

WHAT DOES THE CITY CODE SAY?

The following is an abridged summary of the Hazardous and Diseased Tree Ordinance.

For a complete copy of City Code 602 go to the Document Center at www.cityofpriorlake.com or call (952) 447-9898.

The City Council has determined the health of oak trees within city limits is threatened by Oak Wilt and the loss of trees growing upon public and private property would substantially depreciate the value of property, impair safety, good order, general welfare and convenience of the public.

The current policy is for the City to inspect trees and if an infected tree is found, it will be marked with a red ring. Residents are then notified through a letter that there are diseased trees on their property.

Any real estate owner in the city who is notified of the existence of diseased trees on his or her property must cut down the tree. If this is not done, the City will remove the diseased tree and the cost of removal will be assessed against the property.



Removing Trees:

Trees infected with Oak Wilt must be removed only between November 1 and January 31.

If the diseased tree is on the boulevard or public right-of-way, the City of Prior Lake will remove the diseased tree.

If the diseased oak is on private property, the homeowner is responsible for 100 percent of the removal and disposal cost for trees on private property.

Homeowners contracting for tree removal must also make sure their contractor removes the tree by the City's deadline and removes the stump.

Our City Parks crew works to preserve our public property trees by disease management, regular tree pruning and replacement planting.

Greg Skluzacek,
Park Maintenance
Foreman

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From the City of Prior Lake Parks Department

**FROM THE PARKS
DEPARTMENT**

**BE AWARE
OF
OAK WILT**



Oak Wilt Detection and Prevention

What is Oak Wilt?

Oak Wilt is a fatal tree disease that threatens many trees in Prior Lake. It is a fungus that invades the tree's water conducting vessels. As the tree tries to protect itself from the invading fungus, it produces substances that plug these vessels, cutting off its water supply and killing the tree.

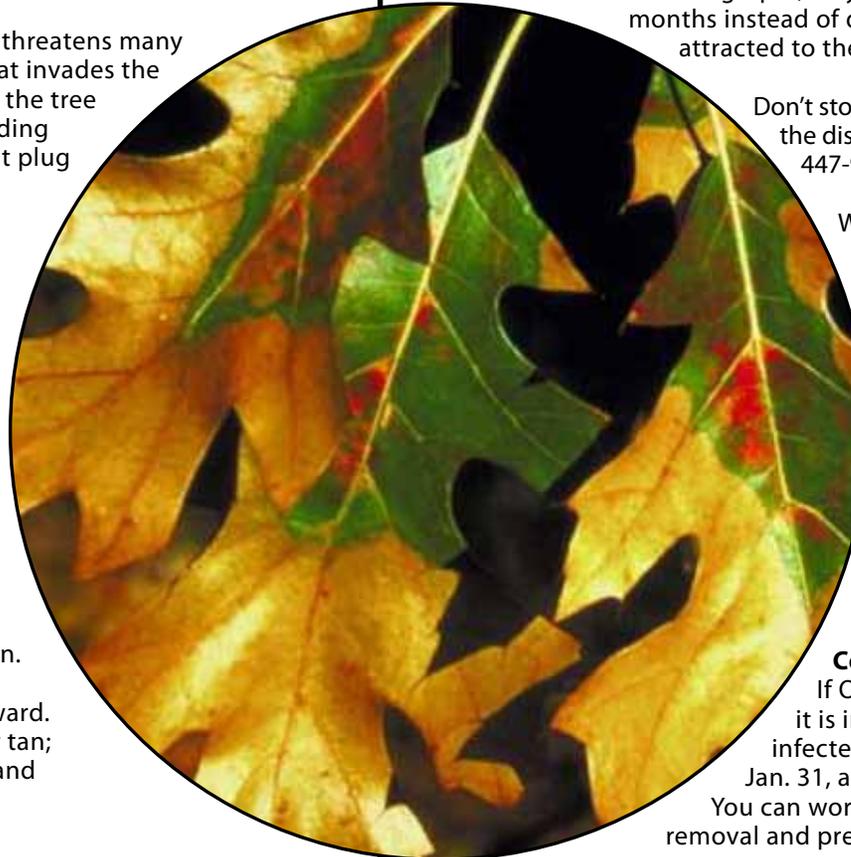
How is it Spread?

Mainly root grafts (interconnected roots among trees) connecting diseased oaks to healthy oaks spread oak wilt. Oak Wilt also is spread when people transport infected wood to uninfected oak stands or when sap-feeding insects fly from an infected oak to a healthy oak.

Visual Symptoms

The primary symptom of Oak Wilt is a wilting of leaves and defoliation. Leaf discoloration begins at the outer leaf edge and progresses inward. Leaves turn a dull green, bronze or tan; eventually, the leaves turn brown and shrivel.

Other symptoms include streaking of the sapwood beneath the bark or the presence of fungal spore mats that split the bark open.



**Parks Department
Hours of Operation:
MONDAY through FRIDAY
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

How You Can Help Prevent The Spread of Oak Wilt:

Prevent New Infections

The most efficient and cost effective means of controlling Oak Wilt is prevention. Avoid tree wounds during the infection period, which means abstaining from pruning oak trees during April, May, and June. Also, trim trees during the winter months instead of during the summer, when insects will not be attracted to the trees.

Don't store oak firewood. It attracts the insects that spread the disease. Call the Park Maintenance Foreman at (952) 447-9898 to report piles of oak wood.

Water all species of trees during prolonged dry periods. Once a week, place a hose on the ground under the outer edges of the branches (drip line), and let it run very slowly for an hour.

Diagnose Infected Trees

Infection is still possible, so know how to diagnose Oak Wilt. Become familiar with the symptoms and the methods for detection.

If you spot a tree with disease symptoms, promptly call the Park Maintenance Foreman at (952) 447-9898. A certified tree inspector will be sent to check the tree.

Control Existing Infected Areas

If Oak Wilt has been diagnosed on your property, it is important to prevent further infection. The infected tree must be removed between Nov. 1 and Jan. 31, and you are urged to plant replacement trees. You can work with a specialist to make any further plans for removal and prevention.

Active tree management is needed because Oak Wilt still threatens our urban forest. But City workers can't do it alone. Your help is needed to ensure that future generations can enjoy the benefits of our urban forest. Please take care of the trees in your yard, report disease symptoms to the City Forester and plant replacement trees.



FROM THE CITY OF PRIOR LAKE PARKS DEPARTMENT