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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

Town Hall Event to Update Public on Emerald Ash Borer

DATE: 3/16/2016

LINCOLN, Neb. — A virtual town hall meeting will take place March 22nd at 1:00 p.m. to address questions and concerns related to the emerald ash borer (EAB) in Nebraska. While the invasive insect hasn't been discovered in the state, the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) and Cities of Lincoln and Omaha are encouraging communities and the public to better understand EAB and its widespread impacts.

"Whether you are a private property owner or a municipality, the planning process is the same. You need to identify ash trees, determine the value the trees offer, decide if the trees will be treated or removed, and then start weighing the options," said Lynn Johnson, Director of Lincoln Parks and Recreation. "However, the management approaches for each group aren't identical, and that's something we need to specifically address."

The town hall speakers will also look at the state of EAB in the Midwest, Nebraska's current legislative bills and proposals, as well as best practices for local governments and homeowners.

"This is an attempt to connect directly with Nebraskans not just in Lincoln, but around the state," said Nebraska's State Forester, Scott Josiah. "While EAB may not seem like an immediate threat, our state is in a unique position to get out ahead of the insect—something no other state has managed to do."

The town hall will be carried live on 5 CITY-TV, Lincoln's government access cable channel, and streamed online at lincoln.ne.gov (click on 5 CITY-TV icon). Viewers are welcome to submit questions before or during the event through:

Twitter: [@NebraskaForest](https://twitter.com/NebraskaForest)

Facebook: fb.com/nebraskaforestservice

Email: trees@unl.edu

Phone (prior to broadcast only): 402.472.2944

Additional information and current recommendations are available online at a new website www.eabne.info. If or when EAB is discovered in Nebraska, an official announcement will be released by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

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(NOTE: 5 CITY-TV is available in Lincoln on Time Warner Cable and Windstream Kinetic channel 5. TWC customers with built-in digital cable tuners will find the channel at 71.14.)