

Select Ash Trees Being Treated in Cincinnati Parks

The Cincinnati Park Board has once again been chosen to take part in the Legacy Tree Project, a partnership with Valent Professional Products aimed at building community awareness about the threat posed by the emerald ash borer.

Native ash tree species comprise 10 percent of all trees in Cincinnati Parks. They've been dying slowly since the emerald ash borer was discovered in Cincinnati in 2007. The emerald ash borer is now widespread in Hamilton County, and the death rate of unprotected trees is increasing rapidly.

As part of the Legacy Tree Project, 110 select ash trees in three Cincinnati Parks – Ault Park, Mount Echo Park and Mount Airy Forest – are being protected for five consecutive years with an insecticide product called Safari. All product and application services are funded by Valent, resulting in no cost to the city. Cincinnati Parks is one of only 14 organizations throughout the United States chosen to participate in the Legacy Tree Project.

Crews from the Davey Tree Co. will inject the Safari product into the soil over a two-day period at the identified parks. Each treated tree is identified with a small, round, numbered aluminum tag. 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.

Area residents are encouraged to determine if they have ash trees on their property and begin treatment or have the trees removed before they become a safety hazard. The park board recommends using certified arborists.

This is the fourth year the Cincinnati Park Board has been selected for the Legacy Tree Project.