

# **WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR STREET TREE ?**

WEST WINDSOR HAS BEEN INVADDED BY A DEVASTATING INSECT  
**– THE EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) –**  
WHICH SELECTIVELY ATTACKS AND KILLS ASH TREES.

Eradication of the bug is not a feasible option. There are more than 1,800 Ash trees located on 88 different streets within West Windsor Township. The Township Shade Tree Commission has formulated a Management Plan and determined that it is not practical or prudent to implement long term treatment for most of the Ash street trees, but the Township is treating a few hundred of the Ash trees that exhibit the best health and form, as it is cost effective to preserve these high quality, sturdy trees into big, mature specimens.

**THE REMAINING ASH STREET TREES WILL UNAVOIDABLY PERISH OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.**

If the Street Tree in front of you home is an Ash tree, and as it becomes infested with EAB insects, you may see the following:

- The leaves in the upper branches will begin to wither and small branches will die. "Suckers" or new young shoots may appear on the trunk or from some branches.
- Once the tree is determined to be heavily infested the Township will arrange to have it cut down, before it becomes a safety concern. The wood will be chipped to kill the "trapped" EAB larvae and also to avoid spreading the bugs to other neighborhoods.
- The Ash tree stump and some roots will be ground down below the surface and some topsoil and seed will be placed on top.
- A replacement street tree will be planted adjacent to the original tree. However, it will not be another Ash tree, and won't be nearly as large, but a tree that will present an aesthetic alternative will be selected by the Township.
- Please water the new tree(s), when they are planted and during any prolonged hot or dry weather, until it has fully grown accustomed to its new home.

THE DETAILED PROGRAM TO ADDRESS THIS INSECT INVASION,  
DEVELOPED AND ACTIVELY MANAGED BY THE TOWNSHIP'S LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT AND  
SHADE TREE COMMISSION - CAN BE FOUND ON THE TOWNSHIP'S WEBSITE [westwindsortwp.org](http://westwindsortwp.org)  
TELEPHONE INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE TOWNSHIP'S LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT 609-799 2400.