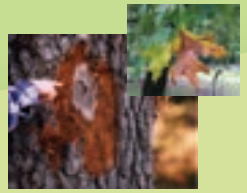
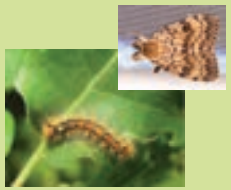
TREE PESTS & DISEASES



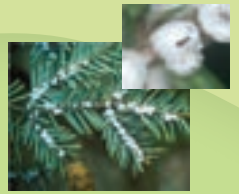
OAK WILT

Oak wilt is a fungal disease that moves through the vascular system of a tree and kills 100% of the red oaks it infects. Tiny beetles spread oak wilt by finding damaged trees and feeding on the sap.



SPONGY MOTH

Spongy moth caterpillars feed on leaves of more than 300 tree species. This invasive pest can heavily or even completely defoliate a tree but does not kill or cause long-term damage to otherwise healthy trees.



HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID

Hemlock woolly adelgid is an aphid-like insect that is deadly to hemlock trees. They form small, white, round masses on the underside of hemlock twigs at the base of the needles.

EMERGING TREE HEALTH CONCERNS

Keep an eye out for these pests and diseases and report if it has been seen (Follow QR code for reporting info).

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

Spotted lanternfly is an invasive pest recently detected in Pontiac. This pest is originally from parts of China and Vietnam and causes damage by feeding on sap from fruit trees, crops, and plants.



ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE

The Asian longhorned beetle is a wood-boring beetle that destroys native hardwood trees such as sugar maples, birches, and poplars. This species has been found in the Eastern U.S. but hasn't yet been detected in Michigan.



BEECH LEAF/BARK DISEASE

Beech Leaf Disease is a threat to American beech trees that is caused by a microscopic worm. These are lethal diseases to beech trees.



TREE TIPS

1. DON'T TRIM OAK TREES DURING THE SUMMER

Trimming your oaks during the summer makes them susceptible to the beetles that spread Oak Wilt. Wait until fall or winter to trim your oak trees.



2. BE CAREFUL RUNNING LAWN MOWERS, WEED WHIPS, OR OTHER EQUIPMENT NEAR TREES

Wounds to trees or their root system can increase the risk of disease.



3. DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD

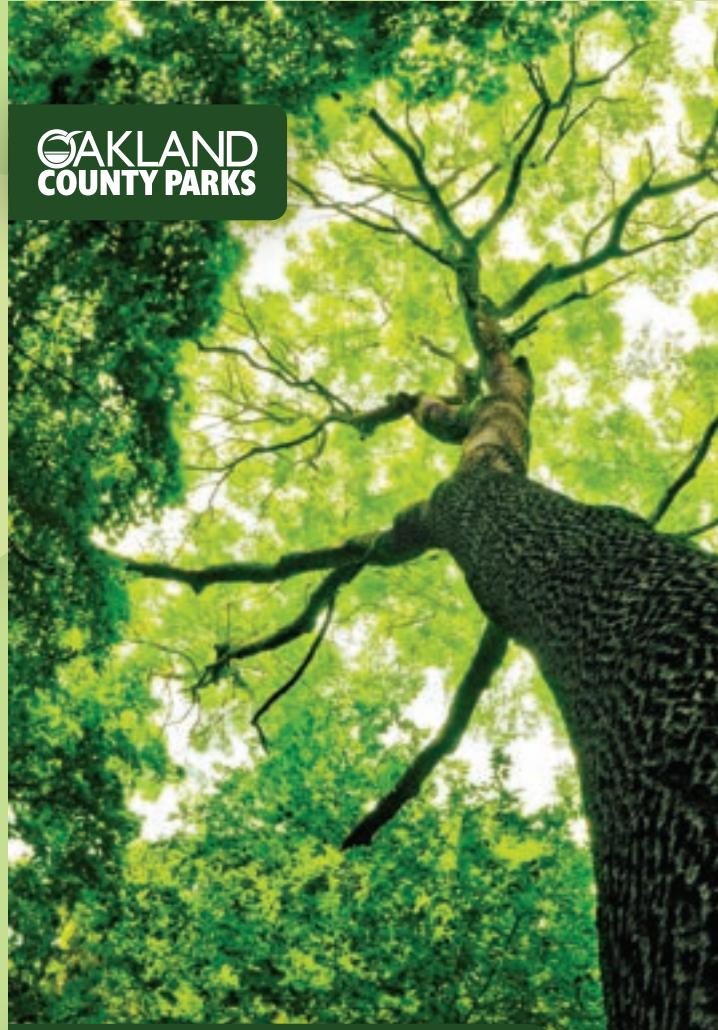
Transporting firewood can lead to the spread of pests, diseases, and invasive species such as spotted lanternfly or Asian longhorned beetle. Refrain from moving any firewood and make sure you burn your wood where you obtain it.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS
OaklandCountyParks.com

Graphic provided by vecteezy.com



OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

OAKLAND COUNTY'S

NATIVE TREES

A Guide to Native Tree Identification & Health

NATIVE TREE IDENTIFICATION



60–75 ft

Red Oak

Red oaks have bright red leaves in the fall and produce white flowers in the spring. These trees can live up to 500 years under optimal conditions.



60–80 ft

Largetooth Aspen

Largetooth aspens have leaves with blunt, saw-like teeth and waxy tops. These trees are a short lived species that usually live around 50 years.



60–80 ft

Shagbark Hickory

The shagbark hickory has a unique “shaggy” bark, that appears to peel off the trunk and is medium gray in color. These trees produce edible nuts that are grown commercially.



60–120 ft

American Basswood

The American basswood has distinctive heart-shaped leaves that aren’t quite symmetrical. These trees produce fragrant clusters of flowers that open in the late spring.



70–80 ft

Black Walnut

Black Walnut has an irregular oval crown, dangling flowers, and clusters of edible nuts. These trees have a spicy odor and their roots secrete a chemical called juglone that can inhibit the growth of plants near them.



80 ft

White Pine

White pine is a type of evergreen that has thin, bluish-green needles that grow in clusters of five. This tree is designated as the official state tree of Michigan.



50–80 ft

Wild Black Cherry

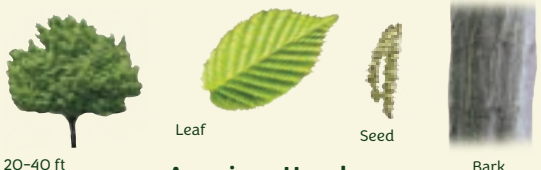
Black cherry trees are hardy and can grow in various habitats. Chemicals in the bark produce a fragrant, bitter almond scent.



70–100 ft

Eastern Cottonwood

Eastern cottonwoods produce unique fluffy seeds that look like cotton. These trees have a blocky, ash-gray bark that is extremely thick.



20–40 ft

American Hornbeam

American hornbeam, also known as blue beech, belongs to the birch family. These trees can survive more than 300 years under optimal conditions.



50–70 ft

American Beech

American beech has a smooth, thin gray bark and oval leaves that come to a tip. Nuts these trees produces are an important part of many animal’s diet.



50–100 ft

White Oak

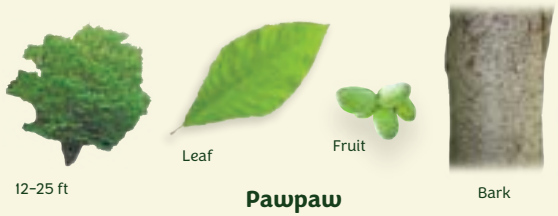
White oaks can be identified by their round-lobed leaves, green clusters of flowers, and small brown acorns. These trees are unique because they grow both male and female flowers.



40–80 ft

Sugar Maple

Sugar maple trees are easily identified by black-green streaks found on the bark that are created when red squirrels bite through the bark in the spring to consume the sap flow.



12–25 ft

Pawpaw

Pawpaw trees often form in colonies. These trees have large, clustered leaves that can grow up to 12” in length and oval-shaped fruits that are about 6” long.



50–75 ft

Tamarack

Tamarack trees have bluish-gray bark that peels off in small pieces. These trees commonly grow in swamps as they prefer moist mineral soils.