



**City of St. Charles
Public Works Department
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For Immediate Release

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**City of St. Charles Continues Legacy Tree Project to Combat Emerald Ash Borer
*Partnership with Valent Protects Valuable Ash Trees***

ST. CHARLES, Ill. (May 24, 2013) – The City of St. Charles again is participating in the Legacy Tree Project, sponsored by Valent Professional Products. Through the project, approximately 78 parkway ash trees are receiving five years of protection from emerald ash borer (EAB) with Valent’s Safari® insecticide. St. Charles has been participating in the project since 2010 and is one of only a dozen communities in the U.S. selected for this partnership project.

Left unchecked, EAB is lethal to all native ash trees. In 2006, St. Charles was among the first sites in the state to have confirmed cases of EAB infestation. Now, EAB is widespread in the region and the epidemic is not expected to begin to wind down for five or six years. Untreated trees will die within one to three years of infestation. Even though St. Charles is one of the oldest infested areas, the trees that were treated as part of the Legacy Tree Project are growing well, with good color and full canopies.

The City Has Taken Action

There are approximately 5,400 ash trees located in City parkways in St. Charles, and many others located on private property. “The City has been very proactive in managing the EAB infestation,” said Peter Suhr, Assistant Director of Public Works. “To date, nearly 2,800 affected ash trees have been removed and protective treatment has been applied to approximately 200 trees.”

What Can You Do?

If homeowners have ash trees on their property, they should work with a certified arborist to develop a plan of action for protecting their trees with treatment or removing those that cannot be treated. However, if residents choose not to treat their trees, they should begin to arrange for removals before dying trees become brittle and dangerous to work around. As a general rule, hazardous trees usually cost more to remove than safe trees.

Legacy Tree Project Details

The Safari® insecticide, which contains the same active ingredient used in flea control products for pets, is applied by soil injection at the base of each tree. It is a “systemic” insecticide, taken up by the roots and distributed throughout the tree. Delivery by soil injection precludes contact with people or animals.

For more information on the Legacy Tree Project, visit www.legacytreetreeproject.com. For more information on Valent and Safari®, visit www.valentpro.com. For general questions about the program, please contact Peter Suhr, in the Public Works Department at 630-377-4405.

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About the City of St. Charles

Friendly neighborhoods, diverse retailers, international employers, innovative schools, beautiful parks, varied cultural amenities, and unique architecture have earned St. Charles its reputation as the Pride of the Fox. Located in both DuPage and Kane counties, the City of St. Charles is 35 miles west of downtown Chicago, and has a population of approximately 33,000. Over 2,100 businesses, consisting of a balanced mix of retailers, restaurants and manufacturing facilities, employ more than 18,000 people. The City of St. Charles was named the #1 City for Families by *Family Circle*® magazine; one of the “150 Great Places in Illinois,” by the AIA Illinois; and one of the “Top 10 Towns To Live In” by *West Suburban Living* magazine. www.stcharlesil.gov.