

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE April 29, 2021

TO Honorable Members of the Environment and Sustainability Committee

SUBJECT **Emerald Ash Borer Update**

This memorandum provides an update to the City's efforts to address the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive, boring insect, and its environmental impacts. As previously briefed, emerald ash borer was found in North Texas in 2018 but has not yet been found in Dallas. Public agencies, non-profit organizations, and the private sector arborist community are on heightened alert and sharing information with customers and the tree community.

A City-wide Tree Task Force was formalized in February 2021 and includes multi-disciplined forestry and wildlife staff, and management including the City Manager's Office, Aviation, Dallas Water Utilities, Park and Recreation, Public Works, and Sustainable Development & Construction. This task force continues working with local, state and federal agencies to monitor and prepare for the arrival of the EAB. In April 2021, monitoring was initiated in Dallas County with the support of the Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS). Twenty traps across Dallas County, with four specifically in the City of Dallas have been placed. In collaboration with TFS, four additional traps will be delivered and positioned next month.

The City staff will continue to work on the tree inventory and will be utilizing a shared software to input the location and condition of trees on public property with a specific emphasis on prioritizing the ash species population. Staff has a relatively positive outlook that ash trees on public land are in known locations and are working to verify utilizing the 2014 tree inventory on public park properties and will also include the street and floodway management trees. As staff performs regular maintenance activities, damaged ash trees and juvenile ash trees are removed to provide opportunities for other species to thrive.

A public awareness campaign and City website is in the process of being developed and it is anticipated to go live in June 2021. This website will include helpful links to state agencies, local resources, printable material for distribution at events, as well as opportunities to partner with the City and its non-profit partners for plantings and tree give aways.

Staff will continue to provide periodic updates. Please contact me if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Joey Zapata'.

Joey Zapata
Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Directors and Assistant Directors