

## **EAC Recommendations to the Kennett Township Board of Supervisors for Preparing for the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**

The overall goals of the program are:

- Protect urban ash trees for its economic, social, and environmental benefits;
- Minimize public safety and liability risk from EAB infestation within the community;
- Replace canopy cover that will be lost to EAB infestation
- Maintain 75% existing public ash trees DBH; current estimate approximately 15,000 DBH at any point during the program; if 75% not practical establish a goal with the EAC approval

We recommend the Board immediately engage the Township Landscape Architect to complete the following:

1. By 6/30/2015, plan and begin implementing a monitoring program using USDA modeling to establish monitoring locations to detect the presence of EAB in the Township. Implementation must be completed by 6/30/2015 to improve detection of the EAB while the EAB is in insect form.<sup>1</sup>
2. By 7/15/2015, prepare an ash tree management plan for establishing a Township Ash Tree and EAB task force and obtain acceptance from the EAC. This plan should include (but not be limited to):
  - a. Define the task forces mission, roles, membership and tasking and gain acceptance from the Township Board of Supervisors and the Environmental Advisory Commission
  - b. As a starting point, utilize the following Work Breakdown Structure (WBS)<sup>2</sup> to define the associated task force tasking and role assignment, including but not limited to:
    - i. EAB & Ash tree project management**
      1. Oversight requirements (Project Management)
      2. 10 year financial plan (top level estimate); 2015-2016 quarterly budget
      3. Quarterly progress reporting with an agreed content by the EAC
      4. Quarterly financial reporting (budget vs. actuals, recommendations)
      5. Include plans for obtaining outside funding for prevention and related efforts.
      6. Estimate the effort and costs required to react to expected ash-tree mortality.
      7. Include plans to coordinate with neighboring municipalities.
      8. Include plans to coordinate and obtain recommendations from involved county, state, federal and universities involved in EAB response.
      9. Evaluate options and present alternatives to the EAC and the Township BOS to limit the damage once the EAB reaches the township. These should be based on proven results available from peer-reviewed research or technical documents prepared in relation to federally-sponsored research or extension efforts.
    - ii. Ash tree resource monitoring**
      1. Maintain an updated ash inventory within the Township;
      2. Encourage public self-reporting for private lands including number and health of ash trees and EAB presence;
      3. Monitor EAB infestation on township trees yearly;

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<sup>1</sup> The USDA estimates that the Emerald Ash Borer will begin emerging approximately mid-May 2015. The ash borer will consume ash leaves during June through July and begin laying eggs in the August timeframe. The eggs then enter larval form which is the most destructive stage.

<sup>2</sup> **WBS** is a hierarchical and incremental decomposition of the project into phases, deliverables and work packages. It is a tree structure, which shows a subdivision of effort required to achieve an objective; for example a program, project, and contract.

### **iii. Ash tree management**

1. Remove dead or dying ash trees from roadways and public areas;
2. Utilize ash wood from tree removal activities;
3. Dispose ash-related material properly;
4. Replant non-host tree species at locations where ash trees were removed;
5. Define, identify and treat valuable ash trees with chemical insecticides with an aim to preserve heritage trees and trees with DBH of 24” as the highest priority as these trees have the most influence on water management and canopy cover;
6. Create a long term follow-on plan to preserve as many ash trees less than 24” DBH as economically feasible to maintain existing public ash tree canopy cover, meet water management goals and preserve a healthy environment;
7. Introduce parasitoids for long term EAB biological control in selected natural areas as required and recommended by USDA;

### **iv. Ash tree and EAB Communication and Public Outreach**

1. Establish a plan for educating the Township residents and the Board on the available options and costs.
  2. Conduct outreach and public education;
  3. Involve private property owners
- c. For each WBS element above (section b), define the effort (labor hours), labor cost estimate, materials cost estimate and schedule duration necessary. Details shall be supplied for the first 12 to 18 months of the program. Rough costs are appropriate for 19 months and beyond.



## **EAC Recommendations to the Kennett Board of Supervisors Regarding Proposed Resolution That All Conservation Easements Include Trail Easements Unless Exempted**

The EAC does not support this resolution as currently proposed. Although we acknowledge the practical aspects of obtaining public funding for conservation easements, our recommendations reflect only the environmental interests of the Township. We propose the following:

1. The Township should formally recognize the public value of conservation easements related to environmental benefits, including:
  - a. Protection of critical wildlife habitat, such as forest interiors, streams watersheds and meadows.
  - b. Groundwater recharge enhanced by mature woodland tracts and wetlands.
  - c. Air purification from woodland respiration.
  - d. Protection of scenic vistas.

Protecting acreage from development also eases pressure on the Township's public services and educational infrastructure. Although trails do provide a tangible public benefit, conservation easements can provide significant value to the Township without including trails.

2. In some cases, poorly implemented trails can impair environmental resources by damaging sensitive areas (e.g., wetlands) or directing large volumes of foot traffic through sensitive areas (e.g., through public events such as mountain-bike or foot races).
3. The Township should support the institution of publically accessible trails that are developed in relation to formally adopted policies and specific design and approval processes. These trails may or may not be part of larger conservation easements.
4. The Township has acknowledged the public interest in designing and implementing properly planned trails by adopting the following:
  - a. Zoning Section 240-401-C(2) and 240-501.C(2) which establishes public uses (defined as, "Any building, structure, facility, complex or area used by the general public or which provides a service to the public") as a use by Conditional Use.
  - b. Adopted Trail Use Ordinance 224.
  - c. Instituted design standards for publicly-owned and managed trails in the Trail Easement Policy of September 2014.
  - d. General trail design standards in SALDO Section 206.503.C.

The Township should review and revise these provisions as necessary (including compliance with state environmental protection requirements) and develop a standard process for verifying that any trail created for public use complies with reasonable standards for design and incorporates input from the public prior to the issuance of a trail easement. The Township could if it chooses expedite or subsidize the process for approving public trails to ease the burden for landowners wishing to establish a publicly accessible trail on their property. The Township should not grant a conservation easement if it includes a trail easement that has not been reviewed in relation to the Township ordinances and policies.