2018 Update on Emerald Ash Borer in University Heights

The Tree Board of University Heights has been focused on preparing for the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer for 2 years now by engaging in new tree planting, monitoring ash trees on the public rights-of-way, and removing poor quality ash trees from the public right-of-way. This work will continue as the beetle continues to make its way through Iowa and through our neighborhood. Here is an update on what you need to know for 2018.

The Emerald Ash Borer is in our neighborhood. If you would like your ash tree to survive you need to begin insecticide treatment this spring if you haven't already. Treating your ash tree with insecticide is not recommended in every case. Only healthy, good quality trees should be preserved. Ash trees in poor health, those that are very large and old, and those with structural defects should be removed. To get an opinion on whether your tree is a good candidate for preservation, and for a quote on treatment costs you may wish to consult a professional arborist. The 'find an arborist' tool on the ISA website can offer you some resources (www.isa-arbor.com).

Iowa State University Extension Service has also published a helpful video to assist homeowners in getting their ash tree treated. It can be viewed online here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJoiyF0Tcns

The tree board has been very focused on expanding our species and genus level tree diversity over the past few years, and if you are planning to replace an ash tree on your own property we encourage you to do the same. Our tree population is over 30% maple and 20% oak at present, and this sets us up for more possible future mass tree losses as Asian Longhorn Beetle, Oak Wilt Disease and other invasive pests that destroy trees are already in the US. **Please choose something other than a maple or oak tree for replanting**. An abbreviated list of good tree species options are listed at the bottom, and for additional suggestions on good but less-common species to plant please see the Streets page of our city website: http://university-heights.org/Streets/index.html.

MidAmerican Energy offers a tree sale every spring where nursery quality trees of 6-8 different species are sold for $30. More information on this sale will be available in March at the following website: https://www.midamericanenergy.com/ia-res-trees.aspx

City owned trees (on public right-of-way)
About a dozen ash trees remain on public property in University Heights, but already more than half of our publicly owned ash trees have been removed, and in most cases replaced. Removals will continue over the next 3 years.

To view the University Heights public tree inventory listed by address please see the Streets page of the University Heights website. http://university-heights.org/Streets/index.html

Thank you,
University Heights Tree Board
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Recommended Species for replanting:

Tupelo, Nyssa sylvatica
Kentucky Coffee Gymnocladus dioceous
Hornbeam Carpinus carolina
Serviceberry Amelianchier x grandifolia
Beech, Fagus americana
Tulip tree, Liriodendon tulipifera
White Pine, Pinus strobus
Dawn Redwood, Metasequoia glyptostroboides
Malus spp, crabapple (lots of great cultivars available)
Magnolia acuminata, Cucumber magnolia
Yellowwood, Cladastris kentukea