

A Discussion about Ash Trees...EAB &

Private Property

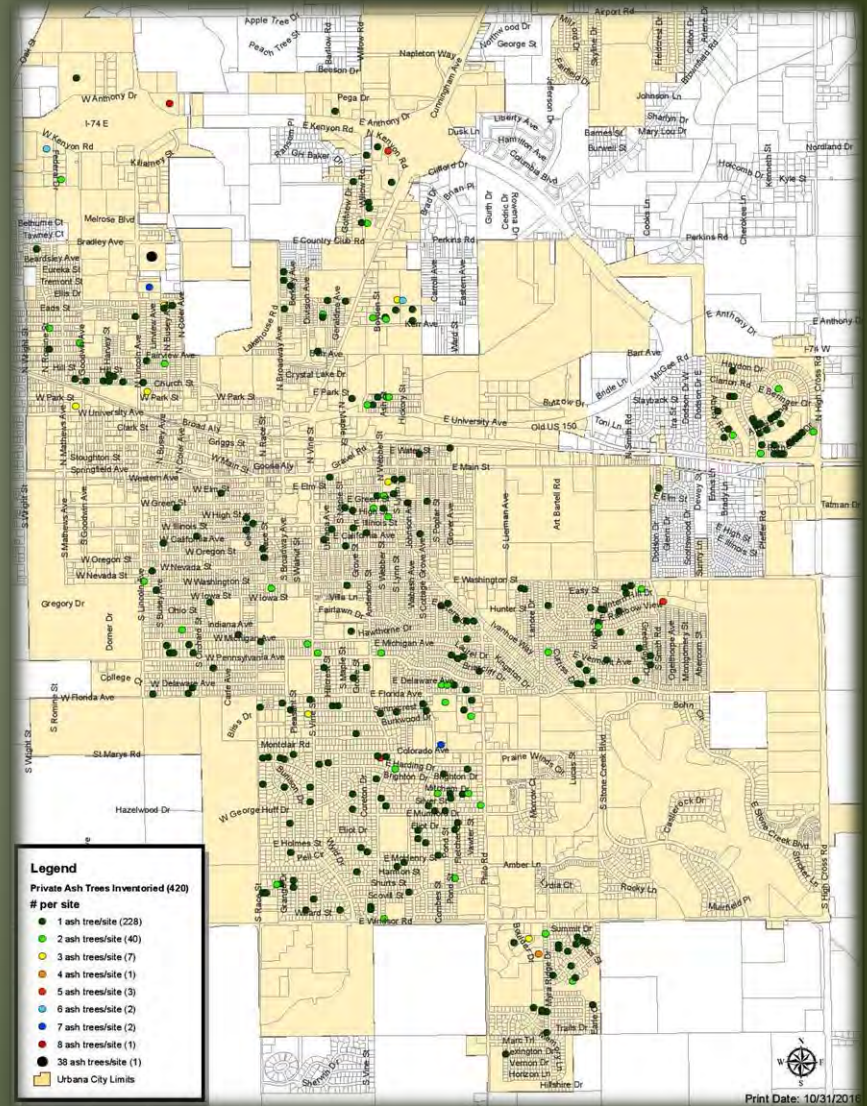
Concerns and Options

History of City Owned Ash Trees in Urbana

- 2007 there were more than 700 ash trees in Urbana Right-of-Ways
- Today there are 190 City ash trees
 - 115 are scheduled for removal this year

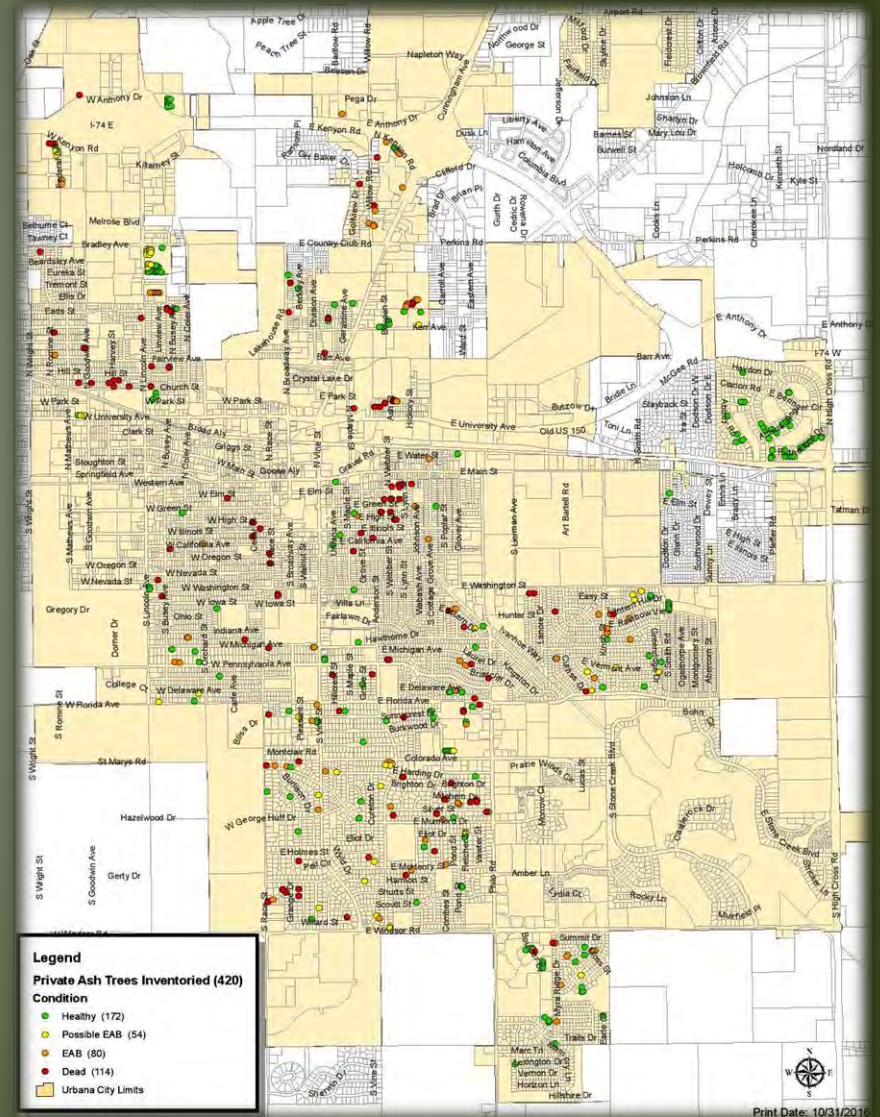


Private Property Ash Trees



Private Property Ash Tree Inventory

- About 80% of Urbana has been inventoried by Master Naturalist volunteers
- 420 trees have been identified
- 114 are dead
- 172 appear healthy



Urbana EAB Committee

- Public Works,
Community
Development, Finance,
Mayor's Office
- No grant money
available
- New products are now
available to treat
viable ash trees



EAB Treatment

- Illinois Arborist Association Summer Conference new product demonstrations
- Affordable treatment
- Management tool to save for future removal



Urbana EAB Committee Recommendations

- Develop a cost sharing program for treating private property ash that are still viable (no more than 25% dieback from EAB)
- Model after the Cooperative Tree Planting Program



Cooperative Private Ash Treatment Program

- Arbor Division estimates up to 100 viable ash trees could qualify
- Estimated cost share for a resident would be \$7.50 per diameter inch of tree
- \$90 for a 12" diameter tree
- Fee will cover chemical cost



Cooperative Private Ash Treatment Program

- Send out letters to property owners with Ash trees by March
 - Inform owner that there is a strong possibility of EAB on their ash trees
 - Educate owner about life cycle of EAB and how it kills ash trees
 - Include an application form for owners where viable ash trees have been found
- After application received, set up inspection schedule
 - Arbor staff to inspect ash trees after trees leaf out in May
 - Notify owner of results
 - If tree is viable and resident wants tree treated request payment for owner's cost share of the program
- After cost share check is received, set up injection schedule
 - Treat private property ash in June
 - Notify owners of treatment
- Send out follow up letters to program participants
 - Inform owner about plans for the future
 - Set aside funds to use a private tree service to treat tree in 2 years
 - Set aside funds to remove tree after treatment wears off in 3 years
- Review program to determine success

Fiscal Impact

- \$10,000 to cover cost (approximately \$5,000 in revenue from cost share fees will go back)
 - \$4,200 for treatment chemicals
 - \$750 for supplies
 - \$4,550 for seasonal staffing (estimate 3 hours staff time for each tree)

Funding to cover this program is not in the current budget would be included in an upcoming budget amendment, if Council wishes to pursue this course of action.