

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Funding available to help with high-priority invasive species, restoration projects**

*Oakland County cities, villages, townships encouraged to apply before Sept. 16 deadline*

**OAKLAND COUNTY – Aug. 19, 2024** – As work continues to remove invasive species throughout Oakland County, local cities, townships, villages and non-profit organizations are encouraged to apply for grant funding available through Oakland County Parks (OCP).

The Community Habitat Improvement Projects (CHIPs) grant program uses best practices to treat high-priority invasive species, restore habitats and improve greenspace, promote stewardship awareness and increase organizational/municipality capacity for natural resource management and research. CHIPs applications will be accepted until Sept. 16.

“Many people are not aware that a hands-off approach for natural areas can promote invasive species,” Oakland County Parks Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Outreach Coordinator Patrick Canniff said. “Natural areas benefit from monitoring and management to keep out invasive species and promote native plants that support healthy ecosystems and processes we depend on. This program provides a low-barrier jump start to support public spaces enrichment, organizational capacity and municipalities to move forward with their natural resource priorities and remove invasive species for the benefit of healthy natural communities for people and wildlife in Oakland County.”

To be eligible for funding, projects must be located in Oakland County. Applications must be sponsored by an Oakland County municipality or submitted by an Oakland County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) member. Municipal applicants do not have to be a member of an Oakland County CISMA to apply.

Past grant projects have supported native plant restoration efforts, invasive species treatments, boot brush stations, raingarden plantings, prescribed burns, research projects and more. They have also funded native plant events, native tree sales and native seed giveaways. More than \$180,000 was allocated for projects in 2024, and approximately \$610,000 has been distributed through this annual program since its initiation in 2022.

These funds are intended to assist with invasive species goals but are not meant to be inclusive of all invasive species-related projects in Oakland County. Communities should strive to allocate dedicated funding to invasive species management and habitat improvement within their own jurisdictions.

Funds are not distributed to recipients. OCP pays contractors directly for services to complete approved projects according to the project applications and budgets. Community projects will be approved by Nov. 1 and publicly announced in February 2025.

For eligibility and additional information about the application process, visit the program page and [apply online](#).

For more information about Oakland County Parks, visit [OaklandCountyParks.com](https://OaklandCountyParks.com). Join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#).