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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nuisance trees create hazards for property owners
Diseased and potentially hazardous trees must be removed

OSHKOSH, Wis., March 21, 2023 – It is the mission and responsibility of the city of Oshkosh to ensure public safety as it relates to our troubled ash trees. Property owners with a diseased and potentially hazardous tree that has the potential to affect the public right of way (streets, sidewalks, etc.) or damage neighboring properties may receive a letter indicating that they must remove the tree. If that property owner does not comply and complete the removal of the tree, the City has the authority to have that tree removed at the property owner's expense.

For residents planning on having a diseased ash tree removed, they are asked to start planning sooner than later. The Wisconsin Arborist Association (<https://www.waa-isa.org>) has resources for finding arborists and tree removal contractors. The costs associated with removing ash trees have increased due to inflation, as well as the hazards and risks that ash trees pose. It can cost \$1,500 or more to hire a contractor for removal of an ash tree. Currently, there are no financial assistance programs to help residents with the costs to remove ash trees on private property.

Residents can attempt to save their healthy ash trees by administering treatments if the tree is generally in good condition. These treatments need to be done biennially, every two years for the tree's life. A systemic approach, like trunk injections, has the best results and keeps all the treatment product in the tree. The treatment product is then dispersed through the tree's entirety. More information about ash tree treatments and other related topics can be found at <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/homeowners>.

Once infested with emerald ash borer, ash trees start to die and dry out, changing the physiology and strength of the wood. The process increases the chances of tree failure and the potential for property damage. The demise of the tree also increases the cost of taking the tree down. For more information about issues relating to nuisance trees, please contact Travis Derks, Landscape Operations Manager/City Forester, at (920) 232-5314.

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