

CLEVELAND METROPARKS  
NATURAL RESOURCE DIVISION

POST &  
SHARE

EMERALD ASH BORER & ASH TREE REMOVAL  
BRECKSVILLE INFESTATION PROMPTS REVIEW OF CLEVELAND METROPARKS POLICIES

CLEVELAND METROPARKS POLICIES REGARDING  
FIREWOOD, SPECIMEN TREE AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

With the news release of the recent emerald ash borer infestation in Brecksville, questions regarding Cleveland Metroparks ash trees management from the public may follow. We have distributed updates regarding emerald ash borer across the region and new policies within Cleveland Metroparks to prepare for potential spread of this pest. The key factor accelerating the spread of this insect across the landscape is transport of infested firewood. As of October 4, 2006, Cleveland Metroparks has put new guidelines for firewood and public awareness in motion. A summary of those new policies appears below. Municipalities' outlook on costs, budgeting, contracting and hazards associated with standing dead ash trees have become a serious business from lessons learned from northwest Ohio and Michigan. Cleveland Metroparks faces challenges with keeping public facility and recreation areas free of hazardous trees while continuing with the mission to conserve natural resources. The new policies and long-term specimen tree and forest management plan address that mission while providing guidelines to slow the spread of emerald ash borer and remove infested ash trees from public facility and recreation sites.

Cleveland Metroparks Public Policies Regarding Ash Wood  
Effective October 2006

- Prohibit transport of firewood across, through and into Cleveland Metroparks. Rangers will issue warnings to any persons found violating this policy. Warnings are issued under Park Regulation 541.01 Property Defacement, Destruction or Removal which includes "knowingly injuring vegetation standing or growing in the park."
- Prohibit the public from taking any split firewood provided by Cleveland Metroparks out of any reservation, nature center or golf clubhouse facility. This refers to firewood split and stocked by Cleveland Metroparks for the explicit use in reserved facilities.
- Continue to allow the taking of firewood-sized (**non-split**) wood (**non-ash of any species**) purposefully deposited by Cleveland Metroparks for the general public's use. **This refers to only non-ash species firewood-sized pieces left for the general public as a result of tree removal or tree trimming by Cleveland Metroparks.**
- Firewood that is supplied for park patron consumption at Park District facilities shall not be generated from an ash tree species
- Visitor Services will include Cleveland Metroparks public policies regarding ash trees in correspondences with the general public.

April 04, 2008

Cleveland Metroparks  
Emerald Ash Borer and  
Forest Management



# EMERALD ASH BORER & ASH TREE REMOVAL

## CLEVELAND METROPARKS PREPARES FOR EMERALD ASH BORER



# FIREWOOD

# ALERT

Help Stop the Infestation of Cleveland Metroparks Forests by  
**Emerald Ash Borer**

DO NOT MOVE FIREWOOD INTO or THROUGH  
CLEVELAND METROPARKS AT ANY TIME

Enforced by Cleveland Metroparks Rangers under Park Regulation 34.1.01

- 1. Firewood may NOT be brought into Cleveland Metroparks under ANY circumstances.
- 2. Firewood may NOT be dumped in Cleveland Metroparks.
- 3. Firewood (other than what is provided by Cleveland Metroparks for public pick-up) may NOT BE TRANSPORTED THROUGH Cleveland Metroparks at ANY TIME.
- 4. Split-Firewood, provided by Cleveland Metroparks at reserved facilities, nature centers and golf clubhouses may NOT BE MOVED TO OTHER LOCATIONS OR REMOVED FROM CLEVELAND METROPARKS.

For more information, contact: (216) 835-5200

For more information about the Emerald Ash Borer, contact:  
Toll-Free Ohio Department of Agriculture 1-888-OHIO-EAB

### Cleveland Metroparks Internal Policies effective October 2006

- Continue to leave non-ash cut wood rounds, a by-product of routine tree removal, for the general public to take.
- Any ash species either pruned, dead-wooded or removed (including storm damage) in reservations, golf courses or at the Zoo will be hauled back to a holding area within a Park Operations Management Center respective to the reservation where the tree was located and marked with fluorescent orange paint down the length of the trunk and on each end piece of wood. The accumulated ash wood will be processed into woodchips at a later date. **Until the yarded ash wood is processed, it is NOT to be used for firewood, taken out of the Cleveland Metroparks by any employee or non-employee or used for any other reason.**
- Any ash species either pruned, dead-wooded or removed (including storm damage) in reservations, golf courses or at the Zoo **that CAN NOT be stored in a holding yard WILL BE bucked into pieces longer than 6 feet and scattered into the forest adjacent to where the tree was located and left in place for a minimum of 2 full (fall through summer) seasons before being pieced for firewood if necessary either for aesthetics and or debris control. As much of the non-trunk portion of the ash will be chipped as possible.** Remaining portions of the canopy unable to be chipped will also be pieced longer than 6 feet and scattered into the adjacent wood line for later removal if necessary for aesthetics and or debris control.
- The signs currently posted at picnic facilities and kiosks throughout Cleveland Metroparks have updated language to reflect new policies regarding transport of firewood through or into Cleveland Metroparks boundaries with the reasons outlined.
- Ash wood of any species generated within Cleveland Metroparks **will NOT be transported from one reservation to another.** The marking of ash tree pieces with fluorescent orange paint by Cleveland Metroparks staff in the holding yards will ensure any and all employees handling firewood and logs will not mix potentially infested ash wood with non-ash firewood and logs.
- Routine inspection of any ash tree wood for signs of emerald ash borer will be conducted by employees handling ash during pruning, dead-wooding and removal (including storm damage). Any signs of emerald ash borer will be immediately reported to the Natural Resource Division and any further work on the infested tree/trees will cease immediately including transport of logs back to a holding yard.



# **EMERALD ASH BORER & ASH TREE REMOVAL**

## **CLEVELAND METROPARKS PREPARES FOR EMERALD ASH BORER**

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING EMERALD ASH BORER**

**Q: WHERE AND HOW MANY ASH TREES MIGHT HAVE TO BE REMOVED FROM CLEVELAND METROPARKS FOLLOWING INFESTATION BY EMERALD ASH BORER?**

**A:** INFESTED ASH TREES THAT BECOME HAZARDOUS TO PUBLIC SAFETY WILL BE SYSTEMATICALLY REMOVED FROM PUBLIC FACILITY / USER AREAS. A TALLY OF ASH TREE SPECIMENS IN PUBLIC AREAS SUCH AS PICNIC AREAS AND GOLF COURSES HAS BEEN COMPLETED AS OF MARCH OF 2007. THIS TALLY WILL PROVIDE CLEVELAND METROPARKS WITH DATA TO CREATE ESTIMATES OF TIME, LABOR AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TREE REMOVAL FOR EACH POTENTIAL INFESTATION ZONE.

**Q: WILL INFESTED OR DEAD ASH TREES BE REMOVED FROM THE INTERIOR FORESTS THAT ARE NOT HAZARDOUS TO THE VISITING PUBLIC?**

**A:** INFESTED AND DEAD ASH TREES THAT DO NOT POSE A HAZARDOUS THREAT TO VISITORS WILL REMAIN IN THE INTERIOR AREAS. AS ALWAYS, TREES ADJACENT TO TRAILS OR OTHER PUBLIC STRUCTURES IN THE INTERIOR FOREST ZONES WILL BE MONITORED AND REMOVED IF DETERMINED HAZARDOUS.

**Q: IS THERE A PLAN TO SPRAY THE FORESTS WITH A PESTICIDE TO KILL THE EMERALD ASH BORER?**

**A:** AT THIS POINT IN TIME THERE HAS NOT BEEN A PRODUCT DISCOVERED THAT WILL INTERRUPT THE LIFE CYCLE OF EMERALD ASH BORER OR SUCCEED AS A LARGE SCALE AERIAL APPLICATION TYPE OF PESTICIDE. THE FACT THAT THE LARVAL STAGE OF EAB TUNNELS WELL INTO THE TREE, GREATLY REDUCES THE CHANCE FOR INSECTICIDE TO HAVE ANY EFFECT. THERE ARE A FEW SYSTEMIC PRODUCTS WITH THE ACTIVE INGREDIENT OF IMIDACLOPRID APPLIED VIA INJECTION OR SOIL DRENCH TECHNIQUES THAT HAVE SHOWN PROMISING RESULTS. THIS IS ON A TREE BY TREE BASIS AND MUST BE REAPPLIED PERIODICALLY.

**Q: THERE HAS BEEN NEWS OF A PARASITIC CHINESE WASP RELEASED IN MICHIGAN THAT IS KNOWN TO KILL OF LARGE NUMBERS OF EMERALD ASH BORER IN ITS NATIVE HOME RANGE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. WILL THEY BE RELEASED IN OHIO AND OR CLEVELAND METROPARKS?**

**A:** A PARASITIC SPECIES OF A WASP NATIVE TO CHINA THAT PREYS ONLY ON EMERALD ASH BORER HAS BEEN STUDIED FOR THREE YEARS BY MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY. THE WASP, STINGERLESS AND THE SIZE OF A SESAME SEED LAY THEIR EGGS INSIDE OF EMERALD ASH BORER LARVAE AND EGGS. THE HATCHED WASPS FEED ON THE EGGS AND LARVAE, THUS KILLING THEIR HOSTS, BEFORE MATURING AS ADULTS AND FLYING OFF TO REPEAT THE CYCLE OVER AGAIN. INTERESTINGLY, THE PARASITIC WASPS HOME IN EXCLUSIVELY ON EMERALD ASH BORERS, AND ONLY THE BORERS ALREADY SITUATED IN ASH TREES. THE USDA IS UNDERGOING A PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS PRIOR TO CONDUCTING A LIMITED RELEASE OF THE WASP IN SELECTED AREAS OF MICHIGAN. THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY WORD OF A SIMILAR PROGRAM IN OHIO YET PENDING WHAT HAPPENS IN MICHIGAN WITH THIS TRIAL PROGRAM.