

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH**  
**Division of Public Services**  
**Update of Wayne County Ash Tree Removal**  
**&**  
**Ash Wood Disposal Options including**  
**Status of Marshalling Yards**  
**Summary Report**  
**2002-2003**

**I. BACKGROUND**

In July of 2002, it was discovered that an introduced species of beetle has made its way into the United States via wooden shipping pallets. This beetle, the Emerald Ash Borer, lays its eggs underneath the bark of green, white and black ash trees. Once the eggs hatch the larvae then feed on phloem of the tree and cause a girdling affect that prevents nutrients from reaching the areas above the borer activity. The result is usually the death of the tree. (For links to get more detail and specific information see the last section of this report.) This infestation has resulted in numerous deaths to ash trees located both on public and private property. Many of the trees planted along the roadways in Plymouth Township over the past several decades were of these ash varieties and are, consequently, being killed by the Emerald Ash Borer.

In response to this, the Wayne County Division of Roads is removing dead or dying ash trees located in the road right-of-ways in Plymouth Township. In addition, in response to this heavy loss of trees on both public and private property, the State of Michigan has set up several marshalling yards for ash wood disposal. This brief report will summarize the Wayne County tree removal activity from 2002-2003, and provide information regarding the marshalling yards set up by the State of Michigan.

**II. WAYNE COUNTY TREE REMOVAL SUMMARY**

The streets in the Township fall mainly under the jurisdiction of Wayne County. The County divides the streets into two (2) categories: **Primary** and **Secondary**. **Primary streets** include the main thoroughfare roads through the Township such as Sheldon Road, Beck Road, North Territorial, etc. The **secondary streets** would include streets within our subdivisions.

In late summer of 2002, Wayne County surveyed all streets in Plymouth Township (primary and secondary) and marked all trees that were, at that time, considered to be 50 % or more dead. The County set up a plan that called for the removal of all marked trees beginning with the removal of the trees along all **secondary roads** and then proceeding with removal of trees along the **primary roads**.

In October of 2002, the removal of those marked trees began in the northeast portion of the community. The tree removal involved a two step process. One team going through the subdivision cutting the tree at its base. Portions of the cut tree and the stumps were left for a follow up team that came in after to remove any remaining portions of the tree and grind the stumps. Tree removal continued throughout the winter with the County progressing South and West into the Township sticking to their strategy of removal of all marked trees within the subdivisions (secondary streets) before moving to the primary streets.

The county believes they have removed all of the subdivision **trees originally marked**. The County has removed a total of 1060 trees. There are approximately 300 stumps remaining to be removed. The County will continue stump removal until all stumps are ground out. The projected completion is late May.

The Wayne County Forestry Department is also responsible for grass cutting and, as a result, the County has informed us that continuation of the removal of the originally marked trees along the primary roads will not proceed until October.

If your ash tree was not marked last year, and it is dead or dying, it may be marked for removal this year. The County will again be out surveying all streets in the Township in late summer and marking those trees that are 50 % or more dead for removal next winter.

### **III. ASH WOOD DISPOSAL OPTIONS**

In an effort to stop the Emerald Ash Borer from spreading throughout the United States, the Michigan Department of Agriculture has placed a quarantine on all ash wood in six counties: Livingston, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Wayne, and Monroe. Under this quarantine, ash trees, branches, and firewood may not be moved outside these counties. It is believed that the larvae cannot survive a wood chipping process, consequently, ash wood chips less than one-inch in diameter are considered exempt from the quarantine requirements. Further details of the quarantine can be found on the Michigan Department of Agriculture website listed at the end of this report.

Plymouth Township residents have several options for disposal of ash wood from their property.

#### **1. Curbside Compost Collection**

All of the compost (leaves, grass clippings, vegetative pruning, garden waste, wood debris and brush) collected curbside in Plymouth Township is taken to the Onyx-Arbor Hills composting facility located in Washtenaw County, which is located **within** the quarantine area. The compost process involves chipping of the wood product. The location of the facility and the chipping process allows for our curbside collection to be an acceptable manner in which to dispose of ash wood.

Any wood material put out for curbside compost collection must follow the proper compost guidelines:

- Branches and wood debris need to be in bundles, tied with string or twine.
- Branches cannot exceed 6 inches in diameter and 3 foot in length
- Leaves, and vegetative pruning (along with grass clippings and garden waste) can be put into paper yard waste bags (available at local retail stores) or in 35 gallon (maximum size) containers identified with a compost sticker or marked clearly with 2

large “x”s or “c”s on the container. Yard waste stickers are available at Township offices. Please take care to ensure that the label or marking is facing the roadway.

- Containers, bags or bundles cannot exceed 50 pounds.
- Please make certain all items are curbside by 7:00 am on your regular collection day.

## **2. Marshalling Yards**

To assist in preventing ash wood that could potentially house the Emerald Ash Borer from being transported out of the quarantine area four (4) Marshalling yard sites have been set up in southeast Michigan. Materials taken to the yards will be chipped to one-inch size and transported to a cogeneration plant, where they will be used to produce electricity.

- These sites have been funded as a pilot project by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- These sites will take ash trees and materials from municipalities, property owners and private contractors.
- There is no size restriction.
- There is no fee to drop off the wood at these sites.\*
- According to the State of Michigan, they will be operational through spring and as determined necessary and/or appropriate.
- Companies or individuals must be able to **deliver** the materials to the yard **and offload** it.
- Basic information about the origin and details regarding the ash trees/materials will be requested to assist the state in tracking and evaluating future disposal operations.

Two (2) marshalling sites are located in or near Plymouth Township:

### **Asplundh Tree Expert Co.,**

#### **Plymouth Industries Yard**

13101 Eckles Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170

**Hours:** Mon - Fri 8 to 5

**Location:** On Eckles, near intersection of Amerhein Road; east of I-275 S and north of Plymouth Road.

**Contact:** Lee Kitzman 989-772-4454

### **Westland**

Department of Public Service Yard  
37137 Marquette Rd.  
Westland, MI 48185

**Hours:** 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., M-F, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat.

**Location:** On Marquette, south of Ford Road and just east of Newburgh Road.

**Contact:** 734-728-1770

The Plymouth Township site was approved on Wednesday, April 2, 2003 by the Charter Township of Plymouth Planning Commission.

\* Please note that if you contract to have an ash tree removed, while a contractor may charge you a fee to remove the wood from your property, transport to a marshalling yard and offload the wood once at the yard, there should be no fee charged for disposal costs.

**IV. FURTHER INFORMATION**

Further information can be obtained at the following:

**Emerald Ash Borer and Ash Tree Information**

EAB Hotline

Michigan Department of Agriculture

Michigan State University Extension

Charter Township of Plymouth

866-325-0023

[www.michigan.gov/mda](http://www.michigan.gov/mda)

[www.msue.msu.edu/reg\\_se/roberts/ash/](http://www.msue.msu.edu/reg_se/roberts/ash/)

734-453-8131 ext. 33

[www.plymouthtp.org](http://www.plymouthtp.org)

**Wayne County Tree Removal**

Wayne County Forestry

734-522-7371