

# WINTER INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL

at Oakland County Parks

During colder months, Oakland County Parks works hard to remove **harmful woody invasive shrubs, trees, and vines** from our natural areas.

## Why remove invasive plants?

Many of our natural areas are being **overrun by harmful woody invasive plants**. Invasive plants harm native plants by outcompeting them for food, space, and light; and can poison the soil. Invasive plants also provide lower quality food and shelter for native wildlife, such as birds, resulting in less diversity and lower population numbers.

**Invasive plants are rapidly taking over** and are typically unintentionally brought to new areas for landscaping or by wildlife.



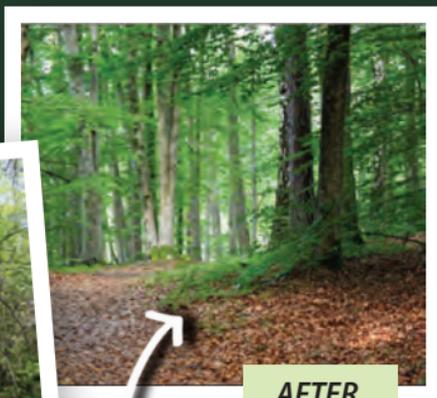
## Impacts of invasive plant removal

Invasive plant removal helps native wildflowers, trees, and shrubs get enough light and space so populations can expand. As a result, **native wildlife returns to the area to collect pollen, eat berries and fruits, make nests, and thrive.**

Before invasive plant removal: unhealthy natural area being suffocated by invasive species.



BEFORE



AFTER

After invasive plant removal: Opened forest understory with flourishing native plant and wildlife species.

## How do we control woody invasive species?

Woody invasive species are removed in winter months to protect wildlife, as animals are less active, not nesting, and the ground is harder which prevents underground impacts. We remove invasive species by:

### Hand Trimming & Cutting

Pruning invasive shrubs alongside herbicide application to stop plants from growing underground.



### Forestry Mowing

Very large scale removal that cuts large shrubs to ground level.



Photo credit: Mississippi WMO, flickr.com

### Maintenance Mowing

Small to large scale removal that keeps small to medium sized invasive shrubs at ground level.



Photo credit: Steve Reid, flickr.com

## What you can expect to see in our parks

- **Short-term:** Mulch from mowing and brush piles from hand cutting across the landscape.
- **Mid-term:** More grasses and flowers starting to grow. Prescribed burning takes place to stimulate seeds and new plants.
- **Long-term:** Return of diverse native plants and wildlife to prairies and woodlands with no signs of mulch or brush.

### QUESTIONS?

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**OAKLAND  
COUNTY PARKS**

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