

AGENDA
Cascade Charter Township Parks Committee
Tuesday, January 18, 2022
8 am
5920 Tahoe Dr

- ARTICLE 1. **Call the meeting to order**
 Record the attendance

- ARTICLE 2. **Welcome to new Committee Member**

- ARTICLE 3. **Approve the current Agenda**

- ARTICLE 4. **Approve the minutes of the November 16, November 30, and December 6 2021 meetings.**

- ARTICLE 5. **Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak to non-agenda items.**
 (Comments are limited to five minutes per speaker.)

- ARTICLE 6. **Township Follow-up on Previous Public Comments**
 Update from Staff on questions regarding Burton Park and Rec Park

- ARTICLE 7. **Status of Parks Committee Email and Open Meetings Question**
 Update from Staff

- ARTICLE 8. **Update on Oak Wilt Situation at Burton Park**
 Update from Staff and Ginny

- ARTICLE 9. **Discussion with Buildings and Grounds Supervisor**
 Discussion with Jim McDonald, Building and Grounds Supervisor

- ARTICLE 10. **Parks Master Plan Discussion**
 Discussion and presentation from Troyer Group team regarding goals, scope and schedule for Master Plan update.

- ARTICLE 11. **Property Acquisition Checklist**
 Update on development of Property Acquisition Checklist

- ARTICLE 12. **Strategic Plan Update**
 Update from Strategic Plan Subcommittee

- ARTICLE 13. **Old Business**

- ARTICLE 14. **Any Other Business**

- ARTICLE 15. **Adjournment**

Meeting format

- 1. **Staff Presentation**
- 2. **Project presentation-**

Staff report and recommendation
Applicant presentation and explanation of project

a. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- i. **Open Public Hearing. Comments are limited to five minutes per speaker; exception may be granted by the chair for representative speakers and applicants**

- ii. *Close public hearing*
- 3. *Committee discussion – May ask for clarification from applicant, staff or public*
- 4. *Committee decision - Options*
 - a. *Table the decision*
 - b. *Deny*
 - c. *Approve*
 - d. *Approve with conditions*
 - e. *Recommendation to Township Board*

Meeting Minutes

Cascade Charter Township
Parks Committee
Tuesday, November 16, 2021
8:00 AM
5920 Tahoe Dr.

ARTICLE 1. Chairperson Wanty called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.
Members Present: Dawn McDonald, Joe Engel, Chair Ginny Wanty, Supervisor Grace Lesperance, Mike Reese, Alan Rowland, and Matt Douglas
Members Absent (Excused): None

Others Present: Interim Planning Director Brian Hilbrands, Township Manager Ben Swayze, and three members of the public.

ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda

Motion was made by Member Engel to approve the current Agenda. Supported by Supervisor Lesperance. Motion carried 7 to 0.

ARTICLE 3. Approve the minutes of the October 19, 2021 meeting.

Motion was made by Member Engel to approve the minutes as written. Supported by Member Lesperance. Motion carried 7 to 0.

ARTICLE 4. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak to non-agenda items.

Ann Cinnamon and Michelle Gordan came to request a port-a-potty be placed near the pickleball court and dog park at Cascade Township Park. They feel the bathroom is too far away from the pickleball court and dog park - particularly for older residents. They said that there were many others that felt the same could not make the 8:00am meeting time. People play pickleball year-round and last year many would play up until mid-December in Ada and Lowell as their nets stayed up and they had heated bathrooms. They also talked to Cascade's Building and Grounds Supervisor, Jim McDonald, about this and offered to help with fundraisers to raise money for specific the park improvements.

ARTICLE 5. Township Staff Response to Public Comment

Cameras in parks: There is an ongoing complaint by a Burton Street resident regarding people at Burton Park when they shouldn't be, including late at night and early in the morning. Manager Swayze and Supervisor Lesperance talked to the East Precinct Sheriff's team and found out they are considering passive cameras (always recording but not actively monitored). They are still in the early stages of this project but if it goes forward the township may be able to participate in the precinct's order for a few cameras. The recordings from these cameras would archive at the Sheriff's office but the township would pay for them and be able to access their footage. The Sheriff's office is looking at this as a Kent County-wide project, but they do not have much in the way of detailed information yet.

With respect to the resident's specific complaint, Manager Swayze spoke with the Sheriff's department and learned that there have only been three calls for potential crimes committed in each of the three parks over the last few years. The topic of purchasing cameras for the parks was tabled until the committee receives cost information from the Kent County Sheriff's department and then the project will be evaluated on terms of utility, cost and policy.

Member Rowland asked about installing a gate at the edge of the parking lot, off to the side of the road. Supervisor Lesperance suggested installing a sign saying the area is being monitored to act as a deterrent. Mr. Wayne Meulendyk expressed his concern about people driving their cars through the park at 5:00am and disturbing the neighborhood. He said he has photographed people driving through late at night and early in the morning on his property cameras. Chair Wanty said that she spoke with the people she sees walking their dogs at Burton Park and they said they only see kids riding bikes there after dark and not people driving through the park. A suggestion was made to find out what the cost would be to purchase and install a gate as well as what type of manpower would be required to open and close it as it would have to be closed every morning and night, most likely requiring a Building and Grounds employee to work late to close it. Member Rowland shared that he feels installing a parking lot gate would be a deterrent because people who would park there and then cause trouble would be afraid of their vehicle being towed if they had to park on the road.

Burton Park is not a 'drive-thru street' and the township has monitored traffic and usage there in the past to see if any measures need to be taken. For most in the surrounding neighborhoods, this isn't a huge issue, but headlights shine directly into one resident's house when a vehicle is driving in the dark. People driving through Burton Park isn't generally a common occurrence as it isn't a shortcut to any other area. Supervisor Lesperance asked the Parks Committee if these are the types of issues they want to deal with or if they think it should be handled by township staff. Member McDonald said that she believed this was the type of issue the Parks Committee should be looking into as it affects resident access to the parks.

Port-a-Potty: Manager Swayze said the township could easily place a port-a-potty near the dog park/pickleball court area, as requested by the two visitors who spoke during public comment. However, concern was expressed about setting a precedent for similar, focused needs of a particular resident constituency. Manager Swayze felt it was more advantageous for the Parks Committee to consider the matter in the context of the overall park's budget. Member Reese said that residents bringing their request to the committee should show them what public sees as top priorities.

Chair Wanty said she would like to bring Jim McDonald into the conversation because he would be able to appropriately optimize placement and use. An informal poll of committee members confirmed support for the temporary placement of a universal access porta-potty, with specific placement left to staff.

Supervisor Lesperance made a motion to rent and place one port-a-potty, centrally located (at the building and grounds discretion,) for the dog park and pickleball courts, at least temporarily. Supported by Member Rowland. Motion carried.

Member Engel moved to table further consideration of Burton Park surveillance cameras until the Sheriff's Department decides how/if they will implement them. Supported by Member Douglas. Motion carried.

Chair Wanty suggested they may want to at least hold off on adding a gate until the heavy machinery to remove the oak wilt has left or the machines may be unable to get into the park. It was suggested staff investigate the cost of a gate and see what would have to go into its purchase and maintenance. Action moved by member Rowland, supported by Member Engel. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 6. Developing Questions to Evaluate RFP Responses
Requested Action: Discussion on how to evaluate RFP responses

Member Reese stepped out due to a potential conflict of interest. Manager Swayze and Interim Planning Director Hilbrands will meet and do a basic evaluation of each RFP to make sure it has all of the necessary information and then send them to the Parks Committee. The Parks Committee will meet on November 30th to decide which companies they want to interview; interviews will take place later that week. During the interviews, each applicant will give a small introduction to their plan and the committee will have time to ask questions. After the interviews, the committee will recommend their decision to the Township Board who will make the final decision.

Chair Wanty said Ada Township focused on one issue they thought was most important and used that as a focus for evaluating all RFP's. Manager Swayze thought it would be better to focus on the whole document when first evaluating RFPs and then the committee could focus on specific priorities. Most members agreed with the latter approach. Interim Planning Director Hilbrands and Manager Swayze will begin looking over RFPs on Monday 11/29 and will email the committee if they find any glaring issues.

ARTICLE 7. Newsletter Delivery Problems
Requested Action: Discussion on if the problems have been addressed

Manager Swayze shared that the newsletter delivery problem is now settled after adding the 800 addresses left off the list due to a BS&A update. The list now has 6800 addresses but still doesn't include apartment addresses. Staff will work to get a list of apartment addresses in the township and add them into the system manually so they can send out information on the survey and strategic plan.

ARTICLE 8. Possibility of Parks Committee Holding Virtual Meetings

Manager Swayze said the Open Meetings Act (OMA), permits township staff and members of the public to attend meetings virtually but committee members must to

attend in person. To change this, he believes they would have to change the bylaws and create a resolution changing the committee from an 'Open Meetings Act committee' to an advisory only committee. Manager Swayze said he would have to talk to the township attorney about how that might work and what type of restrictions it would put on the committee. Manager Swayze said that the Strategic Plan Advisory Committee, the PFAS committee, and other advisory only committees can meet virtually.

ARTICLE 9. Strategic Plan Update

Member Reese gave an update on the Strategic Plan Subcommittee. He said a letter from Supervisor Lesperance encouraging residents to fill out the strategic plan survey will be going out shortly. This will help the committee determine what their priorities will be for the year and act as the basis for starting focus groups.

ARTICLE 10. Master Plan Survey/Property Acquisition Checklist

Member Engel gave an update on the development of the Property Acquisition Checklist. He and Chair Wanty researched what criteria other townships used to make decisions on purchasing property. They broke the categories for Cascade Township down into open space and park space, though many of the areas at least partially overlap. They are looking to create a tool to help the committee prioritize various criteria when deciding what land to purchase. Different criteria will have varying values and, though the content may be different for each property, this basis will give the committee a way to compare different properties. This will also be useful when presenting potential property purchases to the board and residents. Engel noted that Trustee McDonald has a draft policy for potential property purchases which will need to integrate with any acquisition document.

ARTICLE 11. Update on Oak Wilt Situation at Burton Park

Manager Swayze shared that he did pay the retainer for the bore sample consultant. Chair Wanty met with Township Building and Grounds Supervisor, Jim McDonald, Member Engel, West MI Tree, and Bartlett Tree Service to talk about the oak wilt situation. Neither company had a strong background in oak wilt so Chair Wanty contacted the oak wilt specialist for the state parks. They found that Mioakwilt.org has a list of oak wilt experts they could draw from. Cascade has two questionable oak wilt sites. The first one contains one very dead tree and the MSU Plant/Pest Diagnostic Lab usually requires a live tree sample to diagnose oak wilt. They instead had an expert come out and take a bore sample of the dead trees which ended up testing positive for oak wilt. The second site had two mostly dead trees with some branches way up high that were still alive, so a sample was taken from the live branches; those also tested positive for oak wilt.

The township will need to trench around the affected tree roots to prevent the oak wilt fungus from spreading to other trees. Chair Wanty was unsure if the Building and Grounds will be able to do this or if a consultant will need to be hired. Once an infected

tree has come down, it's wood either has to be tarped for a year or fed through a wood chipper. Jim McDonald is not comfortable having B&G staff cutting down the trees so a contractor will need to be hired for that portion. There aren't currently any neighborhoods being affected by these two oak wilt sites but Cascade Farm is getting close. Manager Swayze will share Cascade Farms Homeowner Association Contact information with Member Engel. Member Engel will reach out to Cascade Farms leadership, explaining the Oak Wilt situation and ask about the possibility of entering Site #1 through Cascade Farms. Signage will be added to explain what is happening at the 2 sites. Chair Wanty is checking with the oak wilt experts to see how far the fungus has spread. Red oak is the main type of oak tree that can get this virus. The state has a database sharing information on all confirmed oak wilt sites statewide. There are two residential sites in Cascade Township that are also tested positive for oak wilt as well as a third site recorded but yet to be confirmed.

The committee wants to set up a Forest Management program for Burton Park and Peace Park. Ideally, professionals trained in oak wilt identification as well as other tree diseases would walk through the park a couple times per year and spot check trees so any forest health issues can be caught early and minimized. Member Rowland suggested having the company who is contracted to remove the trees walk through and tag any infected trees once a year and then we pay them to go take down the trees. Member Engel said he'd rather have a strike team, or a non-profit do a walk through once a year to ensure a competent but frugal approach. Chair Wanty said Jim McDonald wants to get some of his guys trained to recognize oak wilt as well. Chair Wanty said the state requires every county Conservation District have access to a forester. Unfortunately, the Kent County Conservation District forester went back to college and has not been replaced. Chair Wanty will call Jessie Schulte at KCD to discuss options.

The committee appreciated the article about oak wilt that Chair Wanty wrote for the township newsletter. They would like to continue adding an article to each issue, starting by introducing the committee members. The committee would also like to get a township email address so that residents can submit questions or concerns. Initial monitoring would likely be handled by Manager Swayze. The Township will need to come up with a specific procedure as to how emails are reviewed and processed.

Supervisor Lesperance made a motion to create a parks committee email address on the township website and develop procedures and personnel as they progress. Seconded by Member Rowland. Motion carried 7 to 0.

ARTICLE 12. 2022 Parks Committee Meeting Dates
Requested Action: Discussion on setting 2022 meeting dates and times

The committee discussed changing the meeting time for the 2022 year but ultimately it was decided that the best meeting time was still 8:00am on the third Tuesday of each month, 10 months out of the year. All future meeting dates will be listed on each agenda.

The only potential meeting conflict that Chair Wanty immediately noticed was that the April meeting would fall on the day after Easter.

ARTICLE 12. Old Business

There was not any old business to discuss.

**ARTICLE 13. Any Other Business
Upcoming Meeting Dates/Topics**

The next meeting will take place on November 30th to go through RFP's and choose finalists for interviews. The group will then schedule the interviews and meet afterwards to discuss the final RFP.

Members should send any agenda items for the January meeting to Chair Wanty.

ARTICLE 14. Adjournment

**Member Engel made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Supervisor Lesperance.
The Meeting adjourned at 9:37 am.**

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Engel, Secretary

Meeting Minutes

Cascade Charter Township
Parks Committee
Special Meeting
Tuesday, November 30, 2021
8:00 AM
5920 Tahoe Dr.

ARTICLE 1. Chairperson Wanty called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.
Members Present: Dawn McDonald, Joe Engel, Chair Ginny Wanty, Supervisor Grace Lesperance, Alan Rowland, and Matt Douglas
Members Absent (Excused): Mike Reese

Others Present: Interim Planning Director Brian Hilbrands, Township Manager Ben Swayze.

ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda

Motion was made by Member Engel to approve the current Agenda. Supported by Member Douglas. Motion carried 6 to 0.

ARTICLE 3. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak to non-agenda items.

There was no one present who wished to speak.

ARTICLE 4. Review of Responses to RFP for Parks Plan Update Services

Requested Action: Select which applicants will move forward to interviews

The Committee members reviewed the six proposals that were received in response to the RFP for services to update the Parks, Recreation and Open Space plan. After review and discussion, the Committee selected the proposals from McKenna, Troyer Group and MCSA Group to move forward with for interviews. The Committee determined that these proposals showed the most attention to detail, familiarity with Cascade parks, and experience with preparing Parks, Recreation and Open Space plans.

ARTICLE 5. Schedule Date and Time for Interviews of Applicants for Parks Plan Update Services

Requested Action: Select date and time for interviews

The Committee members developed a number of questions that would be used to help evaluate the remaining applicants during their interviews. It was determined that interviews would take place at 8:30am, 9:45am and 11:00am on Monday, December 6.

ARTICLE 6. Adjournment

Member Engel made a motion to adjourn. Supported by Supervisor Lesperance. The Meeting adjourned at 9:39 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Engel, Secretary

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes

Cascade Charter Township
Parks Committee
Special Meeting
Monday, December 6, 2021
8:30 AM
2870 Jacksmith Ave SE

ARTICLE 1. Chairperson Wanty called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.
Members Present: Dawn McDonald, Joe Engel, Chair Ginny Wanty, Supervisor Grace Lesperance, Alan Rowland, and Matt Douglas
Members Absent (Excused): Mike Reese

Others Present: Interim Planning Director Brian Hilbrands, applicants to be interviewed.

ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda
Members approved the agenda as written.

ARTICLE 3. Interviews of Applicants for Parks Plan Update Services
Three applicants were selected to be interviewed to provide services to update the Parks, Recreation and Open Space plan.
The team from MCSA group was interviewed at 8:30am.
The team from McKenna was interviewed at 9:45am. (Member Douglas left after this interview).
The team from Troyer Group was interviewed at 11:00am. (Chair Wanty had to leave during the interview).

ARTICLE 4. Discussion and Review of Applications for Parks Plan Update Services
Requested Action: Select an applicant to recommend to the Township Board
After discussion, the four remaining members of the Parks Committee made a unanimous recommendation to the Township Board that Troyer Group should be selected to provide services to update the Cascade Township Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The Committee members believed that Troyer Group was a great fit for this project, showed an intimate knowledge of Cascade Township and its parks, and demonstrated a commitment to provide the Township with the best product possible

ARTICLE 5. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak to non-agenda items.
There was no one present who wished to speak.

ARTICLE 6. Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 12:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Engel, Secretary

DRAFT

Smart Gardening to prevent oak wilt

By Monique Sakalidis, MSU Depts. of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences & Forestry; and Ruth Dorando Marcy, MSU Extension

Learn to recognize oak wilt and how to prevent and control this devastating disease. A timely response can mean the difference between losing one tree or many.

History and range of oak wilt

Oak wilt, caused by the fungal pathogen *Bretziella fagacearum*, was first reported in Michigan in the 1970s. It is now found in 56 counties with potential to impact at least 149 million red oak trees across over 20 million acres of Michigan land.

Trees at risk

Red oaks, those with bristle-tipped lobes, die rapidly from oak wilt within four to six weeks. Red oaks in Michigan include northern red oak, black oak, northern pin oak, pin oak, scarlet oak and shingle oak.



Paul Wray, Iowa St Univ., Bugwood.org

Note the pointy, bristle-tipped lobes on this northern red oak. Bristles indicate the species is a red oak.

White oaks, those with rounded lobes and no bristles, or with large regular teeth, will slowly decline and likely die. White oaks in Michigan include white oak, swamp white oak, bur oak, chinquapin oak, chestnut oak and dwarf chestnut oak.



Chris Evans, Univ. of Illinois, Bugwood.org

This white oak can be identified by its rounded lobe leaves.

Symptoms and signs

When an oak tree is infected, the fungus grows throughout the water-conducting xylem vessels and the tree responds by producing structures called tyloses to attempt to wall in the fungus. This blocks water flow through the tree, causing the wilt symptoms seen with this disease.

Prevent oak wilt!

- When possible, prune oaks in winter. Especially avoid pruning mid-April to mid-July.
- Immediately seal wounds on oaks damaged during the growing season.
- Don't move firewood.



Monique Sakalidis, MSU Department of Forestry

Oak leaves showing oak wilt symptoms.

An infected tree is often first noticed when leaves suddenly drop or turn brown in the summer months. Leaves may be brown, somewhat bronzed or partially green. Red oak trees may be dead and defoliated within four weeks of infection.

Since there are other pest, pathogen and environmental problems that may cause symptoms similar to oak wilt, a branch sample must be sent to a diagnostics laboratory for an accurate diagnosis. On trees that have been dead for six to 12 months, a mycelial mat may be visible underneath a bark crack. Presence of a mycelial mat or laboratory verification from a living tree that is showing symptoms are the only ways oak wilt can be confirmed.

How oak wilt is spread

Oak wilt spreads rapidly in multiple ways.

- **Overland transmission** occurs when Nitidulid beetles (commonly called sap beetles) pick up spores while feeding on mycelial mats on infected trees then transfer them to fresh wounds on healthy trees. This creates new sites of infection (infection centers).
- **Underground transmission** occurs when fungal spores move between connected roots (root grafts) of infected and healthy oaks. This type of spread outwardly expands pockets of dead trees (infection epicenters).



Wisconsin DNR

A sap beetle feeds on a mycelial mat.



Ronald F. Billings, Texas A&M Forest Service, Bugwood.org

Root grafts are connected roots between trees where fungal spores can move from infected to healthy oaks.

- **Moving wood from infected oaks** can start infection sites because mycelial mats can form on wood cut from infected oaks, providing a source of infection.

Prevention

Prevent **overland transmission** of oak wilt by strictly following guidelines for safest pruning times and care of trees damaged during spring and summer.

The safest time to prune is in the winter months when sap beetles are not active. The worst time is mid-April to mid-July when beetles are most likely present. Some beetles will be active throughout the summer and early fall. If a tree is damaged and pruning is required during the warm growing season, seal all wounds immediately—sap beetles can arrive within five minutes!

Avoid **underground transmission** of oak wilt by severing root connections between infected and healthy oaks. Trenching equipment is used to cut a 5-foot deep line into the earth separating roots of dead and infected oaks from the unaffected oaks in the area. Trench lines are plotted using a formula that takes many factors into account and are best determined by a certified arborist or forester trained in oak wilt management. Injections of a fungicide with propiconazole as the active ingredient may offer protection of nearby valuable, healthy oak trees. This fungicide treatment will not protect against overland spread of oak wilt.



Monique Sakalidis, MSU Department of Forestry

An oak with symptoms of oak wilt.



Julie Stacheldt

A plastic tarp tightly covers wood from a tree killed by oak wilt.

To prevent the spread of oak wilt via firewood, dispose of wood from trees killed by oak wilt by burning it. If this is not possible, bury, chip or carefully seal wood from infected oaks under thick plastic. The plastic must cover the entire wood pile with the edges buried in soil to prevent beetle access. Once the wood is dry and the bark is loose or fallen off (about one year), it is no longer a source of infection.

Steps to take when oak wilt is suspected

If oak wilt is suspected, take immediate action to get a positive diagnosis. Send a sample of a symptomatic branch to [MSU Plant & Pest Diagnostics \(https://pestid.msu.edu\)](https://pestid.msu.edu) to confirm oak wilt unless a mycelial mat is discovered on a dead oak. If you find a mycelial mat on a dead oak—normally visible beneath a bark crack—that is sufficient for positive diagnosis. Once a positive diagnosis is obtained, consult a professional trained in oak wilt management as soon as possible. This disease will continue to spread unless management techniques are begun promptly.

Additional resources

More information and a free downloadable field guide to Michigan oaks: www.MichiganOakWilt.org

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For more information on a wide variety of Smart Gardening topics, visit www.migarden.msu.edu or call MSU's Lawn and Garden hotline at 1-888-678-3464.

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To: Grace Lesperance, Cascade Township Supervisor
From: Ginny Wanty, Parks Committee Chair
Date: January 7, 2022
Re. Oak Wilt at 2 sites at Cascade Burton Park

The MSU Plant/Pest Diagnostic Lab has confirmed that Cascade Burton Park has 2 sites that tested positive for Oak Wilt disease.

Background:

Oak trees are beloved for their ample shade and being a “keystone species” in the ecosystem, but oak trees are now under threat by an invasive fungus known as Oak Wilt. According to the state Oak Wilt reporting viewer/map, there are several confirmed cases of Oak Wilt in Cascade Township, besides the 2 sites at Burton Park.

Oak Wilt is a lethal disease of red oaks, killing them within 6-8 weeks of infection. There is no cure for oak wilt once a red oak is infected. This fungus takes over the sapwood of the red oak trees and prevents water from getting to the leaves. The disease causes leaves to wilt, browning starts at the margins of leaves and leaves fall shortly thereafter. Tree can be dead in a matter of a month.

Oak wilt is moved by native beetles that are attracted to fresh wounds, thus, NEVER prune Oak trees in spring or summer months to prevent overland transmission of oak wilt. November through March are the best and safest times to prune Oak trees. It is likely that storm damage during the summer of 2020 created open wounds attracting the beetle which carried the oak wilt spores to our site and initially killed a 46” diameter red oak.

Once a red oak is infected, the fungus moves into the root system and infects additional red oaks that are connected by their roots. The disease continues to progress through roots until it runs out of red oaks to infect/kill. In 2021, this infection moved through the roots killing two additional red oak trees in the western area of the park.

Once the red oak trees are cut down, the infected wood/logs need to be chipped, tarped, buried or burned to prevent spore mats from developing and increasing disease pressure. (Tarping on site is a difficult option to carry-out successfully and thus I do not recommend it for a public park setting.)

Burton Park Oak Wilt Timeline:

- **2020** – 1 Red Oak died rapidly in western area of park
- **September 2021** – Additional red oak observed with oak wilt symptoms adjacent to 2020 tree; and Additional 3-trunk red oak observed with symptoms in the East-Central area of park.
- **Late October** – West MI Tree collected samples from 3-trunk red oak in East Central area of park designated as Site #2; submitted to MSU Diagnostic Lab.
- **November 2021** -Julie Stachecki collected bore samples from two red oaks in western area - Site #1 – submitted to MSU Diagnostic Lab; and Oak Wilt Management strategies discussed with Jim MacDonald while in field
- **November 2021** - Lab Results = All three red oaks tested **Positive** for Oak Wilt

Burton Park Oak Wilt Management:

At Burton Park, the main goal is to prevent oak wilt from killing additional red oak trees in the park and adjacent neighborhoods. An Oak Wilt Management plan has been created by a state-qualified Oak Wilt Consultant, Julie Stachecki.

(Julie is ISA Certified Arborist MI-0650, Tree Risk Assessment Qualified; MI Oak Wilt Qualified and was recommended by the DNR State Parks Forest Health Specialist.)

The OW Management Plan includes:

- Trenching to disconnect infected red oak roots from non-symptomatic red oaks. The ideal equipment to install the 5'-deep trench lines is a vibratory plow blade;
- Tree removal and appropriate disposal of infected wood;
- Stump treatment with herbicide.
- Monitoring

One of the OW Management Plan's goals is to remove as few as trees as possible, especially those that are not red oaks in the infected zone. Non-symptomatic red oak removal (67) in the infected zone is required to contain the disease.

The infected oak trees at Burton Park will be cut down, chipped and removed from the site.

At each of the 2 sites at in Burton Park, trees have different color ribbons around the trunks used for determining rot graft distance between infected and non-symptomatic trees. Further, all the oak trees have aluminum numeric inside and bordering the infected zone. Flags and wood stakes demarcate proposed trench line locations. Tags allow for improved referencing and future oak wilt monitoring efforts.

The Cascade Township Building and Grounds Department will restore the 2 sites after oak wilt has been successfully treated.

Oak Wilt informational signage has been created and posted at the 2 sites at Burton Park. The signs mention:

NOT to REMOVE WOOD. Moving infected wood to other sites can further the spread of the invasive fungus.

Also on signs is the message:

If you have questions about oak wilt at Burton Park, please leave a message for the Cascade Township Parks Committee Chair at 616.949.1500.

Currently:

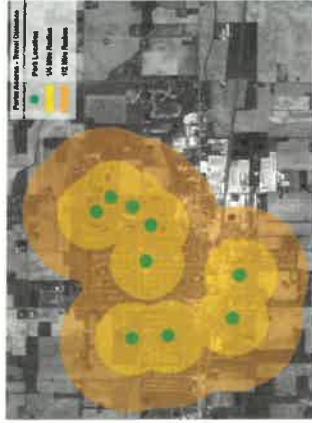
There are RFPs out to collect bids on trenching, and to remove red oak trees. The deadline for completing this work during the dormant stage is March 15 but we are asking in the RFP to complete by March 1 to have a buffer.

We are having a difficulty gathering 3 bids for trenching and 3 bids for tree removal. The deadline for completion of the work is approaching very quickly.

For more information go to www.michiganoakwilt.org



TIMELINE



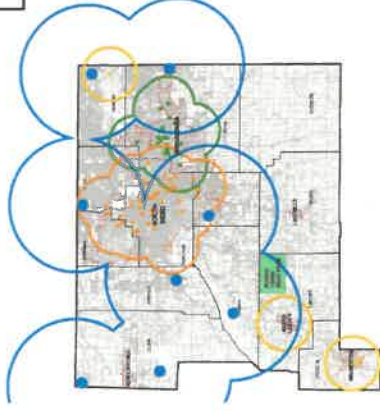
DATA GATHERING AND ANALYSIS

Physical Inventory | January – February 2022
 Community Needs Analysis
 Existing Plans and Facilities
 Social, Natural, and Demographic Factors
 ADA and Universal Design Analysis
 Inventory Mapping



OUTREACH AND ANALYSIS

Social Inventory | January - February 2022
 Additional Engagement
 Focus Group Meetings
 Compilation of Public/Stakeholder information



PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Draft Master Plan | March – May 2022
 Develop goals, objectives, & strategies
 Action Plan Development
 Update System-wide maps
 Prepare Draft Plans
 Present Draft Plans for Feedback



PLAN SUBMISSION

Master Plan | June 2022
 Final Plan Development
 Plan Adoption
 MIDNR Submission

APPROACH

Update of the community profile, socio-economic trends, township structure, budget, funding, and roles of the volunteers and inter-agency relationships.

Provide inventory of the existing parks, recreation facilities, natural areas, and programming.

Provide any additional public engagement as necessary, and an analysis of all public and stakeholder input.

Develop an updated set of goals and objectives along side the Parks Committee and Township staff.

DELIVERABLES

A summary of community profile findings will be included in the report.

Summary of the inventory findings and supplementary maps

Summary report of all public engagement findings with supplementary infographics

Parks Committee meeting throughout the process to provide updates, review, and discussion of the goals, objectives, and strategies

APPROACH

Assist the Township and Parks Committee in formulating a template for the evaluation and acquisition of property based on the goals and objectives.

Prepare a proposed action plan based off all community and committee input.

Prepare the complete draft plan document for public review and comment.

Present the draft plan at a public hearing at a regular Township Board meeting.

Prepare any needed revisions to produce the final master plan document.

DELIVERABLES

Land acquisition evaluation document.

An action plan, strategies and dynamic action item matrices

Public presentation of the draft plan

Adopted Five Year Master Plan Report that meets DNR guidelines.