



TO: Gahanna City Council
Clerk of Council

FROM: Stephania Ferrell, Director of Parks & Recreation
Kevin Schultz, Sr. Director of Operations
Mayor Laurie A. Jadwin

Cc: Raymond J. Mularski, Esq., City Attorney
Joann Bury, Director of Finance

DATE: June 21, 2023

SUBJECT: Dept. of Parks & Recreation Report to Council (June 26, 2023 COTW Meeting)

ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEM # 1 – ORDINANCE TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH JOSEPH TREE SERVICES FOR THE REMOVAL OF HAZARD TREES AND REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a non-native insect that borrows into ash trees, eventually killing them. The insect was discovered in the Midwest in the early 2000's. Once infested, trees may show little sign of pest for the first couple of years. The larval stage of EAB feeds under the bark of trees, cutting off the flow of water and nutrients. They emerge as an adult the following year, leaving a D shaped exit hole, further compromising the trees health. Ash trees that become infested with EAB typically die within five years.

Dead or declining ash trees lose strength more rapidly than other trees such as maple or oak. Ash has the undesirable characteristic of being a self-pruning tree, as dead branches sheer close to the main stem. Self-pruning is undesirable in proximity to people as branches fall without warning, thus placing residents and property at risk.

The Harrison Pond Subdivision has roughly 190 ash trees that have been impacted by EAB and are in severe decline. The City Forester and third party certified arborist have inspected many of these trees and deemed them hazardous. The Administration is respectfully requesting to enter into contract with Joseph Tree Services for the removal of these hazard trees. In addition, the Administration is requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$130,000 to complete the project, with the reserve being used for hazardous tree removals in other parts of the City as well as an option for landowners to purchase a replacement tree by a contract hosted by the City. Due to the volume and overall hazardous condition of the trees, the Administration is requesting **Emergency and Waiver**.

Requested Legislation and Funding:

Legislation Needed: Ordinance
Emergency/Waiver: **Emergency and Waiver**



Name & Address: Joseph Tree Services (7665 Fishel Drive North, Dublin, OH 43016)
Already Appropriated (Amounts & Accounts Names/Titles): N/A
Supplemental/Transfer (Amounts & Account Names/Titles):
\$130,000 (Parks Services – Contract Services 1010.8310.5205)

Attachments:

PR-ATT-Cost_Estimate