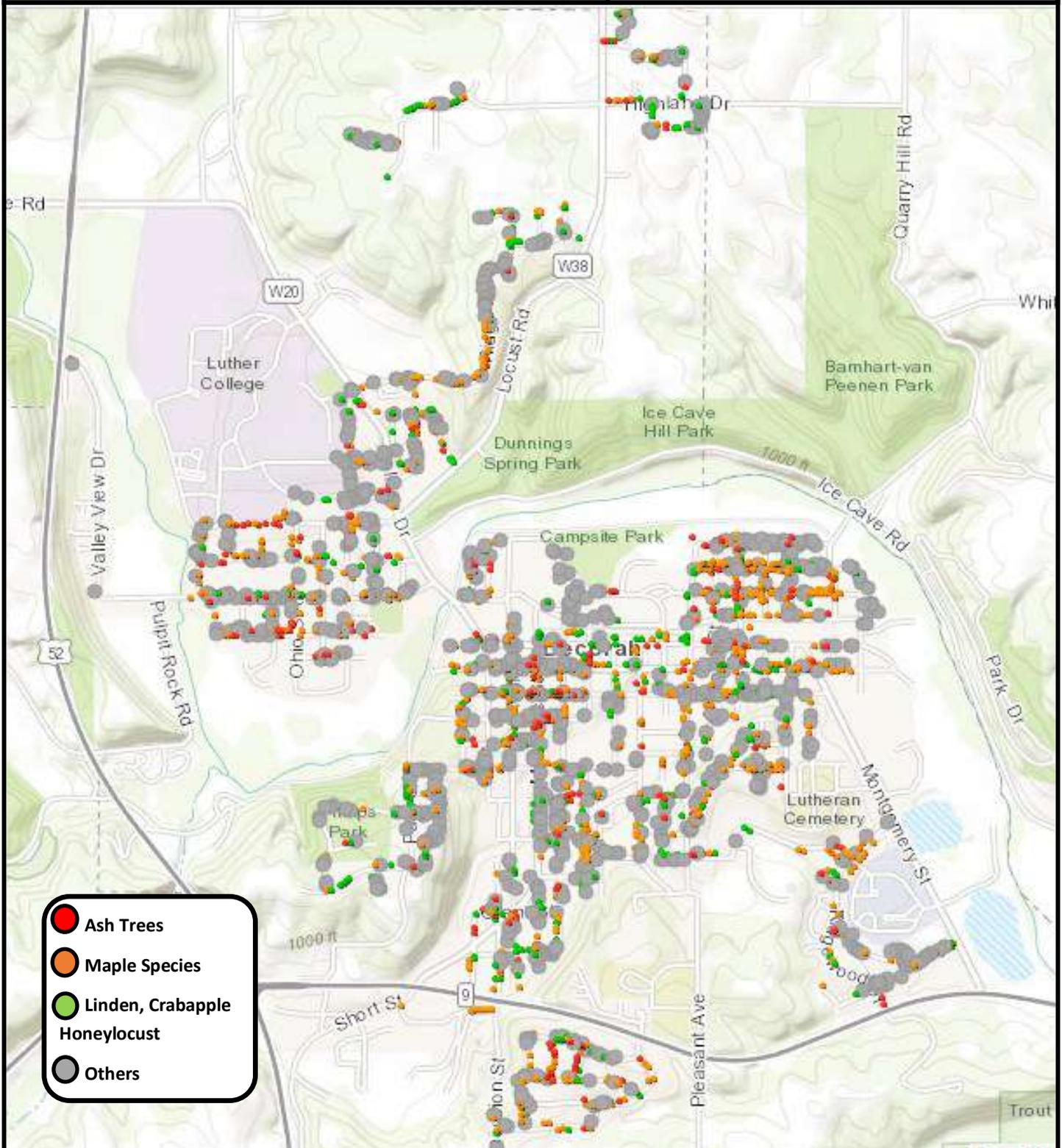


### The Urban Forest

This map indicates public right-of-way trees that have been surveyed. Ash trees currently account for 15% of canopy cover, and have been identified specifically due to the current threat of EAB. Maple species 50%, combined Linden, Crabapple, and Honey locust trees 12%, the remaining 25% has a range of diverse species, some not suitable for right-of-ways.





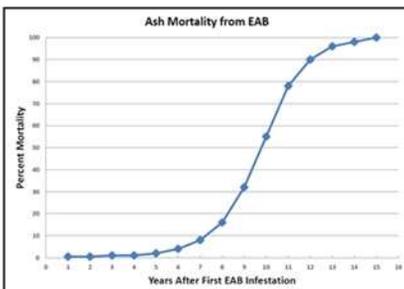
## Decorah's EAB Management Plan

The City of Decorah has adopted a proactive and responsive environmentally conscious EAB Management Plan. With this in mind, the goal of the city's EAB program is:

To minimize the economic and social impact of EAB and the loss of ash trees to the health of Decorah's urban forest by utilizing the most current information to distribute costs associated with EAB over a manageable time period.

### Background on EAB

**Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)** is an exotic invasive beetle that is significantly impacting native and urban forests. EAB has been positively identified in Winneshiek County since 2012. It has since been found in numerous locations throughout the City of Decorah. Trees in Decorah are showing "flagging", canopy die back, epicormics shoots, bark splitting, distinctive D-shaped exit holes, and wood pecker damage. Once EAB meets a threshold of 30%-40% infestation, damage becomes irreversible. EAB infestations cause trees to become brittle and hazardous rather quickly.

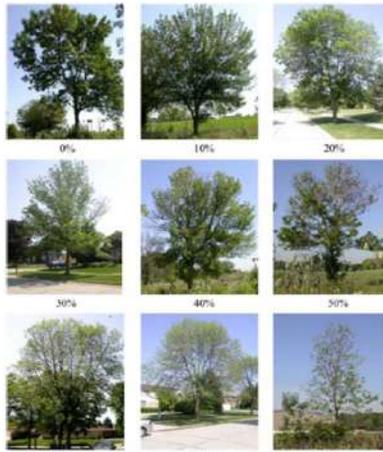


### Removal of ash trees

The City has been conducting removal of ash trees on public property since January 2017. All ash trees on city right of way (ROW) will be considered for removal. On private property homeowners are encouraged to identify and take inventory of the health and condition of their ash trees. Consulting with a Certified Arborist is recommended. To help establish a management plan.

Removals have been based on yearly health as-

sessments, storm damage, and ash tree densities. Ash trees with the lowest health are removed first, followed by ash trees with high amounts of deadwood, other structural defects, and ash trees compromised by utility pruning. Utility pruning is not healthy for the tree and creates a liability over time. These trees should be removed regardless, and replaced with trees suitable to space constraints.



Areas of high ash density have also been targeted. Removing some each year, and spreading out removal over a period of years. A removal cycle in high density areas will also lessen the visual impact of removals and spread out removal costs over time. In turn replacement trees will also result in a more diversified age structure. Since 2017, removals have been based on positive identification of EAB. The goal is to remove infected trees as soon as they are identified to help keep the beetle population as low as possible, thus slowing the spread of EAB.

Late winter of 2018 has shown a dramatic increase in EAB throughout Decorah. This is seen through woodpecker activity as they actively feed on EAB larvae.

### Why not treat ash trees?

This is a lengthy topic and filled with passion. Rightly so, trees offer many benefits to us and wildlife. Choosing to remove trees is never an easy topic when standing right in front of one. However, there is a different set of criteria for deciding whether or not to treat ash for you as a homeowner as opposed to a public right of ways (ROW). The following are the reasons for the current approach being taken in Decorah. The majority of the ash trees in Decorah's are

under 19" in diameter at breast height. This is an important point. Treatment prices roughly average a cost \$8-\$10 per inch diameter (2017 rates). For that 19" tree, one treatment would then cost between \$152-\$200. This will need to continue for the life of the tree. That same 19" tree can be removed, and stump ground out, new tree purchased and planted for around \$325 (2017 rates). The new tree will not succumb to EAB, the same cannot be said for treating the tree for the rest of its life.

If a homeowner would like to treat a ROW tree, you may do so at your own cost. First a tree vigor and health evaluation will need to take place, by the City Forester. If treatment is an option, homeowners will fill out a permit form indicating Licensed Applicator, chemical used, and dates so that treatments can be monitored. Replanting For the Future

EAB is being likened to Dutch Elm disease, and will have a similar impact on the communities canopy. Nearly 15% of Decorah's urban landscape is comprised of ash. It will important to replant with a diverse selection of trees, the best strategy to guard against future invasive species.

The City of Decorah Tree Board provides incentive replanting of ROW trees upon approval, with a voucher discount of \$60.00 per tree.(limit 2 per year). They also continue to seek grant funding to help with the impact EAB is bringing to this community.

Urban canopies have proven to reduce carbon pollution, mitigate storm water run-off, and provide habitat to beneficial insects and birds. Canopy cover is also attributed to the social and economic usability of communities.

Work Sited:

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Forestry/Urban-Forestry>  
[www.ci.middleton.wi.us/298/Emerald-Ash-Borer](http://www.ci.middleton.wi.us/298/Emerald-Ash-Borer)