

FREMONT TRIBUNE

Parks board looks at proposed emerald ash borer resolutions

Tammy Real-McKeighan News Editor

Jan 3, 2018 Updated: 16 hrs ago



Emerald Ash Borer

Journal Star Files

It's a bug that infects and destroys ash trees.

And it was a topic addressed when the Fremont Parks and Recreation Department advisory board met Tuesday night.

During the meeting, Kim Koski, parks and recreation department director, shared proposed resolutions for dealing with the emerald ash borer.

Believed to have arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material, the insect is blamed for the loss of millions of ash trees.

It was first detected in Detroit, Michigan in 2002 and since has been found in multiple states.

Documents Koski presented to the board tells how the Nebraska Department of Agriculture confirmed the bug was found in Omaha in 2016 and in Greenwood and will make its way to other parts of the state.

Treatments, which are costly and required for the tree's lifespan, can cause damage and pesticides can pose risks for humans, pets and wildlife.

Fremont is in a quarantine zone and with help from a Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) grant the city along with the city of Blair bought a tree chipper/grinder.

The tool allows damaged trees to be put to use rather than being burned or discarded in a land fill.

There are 597 ash trees in the right of way (the area between the sidewalk and the curb) and 111 in the parks and on city land, Koski said.

Park board members each were given a copy of the proposed resolutions.

“We’re getting feedback from the park board and also we’re going to take it to the Utility and Infrastructure Board and see what thoughts they have on the utility side, then we’ll come up with one plan and take that to the city council for final approval,” Koski told the Tribune.

The proposed resolutions include:

Stop planting ash trees. The city hasn't planted an ash tree for the last seven years.