

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
CITY OF RICHFIELD**

DATE: January 2024

SUBJECT: Emerald Ash Borer Tree Removal Assistance Program

Purpose

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Tree Removal Assistance Program (the “Program”) will provide single-family homeowners in Richfield with financial assistance to defray costs associated with the removal of EAB infested Ash trees on their private property. The Program will be available to qualifying Richfield homeowners on a first-come first-served basis while Program funds are available.

Available Funding

The City has dedicated \$400,000 of Richfield’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to this effort. Under this Program, the City will pay 75% of the cost incurred by qualifying Richfield homeowners for the removal of eligible Ash tree(s) on the homeowner’s private property. The homeowner will be responsible for the remaining 25% of the removal costs and will remit that amount to the City upon receipt of an invoice from the City for the homeowner’s portion of the cost. Qualifying homeowners will be able to participate in [the City’s existing diseased & hazardous tree special assessment program](#) if they are unable to pay their 25% share of costs at the time of removal.

Qualifying Homeowners

ARPA program guidelines require this type of direct financial assistance to be focused on individuals “impacted” by the Covid-19 Pandemic. ARPA automatically considers households with gross incomes less than or equal to 300% of the 2024 Federal Poverty Income Guideline by Household Size to have been “impacted” by the Covid-19 pandemic.

It is the City’s goal to ensure the straightforward administration of this Program while quickly helping Richfield residents who would be most cost-burdened by the expense of unexpected tree removal. The Program is available to those Richfield homeowners with gross incomes less than or equal to 300% of the 2024 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines by Household Size:

Household Size	Gross Income Limit (≤300% FPG)
1	\$45,180
2	\$61,320
3	\$77,460
4	\$93,600
5	\$109,740
6	\$125,880
7	\$142,020
8	\$158,160
>8	(Contact Richfield)

Apply at: richfieldmn.gov/departments/public_works/forestry/eab.php

Applying homeowners may be required to provide documentation verifying their gross income(s) and household size are within the threshold for the Program to prove they are eligible for the program.

Eligible Tree Removals

The Program will only be available for Ash tree removal and stump grinding and will not be used to pay for replacement tree planting, new or replacement landscaping, or turf restoration for areas disturbed by the tree removal or stump grinding. Trees will generally be deemed eligible for the Program after being inspected and marked for removal by the City Forester. Qualifying homeowners who believe they have a diseased Ash tree should contact Richfield Public Works at 612-861-9170 to have the tree inspected and flagged for removal (if necessary).

The Program can only be used to remove Ash trees—any non-Ash removals done in conjunction with a larger project on private property must be invoiced separately or itemized on the invoice to be deemed eligible.

Obtaining Quotes and Selecting a Contractor

Qualifying homeowners are encouraged to obtain three (3) separate quotes from professional International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified and insured contractors for tree removal. All else being equal, Program participants should hire the low-bid contractor for the tree removal. Removal work must not start until the quotes and workplan have been reviewed and approved by the Program Coordinator. [A short list of tree contractors the City has worked with successfully in the past can be found on the City's website.](#) The City does not recommend one contractor over another and this list is not exhaustive—there are many tree contractors that can successfully and safely complete your removal that do not appear on this list.

Retroactivity

This Program can be used retroactively for trees removed after January 1, 2022 if all requirements are met. The City reserves the right to deny retroactive Program participation if all the requirements described above cannot be documented or proven. If you believe this applies to you, please contact the Program Coordinator using the contact information below.

Program Review

This Program will be reviewed annually and is subject to changes at the City's discretion. At all times, the version of this Program that is posted for public consumption on the City's website shall be considered the current version of the program.

Questions/Contact

Questions or comments? Please contact the EAB Tree Removal Assistance Program Coordinator at 612-861-9172 or EABPROGRAM@richfieldmn.gov and please allow up to five (5) business days for a response.

Apply at: richfieldmn.gov/departments/public_works/forestry/eab.php