

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF GROWING GREAT PARKS



NEWS RELEASE

Desiree Stanfield
Chief Marketing and Communications
248-705-4108 | stanfielddd@oakgov.com

Invasive plant removal planned along major Oakland County roadways

Action taken to maintain safe roadways and intersections as well as protect native vegetation

OAKLAND COUNTY, MI – Aug. 19, 2026 – The Road Commission for Oakland County and numerous local governments, working in conjunction with the Oakland County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, will treat the invasive plant varieties knotweed and Phragmites along major Oakland County road right-of-way areas through October 2026.

The work is part of an ongoing effort to manage invasive plant species, prevent infrastructure damage and maintain safe roadways.

“Phragmites grows in wet areas and can reach heights of 15 feet, leading to safety and environmental challenges. It forms dense stands blocking views at intersections, impeding water access, disrupting drainage, damaging infrastructure, crowding out natural habitat and creating the potential for destructive fires if ignited,” said Patrick Canniff, Oakland County Parks Natural Resources Outreach and CISMA Coordinator. “Similarly, knotweed can damage infrastructure such as buildings and roads since it spreads easily once cut.”

Primary, local and rural roads are slated for treatment in the following communities: Addison, Bloomfield, Brandon, Commerce, Groveland, Highland, Holly, Independence, Lyon, Milford, Oakland, Orion, Oxford, Rose, Springfield, Waterford, West Bloomfield and White Lake townships; and Auburn Hills, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Clarkston, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Franklin, Holly, Lake Angelus, Lake Orion, Lathrup Village, Leonard, Madison Heights, Novi, Novi Township, Orchard Lake Village, Ortonville, Pontiac, Rochester, Rochester Hills, South Lyon, Southfield, Troy, Walled Lake, Wixom and Wolverine Lake.

Crews will use approved treatment methods to eliminate the invasive species in accordance with Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy procedures. Residents

and motorists are asked to use caution when traveling through work areas and to not enter treated areas until the spray has completely dried.

In partnership with the Road Commission of Oakland County, Oakland County CISMA treated approximately 172 acres of Phragmites and invasive knotweed in 2025.

Invasive species are organisms that are not native to Michigan. Selected often for their beauty, usage can cause harm to the local economy, environment, wildlife or human health.

“In Oakland County, invasive species can reduce property values, damage infrastructure, create public safety hazards and degrade natural areas,” said Canniff.

Sourcing landscape plants from local nurseries with knowledge of native species can help reduce the spread of invasive species. Property owners are also reminded not to plant or dispose of invasive species in any right-of-way areas along roadways and to report any that they observe causing driving hazards to the RCOC.

For more information on invasive species, visit the [Oakland County CISMA website](#).

About Oakland County Parks

Oakland County Parks offers destination experiences throughout the county by operating or managing 7,632 acres across 19 sites and nearly 100 miles of trails that align with its mission to provide equitable access, conservation, recreation and health and wellness benefits. Additional sites in Troy and Southfield are scheduled to open in 2027.