



VILLAGE OF SCHAUMBURG

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PRESS RELEASE

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Schaumburg Partnering with Valent in Legacy Tree Project

Ash Trees Receiving Third Year of Protection from Emerald Ash Borer

Schaumburg, IL -- The Village of Schaumburg proudly announces its ongoing participation in the Legacy Tree Project (LTP), a partnership with Valent Professional Products. Initiated in 2010 and continuing through 2014, the LTP was established to protect select parkway ash trees, raise public awareness about emerald ash borer (EAB), and motivate homeowners to take action regarding their ash trees.

EAB kills all native species of ash trees. It has been present in the Chicago suburbs since 2006 and was first confirmed in Schaumburg in June 2009.

In the years immediately following initial detections in a region, ash trees typically take three – five years to die after EAB damage becomes apparent. Now that the infestation has generalized throughout the region, beetle populations are so high that trees are under mass attack. Damage to trees occurs quickly, meaning trees are more likely to die just one – three years after damage becomes evident. This rapid death phase signals that urgent action is needed – either initiate treatment in 2012 to protect and conserve ash trees or arrange for removals. EAB leaves no other choices.

Through the LTP, 200 ash trees along Schaumburg parkways are receiving five years of treatment with Safari®, a systemic insecticide in the Valent product line. There is no cost to taxpayers for village participation in the LTP – Valent provides full funding of materials and labor from 2010 – 2014. Schaumburg is one of only 12 communities in the U.S. selected for this unique partnership.

Scott Finnander, Landscape Division Foreman, says, "The LTP trees look great and the contrast with untreated trees in the area is dramatic. This partnership has provided tremendous benefits to the community."

Village Action

Besides those in the LTP, an additional 524 parkway ash are under treatment for long-term conservation. This spring, plans were updated to utilize additional treatment in a way that will allow the staging and orderly removal of the remaining 12,000 parkway ash trees.

What Can You Do?

The village urges homeowners with ash trees to bring personal tree management to the front burner. The 2012 window for effective protection measures is closing rapidly. Evaluate your ash trees for structural soundness and general health. Then sort your "inventory" into those suitable for long-term treatment and those which should be removed immediately.

If you can't afford all removals at one time, then place some trees under short term treatment, deferring death until the household budget can accommodate cost of removal. Dead and dying ash trees are brittle and dangerous to tree workers, raising the cost of removal. So, keeping a tree healthy until removal can save money.

The only ash trees which can be ignored in a personal management plan are those in natural areas which, on falling, will not threaten persons or property.

Schaumburg offers residents the opportunity to attain "bulk pricing" on treatment of their private trees through arrangements with contractors handling the parkway work. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.ci.schaumburg.il.us/GreCorn/landscape/Pages/LegacyTreeProject.aspx> and/or <http://www.ci.schaumburg.il.us/GreCorn/landscape/Pages/EmeraldAshBorerinSchaumburg.aspx>

Legacy Tree Project Details

Safari is applied by soil injection at the base of each tree. This work will be completed by certified professionals with The Davey Tree Expert Company. Safari is a "systemic" insecticide taken up by the roots and distributed throughout the tree. Soil injection precludes contact with pets or people. The active ingredient in Safari is also used in flea control products for pets.

For more information on the Legacy Tree Project, visit www.legacytreeproject.com. For more information on Valent and Safari, visit www.valentpro.com.