

Emerald Ash Borer Response Program **Application for Tree Planting Grant**

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an introduced tree pest that is now established in Essex County and west Chatham-Kent. The pest is native to China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia. Since its discovery in Canada at Windsor in July, 2002, the pest has moved eastwards quickly and is expected to kill most of the ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) in the infested area. The infested area is considered to include all of the City of Windsor and County of Essex, and the extreme western end of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. A ten kilometre wide Ash Free Zone in west Chatham-Kent, which involved the removal of all ash trees in 2004, is expected to halt the natural dispersal of the insect east of the infested area. Ongoing vigilance to prevent the movement of infested firewood and nursery stock is also required to mitigate the spread of this destructive pest.

The EAB Response Program has been developed to offset the negative environmental impacts of EAB by providing grants to landowners for tree planting activities. Landowners residing in and west of the Ash Free Zone are eligible for this grant program. This includes all of Essex County and the extreme western part of Chatham-Kent.

The program is not intended to be a tree replacement program for dead or dying ash. Rather, it is a landscape level natural areas enhancement program. Eligible projects are ones that will enhance the ecological condition of the landscape. Specifically, projects that receive funding must:

- C achieve a net increase in forest cover, and/or
- C enhance the ecological value of existing forest areas, and/or
- C increase and improve linkages between existing natural areas, and/or
- C result in the establishment or expansion of larger contiguous areas of forest

The EAB Response Program will fund projects according to the following principles:

1. Only native trees grown from locally collected seed will be used for restoration projects. Projects which use a diversity of native species are encouraged.
2. Participating landowners agree not to alter or destroy the planted trees, subject to the Stewardship Agreement requirements of the delivery agencies identified below. The program will not prevent the landowner from carrying out any operations that are consistent with the Stewardship Agreement. Landowner stewardship includes such activities as annual inspections for signs and symptoms of damage by insects and diseases, etc. that might occur over time.
3. Landowners agree to pay at least 25% of the costs of the project. Cost shared arrangements such as in kind goods and services, or cash payments will be considered as meeting this requirement.
4. A completed application and planting plan are required for eligibility in the program.
5. Species and quantities of trees available will depend on the production capacities of cooperating nurseries, available seed, etc.
6. Trees available will be seedling sized.

To obtain an application form, please contact one of the delivery agencies identified below to further assess the suitability of individual properties for the program.

Essex Region Conservation Authority
360 Fairview Avenue West
Essex, ON N8M 1Y6
phone (519) 776-5209
fax (519) 776-8688
internet www.erca.org

Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority
100 Thames Street
Chatham, ON N7L 2Y8
phone (519) 354-7310
fax (519) 352-3435
internet www.lowerthames-
conservation.on.ca

Essex County Stewardship Network
Box 1168
870 Richmond Street West
Chatham, ON N7M 5L8
phone (519) 354-4437
fax (519) 354-0313
internet www.ontariostewardship.org

Stewardship Kent
Box 1168
870 Richmond Street West
Chatham, ON N7M 5L8
phone (519) 354-6274
fax (519) 354-0313
internet www.ontariostewardship.org

