

Emerald Ash Borer Monitoring Program 2011

A citizen science program to monitor for adult emerald ash borers was introduced this season in an effort to document infestations in the park district. Sticky traps, called purple prism traps, were placed in ash trees in selected parks throughout Summit County including Wood Hollow, Furnace Run Metro Park, Sand Run Metro Park, O'Neil Woods Metro Park, Cascade Valley Metro Park, Munroe Falls Metro Park and Silver Creek Metro Park.

These traps were placed in May of 2011. Traps were checked at the end of June. At that time, any insects suspected to be emerald ash borers were collected and brought to the Natural Resources Department for identification. Additionally, the trap lure, a semiochemical used to attract insects to the tree by simulating a stressed ash tree, was replaced. The traps were kept in place until the end of August, when volunteer monitors collected suspected EAB specimens once again and then removed the traps for the season.

Overall, the emerald ash borer was detected in three parks including Cascade Valley Metro Park, O'Neil Woods Metro Park and Furnace Run Metro Park. Table I demonstrates the number of individuals found.

	# EAB, June Collection	#EAB, August Collection
Cascade Valley Metro Park	1	0
Furnace Run Metro Park	0	18
Munroe Falls Metro Park	0	0
O'Neil Woods Metro Park	0	1
Sand Run Metro Park	0	0
Silver Creek Metro Park	0	0
Wood Hollow	0	0

Furnace Run was the only park where EAB was documented in 2010, although we had no formal monitoring program at that time. However, the numbers indicate that Furnace Run may in fact have had EAB infestations longer than other parks, due to the higher number of individuals documented.

Monitoring prism traps utilizing volunteers was very successful. This project could continue as a citizen science program in the future if it is valuable to the park district to do so.