



OakCreek

Street  
Department

Forestry  
Division

Mike Lampe,  
Superintendent

Rebecca Lane,  
Urban Forester

## News Release

Rebecca Lane  
Urban Forester  
City of Oak Creek  
(414) 768-5861  
[rlane@oakcreekwi.org](mailto:rlane@oakcreekwi.org)

### **City is Proud Recipient of Legacy Tree Project Gift for 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Urges Residents: Act Now!**

**20 June 2012** – The City of Oak Creek is proud to announce that 2012 marks the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of participation in the Legacy Tree Project (LTP), a partnership with Valent Professional Products. The LTP is dedicated to helping homeowners understand that in urban and suburban settings, most trees can be managed for emerald ash borer (EAB) with treatment.

Ash trees comprise less than eight percent of the street trees in Oak Creek. Many thousands more grow on private property.

“EAB was first detected in Oak Creek in late 2009,” comments City Forester Rebecca Lane. “Since then, other detections have been made. Now, the intensity of infestation has increased to the point that all untreated ash trees in the city should be assumed to have some level of infestation and vascular damage.”

“To date, the death of ash trees has been deceptively slow. We are concerned this has lulled tree owners into a sense of complacency and inaction. Dead or dying ash trees and forests can be seen throughout the City. A drive through Oak Creek on I-94 is telling of the EAB invasion.

“It is essential for Oak Creek residents to understand the beetle population has been more than doubling annually, bringing the region to a tipping point. Ash trees are under mass attack, and most untreated trees in the area are likely to die in the next 5 years.”

“Many ash trees will look fine one year and barely leaf out the next, leaving no other option but chainsaw management. So if canopy conservation is your goal, take action immediately to prevent the 2012 crop of EAB grubs from inflicting irreversible damage.”

Through the Legacy Tree Project, Oak Creek is receiving five years of treatment for about 125 ash trees, using Safari® a systemic insecticide in Valent’s product line. The City sought to partner in the LTP because doing so fit with internal goals to raise resident awareness about this tree-killing pest. Only a dozen sites across four states were selected to participate. Product and application costs are covered at all sites from 2010 – 2014, so there is no cost to taxpayers.

800 W. Puetz Rd.  
Oak Creek, WI 53154  
Email:  
[rlane@oakcreekwi.org](mailto:rlane@oakcreekwi.org)

Tel:(414)768-5861  
Fax:(414)768-0507

“Our LTP trees look fantastic,” says Lane. “Early, on-going treatment is the no-drama approach to municipal ash tree management. Since *Safari* is applied by soil injection at the base of each trunk, it’s a great way to treat quickly and efficiently.”

### City Actions

The City has been addressing the management of ash trees on public property since we heard about the Michigan outbreak in 2002. To date, approximately 2,000 ash trees on rural rights of way, park land and streets, have been removed and another 700 are under City-funded treatment. Replacement trees are being installed in a timely manner.

### What You Can Do

“Act now. Call an arborist before the week is out,” urges Lane. “Arborists certified by the International Society of Arboriculture are the best-qualified landscape professionals to guide your decisions about treatment, removal, or an integrated plan using both approaches.”

“If you own ash trees, there is no getting around the fact that EAB will cost you money. Skilled, thoughtful planning can prevent the high, safety-related costs associated with dead tree removal. Judicious use of treatment can conserve the environmental benefits provided by established, healthy ash trees.”

### Legacy Tree Project Details

The Legacy Tree Project is fully funded by Valent Professional Products from 2010 to 2014. *Safari* is a systemic insecticide applied by soil injection at the base of each tree, precluding contact with people and pets. Quickly taken up by roots, it is distributed throughout the tree. Applications will be completed by certified professionals with the Davey Tree Expert Company. The active ingredient in *Safari* is also used in flea control products for pets.

For more information on the Legacy Tree Project, go to [www.legacytreeproject.com](http://www.legacytreeproject.com). For more information on Valent and *Safari*, go to [www.valentpro.com](http://www.valentpro.com).