

**Tree Commission
Arborist Report
November 20, 2007**

Emerald Ash Borer - The Emerald Ash Borer has been positively identified in Portage County (see attached map) and the entire County has been officially quarantined. This quarantine means that no hardwood firewood, or ash tree materials can leave the county. All materials must be destroyed on site, or taken to a facility that handles ash tree materials.

EAB Awareness week was followed by an informative program at the Moebius Nature Center on November 10th. An article was submitted to the Aurora Advocate concerning both events. EAB information for homeowners, and about the City's EAB plan are available on Aurora's website.

Fall Tree Planting – Tree planting should be completed by Thanksgiving. 91 trees in the following areas are/will be planted:

1. Woodview Estates – 21 trees
2. Reserves of Aurora – 14 trees
3. Hampton Glen – 15 trees
4. Memorial Tree Garden - 11 trees
5. Campus Drive – 18 trees
6. Misc. Areas – 12 trees

Mycorrhizae was added to each planting hole prior to tree installation. Plaques have been ordered for the new Memorial Tree Garden requests.

I will be visiting the City's of Brecksville and Kent to observe their planting methods. We use a 36" auger to dig the planting holes. Brecksville uses a backhoe to dig and backfill holes, while Kent uses a stump grinder. Both latter methods are more time-consuming, but seem to increase survivability of the new planting.

Memorial Tree Garden – A comprehensive map of the trees at the MTG has been created. This map shows the 140 existing locations, and areas for future planting sites. This map will aid future donors by allowing them to view available locations when they submit the request form. I'm working on displaying the map on the City's website.

Tree Budget 2008 – It has been requested that the tree planting budget be increased from \$15,000.00 to \$17,500.00 for 2008. We've also requested an increase for the Memorial Tree Garden budget from \$3,750.00 to \$4,500.00. We will request a substantial increase in both for 2009, due to EAB removals and replacements.

Giles Cemetery – I met with the City Engineer and a representative from Yarnell Tree Co., to discuss the removal of trees at Giles Cemetery. A foot path and bridge will be installed in the city easement that starts on Aurora Lake Rd, and will extend to the cemetery. This area is heavily wooded, and only trees that will be directly impacted are marked for removal. A 9ft. wide path will be cleared to the new bridge, then taper to 4ft. wide beyond the bridge to the actual cemetery.

Large Tree Removals – The list of tree removals was separated into those that can be completed in-house and those to be contracted. The contracted list was sent to Empire Tree Service, Yarnell Tree Company and Van Curen Tree Service for quotes.