

MMC/SSMMA EAB – WHAT I'VE LEARNED...

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Village of Homewood

In the beginning, pre-infestation:

- Trees are worth money; Homewood's urban forest worth roughly \$16 million!
- 2582 ash on the parkway valued at \$3.25 million infrastructure
 - WINDOW INVENTORY OF PROBLEMATIC SPECIES INCLUDING ASH
- Average size – 24”
- 16% of total parkway canopy
- Roughly 13,000 ash village wide
- Halted ash planting in 2002

EAB identified:

- Morton Arboretum staffer found EAB
 - November 2007 – one tree
- Set up a systematic delimiting survey
- Survey showed no additional finds, yet damage to the one tree dramatic
- Protocol was inaccurate; Homewood's research led to State and Federal change

Our EAB in the beginning:

- Community education began in 2002 – on-going
 - Newsletters, websites, days of education
 - **Mailer developed**
- TRAINING – recognized need (urban felling)
 - UTILIZER based on GOL
- Studied the whole situation and compared numbers across the board.
- Recognized liability and structural stability of SPP.
- Wrote an aggressive management plan

A nutshell management plan:



- Early on – no pesticide unless...
- Divide the Village into units of MGT.
- In-house removals over four years
 - Contractual only when needed
- Wood waste disposal
- Recovery/reforestation

Insecticides and traps

- Insecticides used only for research
 - cost prohibitive for Homewood
- 20 traps deployed in first year of known infestation – poor results



MGT prior to cutting

- CIP \$40,000 for training, equipment, logistics
- Four years additional \$400,000 CIP to cover contractual removal if any
- Reforestation \$50,000 a year – 1 for 1

MGT during cutting: year 1

- 610 trees removed in-house with crew of four with support
- All trees removed were positive with visible galleries
- Stumps were ground, slow release fert. added for fall planting
- New trees of 5-7' class planted in same location
 - No more than 5% of any one spp.
- Low mortality rate; ease of planting; reduced maint.
- \$ saved due to in-house \$380,000.

... Year 2

- Infestation Village wide
- CIP reduced due to financial constraints
- No contractual removals
- 500 trees removed; stumps ground; fert. added
- Contractual planting in fall 1 for 1
 - Based on our spec.
 - 32 species grown in similar phenotype of 6a
 - Homewood provided:
 - Trees
 - Mulch
 - Water

... Year 3

- Further cutbacks to CIP
- Contractual removals – 22 thus far due to size and/or proximity to power lines
- Seasonal employees not hired – three main employees
- Technical removals up compared with last year
- 2/3rds expected removed compared with 100% last yr.
- Contractual planting not possible
 - **GRANT AWARDED**
- **TREE CONDITION!**

TREE CONDITION!:

- Trees slated for removal cyclically are **brittle and failing**
- Once trees are cut, debris field twice what it was last year
- Ash failure on the rise
- Liability on the rise
- From below root flare to 1” branches infested
- Chemical treatment in high convergent population area would have been a waste of monies

Other information – private property:

- Ordinance in place prior to onset
- ½ canopy or less remaining for removal
- We have enforced removals
- Treated trees mostly declining or have died, resulting in removal on private property

Wood Utilization

- High school kiln
- Grade 2 or better
 - 1 in 100
- Character logs
- Railroad ties?
- Wood chip from removals
 - Nursery trade
- Remaining
 - Pallet production
 - Wood chips



If given a chance?

- We would have started cutting a year sooner, IF:
 - We had certain criteria in place
 - Formal written management plan
 - Funding
 - Equipment
 - Training
- Fully understood the ramifications of a convergent population of EAB, not a wave of advancing insects...

USDA - Forest Service Grant managed by MMC

- Purchased 79 trees with funding
- Total of 102 trees planted as part of cost match – DIVERSITY of 5%
- 5' to 7' stock/1.25"
- Allowed us to purchase more trees, plant faster, higher survivability
- Planting specification identifies root flare, less work!
- In-house and volunteer planting

