

Dear Mackinac Island Homeowners,

The Mackinac Island Community Foundation is announcing a Residential Removal Initiative to help homeowners get rid of Norway Maple trees, one of the most threatening invasive and non-native species on Mackinac Island.

As you may remember from our presentation at the Library last summer and articles in the Town Crier, the non-native Norway Maples grow rapidly and multiply profusely, shading and crowding out our native plants, trees and wildflowers. Norways tend to be brittle and easily break in windstorms, with the capacity to cause much damage and potential injury. They are taking over our forests, open areas and bluffs, changing the look and character of the Island.

After many years of scientific study and mapping by Michigan Tech, the MICF Environmental and Natural Resources Board of Advisors has formulated the attached plan to facilitate the removal of these trees. Mackinac Island Carriage Tours has generously offered assistance in hauling away residual Norway Maple debris.

Please read the attached Removal Initiative carefully. If you would like to participate in this program, or if you have questions, call the Community Foundation office at 906.847.3701 or send an email inquiry to: info@micf.org.

By working together now, we can protect the beauty of our Island for generations to come.

NORWAY MAPLE RESIDENTIAL REMOVAL INITIATIVE

The Environmental and Natural Resources Board of Advisors of the Mackinac Island Community Foundation (MICF) has instituted an initiative to assist homeowners in eradicating Norway Maple trees on Mackinac Island.

WHY DO WE NEED THIS?

If not stopped now, this invasive and wildly proliferating species of Maple will take over our forests, crowding out native trees and wildflowers. This will affect the natural beauty of the Island. In addition, once they reach a large size, Norway Maples become very unstable in windstorms, fragile and prone to splitting and breaking, potentially causing damage to nearby structures.

WHAT CAN HOMEOWNERS DO?

1. Contact the Mackinac Island Community Foundation at info@micf.org or call 906.847.3701 to participate in the initiative and request an on-site visit to identify and mark the Norway Maples. This is best done when the trees are leafed out.
2. Call a reputable, licensed and insured tree cutter, such as Rickley's Mackinac Axe, to cut the tree(s) and treat the stump(s) with a solution of 40% glyphosate to prevent re-growth (required within 20 minutes of cutting).
3. If a homeowner wants to have the stump(s) ground, this must be done after one year from the tree-cutting to prevent re-growth. If the stump is in a lawn that is regularly mowed, the stump can be ground immediately.

4. If the homeowner does not want the residual Norway Maple logs for firewood, logs can be stacked by the tree service in an easily accessible place, to be determined by homeowner, so the logs can be utilized by other community members for firewood.
5. If the homeowner wishes to have Norway Maple debris (including stumps, logs, branches or chips) removed, the Natural Resources Preservation Fund of MICF has arranged with Mackinac Island Service Company to haul away the Norway Maple debris at no cost to homeowner.

WHO PAYS WHAT?

Homeowner is responsible for paying:

1. Having the tree(s) cut and treated with 40% glyphosate solution
2. Grinding the stump(s) if so desired
3. Chipping of Norway Maple debris and branches, if desired

Mackinac Island Community Foundation will arrange for free removal of only Norway Maple debris by Mackinac Island Service Company. **Homeowners must contact MICF prior to the tree cutting and to participate in the initiative.**

****To qualify for free hauling away of Norway Maple debris, Norway Maple trees must be removed by following the steps above. Mackinac Island Community Foundation, the tree cutter and Mackinac Island Service Company will coordinate the removal and dray hauling.**

Note: The Environmental and Natural Resources Board of Advisors and Mackinac Island Community Foundation are not liable or responsible for any personal or property damage and/or misuse of chemical compounds related to this initiative and shall be held harmless for same.

