

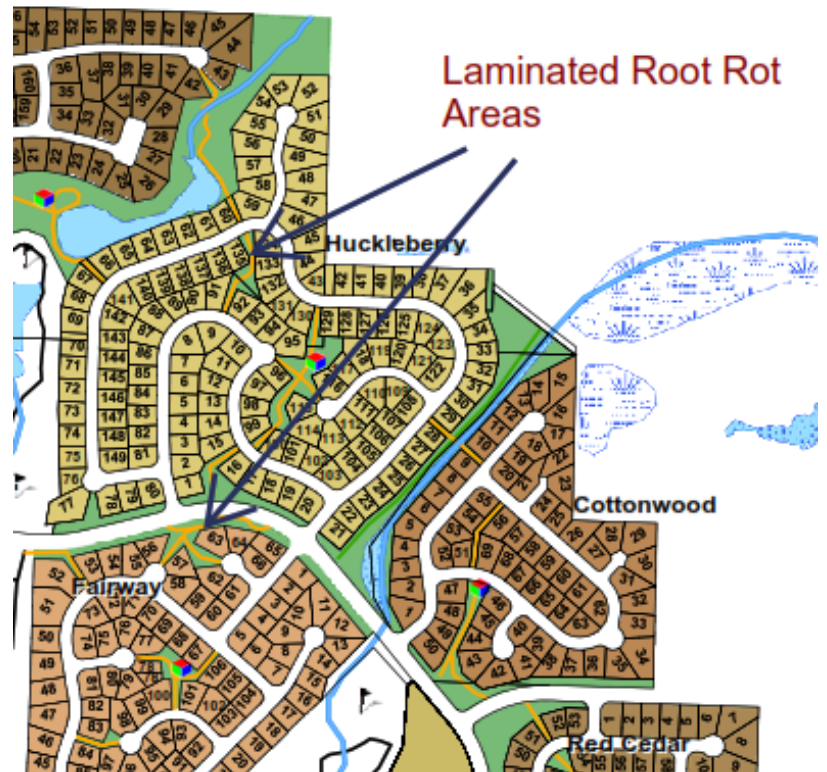
Planned Tree Work—Laminated Root Rot Mitigation

We had several trees fall during the November 2022 wind storm. After the storm, I went out with arborist Sal Noeldner (ISA Certified and TRAQ Certified) to determine why these trees failed. Sal took root samples and sent them to a lab at Oregon State University for analysis. The test results indicated that two Douglas Fir trees, in two different areas were infected with Laminated Root Rot (LRR) which caused them to fail in the wind storm. Unfortunately, Douglas Fir trees are highly susceptible to LRR. The disease spreads from tree to tree through root to root contact and is able to remain in an area for decades where there are host trees and stumps (DecAID. (n.d.) Laminated Root Rot. https://apps.fs.usda.gov/r6_decaid/views/laminated_root_rot.html). LRR increases the potential for tree failure, and in areas surrounded by homes and paths, this is a safety issue.

To save other trees in the area and to prevent the further spread of LRR, MCCA will follow the mitigation plan presented by Sal Noeldner. We will start removing trees within a 50 foot radius of trees infected with LRR. This will be a huge project and will for a long time change the look of some of our forested areas.

The two areas with tree failure due to LRR are shown with arrows on the picture below. MCCA will work on mitigation projects in both these areas. The mitigation steps our arborist has prescribed are:

1. Mark off the 50 foot cut radius.
2. Get bids for removal of fir trees within the 50 foot cut radius (Douglas Fir, Hemlock, Spruce, Grand Fir, Noble Fir, etc.). Western Red Cedars growing in the area may remain as their strong outer wall makes them less susceptible to heart rot decay.
3. Remove trees and debris but leave stumps. Removing stumps and roots would disturb too much of the forest floor destroying any remaining vegetation.
4. Have the arborist inspect stumps within a week of tree removal.
5. If more LRR stumps are found, broaden cut radius.
6. In fall, begin replanting cut area. Suggested trees include Western Red Cedar, Shore Pine, Juniper, Pacific Dogwood, Maples, Madrona, Oregon White Oak, California Laurel.



7. Arborist returns at 6 month intervals to monitor area for signs of LRR infection.

The trees selected for replanting were recommended by our arborist because they are not good hosts for LRR. With the arborists guidance, we may also include some non-natives as many of our native trees are struggling with our hotter, drier summers. Our plan is to remove the trees this spring, and then return to the area to plant in the fall.

Mitigating LRR will be costly, time consuming, and a huge visual change for MCCA. However, we must take these steps to give the rest of our forested areas the best chance for survival.

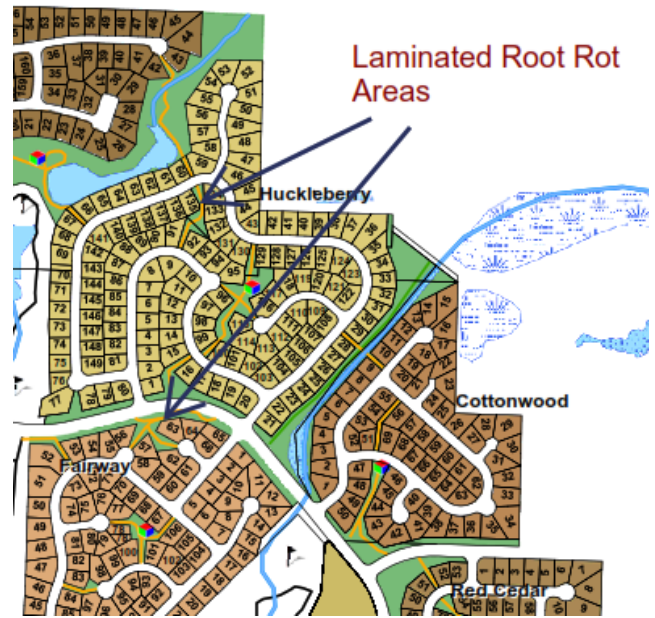
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Laminated Root Rot Mitigation—Update

Please read the [February 2023 MillStream](#) for information on the laminated root rot (LRR) mitigation projects we are working on in MCCA.

We completed removal work in the Huckleberry LRR area and on April 10 we plan to begin work on the Fairway LRR area. The sidewalk on the south side of Village Green drive, west of the Fairway entrance, will be closed for a week. We will re-route foot traffic to the sidewalk on the north side of Village Green Drive which runs along Huckleberry. We will have signs and flaggers in the area while crews are working, please follow their instructions.

As a reminder, our plan is to remove LRR affected trees this spring, and then return to the area to plant in the fall when the rains resume and we hope the rains return in October. We will replant with trees that are resistant to LRR and are working with our arborist, Sal Noeldner, ISA and TRAQ certified, on tree selections.



MCCA Wildlife

Jason, one of our MCCA Security drivers, has a great eye for detail. He was able to capture a photo of this owl near the Winslow entrance in late March. We are fortunate to be able to see so much wildlife here in Mill Creek!

Please remember that it is always best to leave the wild animals alone and give them a wide buffer. They are unpredictable and may feel that you are provoking them as you move in to get a closer look.

It is also a good idea to avoid feeding wild animals. Our squirrels, ducks, geese, etc. do not do well with human food. Plus, any food you leave for these animals will also attract rats and other undesirable critters to your neighborhood. The MCCA office staff have heard many stories of residents who are forced to spend lots of money to repair chewed wires and insulation when squirrels and rats have entered their homes.

Let's all do our part to keep our wildlife healthy and ensure we do not attract rats and squirrels to the area by not feeding the wildlife, no matter how well-meaning we are. Our wildlife will stay healthiest when left to eat their normal diet.