



MEETING

Wednesday, March 20, 2024
Community Auditorium Conference Room
1915 Main Street

Community Forestry Commission
Justin Marble, Chair
Mark Nakajima, Vice-Chair

Bruce Countryman
David Hunter
Kathy Walden

Shaun English, Student Advisor
Dan Riordan, Staff Liaison
Michael Marshall, Council Liaison

Zoom Webinar:

Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83239076472?pwd=mvrs6Wn739ZWYBvCWKbGPIoTV7ImvE.1>

Meeting ID: 832 3907 6472

Passcode: 622506

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

B. Public Comment

C. Action Items

1. Review and Approve February 21, 2024, Meeting Minutes

D. Discussion Items

1. Arbor Month 2024 Event Planning

E. Council Liaison Report

F. Commissioner Reports

G. Staff Liaison Report

H. Announce Next Meeting and Adjourn

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Notice: The City of Forest Grove will make reasonable accommodations for participation in the meeting. Requests for assistance can be made by contacting the City Recorder's Office, 503-992-3235, mwoods@forestgrove-or.gov, at least 48-hours in advance of the meeting.



MINUTES

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Community Auditorium Conference Room,
1915 Main Street

Minutes are unofficial until approved by the Commission.

A. Call to Order

The February Community Forestry Commission meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM.

1. Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce Countryman, David Hunter, Justin Marble, Mark Nakajima, Kathy Walden, Councilor Marshall

MEMBERS ABSENT: Shaun English

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Riordan, Senior Planner

GUEST PRESENT: Michael Howell

B. Public Comment:

1. Written Public Comment
2. In-Person or Remote Public Comment

No public comments were provided for Commission consideration.

C. Action Items

1. Election of Officers for Calendar Year 2024

By unanimous consent, the Commission elected Justin Marble as Chair and Mark Nakajima as Vice-Chair.

2. Approval of Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2024

David made a motion, seconded by Mark to approve the proposed Commission meeting dates for 2024, with the addition of March 20th. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes for November 15, 2023

The Commission read and approved the November 15, 2023, minutes as presented.

D. Discussion Items

1. Register Tree Removal Permit: 1604 Birch Street

Dan informed the Commission that the owner of property at 1604 Birch Street requested removal of one Oregon white oak listed in the City's Register of Significant Trees. The property owner submitted a tree assessment report prepared by an arborist. The report indicates that the tree is rated as a high level risk and should be removed as soon as possible. Dan noted that the City's tree protection ordinance allows for an exception to the standard tree removal permit requirements when a tree is deemed to be an imminent danger to the public or any property owner or resident as is the case in this situation. Given the high risk a public hearing to remove the oak tree from the Register of Significant Trees was not held and a permit authorizing removal was approved and issued by the Community Development Department.

2. Arbor Month Event Planning 2024

Commission members discussed ideas for the City's 2024 Arbor Month tree planting event. The Commission discussed possible locations for the tree planting event including Talisman Park and Reuter Farm Park. The Commission agreed that Talisman Park is very wet and may not be a good location due to frequent standing water. The Commission also discussed possible tree varieties to plant including western red cedar or madrone. Michael Howell offered to donate trees for planting. Justin offered to contact Tom Martin, City parks supervisor, to discuss a possible location, day and time for the event. David suggested that Tom be invited to the Commission's March 20th meeting to discuss event details.

3. Downtown Street Tree Removal and Planting

Dan reported that the City may have funding through the City's urban renewal program to remove problem trees in downtown Forest Grove during spring and replant during the fall. Dan also mentioned the owner of Van Dyke Appliances and the United Church of Christ have requested permission to have street trees removed but are waiting, so the City can address the tree issue comprehensively. The Commission discussed the possible scope of the removal and replanting project, including focusing on only the trees with tree grates. The Commission also discussed possible tree varieties for replanting. Justin suggested more research is needed on appropriate trees to plant.

The Commission also discussed possible planting alternatives, including using planter boxes. It was suggested that perhaps trees shouldn't be planted in each location where there's a tree grate. Mark suggested some locations could be used for public art instead and perhaps the Public Arts Commission would be interested in this idea. Justin, Bruce and Mike offered to take a look at the trees with tree grates and report their findings to the Commission. Bruce asked that copies of the 2018 downtown tree inventory be provided, so it can be used as a starting point for recommending trees to remove.

4. Emerald Ash Borer Update

Dan provided an update on efforts to mitigate the impact of the Emerald Ash Borer.

Dan informed the Commission that the Oregon Department of Agriculture has additional funding for ash tree removals this summer and will likely have funding for purchasing and replanting some trees. Dan noted that the Oregon Department of Agriculture is mailing letters informing property owners about the tree removal program. Letters were mailed to 36 property owners with ash trees on February 16th. Dan also noted that the Oregon National Guard unit in Forest Grove is interested in volunteering time to remove trees near 13th Avenue.

E. Council Liaison Report

Councilor Marshall informed the Commission that City Council will be holding their annual goal setting retreat on Saturday, February 24th at the Community Auditorium.

F. Commissioner Reports

David updated the Commission on the continuing education work he's doing. Justin noted that in May he's conducting a tree climbing training class in northern California for CalFire.

G. Staff Communications

Dan informed the Commission that the Metro Intertwine Alliance, in partnership with the Urban Greenspaces Institute, prepared an assessment of regional urban tree policies and programs. Dan mentioned that Forest Grove scored very well since the City has an urban tree code, an urban forest management plan, an established tree board, and urban tree canopy targets. The City scored 9.5 out of 10 for overall tree policies and 7 out of 10 for overall tree management. The City would have scored higher for tree management if the City required tree removal permits for all or most private yard trees.

H. Announce Next Meeting and Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM. The next meeting will be on March 20th and will focus on the Arbor Month tree planting event.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riordan, CFC staff liaison

OREGON TREE HEALTH THREATS



March 2024

Square miles known to be infested with EAB: **10.4**

This monthly newsletter gives updates and resources on emerging threats to the health of Oregon's trees in natural and managed landscapes. It is published by the Oregon Department of Forestry with the collaboration of other state, regional, federal, Tribal, and local agencies and organizations. To subscribe, email jim.gersbach@odf.oregon.gov

In this issue:

- Treatment of healthy ash trees is cost effective, analyses show
- New EAB treatment fact sheet is now available from ODF
- Permanent EAB quarantine now in effect in Washington County
- EAB pocket guide is now available in Spanish
- A quarter of 2023 hotline reports of EAB proved to be lookalike insects
- Many health issues in Oregon white oak aren't related to MOB
- Map reveals areas with highest concentrations of Oregon ash

For healthy ash trees, treatment can be the cost-effective choice

Dealing with EAB is expensive. [A 2017 study](#) found that when EAB infestations were at their peak, municipal tree management budgets across the Midwest and East Coast increased by an average of over 300%. Most of these costs are related to removing dead or infested trees.

Treating ash trees with insecticides is a cost-effective method to protect them from EAB, while lowering annual management costs by spreading them out over time. Treatment also ensures that an established ash tree can continue providing essential benefits for many years to come,

rather than waiting 20-50 years for a replacement tree to reach maturity. Mature trees provide shade and cooling, air and stormwater filtration, wildlife habitat, and add value to properties and neighborhoods.

EAB experts from Purdue and Michigan State University recently published a review article highlighting several analyses that found treatment to be the least expensive EAB management option in the near to medium term. Although tree removal costs can vary depending on the tree's size, condition, and context, these studies found that

removing and replacing a tree was typically more expensive than treating it for 20 years. One of the studies identified healthy trees greater than 8" DBH (diameter at breast height – measured 4.5' above the ground) as the most cost-effective candidates for treatment. When



Photo credit: Whitney Cranshaw
[Colorado State University Extension](#)

accounting for the social and ecological benefits that these large trees provide to a community, the economic value of treatment is even higher.

Emamectin benzoate is the most effective treatment

The most effective way to protect ash trees from EAB is systemic trunk injections of emamectin benzoate. This treatment should only be applied to healthy ash trees greater than 6" DBH because they have the highest chance for survival. Please see ODF's new [EAB Insecticide Treatment Factsheet](#) for more information.



To identify ash trees that are good candidates for treatment, communities should start by conducting tree inventories to assess the quantity, condition, and characteristics of any ash trees. ODF's Urban and Community Forestry team can offer tutorials on using [TreePlotter](#), a free tree inventory software. TreePlotter also has a built-in EAB cost calculator to support management decisions. Working proactively will help communities develop EAB response plans *before* it arrives, saving time and money in the long run.

ODF publishes a fact sheet on insecticide treatment for EAB

ODF staff recently developed and published an EAB insecticide treatment fact sheet to help inform decisions on how to manage treatment of ash trees. The fact sheet outlines the methods available for protecting ash trees from EAB, effectiveness of treatment options by active ingredient, and impacts of treatment options to species other than EAB. You can find the digital version of the treatment fact sheet [here](#). Contact Evan Elderbrock (evan.m.elderbrock@odf.oregon.gov) or Lilah Gonen (lilah.gonen@odf.oregon.gov) to request printed copies for outreach or trainings.



EAB quarantine is now permanent in Washington County

The Oregon Dept. of Agriculture has made the EAB quarantine of Washington County permanent. Material from ash (of any species in the genus *Fraxinus*), olive, and white fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) cannot be removed from Washington County. The material must remain within the county's borders. Wood waste must be processed to kill any EAB larvae and disposed of according to best management practices to slow the spread of emerald ash borer (EAB) in Oregon. Find details [here](#).



EAB pocket guide is now available in Spanish

ODF has produced its handy pocket guide to EAB management in a Spanish version. The guide can be ordered in either Spanish or English versions or both through

evan.m.elderbrock@odf.oregon.gov or lilah.gonen@odf.oregon.gov

Oregon's Translation Advisory Council estimates that there are more than 128,000 people in the state who are Spanish speakers with limited English proficiency. In Washington County they estimate there are more than 25,000 people with limited English proficiency and whose first language is Spanish, six times more than the next most numerous group of non-English speakers (Vietnamese). Centro Cultural staff in Cornelius did the translation.

A quarter of suspected EAB sightings in 2022 proved to be look-alikes

There were 77 reports to the Oregon Invasive Species Council hotline last year about suspected emerald ash borer infestations. About 8% of these were found to be EAB, all within the infested area inside Forest Grove. Three times as many reports (26%) turned out to be other insects that just look similar to EAB but don't harm ash trees.

Oregon citizens can quickly log a report of any suspected invasive species to the hotline, using a mobile device or computer. Before making a report, members of the public are urged to first check with ODA's [EAB lookalike reference guide](#) to rule out that what they're seeing isn't a harmless insect, such as the golden jewel beetle (see photo at right).



Above: Golden jewel beetle

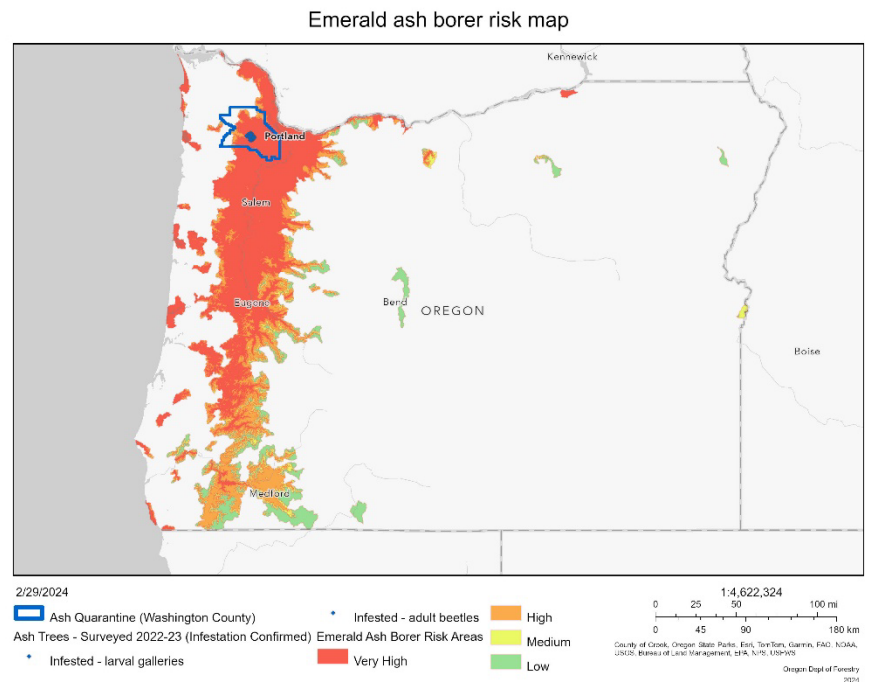
Dieback in Oregon white oak may stem from causes other than MOB

Concerns about dieback in Oregon white oak from Mediterranean oak borer have grabbed the public's attention since dozens of trees in Wilsonville were found last year to be infested. But ODF Forest Entomologist Christine Buhl reminds Oregonians that their iconic native tree suffers from a number of problems unrelated to the invasive MOB. Some of these include:

- **Oak lacebugs** (their feeding on oak leaves turns the leaves yellow which can weaken trees but does not appear to kill them)
- **Oak galls** (tiny wasps make homes for their larvae by causing swellings in foliage and twigs. Colors of these galls vary from yellow to green, eventually turning tan-brown. Once the larvae emerge as adult insects, the gall slowly disintegrates. Extensive galls can girdle twigs but this damage is minimal across the large canopy of an oak. Galls do not prevent growth of new buds or cause serious harm to otherwise healthy oaks.)
- **Squirrels** (in their hunt for gall insects they can debark and girdle twigs resulting in clumps of dead leaves)
- **Carpenter worms** (these are moth caterpillars which burrow into the wood of many hardwood trees, including oaks. Their tunneling can cause dieback of even large branches and is usually targeted at branches weakened or broken by storms.)
- **Fungi** (a variety of fungal diseases can attack and kill trees. Oaks are no exception. *Armillaria* and *Inonotus* are some of the potentially fatal root and butt rots that can attack Oregon white oak, often entering through tree wounds. However oaks often tolerate these fungal rots for quite some time).

Map reveals areas at highest risk for native ash tree loss in Oregon

The map below shows watersheds where ash is found in Oregon. These areas are at risk for losing all or most of those trees to the invasive emerald ash borer. Most Oregon ash can be found in the western part of the state. An important habitat tree for wildlife, Oregon ash grows along streams, rivers and lakes or in wetlands, mostly at elevations below 2,500' elevation, with greatest abundance below 1,000'.





Publications

Alternatives to Ash in Western Oregon: With a Critical Tree Under Threat, These Options Can Help Fill Habitat Niche. G. Kral, and D.C. Shaw. 2023. OSU Extension EM 9396.

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9396>

Oregon Ash: Insects, Pathogens and Tree Health by Oregon State University Extension (also available in Spanish at this same website)

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/pub/em-9380>

Wood Decay Fungi Associated with Galleries of the Emerald Ash Borer by the University of Minnesota and Uruguay's *Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria*
[Forests | Free Full-Text | Wood Decay Fungi Associated with Galleries of the Emerald Ash Borer \(mdpi.com\)](https://www.mdpi.com/forests/13/10/1711)

Useful links for more information

Mediterranean oak borer fact sheet

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Documents/forestbenefits/fact-sheet-mediterranean-oak-borer.pdf>

EAB monitoring guidance

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/Documents/eab-monitoring-guidance.pdf>

Oregon Dept. of Agriculture

<https://www.oda.direct/EAB>

Oregon Dept. of Forestry

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/pages/foresthealth.aspx>

OSU Extension

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/collection/emerald-ash-borer-resources>

Emerald Ash Borer Information Network, a collaborative effort by the USDA Forest Service and Michigan State University

www.emeraldashborer.info

USFS Forest Health Protection

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/foresthealth/index.shtml>

