painting;
- Sidewalk cleaning;
- Building removal; and
- Projects at a non-profit (Old Abilene Town, Greyhound Hall of Fame, Parks, Hope Center, Food Bank, Historical Society, Senior Center, Civic Center, Church, etc...).



Contact for more information:
James D. Holland
Community Development Director
(785) 263-2355
development@abilenecityhall.com

How to get Involved

Step 1 – Sign Up	Complete a volunteer sign up form. If you'd like to put together a team indicate the team name, number of volunteers, timeframe to volunteer, equipment available, donated supplies, and type of projects you are willing to complete.
Step 2 – Indemnification Form	Sign an indemnification form indemnifying the property owner and City from liability.
Step 3 – Project Selection	City staff will provide a list of projects and detailed project description for the project(s) you select. You will let the City staff know when you plan on completing the project.
Step 4 – Volunteer	Show up at the prescribed time and complete the project.
Step 5 – Celebration	It is important to acknowledge those who have volunteered to make the project happen.

*** Donations in the form of cash, equipment, supplies, or machine time would be greatly appreciated and would allow the volunteers to do even more.**



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