

Proposed Invasive Species Control Activities in the City of Lambertville

FAQs

Why do trees along the towpath have orange markers?

The Department of Environmental Protection State Park Service has marked Ailanthus and Ash trees along the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park towpath in the City of Lambertville (i.e. eastern side of canal) for removal.

Why are Ailanthus trees being removed?

[*Ailanthus altissima*](#) (Tree of Heaven), is an invasive non-native species which outcompetes New Jersey's native species. It is also a species which attracts the invasive non-native insect the spotted lanternfly. The spotted lanternfly feeds on over 70 different plant species, including fruit trees, ornamental trees, vegetables, herbs and vines. This pest poses a threat to the health of New Jersey's agriculture and forests.

Why are ash trees being removed?

[*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*](#) and [*Fraxinus americana L.*](#), commonly known as Green ash and White ash trees, respectively, have been negatively impacted by the ongoing spread of the emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive non-native beetle that has killed hundreds of millions of trees in North America. Once an ash tree is infested with EAB, the beetle kills the tree within 3 to 4 years, and 99% of the ash trees die after initial infestation. Ash trees infested with EAB die from the top down and become rapidly brittle, and potentially risk dropping large branches and tree tops. The brittleness of the infested trees poses a safety concern for park patrons in heavily-used areas. The removal of EAB-infested ash trees throughout the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park, including the City of Lambertville, has been specifically authorized by the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission (DRCC #16-4938), which granted a certificate of approval for the project on February 15, 2017, and which remains valid until 2022.

Why do these pests spread in the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park?

Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park is 70-miles long and wooded, which helps the invasive insects easily spread throughout the park and into adjacent areas.

What is the timeline for this project?

Tree removal and *Ailanthus* stump treatment will begin in the Fall of 2020.

Where can I learn more information?

Spotted lanternfly in NJ www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/spottedlanternfly.html

Emerald ash borer in NJ www.emeraldashborer.nj.gov