



COUNCIL CONFERENCE MEETING

February 08, 2021

5:30 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue N.E.

AGENDA

- [1.](#) Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation Plan Update
- [2.](#) Adopt a Drain Update
3. 7th Street Trail Update (No written memo)
4. Craig Park Upgrade Update (No written memo)

The City of Fridley will not discriminate against or harass anyone in the admission or access to, or treatment, or employment in its services, program, or activities because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation or status with regard to public assistance. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in any of Fridley's services, programs, and activities. Hearing impaired persons who need any interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids should contact Roberta Collins at (763) 572-3500. (TTD/763-572-3534).



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: February 8, 2021

Meeting Type: Council Conference Meeting

Submitted By: James Kosluchar, Public Works Director
Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager
Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title:

Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation Plan Update

Background

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive insect that aggressively spreads and kills green ash trees by cutting off the transport of nutrients within the tree. While its presence has long been suspected in Fridley, it was officially confirmed by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in 2019 and has subsequently been detected in numerous trees. EAB has the potential to cause significant ecological and economic impacts in Fridley since green ash are the most common species of tree within the City's parks and right-of-way. Based on a tree survey completed in 2015-2016, 1,091 green ash trees (comprising approximately 25% of the City's total tree cover) are under City management.

In order to mitigate the negative impacts associated with widespread tree loss, the City developed an Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation Plan which was approved by the City Council in January 2018. This plan directs a selective removal program in which, 1) low quality ash trees are proactively removed and replaced with diverse tree species, and 2) high-quality ash trees are chemically treated to protect against EAB. The chemical treatment continues until all the low-quality trees are removed and replaced, at which time the remaining trees will be reassessed. In the three years since the Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation plan was approved, the City has removed 217 of the 678 of the poor-quality ash and treated all 413 of the good quality ash trees.

Additional background, including the City of Fridley Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation Plan can be found at <https://fridleymn.gov/1198/Emerald-Ash>.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact related to this informational item. The City's budgets have supported the ongoing EAB Mitigation Plan since its adoption in 2018.

The cost of a "do-nothing" approach of waiting for the City's ash trees to die to remove and replace was estimated at approximately \$1.1 million within a short period of time. Instead, the approved plan spreads the cost and labor of ash removal over a longer time period, maintains high-benefit large trees, and allows the replacement trees to reestablish an urban canopy.

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.

Based on the initial three-year implementation period, the average cost to chemically treat a tree was \$75 and the average cost to remove and replace a tree was \$720. During this time, the City was able to achieve considerable cost savings by using staff for stump grinding. Even so, it remains more cost effective to treat a tree for up to 30 years compared to removing it, during which time the benefits of a mature tree can still be enjoyed.

Discussion

Staff will provide an update on the first three years of the City’s Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation Plan including the environmental benefits of the program, the City’s partnership with Rainbow Treecare, and future plans.

Focus on Fridley Strategic Alignment

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vibrant Neighborhoods & Places | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Identity & Relationship Building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Stability & Commercial Prosperity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Safety & Environmental Stewardship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Excellence | |

Attachments and Other Resources

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: February 8, 2021

Meeting Type: City Council Conference Meeting

Submitted By: James Kosluchar, Public Works Director
Rachel Workin, Environmental Planner

Title

Adopt a Drain Update

Background

In 2019, the City joined Metro Watershed Partners (a coalition of more than 70 Twin Cities public, private, and non-profit entities with an interest in stormwater education) as a formal partner in the Adopt-A-Drain program (adopt-a-drain.org). This program, the largest adopt-a-drain initiative in the nation, encourages Twin Cities residents to sign up to keep storm drains in their area clear of debris. By removing debris before it enters the storm sewer system, participants reduce pollution into the receiving waterbodies and offset maintenance costs associated with clogging and vacuuming storm drains. Additionally, the program helps educate residents on the connection between storm drains and lake/river water quality, and that even natural material such as leaves, pet waste, and sediment is considered a pollutant. Since Adopt-A-Drain provides a reporting platform, the City can include participants' efforts in its MS4 permit report and use its program participation to fulfill educational requirements of the permit.

In 2020, 28 new Fridley residents adopted drains, bringing the total number of participants up to 58 groups with 95 drains adopted. 43.1% of the adoptees reported on their cleaning efforts in 2020 which amounted to 536.6 pounds of debris. Adoptees of storm drains in Fridley include scout troops, families, and individuals. Beginning in March, the City will be participating in an inter-city challenge coordinated by the Anoka County Water Resource Outreach Collaborative to sign up more drain adopters and promote more awareness of the program.

Financial Impact

None

Discussion

Vision Statement

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Focus on Fridley Strategic Alignment

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vibrant Neighborhoods & Places | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Identity & Relationship Building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Stability & Commercial Prosperity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Safety & Environmental Stewardship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Excellence | |

Attachments and Other Resources

- Report

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.

Adopt-a-Drain in Fridley, 2020 Annual Report

28
new participants
in 2020

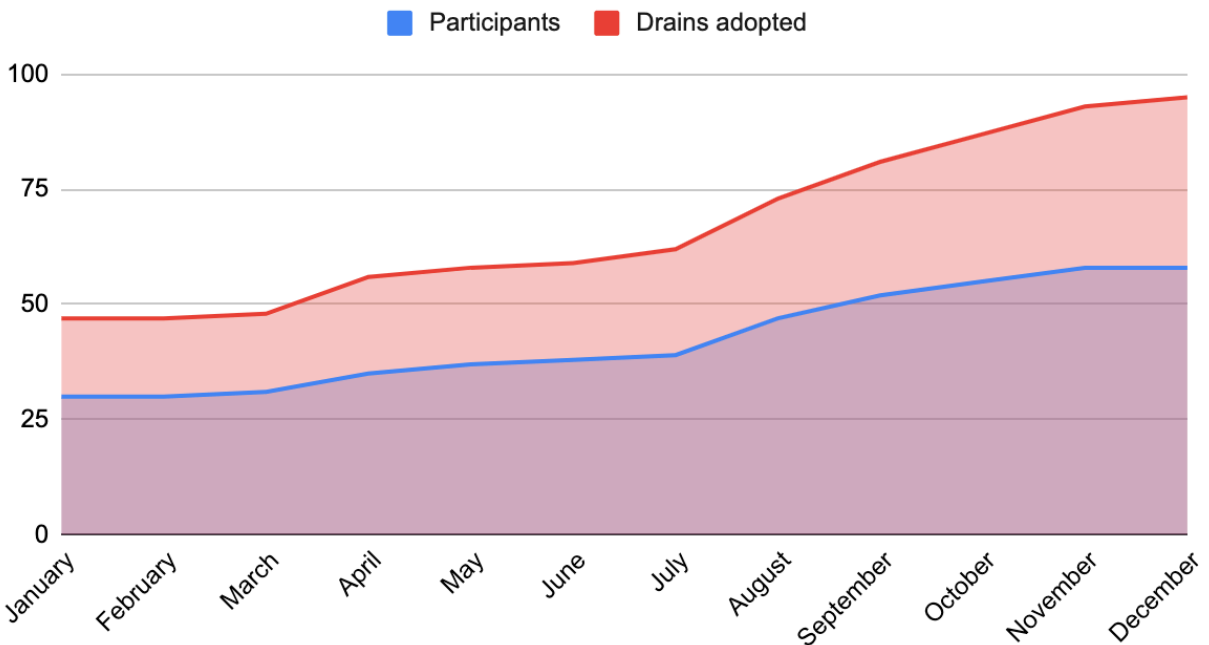
48
drains adopted
in 2020

58
total participants

95
total adoptions



New participants and drains adopted in Fridley, 2020



2020 Reporting Data

25 Fridley participants reported cleanings, which represents 43.1% of all Fridley participants.

Fridley participants collected 536.6 lbs of debris from their adopted storm drains in 2020.

| Debris Type | Amount (lbs) |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Brown leaves | 347.3 |
| Grass and green leaves | 75.0 |
| Sediment and dirt | 106.7 |
| Trash | 7.6 |
| Salt | 0.0 |



In 2019, the total amount reported was 269.5 lbs.

| Month | New participants | Drains adopted | Debris collected (lbs) | Time spent (hours) |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| January* | 0 | 0 | 24.0 | 2.5 |
| February | 0 | 0 | 5.0 | 0.2 |
| March | 1 | 1 | 29.5 | 1.3 |
| April | 4 | 8 | 78.0 | 1.4 |
| May | 2 | 2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| June | 1 | 1 | 94.8 | 2.8 |
| July | 1 | 3 | 14.6 | 0.3 |
| August | 8 | 11 | 28.0 | 0.6 |
| September | 5 | 8 | 26.3 | 0.7 |
| October | 3 | 6 | 96.8 | 0.9 |
| November | 3 | 6 | 47.6 | 1.3 |
| December | 0 | 2 | 92.0 | 3.4 |
| TOTALS | 28 | 48 | 536.6 | 15.4 |

*January total includes year-end reports from 2019.

Geographic Breakdown: Watershed and Subwatershed

Drains adopted: Cumulative total

Debris collected: 2020 data only.

| Watershed | Drains adopted | Debris collected (lbs) | Time spent (hours) |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rice Creek | 57 | 496.4 | 11.2 |
| Coon Creek | 23 | 48.5 | 2.7 |
| Mississippi | 15 | 72.6 | 1.5 |

| Subwatershed | Drains adopted | Debris collected (lbs) | Time spent (hours) |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rice Creek | 31 | 172.6 | 1.9 |
| Moore Lake | 23 | 318.8 | 9.1 |
| Springbrook Creek | 16 | 29.0 | 0.9 |
| Mississippi River (MWMO) | 14 | 72.6 | 1.5 |
| Oak Glen Creek | 5 | 14.5 | 0.3 |
| Local wetlands & Ramsey County Ditch 2 | 4 | 5.0 | 0.1 |
| Stonybrook Creek | 2 | 5.0 | 1.5 |