



Emerald Ash Borer: *Our Community's First Response*

Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium
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Partners



CENTRO



Tualatin Soil and Water
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Backyard Habitat
Certification
Program



Funding

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State Urban Forest Resilience Grant
Metro - Nature in Neighborhood Grant

Emerald Ash Borer in the U.S.

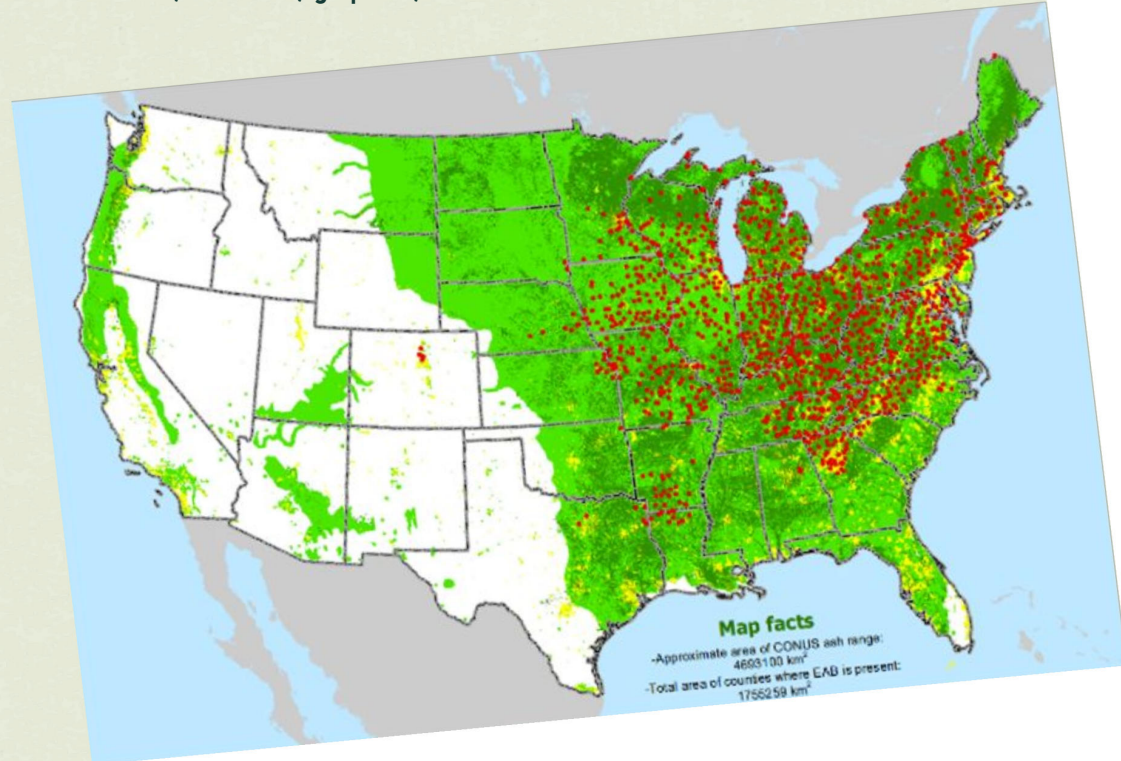
EAB is native to East Asia, including far eastern Russia, China, Japan, Taiwan and the Korean Peninsula.

United States Timeline

- **2002** - Detected in the US (Michigan)
- **2013** - Detected in Colorado
- **2022** - Reached 36 states
- **June 2022** - Detected in Oregon

Effects on All Ash trees

- >95% ash mortality
- 100+ million trees killed in 30+ states since 1990s
- Never successfully eradicated
- High economic and ecological cost

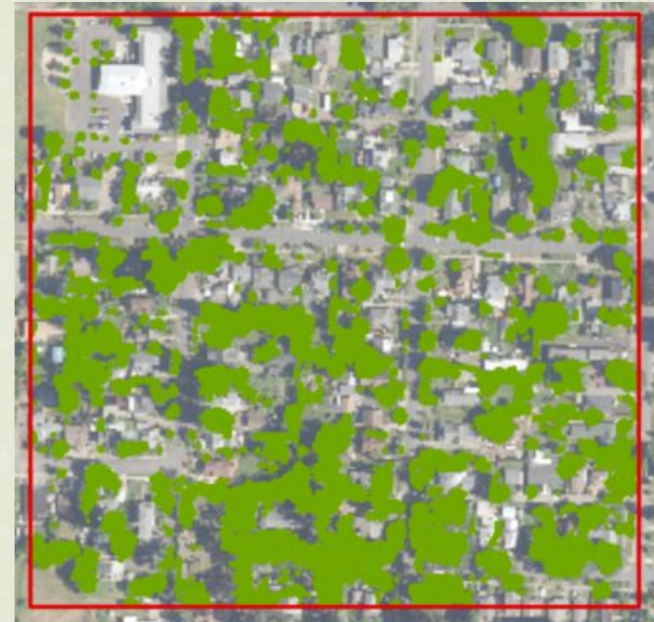


Tree Canopy & Disadvantaged Communities

Disadvantaged - 16% canopy



In Comparison - 35% canopy



Comparison	Disadvantaged Neighborhood	Other Neighborhood
Area sq.m.	0.13	0.13
Population	1,131	748
Low Income	49%	27%
POC	67%	27%
Limited English	0%	0%
No. Households	333	286
People/household	3.4	2.6
Canopy (sf)	234,013	510,349
Canopy (ac)	5.4	11.7
Percent Canopy	16%	35%



CENTRO

Established in 1972, their mission is to improve the health and economic mobility of underserved communities in Washington County.

Our Initial Project

- Native garden completed in July 2022, surrounded by ash trees
- EAB was also detected in Forest Grove June 2022
- That winter efforts shifted to focus on the **Climate Justice Leadership Program** to commence a 6-month work-learn project to identify the impacts and solutions for Centro's ash trees

Project Development

- Open doors and invite other natural resource **partners** (“takes a village”)
- Work with **existing resources** (reduce development of new material)
- Keep it interesting with a **variety** of teaching methods and learning activities (pedagogy)
- Determine **schedule** of workshops, agenda/topics, and presenters
- Keep some **flexibility** to work with student availability and levels
- Create an **accessible space** for learning (printed materials, in-classroom work time, one-on-one time)



Goals

Students

- Develop **skill sets**: critical thinking, planning, data collection and analysis, presentation
- **Learn** about natural resource conservation
- **Collaborate** and **develop** an Ash Tree Management Plan for Centro Cultural

Partners

- Provide a **safe space** for learning
- Be **inclusive** with their natural environment
- **Empower** students to take an active role in natural resource conservation and building confidence in what they learn
- **Share** this framework/pilot project with other communities



Project Description

A cohort of students took inventory of all ash trees within the Centro Cultural campus in Cornelius, learn about EAB and its impacts, as well as natural resource management options, and develop an ash management plan for Centro's ash trees.

- **Timeline:** May 2023 to February 2024
- **Monthly** 3-hour workshops
 - School Year - Saturdays
 - Summer - Fridays
- **Meals** provided
- Work-Learn **wage** - \$25 per hour
- Certificate of **Completion of Hours** and Letter of recommendation





Workshop Agendas

Spring

- What is EAB
- Impacts of EAB
- Tree and ash tree identification

Summer

- Tree Inventory: DBH, height, health, shade, safety
- Benefits of trees - economic, social, environmental
- Data collection, storage, and analysis

Fall

- Tree selection considerations
- Natural resource management and budget planning
- Ash management options: Do nothing, Removal and Replacement, Treatment

Winter

- Oral and written presentation
- Career path development

Centro's Ash Management Plan

Ash Management Plan	Tree 1	Tree 2	Tree 3	Tree 4	Tree 5	Tree 6	Tree 7
Treatment	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
No. Years Treatment (starting 2023)	30+	10	10	2	10	2	10
Removal & Replacement	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Species to Replace	N/A	Douglas-fir	Sunburst Honey Locust	TBD	TBD	Ginkgo Tree	Pink Chinese Fringe Tree
Replanting Year	N/A	2034	2024	2024	2026	2025	2033
Estimated Cost	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500

Developed by the Climate Justice Leadership

Key Social Guidance

For Community Natural Resource Programs

- **Avoid being a natural resource manager** - “We’re not here to tell you what to do. We’re here to share and hear from you.” Be a co-learner and sharer.
- **Provide structure without being rigid** - No tests, no attendance criteria, no grades, no lectures (mostly). Share expectations, but be ready to support different paths.
- **Build confidence** - It’s more than learning, knowing, or skill sets. It’s about recognition, listening, seeing, and supporting.
- **Reframe, don’t simplify** - Simplifying can be undermining, instead its about applying concepts.
- **Provide space and time** - This space can be a place of solace or reprieve for some, rushing was not an option.
- **Empowerment through built capacity** - sharing the care and responsibility reestablishes connection, builds inclusivity.





What' Next

- **Assist Centro** in identifying funds to implement their ash management plan.
- Partner to develop **additional work-learn programs** for Centro Cultural youth and young adults
- Share/work with another willing organization to **re-apply this program**. Any volunteers?!
- **Advocate** for natural resource providers to **prioritize** underserved and disadvantaged communities. How?
 - Stop waiting, reach out now!
 - Do not manage, let communities lead.
 - Share info as you learn.

Special Thanks

To our workshop contributors:

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treatment of Centro's ash trees.*

Contact US

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