

Request for Quotes

Richmond Vermont Ash Management

Issued 3/31/21 by
the Richmond EAB Task Force
Richmond, VT

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Introduction and Background

The Richmond Conservation Commission (RCC), town officials, and volunteers have been preparing for the impending arrival of emerald ash borer (EAB) since 2019 by, for example, inventorying ash trees along 20 miles of Richmond's road. These preparedness efforts proved timely: EAB was detected just north of Richmond's village during the fall of 2020. We, as members of the Richmond EAB Taskforce, are committed to proactively addressing the ongoing EAB invasion set forth in this response plan.

Our vision is to maintain the beauty, character, and shady canopy cover of our town's historic village, major recreation corridors, and roads while ensuring public safety and the myriad ecological functions that healthy, diverse trees afford.

In phase 1 of our plan, we will treat the most prominent, healthy ash within the village, around the iconic Round Church, and at the entrance to our recently acquired town forest (Andrews Community Forest, ACF). Within the village, we will remove and replace smaller or less healthy trees with a diversity of native species.

The EAB Taskforce is soliciting quotes from ISA-certified tree service providers to complete three separate tasks associated with this phase of the plan: 1) removals, 2) plantings, 3) treatment. *The same tree service provider may be selected to carry out all tasks, but we are soliciting separate quotes for each individual task.* Work is to be carried out throughout spring 2021 (during the non-flight season of EAB). These efforts are funded by a grant from the Vermont's Urban and Community Forestry Program and the RCC's Conservation Reserve Fund.

(Phases 2 and 3 of this plan involve on-going removals over the coming years, as well as ash management at ACF. Those plan phases are not relevant to the present request for quotes and so are not further elaborated upon.)

Task 1: Removals

The EAB Taskforce has identified approximately 25 trees to be removed within and around Richmond village: 17x8-12" dbh trees, 6x12-16" dbh trees, 2x16-20" trees. *Total numbers are subject to change per arborist advisement and because GMP has been conducting removals.* In most cases, we expect stumps to be ground, but please give quotes that both do and do not include stump grinding.

We are keen to use the removed material in two ways: apply chips to a riparian restoration project (within the village, at Volunteers Green) and otherwise process usable wood to be used by local wood workers. Accordingly, please include in quotes an estimate for local transport of chips and for wood processing (e.g., with a portable mill). If the latter is not possible, please indicate as much.

Task 2: Replantings

Approximately 18 of the removed trees will be replaced with a diversity of native species. *Total numbers are subject to change per arborist advisement.* The EAB Taskforce anticipates plantings should be 2"-caliper and may include sugar maples, red maples, river birch, swamp white oak, and black walnut. *But again, the EAB Taskforce seeks arborist advisement on these details.*

This task will involve procurement, planting, watering bags (if advised) and (ideally) continued support and monitoring of new plantings over the first growing season. Please indicate if continued support and monitoring would be possible.

Task 3: Treatment

The EAB Taskforce has identified approximately 16 trees to be treated with emamectin benzoate, or approximately 300" total. *Again, the EAB Taskforce is keen to have arborist advisement on whether treatment is the best option for these individual trees.*

Timeline

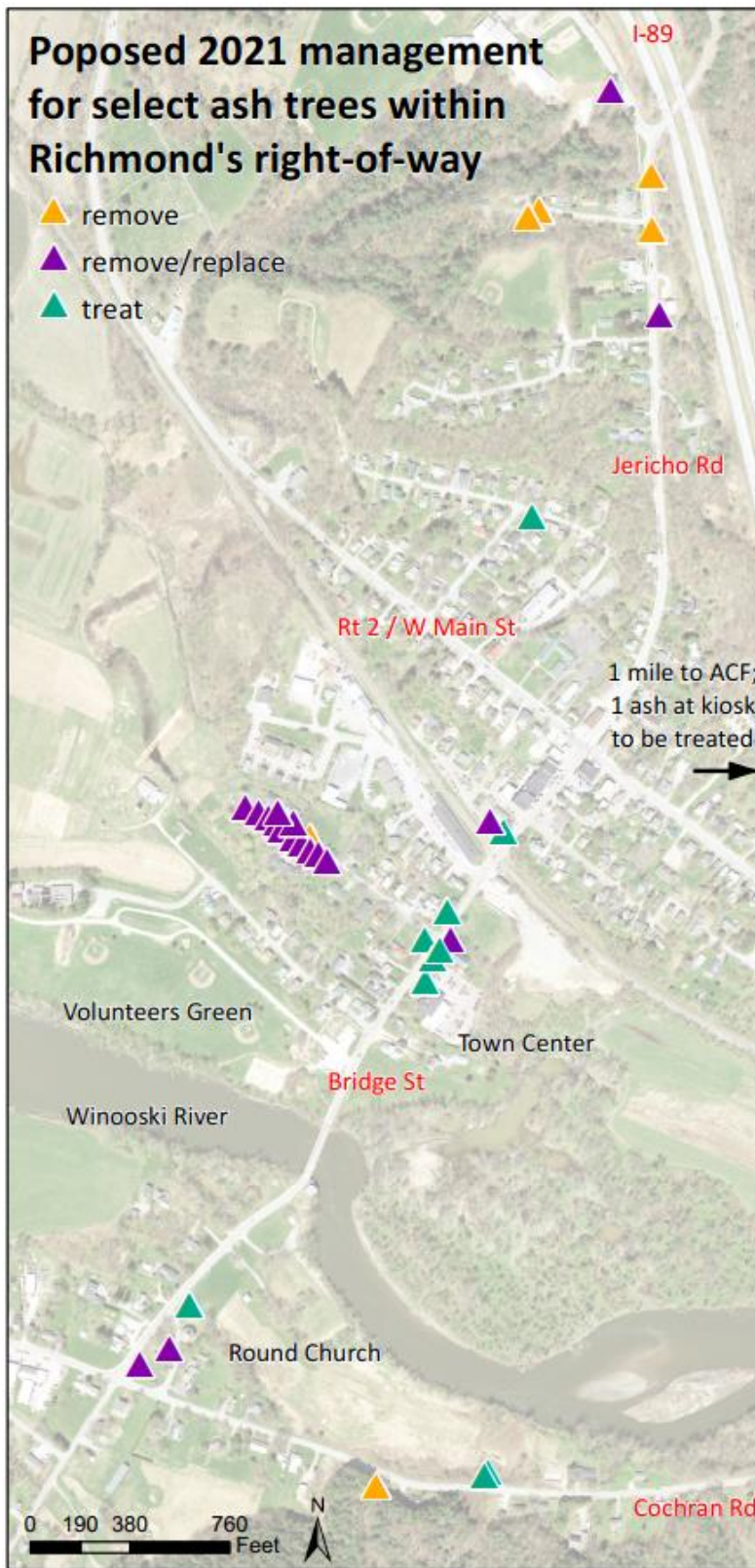
Issuance of request for quotes	3/31
Site visit	4/1-4/16
Quote due	4/16
Tree service provider(s) selected and notified	4/23
Task completion	6/15/21

Quote Submission Guidelines

- Please coordinate with Caitlin Littlefield (clittlef@gmail.com) for a site visit to evaluate each of the three tasks. Direct any questions her way.
- Please provide separate quotes for one, two, or three of the above tasks and specifically indicate capacity (or lack thereof) to carry out all facets of each tasks (e.g., continued monitoring of plantings).
- ISA-certification is expected.

Evaluation Factors

- 1) Responsiveness to the requirements set forth in this request for quotes – *including separate quotes for each task.*
 - 2) Ability to carry out all facets of each task.
 - 3) Ability to complete tasks by mid June 2021 (or please justify alternative timeline)
 - 4) Approximate cost. *We fully recognize these precise tasks – and therefore the cost -- may be subject to change so please provide your best estimates.*
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Large, healthy tree on Baker St to be treated.



A dozen small ash planted at the same time that Church St neighborhood was developed will be replaced.



Healthy ash outside Town Center will be treated

Fig. 1. Proposed 2021 management for ash trees within Richmond's village and surrounding areas. *Note that GMP has removed several trees since this map was created.*