



# HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ▶ Clear out weedy trees and plants to let the sun shine in for oaks.
- ▶ Remove non-native invasive plant species.
- ▶ Plant oak trees in sunny areas on your property.
- ▶ Create a healthy home for trees, plants, birds, and other wildlife.
- ▶ Preserve and care for your oak trees and oak woodlands.
- ▶ Volunteer to plant and care for oak trees.

## OAK REGENERATION RESOURCES

### For more information:






OAK ECOSYSTEMS RECOVERY PLAN  
(chicagowilderness.org)

CHICAGO REGION TREES INITIATIVE  
(chicagorti.org)

THE MORTON ARBORETUM  
(mortonarb.org)

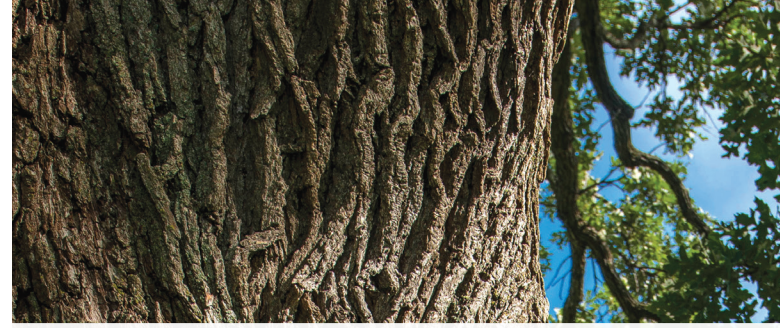
EDDMAPS MIDWEST  
(eddmaps.org)

### Contact us:

-  [crti@mortonarb.org](mailto:crti@mortonarb.org)
-  [chicagorti.org](http://chicagorti.org)
-  630-719-5646
-  @ChicagoRTI
-  ChicagoRTI



4500\_03/17\_PPG © 2017 The Morton Arboretum

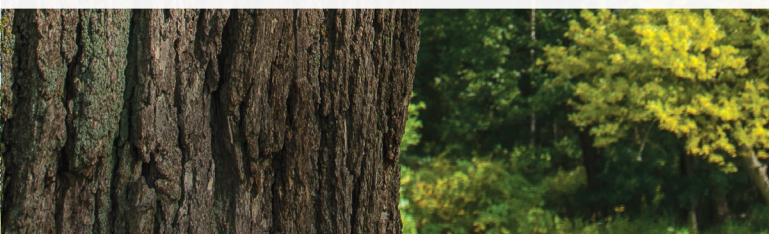
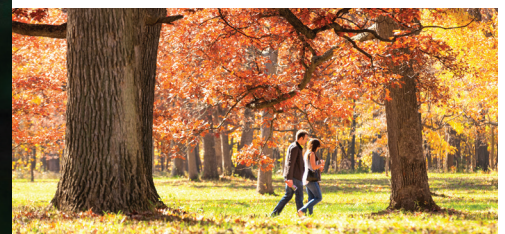


# OAKS NEED YOUR HELP!

HOW HOMEOWNERS, LANDOWNERS, AND INDIVIDUALS CAN CREATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR OAK TREES



CHICAGO REGION TREES INITIATIVE | Our Trees. Our Communities. Our Future.





Oak trees are critical to our landscape. They support more native flowers and wildlife than most other trees. Oaks are key to our natural heritage. Yet today, their future is at risk. By protecting your oaks and planting new ones, you can help oaks have a strong, green, and beautiful tomorrow.

## OAKS ARE IN TROUBLE

The proportion of oaks among our trees has declined to 17% of what it was in the 1830s. As the oak trees we love grow older, younger oaks are not taking root to replace them. Only a few, widely separated oak woodlands are left among the farms and suburbs, making it hard for oaks to support a rich, diverse ecosystem.

## WHY ARE OAKS IMPORTANT TO PEOPLE?

Oak trees help create healthier communities. Trees clean our air by removing air pollution, purify our drinking water and keep us cooler in the summer. Our oak trees can help reduce water pollution, reduce asthma, and improve our overall health.

Oaks support more than 500 species of plants and animals, including butterflies, moths, bees, and birds. Some are rare and endangered species. The 250 species of migratory birds that pass through the Chicago region each year prefer oaks. Virginia bluebells, trout lilies, and trillium abound in healthy oak woodlands. Oaks' shade lowers water temperatures in streams to improve conditions for fish.

### Oaks provide:

- HOMES FOR PLANTS AND ANIMALS
- HEALTHIER SOILS
- IMPROVED MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH
- IMPROVED AIR AND WATER QUALITY
- REDUCED STORMWATER RUNOFF
- INCREASED PROPERTY VALUES

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR OAKS?

### Non-native invasive plants.

In the Chicago region, non-native trees, shrubs, and plants dominate woodlands, outcompeting oak seedlings and other native plants. They change the soil and shade out seedlings. These invasive plants include:

- EUROPEAN BUCKTHORN
- AMUR HONEYSUCKLE
- GARLIC MUSTARD



### Lack of sunlight.

Oaks need full sun to reproduce and grow. They don't grow well in dense shade, such as in woods dominated by invasive trees or by maples.

### Isolated, vulnerable woodlands.

After nearly 200 years of development, only small patches of land with oak ecosystems are left in the region. These isolated oak woodlands need extra protection from invasive plants and other threats.

### We need more young trees.

Most of the oaks we have are old, making them vulnerable to drought and disease. There are few middle-aged oaks or oak seedlings.

### Disease.

A number of diseases are spreading among oaks in the United States, including oak wilt, sudden oak death, and bur oak blight.

