

# City of Wheaton

## Urban Reforestation Program Policy

### Purpose

The purpose of the Urban Reforestation Policy is to provide a healthy and diverse tree population and support the City's vision regarding environmental stewardship. Reforestation will aim to distribute trees evenly throughout the City by species with a goal to use no more than 10% of any genus or 5% of any one species. By limiting the planting of single species to 10% the urban forest will not be as impacted by invasive species or diseases in the future. The City's current tree inventory, which is shown on **Figure 1**, will serve as a baseline towards meeting species diversity goals. Reforestation is achieved through the following programs:

**Ash Tree Replacement:** A Six Year Replacement Program established to meet goal to plant a tree for all Ash trees removed (if feasible).

**Shared Cost Parkway Tree Replacement Program:** Goal to plant a tree as non-Ash tree is removed as property owner participation allows.

**Permitted Parkway Tree Planting on Public R-O-W:** Upon approval by the Forestry Superintendent, private entities may plant parkway trees which are in compliance with the Parkway Tree Planting Standards of the City Code and Zoning Ordinance.

The comprehensive replacement strategy is to maximize tree diversity and general health of the urban forest based on the inventory with an emphasis on species diversity, restoring canopy cover, locations, planting instructions, and future care information. Trees will be planted in accordance with *ANSI A300 Tree Care Operations* and the City's tree planting standards.

### Background

The City adopted an EAB Management Plan in 2013 to address the infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer. The Plan identified a phasing for the removal and replacement of ash trees. In 2014, the removal schedule was accelerated and will be completed in 2015. Less than 300 parkway trees are currently being voluntarily treated by property owners and will continue to be monitored. At the end of the removal process, approximately 6500 ash trees will have been removed; representing 28% of the 23,000 City parkway trees.

### Ash Tree Reforestation Plan

The restoration of parkway and open space planting areas will be prioritized using natural or subdivision areas based on the concentration of Ash trees removed. **Exhibit A – Ash Distribution Citywide** establishes the concentration of Ash tree by area. Those areas with the highest percentage of tree loss are identified as priority areas for tree planting shown in **Exhibit B – Ash Distribution in Areas**.

Factors considered in the development of reforestation plan:

- Re-stock the open planting spaces created by EAB infested Ash tree removals by the end of 2020.
- Provide a one-for-one tree replacement which means that a tree is planted to replace every public tree that is lost (if feasible).
- Maximize diversity of our urban forest by planting no more than 10% of one tree genus or 5% of any one species as recommended in the EAB Management Plan of 2013.
- Establish a greater diversity of tree species, sizes and conditions, to create a healthier community forest. This will also prevent future large-scale losses in trees due to infestation of pests.
- Species to be rotated as much as possible per block trying to mix species so the same species are not adjacent to one another. In some areas of the City the choices may be limited in order to prevent overplanting of a single species in each area. Choices and location of tree species will be determined in accordance with diversity plan.
- Planting distribution throughout City to phase aging of tree population.
- In order to adhere to this plan, property owners will not determine types of trees planted. Property owners may apply to accelerate planting schedule with payment of full tree replacement cost.
- To plant native trees where possible. This minimizes the detrimental effects of exotic species.
- To optimize natural aesthetics and wildlife habitat.
- Primarily planting parkway trees although trees will also be planted in public open spaces.
- Location hazards caused by utilities, i.e. for above ground - trees located in parkways with overhead utilities would require shorter mature heights to eliminate interference with wires or for below ground – avoid interference with water, sewer or electrical services.
- Nursery stock availability in future years; i.e. species, tree size (caliber), quantities.
- Tree planting will be subject to available space.

This reforestation plan represents a comprehensive and well-balanced approach to reforestation which takes into account science, policy, ecology, economics, and common sense. Utilizing the City's existing tree inventory, we have surveyed the locations where Ash trees were removed, and have hand-selected tree species with which to replace them. These choices were made based on the need for the City to maximize its taxonomic and spatial diversity, as well as to match tree species to their preferred environmental tolerances. This approach represents a long-term view of and investment in the City's Urban Forest.

## Ash Tree Reforestation Plan Funding

In August 2014, the City Council authorized city funding for the full replacement cost per trees rather than replacement through the Shared Cost Tree Replacement Program. The Ash Tree Reforestation budget as proposed includes the average per tree replacement cost of \$265.

The development of a Master Reforestation Plan is proposed in Year 2 – FY 15/16 and will serve as a strategic plan to determine the best species for each planting space, and the order in which they will be replanted over the next 5 years. This plan will maximize the Species Diversity, Spatial Diversity, and Age-Class Diversity, of new plantings on the City’s parkways, as well as provide locations and species selections for the open planting spaces, such that diversity at all scales will be maximized. The Plan will also define a specific timeline, and strategically plant trees in their optimal locations to reduce new planting mortality, and increase long-term health and vigor. The initial development of the plan is approximately \$14,000 and will require an annual review for the next 4 years, estimated at \$3,000 per year.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Trees to Plant</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
Year 1 FY 14-15	500	\$140,600	Replacement location of trees scheduled through Shared Cost Program participation.
Year 2 FY 15-16	500	\$152,500	Development of Master Reforestation Plan. Concentrate planting in Areas 1 through 5 designated on the Ash Tree Distribution Map. 100 trees will be located in each area.
Year 3 FY 16-17	1000	\$278,000	Plant 1000 trees in accordance with Master Reforestation Plan.
Year 4 FY 17-18	1000	\$303,000	Plant 1000 trees in accordance with Master Reforestation Plan. Monitor planting distribution pattern.
Year 5 FY 18-19	1000	\$303,000	Continue replacement of 1000 trees. Monitor planting distribution pattern
Year 6 FY19-20	1000	\$303,000	Continue replacement of 1000 trees. Monitor planting distribution pattern
<b>Total</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>\$1,339,5000</b>	

## Shared Cost Parkway Tree Replacement Program

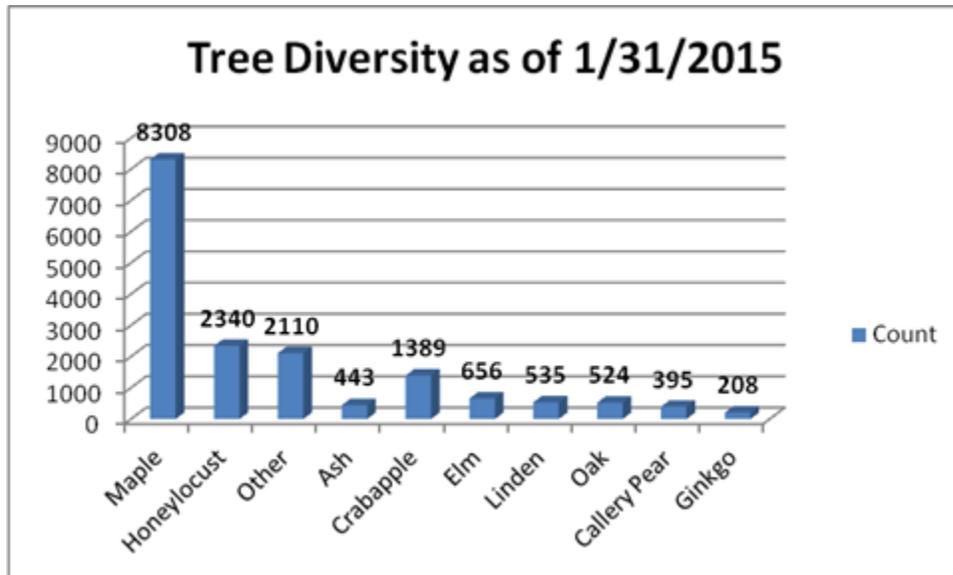
The City’s existing Shared Cost Parkway Tree Replacement program will continue for non-Ash tree replacements. The annual budget of \$30,000 estimates 100 trees to be replaced.

## Management

Forestry Superintendent will monitor and enforce the implementation of the Urban Reforestation Plan utilizing in-house staff and necessary contractual services.

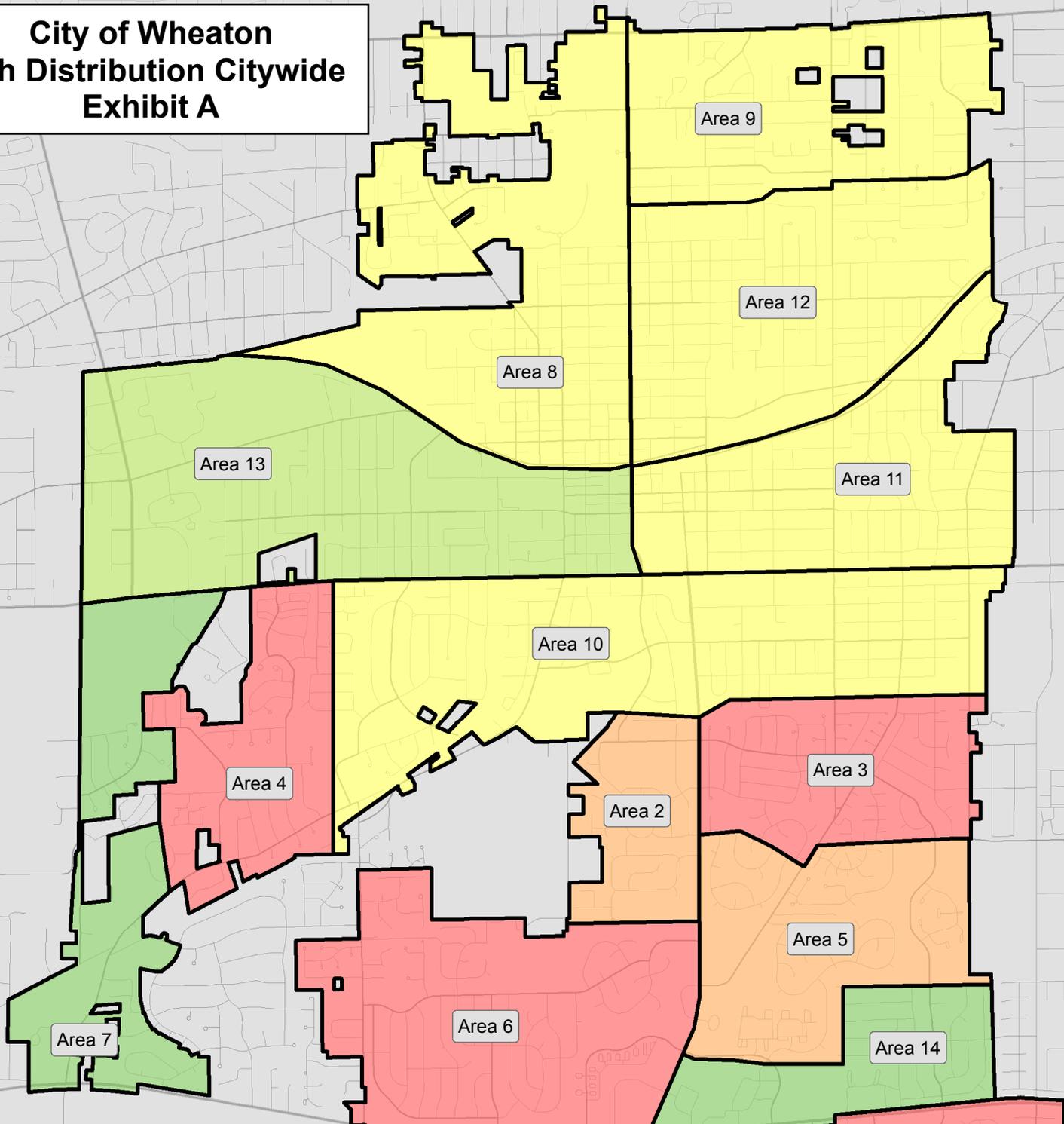
**FIGURE 1**

(\*Data as of January 2015)



Major Species	Count	Percent
Maple	8308	49%
Honeylocust	2340	14%
Other	2110	12%
Ash	443	3%
Crabapple	1389	8%
Elm	656	4%
Linden	535	3%
Oak	524	3%
Callery Pear	395	2%
Ginkgo	208	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16908</b>	<b>100%</b>

**City of Wheaton  
Ash Distribution Citywide  
Exhibit A**



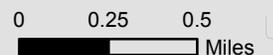
**Reforestation Areas**



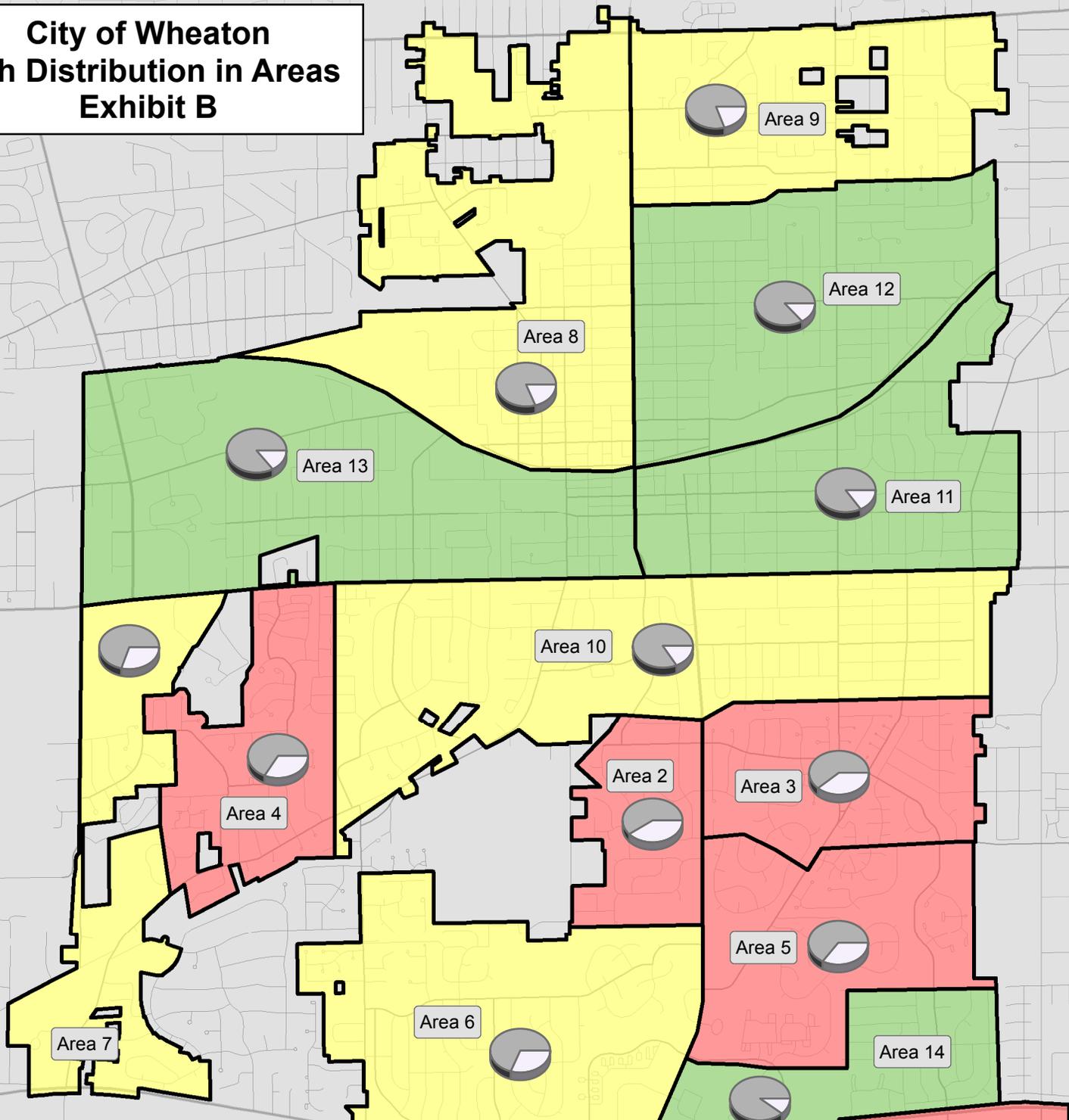
**Ash Distribution Citywide**

-  1% - 2.5% of Total Ash Population
-  2.5% - 4.5% of Total Ash Population
-  4.5% - 7.0% of Total Ash Population
-  7.0% - 8.4% of Total Ash Population
-  8.4% - 12% of Total Ash Population

\* Study includes active and removed trees



# City of Wheaton Ash Distribution in Areas Exhibit B



**Ash Distribution in Areas**

- 0% - 15% of Trees in Area are Ash
- 16% - 33% of Trees in Area are Ash
- 34% - 49% of Trees in Area are Ash

Non-Ash Trees in Area  
 Ash Trees in Area

*\* Study includes active and removed trees*

