

JOIN THE COMMUNITY TREE SURVEY TEAM!

Do you love trees?

Have you always wanted to learn more about them? Do you want to do something good for the environment? Then have I got a deal for you!

Check out the Community Engagement and Preparedness Program

The City of Andover and nonprofit organization Tree Trust have partnered on a new initiative called the **Community Engagement and Preparedness Program** (CEPP) to address the impending threat of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) – a destructive pest that was inadvertently brought into the U.S. from Asia. First detected in 2002, it has destroyed millions of ash trees through 19 states and parts of Canada. The closest known infestations are in Hennepin & Ramsey Counties. EAB is close and it could be closer than we think.

Who, what, and where?

To prepare and enable our community to proactively mitigate the impacts of this pest, the CEPP is facilitating community tree surveys for the cities of Andover, Hastings, Shoreview, and Waconia. The tree surveys will help identify the community's risk level to EAB and other potential devastations, which will help develop a timeline to more effectively manage our community's response to this impending urban forest calamity. It will enable thoughtful planning to ensure our future urban forest is resilient and diverse, achieve eligibility for potential grants, and track the ecosystem services provided by trees – cleaner water and air! All of this will serve to spread out the costs and losses associated with the introduction of EAB over a manageable period of time. The goal is to make efficient use of existing resources and plan for a thoughtful, proactive approach as opposed to a costly, reactive one, thereby putting less strain on staff and budgets.



How to get involved



Now – here is the deal: for the survey process we will need the help of committed volunteers who care about their community. The work will be done during the leaf-on season of 2014. Volunteers will receive professional training from experts on tree identification, tree measurements, and data collection. Volunteers will be provided with all necessary inventory equipment. Volunteers will work when their schedule allows and will have the support of Tree Trust and City staff. If you are at all interested in learning more about this tremendous opportunity to be a part of this innovative project that will increase your knowledge and understanding of trees, introduce you to new people, and allow you to be outside - please contact Karen Zumach with Tree Trust at 952-767-3886 or Karenz@treetrust.org.

