

# Our trees. Our community. Our future.

*We are the active stewards of Edgebrook's urban forest*

## OAK-KILLING PATHOGEN FOUND IN CHICAGO

### THE CHICAGO REGIONAL TREE INITIATIVE: TREES FOR 2050

The trees of Edgebrook are our most stately residents, lending an ambience and grandeur to the streets in our area. Our neighborhood was once an oak savanna where these stately giants ruled the land and supported an ecosystem that was dynamic and stable. Today, our oak trees are aging and many are under stress from our homes and activities. Now an oak-killing pathogen that has decimated oak populations in western states has arrived in our city, being found on trees in the greater Chicago area.

Our trees are critical to our community. Mature trees clean our air and water, remove carbon from our atmosphere, reduce flooding, improve property values, create habitat for wildlife, and provide significant social and health benefits. Trees improve our quality of life.

In the past 30 years, many residents have chosen to plant fast growing, smaller trees such as maples, often selected for their bright fall colors and speed of growth. However these maples bring challenges to the home owner and destruction to the forests preserves in our area. Their penchant for reseeding, especially in our soils, result in many, many spring seeds sprouting throughout our landscapes and in the forest preserve, threatening the health of our ecosystem. A good alternative is a relatively fast growing red oak.

If you have established trees on your property, consider having a tree expert inspect them this year. Ensure the newest disease has not infected your trees.

To enhance the tree population in our metropolis, the State of Illinois, the city of Chicago, the Morton Arboretum and the Chicago Botanic Gardens have teamed up in a project to improve our biodiversity and enhance our trees. When you are thinking about adding a new tree or replacing one that has been damaged or died on your property, avoid impulse buying and research recommended alternatives for the TREES FOR 2050 project in the Chicago area at the links below.

Be a steward of the land where you live. Consider planting the fast growing Red Oak, a stately White Oak (Illinois state tree), or a slow growing Burr Oak.

### To Learn more - TREES for 2050 websites:

[Oak pathogen in Chicago](http://chicagorti.org/oak-killing-pathogen-has-been-found-illinois-experts-are-alert) - <http://chicagorti.org/oak-killing-pathogen-has-been-found-illinois-experts-are-alert>

[Chicago Botanic Garden](#): Trees 2050 Program

[Morton Arboretum](#): Trees 2050 program

[Chicago Tree Planting Program](#): PDF on tree options

[Tree planting instructions - Chicago](#)

[Climate changes impact on trees on your Chicago block](#) -

[Pruning Trees](#) - Information on maintaining and pruning your trees