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Darrell Spoonhour, Biological Science Technician, inspects one of the 30 ash trees on Carlisle Barracks that will have to be removed or trimmed due to an infestation from the Emerald Ash Borer. The post will plant nearly 40 mature trees later this year to replace those that are being

removed for the infestation, damage from winter weather and long overdue maintenance.

Carlisle Barracks will soon begin a project to plant nearly 40 mature trees that will help replace a large number of dead trees that are being removed due to safety concerns from an infestation from the Emerald Ash Borer and recent severe weather.

Public Works experts Darrell Spoonhour, Biological Science Technician, and Paul Herzer, Chief Environmental Officer, constantly monitor the health of the nearly 500 trees on post and have identified the trees that must be removed for safety reasons due and those that must be trimmed to remove dead limbs.

For example, the borer infestation has affected all the ash trees, which has caused some to be removed. Others that are still viable are being trimmed. Emerald Ash Borer feeds exclusively on ash trees in North America with larvae of this beetle feeding under the bark. Their feeding eventually girdles and kills branches and entire trees.



A section of an ash tree that has been removed shows the damage caused by the Emerald Ash Borer.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of



Conservation and Natural Resources, tens of millions of ash trees have been lost to this pest, which usually kills ash trees within three to four years of infestation. Symptoms of Emerald Ash Borer infestation include upper crown dieback, epicormic branching, bark splits and bark flaking, or tissue damage resulting from woodpecker predation. Each of the ash trees on Carlisle Barracks exhibit one or more of these symptoms.

However, the news isn't all bad as at least 40 trees will be planted this year with a large caliper and disease resistant native species.

“We understand how much these trees add to the look and feel of Carlisle Barracks,” said Lt. Col. Greg Ank, Garrison Commander. “That’s why we’ve made it a priority to plant as many new, mature trees as we can, to help keep Carlisle Barracks a beautiful place to work and live. And, it is just as important to care for our grounds and remove fragile and dead trees that may become a danger to personnel and property.”

The Emerald Ash Borer makes small holes in ash trees as seen in this photo. After laying eggs inside, the larvae feed on the tree eventually girdles and kills branches and entire trees.

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 14 August 2015

