

For Immediate Release: August 15, 2008

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### **River Forest is the latest victim of EAB**

RIVER FOREST, IL – River Forest, Illinois of Cook County is the latest community to discover the emerald ash borer (EAB). The EAB infestation was discovered by River Forest Public Works on the 1200 block of Franklin Avenue on August 11, 2008. The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) confirmed the infestation on August 14, 2008.

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a small, metallic green, non-native invasive pest whose larvae feast on the trunks of ash trees thereby cutting off their ability to transport nutrients and ultimately causing the tree's decline. Ash trees can be infested with EAB for a few years before the tree begins to demonstrate any signs of EAB infestation. Symptoms of EAB include canopy dieback, D-shaped exit holes, shoots sprouting from the tree trunks and S-shaped larval galleries underneath the bark.

Village Staff and elected officials met on August 12, 2008 to discuss the presence of EAB and decided on the following course of action:

- All parkway ash trees will be re-inventoried and inspected for the presence of EAB, condition and measured for size.
- An EAB management plan will be developed that will include the removal and replacement of ash trees. Insecticide treatment will be considered as a possible option.
- A draft private property control ordinance is to be developed which also provides for a treatment option in lieu of removal.

EAB was first discovered in North America in 2002 in the Detroit and Ontario areas. Since then, it is estimated that approximately 25 million ash trees in North America have been felled due to EAB. EAB was first discovered in Illinois in June 2006 in Kane County. The IDA has since confirmed EAB infestations in several communities within Kane, Cook, DuPage, LaSalle Will and most recently McHenry counties and has issued a quarantine affecting all or parts of 18 of the northeastern-most counties of the state. As part of a cooperative agreement with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), IDA is responsible for EAB survey, control/eradication and outreach.

It is very important for residents to be aware and vigilant in inspecting their ash trees for this pest. If you suspect you may have found the beetle or observe signs of an infestation, please contact the River Forest Public Works Department immediately at (708) 366-8500.

Additional information can be obtained by visiting the following links:

[www.river-forest.us](http://www.river-forest.us)

[www.emeraldashborer.info/](http://www.emeraldashborer.info/)

[www.IllinoisEAB.com](http://www.IllinoisEAB.com)

<http://www.mortonarb.org/main.taf?p=3,5,3>

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