



ROAD AND BRIDGE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

SUBJECT:

Policy 172 - Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation

DATE:

April 1, 2025

EFFECTIVE PERIOD:

Until Superseded

REVIEW SCHEDULE:

Every five (5) years in April, or as needed

CANCELLATION:

Not Applicable

REVISION SECTION:

Definitions

Responsibility

Policy.II.B

Policy.II.D

DEFINITIONS:

1. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an exotic insect pest species from Asia that has impacted native ash forests and planted urban forests throughout the eastern half of the U.S. and has been identified in 28 states from Colorado to the East Coast. EAB has become established in Larimer County

ENCLOSURES:

Not Applicable

REFERENCES:

Not Applicable

PURPOSE:

To establish a procedure for proactively managing the Emerald Ash Borer’s impact on Ash trees located within County maintained portions of the public rights-of-way, parks and open spaces in Larimer County.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all employees of the Larimer County Road & Bridge Department.

RESPONSIBILITY:

The Road and Bridge Director administers this Policy.

All County personnel involved in the removal of Ash trees within County maintained portions of the public rights-of-way, parks and open spaces are responsible for complying with this policy and procedure.

POLICY:

I. General:

- A. Once ash trees are infected with this insect pest, the tree will decline rapidly if left untreated and pose a high risk to property and bodily harm. Survival rate of infected ash trees is less than 1 percent.
- B. By taking a proactive approach, the County will conserve resources and mitigate future hazards to public safety. Few large diameter ash trees currently grow in county-maintained rights-of-ways, parks or open lands. However, if left untreated, the smaller diameter trees will continue to grow and require more resources for removal and disposal in the future.

II. Procedure:

A. Mitigation Plan for Parks and Open Spaces:

- 1. Following the initial inventory and assessment of existing ash trees, a comprehensive mitigation plan was developed and implemented in 2016 for parks and open spaces managed by Larimer County. Of the 89 ash trees in campgrounds and parking lots, 72 (81%) were cut down, stumps treated, and wood chipped into mulch. The remaining 17 ash trees that were deemed to be of ‘High Value’ will be treated with pesticides to prevent EAB infestations in the future. To compensate for the loss of the

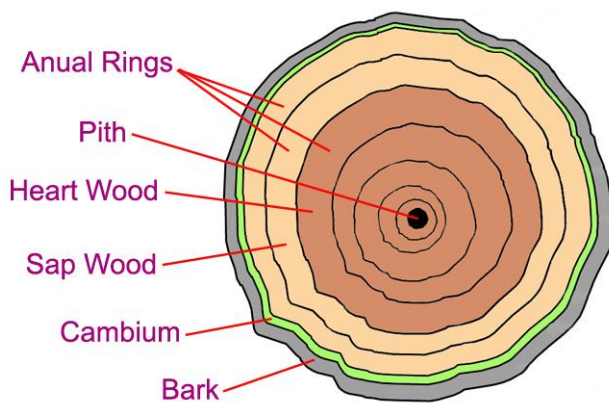
72 trees, 50 replacement trees were planted in 2017. A diverse variety of species will be planted accordingly with regards to specific site conditions.

B. Mitigation Plan for Rights-of-Way:

1. The County has chosen to take a proactive approach to mitigating future hazards and costs associated with the eventual spread of EAB in County maintained public right-of-way.
2. It shall be the policy of Larimer County to proactively remove all Ash trees, with the exception of those defined as “High Value” and permitted, from County maintained public rights-of-way. Larimer County will not replace Ash trees removed from the public right-of-way.
3. Planning and preservation activities shall include the following actions.
 - a) Notify adjacent property owner or Homeowners Association (HOA), in writing, of the existence of a potential “High Value” Ash tree located within the public ROW and the intended removal of the Ash tree a minimum of 60 days in advance of removal.
 - 1) Upon notification of intended removal of the potential “High Value” Ash tree, the adjacent property owner or HOA must contact the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources (LCDNR) within 30 days of receiving the written notice to convey their intent to pursue tree preservation. Failure to contact LCDNR within 30 days may result in tree removal.
 - 2) The entity wishing to preserve the “High Value” Ash tree will be required to sign a permit stating they are taking responsibility for all costs associated with tree preservation and future tree removal including disposal of the tree debris in accordance with Colorado Department of Agriculture and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.
 - b) The permittee will be required to hire a licensed tree service contractor to perform the insecticidal treatment of the Ash tree at the product labeled frequency and deliver a copy of the treatment record, following each treatment, to the LCDNR as proof of treatment. All insecticidal treatments to manage EAB must be pre-approved by the LCDNR. All treatment records shall be submitted within 30 days post treatment. Trees that miss a treatment cycle will be removed by Larimer County with all associated costs billed to the permittee.

C. Ash Tree Removal

1. Final cut shall be made a close to ground level as practical.
2. Within 10 minutes of making the final cut, a dyed herbicide shall be applied to the cut stump, including the following actions:
 - a) Remove all sawdust from the cut stump; and
 - b) Apply herbicide to the cambium area of the stump as described below.



- c) (For ash trees removed by County forces, herbicide shall be obtained from the LCDNR, weeds workgroup and shall be applied in accordance with manufactures recommendations and per guidance from the LCDNR.)
3. Stumps will not be ground unless they pose a maintenance problem or public safety hazard.

D. Ash Tree Disposal

1. Disposal of trees removed may be regulated by the Colorado Department of Agriculture and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Larimer County will comply with current regulations with respect to transportation and disposal of Ash tree material including obtaining a Compliance Agreement with CDA and USDA APHIS.