

STATE-SPONSORED ASH TREE REMOVAL CONTRACT LANDOWNER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

To assist Southeast (SE) Michigan landowners impacted by EAB, the State of Michigan has implemented a state contract to facilitate removal of ash trees by prequalified contractors using standardized pricing for tree removals within the EAB quarantine counties. The expected large number of trees for removal in this program will result in a reduced cost option for ash tree removal for municipal and private landowners choosing to participate.

This program, designed for implementation by local units of government is a voluntary option for landowners choosing to remove their ash trees. Local municipalities will designate a Municipal Corporation Coordinator (MCC) who will identify and compile the list of ash trees for removal, and contract for the removal of the ash trees. To determine if your community is participating in this program visit the MDA Website at: www.michigan.gov/emeraldashborer.

Private landowners in areas designated for ash tree removal under this program will receive communications from the MCC, which will include information on:

- The voluntary tree removal program and instructions on how to participate.
- Tree removal costs and payment procedures.
- Dates anticipated for program elements.

Landowners participating in this voluntary program will be responsible to:

1. Determine if they have ash trees to include in the program. All ash trees are eligible. Ash tree identification information will be available for program participants.
2. Review the information, and respond to the MCC within the allowable time period, to request participation in the removal program for their ash trees. Landowners who choose not to participate are not required to respond to the notice from the MCC.
3. Permit access to their property for marking ash trees and assure the accuracy of trees painted for removal on their property.
4. Comply with the fee and payment protocols within the time specified to be included in the program.
5. Remove obstructions (such as campers, boats etc) and allow access to their property as necessary for the duration of the tree removal period.
6. Understand that the local governmental unit and their designated MCC will determine the final disposition of any wood removed under this program. Landowners forfeit any claim to wood once it leaves their property. Additionally, any revenue generated through commercial utilization of the wood will remain with the municipality to be used for the public good.
7. Agree to work with the Municipal Corporation Coordinator or their designee for resolution of any issues that surface during the removal process.

NOTE: Landowners declining participation in the program at the time the work is scheduled for their area are NOT likely to have another opportunity to participate in this program. The reduced costs of this program are directly linked to the large numbers of ash trees in a concentrated area. It is NOT anticipated that sufficient numbers of ash trees would remain in landscapes where the program removal has already occurred.

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