

Emerald Ash Borer is Not the Only Threat to our Community Forests



Ash trees killed by EAB become brittle very quickly and can become public hazards. Cities will have limited ability to manage the damage from the explosive increase in the number of dead trees

Additional threats to community forests:

- Severe storms and high winds
- Changing weather patterns
- Other invasive species
- Disease
- Old age
- Inadequate maintenance
- Failure to replace lost trees



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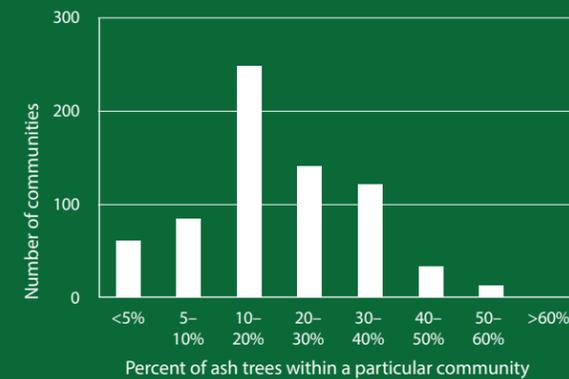
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Minnesota is Losing its Community Forests



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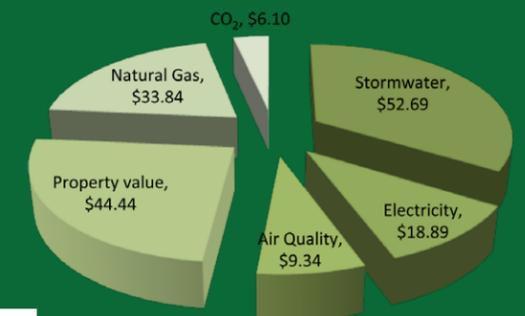
Emerald ash borer will kill 20 to 40% of neighborhood trees in Minnesota communities



There are approximately 2.65 million community ash trees in Minnesota.

Losing 2.65 million trees means losing over \$437 million in tree benefits each year

- Trees improve air and water quality, native habitat, property values, and public health.
- Trees reduce soil erosion, extreme heat, and energy use.
- A 18" DBH (diameter at breast height) ash tree provides benefits of \$165 per year



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Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Alone Will Decimate Community Forests

Managing the Impact of EAB Requires a State-wide Effort

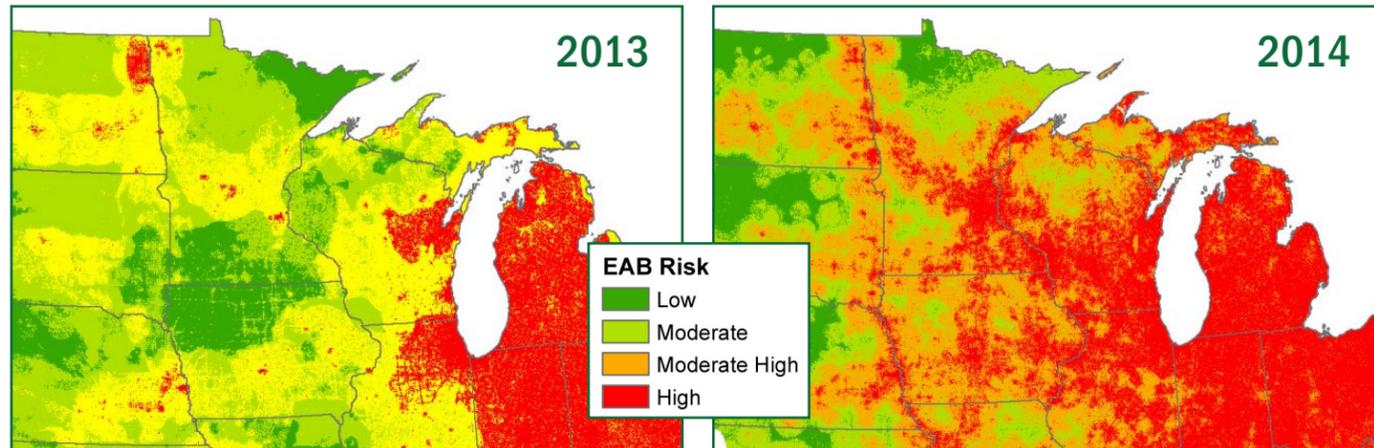


Photo: Harvey Tjader, DNR



Photo courtesy © Audrey Kletscher Helbling

EAB predicted to cost billions and devastate community forests

- Property owners and local governments will spend billions of dollars for treatment, removal, and replacement of ash trees in U.S. cities between 2010 and 2020 due to the EAB infestation.
- Over-reliance on ash species decades ago resulted in today's exaggerated susceptibility to EAB.
- Minnesota has the largest ash tree population in the country, with an estimated total of 937 million ash trees.
- In the Twin Cities, one in five community trees are ash.



Consequences of inaction are great

EAB will impact forest lands in Greater Minnesota

- Black, green, and white ash trees are a major component of lowland hardwood forests in Minnesota.
- Black ash mortality is projected to increase water table levels and alter the hydrology of Minnesota wetlands.

Native American Indian traditions are threatened by the loss of ash trees

- Native American traditions rely on ash trees for making baskets, lacrosse sticks, pipe stems, flutes, and medicinal remedies.
- EAB has already had devastating impacts on several Midwest reservations with more damage expected in the next decade.

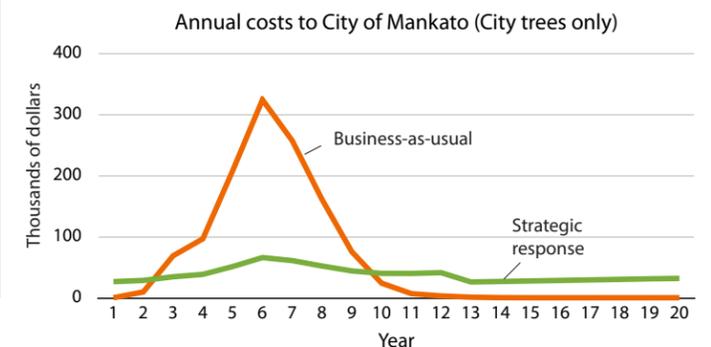
Minnesota is at an EAB crossroads



- As the number of dead trees increases, our management options dwindle to removal and replacement only.
- Acting now with a sustained, cooperative statewide initiative allows for Minnesota communities to manage the impact of EAB.
- Increased proactive measures will save money over the long run, and help protect the many benefits of trees.

Slowing the spread of EAB will save millions of dollars

- Implementing an integrated pest management approach that includes detection techniques, pest control measures, and the protection of high value, healthy trees saves money.
- Protecting high value, healthy ash trees will delay the removal and replacement of trees in Minnesota communities and provide significant cost savings.
- Ash trees that are protected against EAB retain their value as green infrastructure.



Projected fiscal impacts of business-as-usual scenario versus planned, strategic and proactive response to EAB.