

Knoxville treating trees to protect from Emerald Ash Borer

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There aren't that many ash trees in Knoxville, but the city is taking steps to protect the ones we have from a deadly insect.

The Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive beetle native to Asia that lays eggs under the bark of the tree, and as the larvae grow, they feed on the tree, eventually killing it. The ash borer was first discovered in Knoxville in July 2010, having found its way here through transported non-local firewood.

Over the next few weeks, the city is working with Cortese Tree Specialists to treat 13 ash trees on city-owned property: West Hills Park, Chilhowee Park, Morningside Park and along the Neyland Greenway.

If homeowners have ash trees on their private property, they may contact a local tree care professional to see about getting their trees treated. A list of local tree care professionals can be found at www.treesaregood.org