



Department Source: Community Development - BSD

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: December 7, 2020

Re: Emerald Ash Borer – Tree Board Letter

## Executive Summary

City Council requested a report at the February 17, 2020 Council meeting from the Tree Board regarding actions the City should be taking regarding Emerald Ash Borer and its presence in Boone County, specifically the impact of dying ash trees on the properties of low-income homeowners.

## Discussion

The report request was communicated to the Tree Board at their February 19, 2020 meeting and the board decided to add it to their March 18, 2020 meeting agenda for discussion. However, upon declaration of the COVID-19 state of emergency, Tree Board meetings were cancelled until August 19, 2020 when the board voted to draft a letter to Council. Attached is the letter from the Tree Board which came out of those discussions. Also attached is an Emerald Ash Borer Management Guide for Missouri Homeowners published by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Staff agrees that the Emerald Ash Borer is a serious concern. It will have a potentially severe impact on ash trees within the City during the next several years. The presence of large, diseased trees could become burdensome to property owners lacking the means for timely tree treatment and removal. A multi-part response strategy is suggested by the Tree Board's letter.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None

Long-Term Impact: None

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### [Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Social Equity, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

### [Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Environmental Management, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

## Legislative History



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Date	Action

## Suggested Council Action

Acceptance of the report.