

EMERALD ASH BORER

2025-2026 CITY BOULEVARD ASH TREE REMOVAL



EAB first discovered
in the United States

2002

EAB first detected
in River Falls

2019

500 ash trees will be removed
by contractors, 200 by City staff

2025

240 boulevard trees per
year will be replanted

2026-2029

2008
EAB first detected
in Wisconsin

2023-2024
500 ash trees were removed
by a contractor and City staff

2026
200 ash trees will be removed
by contractors, 200 by City staff



What is Emerald Ash Borer?

- The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a small, green boring insect that attacks and kills all trees in the ash family (*Fraxinus* spp).
- This invasive insect has been spreading across the State of Wisconsin for the last ten years and is firmly entrenched in River Falls.
- EAB is having a major impact on our urban forest and will continue to do so as long as there are ash trees present. Many ash trees were treated for EAB over the last few years, and unfortunately, even with treatment, the trees are deteriorating and dying fast.

What is the City's plan to combat EAB?

- The City made a decision as part of the 2025/2026 bi-annual budget to remove all remaining 1,100 ash trees in City boulevards, parks, and public spaces.
- 2025: 500 ash trees marked with a pink dot will be removed by a contractor due to the large size and equipment needs. City staff will remove an additional 200 ash trees during the year.
- 2026: 200 ash trees will be removed by a contractor and an additional 200 ash trees will be removed by City staff.

What is the City's replanting plan?

- The City has a five-year plan to replant the 1,100 ash trees planned for removal.
- The City will be planting an estimated 240 boulevard trees annually from 2025-2029.
- Tree diversity is very important to the urban forest. The City will be planting a variety of trees in the boulevard to combat against tree specific diseases.

What do you need to do?

- Residents do not need to take any actions for City boulevard trees.
- City staff will be communicating with residents via door hangers throughout the process - removal, stump grinding, and replanting.
- If residents have ash trees on their private property, they should contact a certified arborist to discuss removal options.

Questions should be directed to:

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For more information:

<https://www.rfcity.org/1050/Emerald-Ash-Borer>

