

Diane Becker
Communications Director

dbecker@ci.norfolk.ne.us

For Immediate Release: November 7, 2016
"Tying a Ribbon around Ash Trees"



City of Norfolk Tree Advisory Board members Dr. G. Tom Surber and Terry Hochstein tie an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) awareness ribbon around an ash tree that will probably not survive an infestation of the borer when it is discovered in the Norfolk area.

The death knell for ash trees rang in Nebraska this past June when the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was found in an Omaha park. Nebraska is now the 27th state to have confirmed the presence of the borer. It has already killed hundreds of millions of trees across the nation and is a serious threat to Nebraska's estimated 44 million ash trees according to the State Department of Agriculture.

The City of Norfolk Tree Advisory Board did an informal inventory in 2015 and found 414 ash trees on City owned and

controlled land. It's estimated that there are many more ash trees on private property. Dr. G. Tom Surber, chair of the board, wrote an EAB plan that was approved by the City Council in September 2015 that recommends replacing ash trees that are not in good condition now and laying out a plan for the removal, replacement or treatment of ash trees for the future.

Although the presence of the EAB had not been confirmed in Norfolk, members of the Tree Advisory Board have put EAB awareness ribbons on a few ash trees around the City so that people are aware that most if not all ash trees will be dead within the next 15 years once EAB is found here.

According to the Nebraska Forestry Service, symptoms that an ash tree has the EAB include thinning of the canopy, branch dieback usually beginning in the top of the treebark splitting and D-shaped exit holes 1/8 inch across.

For more information about the EAB go to the Nebraska Forest Service website link at <http://nfs.unl.edu/nebraska-eab>