Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Inspects and Diseases

Denver’s Emerald Ash Borer Strategy
Perspectives from the U.S. Conference of Mayors
City of Boulder
Emerald Ash Borer Detection

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Metro Denver Urban Forest Assessment

Final report, March 28, 2013

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Drs. Qingfu Xiao, Chelsea Wu, and Julia Bartens, Department of Land, Air, and Water Resources, University of California Davis
Denver Only
• 2.2 million trees
• 15K acres of UTC
• Asset value of $2.9B
• $122 million in annual benefit
  – $95M property value
  – $18M storm water
  – $6M summer cooling
  – $530K CO2 storage

Metro Wide Benefits

ANNUAL BENEFITS
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND PROPERTY VALUE BENEFITS VALUED AT $551 MILLION

- Air quality from particulate and pollution uptake: $1.7 million
- Cooling savings from the air temperature reductions and shading from trees: $21.8 million
- Reduced stormwater runoff management costs: $91 million
- Property value increases and other intangible benefits: $436.6 million
EAB Steering Committee 2014/15
Recommendations

• Municipal, State and Federal Stakeholders
• Community Planning and Development
• Public Works
• Budget Management Office
• Environmental Health
• Mayor’s Office
• Green industry
• Citizens
1906 – Duty to plant and maintain

- Trees that endanger the public right-of-way
- Infested trees
Private property trees
  - ~1.9M trees with ~290K ash
  - Education is key with estimated 36K parcels with private ash trees
  - Encouraging planting and code enforcement
3 Categories of Denver Trees
Private
3 Categories of Denver Trees
Publicly Maintained

• Publicly maintained trees
  – Parks, designated parkways, public grounds
  – 76K trees with 6K ash trees
3 Categories of Denver Trees
Publicly Maintained

- SLAM (slow ash mortality)
  - Phloem reduction
  - Planting
  - Treatments
  - Survey and monitoring
  - Trap trees
  - Wood utilization

458 ash in City Park alone
3 Categories of Denver Trees
Privately Maintained Right-of-way

- Privately maintained public right-of-way trees
  - ~209K trees with ~25K ash (50% completed inventory)
Annual PROW EAB-Related Ash Deaths, Without Treatment

Year since EAB detection in Denver

Annual Tree Deaths

0 3 8 22 65 191 554 1,554 3,972 7,886 9,205 6,483 4,010
Annual PROW EAB-Related Ash Tree Deaths, With Emamectin Benzoate Treatment
3 Categories of Denver Trees
Privately Maintained Right-of-way

- Privately maintained right-of-way trees
  - Decision for City treatments
  - 9 year treatment plan
  - Replacements
  - Removals
  - Communication / Education

- Publicly Maintained Trees
- Public Right-of-way Trees
- Public Right-of-way Ash
• Public tree inventory
• Improved technology
• 10 new forestry staff
• $2.9M expansion in 2016
  – $1M for proactive planting
  – $1M for treatment program
  – $250K education
Thank you and have a great conference

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