

The Chinquapin

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Fall 2025

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

NATURE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Membership for the 2025/26 season begins now and ends at the end of August, 2026. Please check to see if you owe membership dues for the 2025/26 season or not. If you receive a hard copy of the newsletter, check the address label to see if you need to renew. If you receive an electronic copy of the newsletter, check the email subject line to see if you need to renew.

General Membership is free. You get Nature Society schedule updates e-mailed to you at least once a month.

Supporting Membership is \$10 and up per year. You get Nature Society schedule updates e-mailed to you at least once a month plus our newsletter emailed or mailed to your household quarterly. You will also be listed in our newsletter as a Nature Society Supporting Member.

Patron Membership is \$50 and up per year. You get the Supporting Membership benefits listed above, plus two free tickets to our annual fundraiser, and an invitation to our "Day Before the Dream Cruise Picnic" at Gunn Dyer Park. You will also be listed in our newsletter as a Nature Society Patron Member.

To be Supporting or Patron member:

1. If paying by check, please fill out a membership form

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Fred A. Erb Arboretum Grant- Over 100 Trees Planted

by Bob Muller

The Fred and Barbara Erb Foundation approached the City of Royal Oak in 2022 asking if 100 trees could be planted in memory of Fred Erb who would have been 100 years old in 2023. The Arboretum being developed by the Royal Oak Nature Society was a perfect match and Royal Oak received a \$250,000 grant. In 2023 we managed to find and plant 21 trees and in 2024 we planted 44 more. These trees were listed in our Winter 2024/2025 newsletter. This spring and summer we finally achieved this goal plus a few extra. In total, we have purchased and planted 107 trees using this grant money. Please click on the following link to see where they have been planted: <https://www.romi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/40515/Arb-Plants-Area-1-7-June-2025>. Below is a list of the 42 trees planted this year and a photo of one of these 107 trees being planted & caged. The cages are necessary to keep the deer from chewing on the new trees.

Pignut Hickory-*Carya glabra* (2)
White Oak-*Quercus alba* (3)
Hills Oak-*Quercus ellipsoidalis* (2)
Swamp White Oak-*Quercus bicolor* (1)
Willow Oaks-*Quercus phellos* (2)
Dwarf Hackberry-*Celtis tenuifolia* (2)
Mountain Maple-*Acer spicatum* (4)
Striped Maple *Acer-pennsylvanicum* (2)
American Chestnut-*Castanea dentata* (2)
Redbud-*Cercus canadensis* (6)
American Plum-*Prunus americana* (4)
Flowering Dogwood *Cornus florida* (4)
White Pine-*Pines strobus* (1)
Colorado Blue Spruce-*Picea pungens* (1)
Butternut-*Juglans cinerea* (2)
Tuliptree-*Liriodendron tulipifera* (2)
Cucumber Magnolia-*Magnolia acuminata* (2)



Fred A. Erb Arboretum Boundaries

by Bob Muller

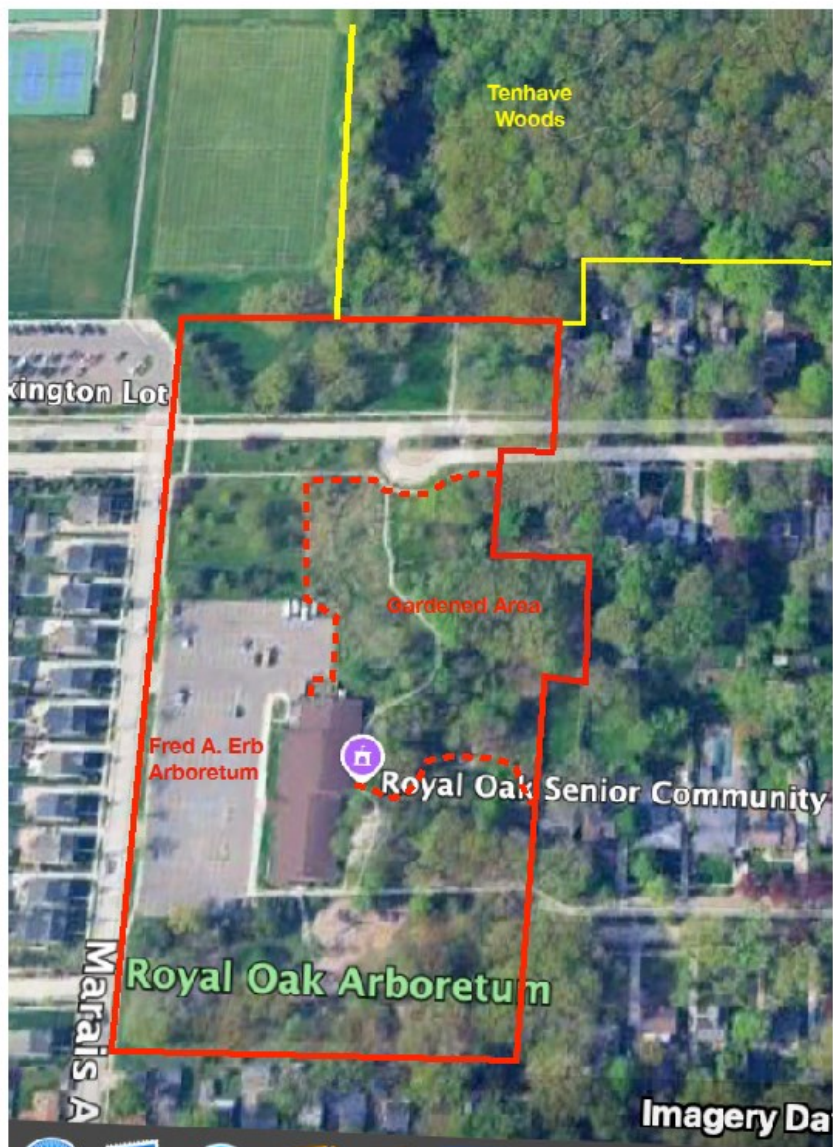
The Park surrounding the Royal Oak Senior Community Center was known as the Royal Oak Arboretum. With a generous grant from the Fred and Barbara Erb Foundation, the Royal Oak Arboretum became the Fred A. Erb Arboretum.

Royal Oak Arboretum's northern boundary ended at Lexington Boulevard. The Fred A. Erb Arboretum has grown beyond that border.

Quickstad Park is north of Lexington Boulevard and continues up to Normandy Road. Quickstad contains Tenhave Woods. The area in Quickstad Park north of Lexington and up to the south fence of Tenhave Woods is now part of the Fred A. Erb Arboretum.

With the assistance of the additional land, our goal to having a collection of all 88 of Michigan's native trees jumped with the addition of 17 species purchased through the grant.

To your right is a map showing the boundaries of the Fred A. Erb Arboretum. The area marked Gardening Area is where we have actively planted native trees, shrubs and wildflowers and this will continue to be done in this area. The others areas have many native tree planted but remain having a lawn around them.



(Continued from page 1)

(see p.5 for the form & instructions) and mail it along with a check to the Royal Oak Nature Society.

2. If paying with a credit/debit card or PayPal, please fill out this [MEMBERSHIP FORM](#) and follow the instructions. Type the word "membership" on the payment form where it says, "Add special instructions to the seller."

Please list other household members you want included as Nature Society members (no extra cost).

Through your donation (tax deductible), you will be helping to cover the costs to produce our newsletter and will also be assisting in funding educational programs that we provide.

If you only want to be a General Member, please e-mail us the information asked for on our membership form (see p.5) and send that information to: naturesociety@romi.gov.

Through your donation (tax deductible), you will be helping to cover the costs to produce our newsletter and will also be assisting in funding educational programs that we provide.

For those who choose not to continue being members, you are still welcome to come to our monthly speaker programs as well as our nature walks. Those programs and walks are, and always will be, free to anyone who enjoys learning about nature

SPEAKER PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE

REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED

*Our speaker programs are usually Power Point presentations focusing on various natural history topics. If you watch nature programs on PBS or the Discovery Channel, this is better because you can meet with the speakers afterwards and ask questions. Our current speaker programs are being held at the **Royal Oak Historical Museum** (1411 W. Webster, just west of Crooks), and begin at **7:00 pm**. Presently, there are no Nature Society speaker programs scheduled. As they become scheduled, a notice will be put on our website.*

President's Report

by Bob Muller

This has been a great year for the Royal Oak Nature Society. The hard surface trails we have been trying to get for a decade at the arboretum are in and now there are many more people walking through it.

We have accomplished the planting of 100 trees in honor of Fred A. Erb. The Fred A. Erb Arboretum is very different from our nature parks. It is a botanical garden and therefore takes constant gardening. Our dedicated Tuesday morning Arb crew continues to try and keep up with what is needed in the Arb.

The new shed the Erb Grant provided is fantastic. It's large enough that on a day that it rained we were able to build deer tree cages inside it.

We have started volunteer Saturdays that meet once a month. Up to dozen volunteers show up and in a couple of hours, we accomplish things that would take the Tuesday crew more than a month to do.

With the planting of the 100 trees, we learned the deer can destroy them very quickly if we do not get cages

around them. We now have enough materials in stock so that we can build cages and install them faster than the deer can damage the trees.

One of things we have been thinking about is the addition of a Chimney Swift Tower, a structure a Chimney Swift uses for nesting, which would be a good Eagle Scout Project.

We did not manage to get the deer out of Tenhave Woods last winter so we will be working hard to accomplish that this winter.

The Nature Society agreed to allow the Royal Oak High School Cross Country team to have their course go through Tenhave Woods. We felt that allowing this would be another way for another group of people to feel an "ownership" of the park. More of the public valuing Tenhave Woods adds to its protection. This October the Michigan High School Athletic Association Cross Country Regional Championship, will be held running through Tenhave Woods.

ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY FRIENDS OF FUNGI

Royal Oak Nature Society Friends of Fungi is a group that promotes the understanding of, and an appreciation for fungi in general and those fungi found in Tenhave, Cummingston, and other local urban woods. This group is open to anyone who wants to learn more about fungi which also includes mushrooms. Meetings are scheduled for the winter. There is usually a specific topic that is being talked about at each of these meetings. Mary Fredricks heads this group. Check out the Nature Society's website for more information. In addition, the Friends of Fungi sponsors fungi walks from April through October on the fourth Saturday of each month at 10 am. Everyone is welcome. There is no cost for our walks and programs and registration is not required.

A Friends of Fungi program, "**Ascomycota Fungi of Michigan**," will be held on Thursday, **November 13th**, beginning at **7:00 pm** at the **Royal Oak Historical Museum**. Join Lorenzo Piccolo and hear him talk about ascomycetes, especially those found in Michigan. Ascomycetes are fungi that produce their spores in asci. An ascus is a capsule shaped like a sac, club, or balloon. Morels are ascomycetes. He is planning to have samples of various fungi on display. Everyone is invited. There is no cost and registration is not required.

NATURE WALKS/PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE

REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED

Normally, there is at least one naturalist lead walk per month with additional ones added during the spring wildflower and fall color seasons. An emphasis is put on understanding the different forest types found in our parks. Further information is given on individual plant and animal species, geology and human history of the area. Wearing boots is recommended in the winter and spring months. Using insect repellent and dressing appropriately is advised from late spring to the end of summer. Park locations:

CUMMINGSTON PARK: *Cummingston Park is just east of the Royal Oak Meijer store. Park and meet at Leafdale & Torquay.*

TENHAVE WOODS: *Tenhave Woods is just east of Royal Oak High School. Park in the Marais/Lexington lot or at the Senior/Community Center. Meet at the Lexington entrance (300 feet east of Marais).*

FRED A. ERB ARBORETUM: *Park and meet on the north side of the Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais) lot.*

“Tenhave Forest Walk” is being held on Saturday, **September 20th** beginning at **2:00 pm**. Tenhave is a combination of a beech-maple, oak & swamp forests whereas Cummingston is mostly a mature oak forest.

“Mushroom Walks” take place on Saturdays and begin at **10:00 am**. They will be held at:
Tenhave Woods on **September 27th**
Cummingston Park on **October 25th**

Mary Fredricks, a member and botanist/mycologist of the Royal Oak Nature Society, will lead the walks. Anyone with an interest in learning more about mushrooms and other fungi of the urban woods is welcome

“Fall Color Walks” take place on Sundays beginning at **2:00 pm**. They will be held at:
Cummingston Park on **October 5th**
Tenhave Woods on **October 12th**
Cummingston Park on **October 19th**
Tenhave Woods on **October 26th**

This is the most beautiful time of the year to take a look at our two nature parks, Cummingston Park and Tenhave Woods.

A **“Geology Walk”** will be held on Sunday, **November 16th**, at **Tenhave Woods** beginning at **2:00 pm**. What did this area look like thousands and millions of years ago? Why is Royal Oak so flat or is it?



Nature Society's 2025 Fundraiser Business Sponsors



Corporate Sponsor



Tree First
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Royal Oak Nature Society Membership Form

Please make check payable to:
Royal Oak Nature Society

Mail completed form & check to:
Royal Oak Nature Society
1600 N. Campbell Rd.
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

1 year Household Membership (September-August)

- ☐ General (free)
- ☐ Supporting (\$10 & up)
- ☐ Patron (\$50 & up)

Receive newsletter by:
☐ Regular mail OR
☐ E-mail

Payment amount \$ _____ Date _____

NATURE SOCIETY GROUPS

Please contact us if you would like to become actively involved with one or more of the following groups:

Communications: Publicizes organizational activities to the general membership and public through various mediums and performs any other forms of communications required by the board including publishing our quarterly newsletter.

Education: Provides outreach and liaison to outside individuals, groups and schools to promote environmental education.

Fundraising: Is responsible for our fund-raising efforts including our annual fundraiser normally held in April.

Programming: Is responsible for setting up the speaker programs, workshops and all of the nature programs within Cummington Park, Tenhave Woods and the arboretum.

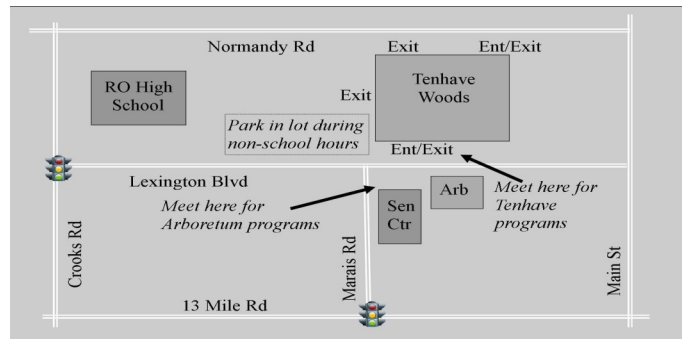
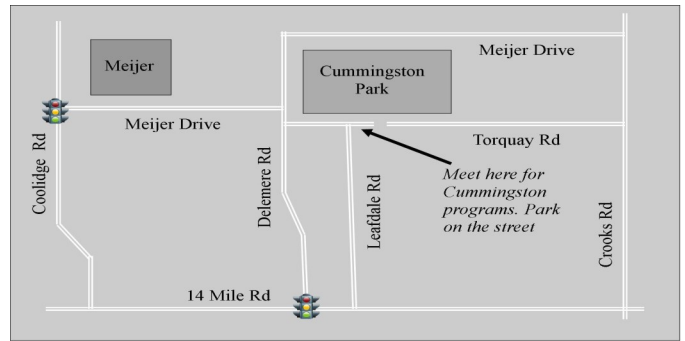
Stewardship: Maintains a trail system and enhances the overall park experience at Tenhave Woods, Cummington Park and the Fred A. Erb Arboretum.

Ways & Means: Investigates means of grant solicitation and then follows through accordingly.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President & Programs: Bob Muller
 Vice President & Communication: Ted Vickers
 Recording Secretary: Alyssa Beavers
 Stewardship- Tenhave Woods & Fred A. Erb Arboretum:
 Jack Novak & Jeremiah Sandler
 Stewardship-Cummington: Mary Fredricks
 At-large- Nancy Vickers, Helen Cost, Robert Schneider
 Scout Representative: Richard Stoll

Cummington Park, Tenhave Woods, and the Arboretum



To locate and print out Tenhave Woods & Cummington Park trail maps, please go to our web site (listed below under our tree logo), link on to "Park Locations" and then "Map for park trail locations"

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The Royal Oak Nature Society is a nonprofit education and stewardship group working within the city of Royal Oak's two nature parks, Tenhave Woods and Cummington Park. Our mission is to foster awareness and usage of these two natural areas. We accomplish this by providing stewardship for the continuing improvement and maintenance of them. In addition, we are in the process of developing an arboretum in Worden Park East. We also offer a wide range of natural history educational programs for children and adults.

The Royal Oak Nature Society
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www.romi.gov/nature



FIRST
 CLASS MAIL