



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Impact to Rattray Marsh Conservation Area: Kevin De Mille

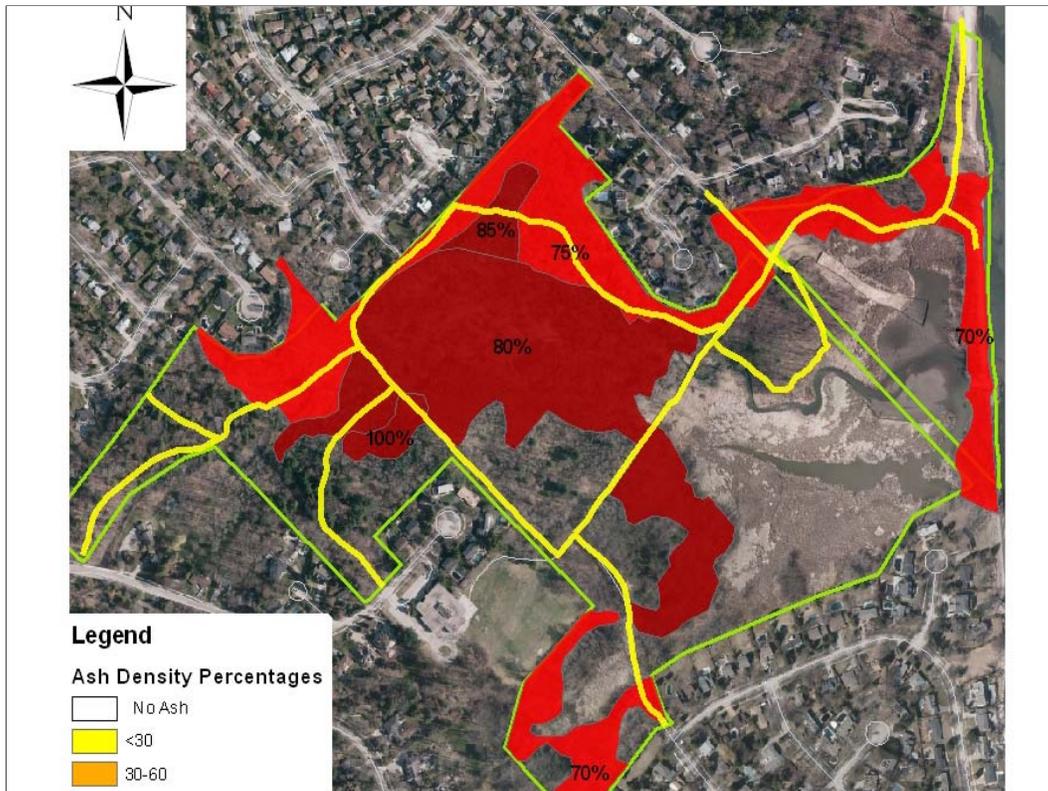


Now I'd like to turn it over to Kevin De Mille, our Emerald Ash Borer Invasive Species Technician to discuss how EAB impacts Rattray Marsh Conservation Area. Kevin...



Rattray Marsh is 95 Acres in size. 42 Acres of that are dominated by Ash trees. That's roughly 45% of the property covered with Ash.

Terrestrial areas of Rattray Marsh are comprised mostly of upland mixed wood forests, cottonwood/ash shingle beach bar, upland Oak forest at the null, but most vegetation communities are swamps dominated by Ash.



Based on a land survey by CVC staff, we know Rattray Marsh has very dense areas of Ash trees. Some compartments reach 100% ash dominance, or have the obvious majority share in the canopy. This dominance of Ash is problematic because EAB kill 99.9% of all Ash and most areas will lose 70% to 100% of the tree cover naturally.

Ash Tree Stands



Pictures of Rattray Marsh



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) – Rattray Marsh

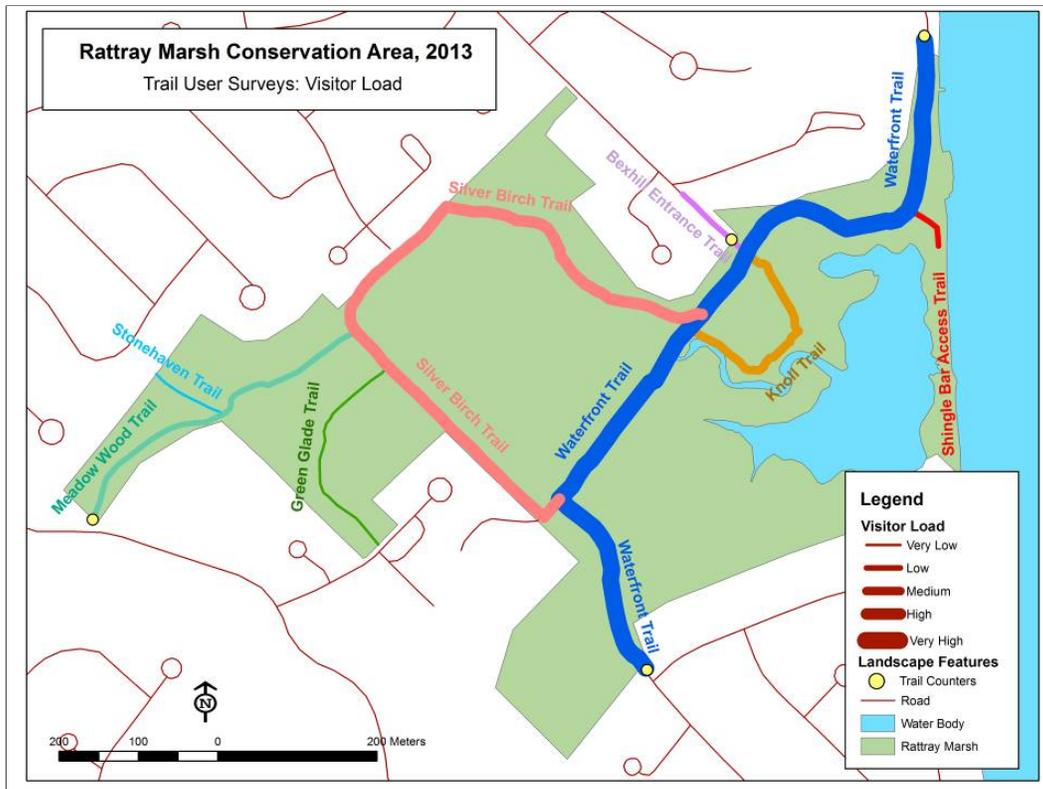
- Ash trees are beginning to show symptoms of EAB infestation (exit holes, vertical bark cracking, crown dieback, excessive seed production, woodpecker damage)
- Trail assessment has been conducted on Rattray Marsh sanctioned trails to identify potentially hazardous Ash trees
- Boundary assessments have started but will be finished to identify additional potentially hazardous Ash trees that may impact adjacent properties



CVC's Ash Tree Assessments

- CVC staff have assessed all Ash trees along trails and most boundaries for potential management options – which includes inoculation and removal
- Every Ash tree that could cause harm to individuals or infrastructure identified during Ash tree assessments
- Trees sized and mapped – additional area specific information also collected (invasive species presence, undergrowth species, severity of hazard, etc.)
- 1700 Ash trees along trails, 480 trees along boundaries
- 2200 m of sanctioned trail have Ash along the sides





Analysis does not take into consideration what point of a trail a person was on. For example; most visitors are noted to around Jack Darling, this is the waterfront trail. There is no analysis in this study to split out the portion of waterfront trail between JD and Old Poplar Row.

97% = pedestrian waterfront trail

45% = Silver Birch

26% = Knoll

19% = Meadow Wood

17% = Shingle Bar

16% = Bexhill



Are All Ash Trees Affected?



- EAB has been in the Mississauga area for 5 years
- EAB signs and symptoms not visible until years after infestation
- Signs and symptoms of EAB often mean “too late” for treatment
- Adult EAB feed on leaves, EAB larvae feed on vascular tissue of tree
- The nature of EAB damage causes roots to fail first and entire trees to topple over