



Legislation Text

File #: 0545-2011, **Version:** 1

Background:

Since 2003, millions of ash trees have been killed by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a devastating invasive insect, which claims the life of otherwise healthy, mature ash trees in as little as one year. These funds will aid in response and recovery of the urban forests from the EAB infestation. Removing hazardous and soon-to-be hazardous trees from public streets and restoring lost tree canopy cover are the primary objectives of this grant program. Ordinance # 1692-2010 authorized the Recreation and Parks Department to apply for the ODNR Division of Forestry grant to assist communities in Franklin County with the removal and replacement of infected and hazardous trees.

Emergency action is requested to enter into contract with ODNR and accept grant funds as soon as possible to address the Emerald Ash Borer infestation.

Fiscal Impact: N/A

To authorize and direct the Director of Recreation and Parks to accept a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry for \$37,500.00 to address the Emerald Ash Borer infestation; to enter into contract with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry; to appropriate \$37,500.00 to the Recreation and Parks Grant Fund # 286; and to declare an emergency. (\$37,500.00)

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry has awarded the City of Columbus grant funding to address the Emerald Ash Borer infestation in Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary for the Director of Recreation and Parks to enter into contract with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry to accept grant funds; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the Recreation and Parks Department in that it is immediately necessary to address the Emerald Ash Borer infestation and accept said grant funds for the preservation of public health, peace, property and safety; **NOW, THEREFORE**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

SECTION 1. That the Director of Recreation and Parks be and he is hereby authorized and directed to accept a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry for the Emerald Ash Borer Program.

SECTION 2. That the Director of Recreation and Parks is authorized to enter into a contract with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry.

SECTION 3. That the grant award of \$37,500 be appropriated as follows:

<u>Grant#</u>	<u>OCA #</u>	<u>Object level 3</u>	<u>Fund #</u>
511153	511153	6621	286

SECTION 4. That the City Auditor is authorized to make any accounting changes to revise the funding source for all contracts or contract modifications associated with this legislation

SECTION 5. That for the reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor, or 10 days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.

