

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 17, 2018
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Subject: Ash Tree-cycling in Centerville

CENTERVILLE, OH: Over the last decade, the emerald ash borer (EAB) has become the most destructive forest pest seen in North America. Unfortunately, our community's tree canopy has been severely impacted. The Centerville-Washington Park District (CWPD) has lost over 4,000 trees, with at least 3,000 more trees projected to succumb to EAB.



Village South Park

In an effort to bring something positive out of this devastating loss, CWPD is repurposing four dead ash trees and two dead locust tree into works of art within their parks. Professional wood carver Loren Lorenzo has completed two carvings and is currently working on the third. The six wood sculptures will be of wildlife indigenous to the area. Completed sculptures include an owl and owlets in Village South Park, 411 North Village Drive, and a squirrel in Grant Park, 616 Grant's Trail. Lorenzo is currently working on a fox in Black Oak Park, 1552 Ambridge

Road. Plans for the additional three carvings are underway. They will be located in Forest Walk Park, 7570 Forest Brook Boulevard and in a high traffic

area of Grant Park.

"We are excited to bring beauty to an ugly situation and give new life to our stricken ash trees. We are thrilled with the quality of Loren's work and are so happy to have found him to help us achieve our vision," said Ginger Clark, Community Engagement Coordinator at CWPD. Clark has worked closely with Lorenzo to find appropriate locations for the sculptures and determine the sculpture designs.



Grant Park, Grant's Trail Entrance

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Centerville-Washington PARK DISTRICT



Loren Lorenzo at work in Black Oak Park

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This is not the first time Lorenzo has worked to turn dead ash trees into public art. He worked with Xenia's Rising from the Ashes project in 2016, carving ash trees in Shawnee Park into sculptures commemorating the city's history.

The Centerville-Washington Park District operates eight community parks, nine nature parks, and 33 neighborhood parks encompassing more than 1,000 acres in Centerville and Washington Township. For more information about the Centerville-Washington Park District, please call (937) 433-5155 or visit www.cwpd.org.

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