CITY OF SAINT PETER, MINNESOTA
AGENDA AND NOTICE OF MEETING

Regular Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of July 16, 2018
Public Works Office
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 21, 2018

IV. VISITORS
   A. Scheduling of Visitor Comments on Agenda Items
   B. General Visitors Comments

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
   A. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)
      • Management Plan
      • Lake City letter to community
   B. Community Spirit Park Updates
      • Enhancements
      • Maintenance
   C. Prairie Ridge Park – Site Visit

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. REPORTS
   A. Chairs Report
      1. Fieldhouse Update
         • Feasibility Study
   B. Department of Recreation and Leisure Services Update
      1. 
   C. Department of Public Works
      1. Update on Minnesota Square Park Pavilion
      2. DNR Grant – Asphalt Trail and Fishing Pier
         Archeological Study
      3. Park Improvements 2020
      4. Roy T. Lindenberg Memorial Outdoor Swimming Pool Report

VIII. ADJOURNMENT
   1. Next scheduled meeting Monday, August 20 at 7PM, Public Works

Director of Public Works
Pete Moulton
Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan  
City of Saint Peter 2018

Purpose:
The City of Saint Peter will take a proactive approach to mitigate the spread of Emerald Ash Borer and spread the physical and fiscal costs associated with the outbreak of Emerald Ash Borer over an extended timeframe. The loss of ash trees in the City of Saint Peter will have a devastating effect on home values, quality of life and the environment. The goal of the City is to buffer that impact by implementing current best management practices.

Applicability:
This management plan is applicable to all public and private properties within the City of Saint Peter.

Emerald Ash Borer Coordinator:
The Department of Public Works and the City Forester shall be responsible for implementing and overseeing this program.

Introduction:
Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire, is an exotic beetle that was discovered in southeastern Michigan near Detroit in the summer of 2002. The adult beetles feed on ash foliage but cause little damage. The larvae (the immature stage) feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree’s ability to transport water and nutrients. EAB probably arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating in its native Asia.

EAB attacks all species of ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) found in Minnesota, which include green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*) and white ash (*Fraxinus americana*). Mountain ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*) are not of the *Fraxinus* genus and are unaffected by EAB. Because EAB is hard to detect, it can be present for years before an infestation is confirmed. There are limited control measures for EAB which means if left untreated EAB has the potential of killing all ash trees throughout the United States and Canada.

EAB was first discovered in Minnesota on May 13, 2009 (est. infestation of 2005) in the city of Saint Paul and has since spread throughout Minnesota. Quarantines are currently in place in 15 counties. The City of Saint Peter has over 1,000 public boulevard Ash trees (approx. 22% of all boulevard trees) and many more which compose the urban tree canopy within the park system and other public property. There is also a large amount of ash trees found on private property. It is possible that despite state and federal quarantines of infested regions, EAB may already be established in the City of Saint Peter.

Economic Impact:
Removing and replanting ash trees will be a tremendous physical and financial challenge for the City of Saint Peter and private property owners. Utilizing a simple formula for removals, stump grinding and replanting, a cost estimate can be determined. For example, consider an average removal cost of $225 (disposal, stump removal, and restoration) and an average replanting cost of $125. At these rates, the economic impact of losing just the 1000 boulevard trees would be approximately $350,000.

Detection and monitoring:
The City of Saint Peter will continue to inspect public and private properties, both on request and during routine inspections. Suspect trees will be carefully analyzed. Sampling mechanisms to be used will be consistent with Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) guidelines and...
will include visually looking at all parts of the tree, branch removal and bark shaving with a drawknife.

**Tree Management:**
The City will adopt a proactive “Structured Removal Plan” of ash trees, removing those in decline and those requested to be removed in anticipation of the larger loss of the entire ash population. The intent is to slow the spread of EAB by reducing host trees, thus, spreading out management costs over several years by avoiding a “spike” in diseased and dangerous trees.

The City of Saint Peter must prepare and manage for the arrival of EAB on three fronts:

A. **Boulevard trees within the right-of-way**
B. **Public property trees (i.e. parks, disk golf course, etc.)**
C. **Private property trees**

A. **Boulevard Trees:**
1. The City has begun a policy of excluding any new ash tree plantings within the public right-of-way (ROW) – with the recommendation that citizens and businesses discontinue the use of ash in new plantings.
2. The City will remove any boulevard ash tree, at citizen request, that is in a state of decline.
3. The City will permit residents to chemically treat an ash tree in the public ROW under the conditions of hiring a licensed tree service that is bonded and insured, and that is a State of Minnesota Licensed Commercial Pesticide Applicator using state approved trunk injection pesticides only. By using trunk injections this reduces pesticide exposure to others and the environment overall. (Note: Chemical treatment would not preclude future removal of said ash tree if deemed necessary by Public Works)

B. **Public Property Trees:**
1. The City will not plant any new ash trees on public property which can carry the EAB infection.
2. The City shall begin to remove any poor quality trees or trees in fair condition with major defects.
3. The City will continue to cooperate with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to establish EAB detection trees as needed on City property.
4. Ash trees in natural wooded areas will be left alone – unless it is determined that their removal is necessary. If it is an early EAB infestation we will be removing infested trees as needed to slow the spread to the community.
5. In public parks ash trees will be replaced.

C. **Private Property Trees:**
1. There are thousands of ash trees, large and small, on private property in the City of Saint Peter. No inventory exists, and ash densities vary by neighborhood.
2. Property owners are urged to monitor for the EAB.
3. City of Saint Peter, City Ordinance, Chapter 54-Vegetation, Article II, will be updated to reflect the Emerald Ash Borer threat.
4. When residents call the City with questions regarding EAB, questions will be answered and they will be encouraged to consult with a Certified Arborist that is insured and bonded.
5. The City will also encourage residents to replace trees lost with species appropriate for the site, or to plant new trees in advance of EAB infestation and ash removal as a way of lessening the large economic and environmental impact of the EAB.
6. The City will not chemically treat or dispose of any trees found on private property without just compensation.
Ordinances and Policies:
The City's Ordinances and policies must outline what actions the City can take to manage diseased trees. Ordinance revisions will be recommended to the City Council as appropriate to address the infestation of EAB.

Inventory:
A complete boulevard tree survey was conducted between 1998-2000 by Kunde Co., Inc. The inventory included location, species, size and condition of each tree. In 2015, the process of updating the inventory started, with specific goals of determining the current ash tree population. At present the tree inventory details a total of 4,824 trees of which 1068 are ash trees (22%). The Public Works staff will continue to update the tree inventory on boulevards and then public land in the City (i.e. parks, etc.).

Wood Disposal:
The prompt removal of EAB infested trees is the first priority in the City’s management plan. The probable loss of thousands of ash trees creates several challenges for the City regarding public trees as well as residents and commercial tree services dealing with private property trees. All ash wood will need to be disposed of following state guidelines and quarantines. Therefore, the City will explore emergency marshalling yard(s) for suitable tree disposal and utilization. These yard(s) would be used to process all wood in the area, including public, and private from property owners and commercial tree services. The yard(s) will also be used when EAB confirmed trees that need to be removed in response to an emergency, such as clean-up of a wind storm during the months when beetles are active.

Pesticide Use:
The City of Saint Peter shall consider pesticide use for EAB on public trees to reduce beetle populations in known infested areas. The City would select trees for treatment that meet certain criteria, depending on the goal of the particular treatment. In most cases, the trees selected would be of better quality condition and candidates that would be kept in the landscape for the long-term.

Treatments must be repeated at regular intervals (every 2-3 years) for the lifetime of the tree. One advantage of the treatment program is that in treating select ash trees, the City will continue to derive the many environmental and social benefits (ecosystem services) of large canopy shade trees while reforestation efforts take hold. In addition, inoculating some trees will delay the large “spike” of dead trees allowing the City to determine and manage dead timber over a longer period of time. Although concerns exist over use of pesticides, arguably, an equal environmental impact exists for the potential benefits lost that are provided by large canopy shade trees.

If a treatment program is chosen, the City Forester recommends use of the insecticide, TREE-äge®/active ingredient emamectin benzoate, administered through trunk injection (versus soil drenches or other methods). Injecting the chemical directly into the tree will reduce exposure of pesticide to other non-targets and research has shown this to be the most effective treatment. Further, the chemical emamectin benzoate is not a neonicotinoid-based chemical which has come under increased scrutiny for the possible decline in bees (pollinators). All treated trees would have an aluminum tag attached to them with the most recent year of treatment, e.g., “EAB 2018”.

Reforestation:
Replanting as ash trees are removed is arguably the most important part of the EAB Management Plan. Reforestation with a diversity of young trees is the primary objective in
retaining the City urban forest and reducing the chance of future wide-spread, devastating tree loss events caused by biological factors. The City should strive for a tree diversity of no more than 5% of any given species or cultivar, no more than 10% for a given genus and no more than 15% for any given family on public land and ROW. While it is impossible to avoid the onset of pests and diseases, avoiding monocultures through diversity and mixed planting schemes can help reduce the impact.

The tree inventory will be a valuable tool in reforestation efforts. The goal of the EAB Management Plan should be to replant a new tree for every ash tree lost. However, if EAB spreads rapidly and funding does not keep pace, the concern is replanting could fall far behind the number of trees removed. All the more important that both residents and officials understand the many benefits that trees provide and the financial as well as environmental impact that will occur if we do not maintain adequate reforestation as part of the program.

**Outreach:**
Resident education and communication are key components of managing the impact of the EAB, especially as more information becomes available. The City will continue to educate residents and elected officials concerning EAB. Public information is available to residents through the City’s website, newsletters, and available at City Hall.
Dear Lake City Resident:

You are receiving this notice as a resident of Lake City, MN. There is no specific action that needs to be taken at this time. Further resources regarding the information below can be found through links provided at the end of this letter.

In January 2017 Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was detected in the city limits of Lake City. EAB is an exotic beetle native to Asia that was discovered in Michigan in 2002. Adult beetles feed on Ash foliage while larvae feed on the inner bark. This inner damage disrupts the ability for the tree to take on water and nutrients, eventually killing the tree in 3 to 6 years. There are several insects incorrectly identified as EAB. Assistance with proper identification can be found in the Insect Guide link.

The City has been taking steps over the past several years in anticipation of the arrival of EAB. Ash trees have been removed and replaced in parks and boulevards that are in poor condition or adjacent to street projects. The City also received a $23,000 grant to increase tree diversity throughout the community over a two year period. However, there are still over 650 Ash trees in our inventory. This does not include trees located on private property.

Upon detection of EAB in Wabasha County, a quarantine area was defined that included all of Lake City and its compost site. Because cut wood is often hard to identify, no species of hardwoods are allowed to leave the quarantined area.

Ash trees can be treated with chemicals to protect them from EAB. These treatments are effective when applied properly and repeated as prescribed. Due to the large number of Ash trees in its inventory, the City does not intend to treat trees located on boulevards or in parks. All treatment methods within the City must be performed by a certified applicator.

Presence of EAB in Ash trees is most easily seen with woodpecker damage. This damage is typically shallow as the insect does not bore deep into the tree. Other signs are bark splits and “S” shaped galleries just under the bark. While tree damage can be fairly obvious, the siting of adult beetles is rare. City staff can assist property owners in identifying EAB damage.

An EAB survey was conducted by staff from both the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the City of Lake City on Thursday, February 9, 2017 with infested trees being identified in 3 locations. The Department of Ag recommends removal of all infested trees plus those Ash trees in the immediate area to create a buffer. This has shown to slow the spread of EAB, allowing the City and residents more time to remove and properly handle Ash trees in the community.
Tree removals in the 3 identified locations will begin immediately and will cease by May 1, 2017 while the insect is dormant (October 1 to May 1). Adjacent property owners will be notified when boulevard trees are scheduled for removal. Residents are responsible for removal of Ash trees on private property. All woody material can be disposed of at the City's compost site. Removals will resume on October 1, 2017 as needed. Restoration of boulevards, including stump removal and tree replacements, will be completed by the City or a contractor working on behalf of the City.

All informational links and additional resources on Emerald Ash Borer can be found on the City's website at www.ci.lake-city.mn.us. City staff can be contacted at 651-448-8145 or by email at the following addresses:

- Scott Jensen – sjensen@ci.lake-city.mn.us
- Bruce Wallerich – bwallerich@ci.lake-city.mn.us
- Melissa Krier – mkrier@ci.lake-city.mn.us

Direct links to resources:

Insect Guide -

Ash Tree Identification -
http://www.mda.state.mn.us/~/media/Files/plants/eab/Ashtreeid.pdf

Homeowner's Guide to Insecticide -
http://www.mda.state.mn.us/~/media/Files/plants/eab/eabtreatmentguide2.Ashx

Does My Tree Have EAB? -
http://www.mda.state.mn.us/~/media/Files/plants/eab/eab-treeshaveit.pdf
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City Staff/ School Staff Meetings</th>
<th>March-18</th>
<th>April-18</th>
<th>May-18</th>
<th>June-18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associated Cost</td>
<td>Finalize Water Costs</td>
<td>Discuss w/Staff</td>
<td>Finalize Summer Costs</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punchlist Items (warranty work)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enhancements</th>
<th>March-18</th>
<th>April-18</th>
<th>May-18</th>
<th>June-18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drinking Fountains</td>
<td>Ordered</td>
<td>Delivered 4/2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portable Restrooms</td>
<td>Order</td>
<td></td>
<td>Council Approve 5/14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bleachers</td>
<td>Order</td>
<td>Install</td>
<td>Pour</td>
<td>Concrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garbage/Recycling</td>
<td>Painted</td>
<td>Installed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scoreboard - Coordinating with Bachmann</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Install on pad with garbage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike racks - Coordinating with Bachmann</td>
<td>Order</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Tree Planting                    | Order    | Take Delivery 4/30 | Plant | Plant | Plant |

City Budget $15,000
Prairie Ridge Park
2023 Essler Drive
Saint Peter, MN

Goal Statement: To provide City residents with a neighborhood park and play area.
Class: Mini Park  Theme: Neighborhood Park  Acreage: 4.4
Adopted By: Available for Adoption
Established/Background: Established by the City on April 11, 2016.

Existing Facilities:

- Play Structure (49'x38')
- Swings Set of 4 (32'x37')
- Bench (6')
- Picnic Table (8')
- Surface Mount Base Grill (16'x20'x8')

Prairie Ridge Park Improvements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost Estimate</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Shelter (30'x34')</td>
<td>$14,000</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bathroom with drinking fountain (26'x26')</td>
<td>$84,500</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Memorandum

TO: Saint Peter Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
FROM: Pete Moulton
Director of Public Works
RE: DNR Grant – Hallett’s Nature Area

BACKGROUND

As we await the information related to a grant for Hallett’s Pond area the staff is looking for guidance in case the grant application is not successful. As you may recall the grant application is a matching grant meaning that the City has budgeted money to participate in the process. Roughly 50% is matching so if the grant is not awarded to us we can still move forward with approximately 50% of the project. The project was laid out as follows.

Scope:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asphalt Trail – 1,700’ 3” mat Engineering</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sept-Oct 2018</td>
<td>$24,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing Pier – 24’ length Labor</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sept-Oct 2018</td>
<td>$18,995</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Project (Grant Successful) $55,413

With the above information it is staff request that we move forward with the asphalt trail portion of the project if the grant is unsuccessful. Improving access to the area will accomplish more than putting in a pier and not being able to have all residents access the pier.

Our goal for 2019 would again be to apply for a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant for the pier installation and other additional amenities with the idea that of the grant is again unsuccessful we would move forward with the pier.

Let me know if you need more information or want to discuss further.

PM