



# City of Burnsville

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Natural Resources

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## **INFORMATION SOUGHT ON TREE VANDALISM IN TERRACE OAKS PARK**

In the last week, City of Burnsville Natural Resources staff have discovered at least four black cherry trees that have been vandalized in Burnsville's Terrace Oaks Park.

The trees, some up to 37 inches in diameter, were "girdled" – meaning rings of bark were stripped from around the entire tree (photos below). Girdling kills trees by severing the tissues in the bark that transport sugar and water. Once a tree has been girdled, it can take a year or more to die.

"While the damage was just discovered recently, it's likely that it could have happened months ago," said Burnsville Natural Resources Specialist Caleb Ashling. "We do know that the damage was very intentional and it was not done as a part of any invasive species control or savanna restoration taking place in the park."

The Burnsville Police Department has opened an investigation of the incident. At this time, it is unclear whether this was a random act of vandalism or if the perpetrator(s) had a specific motive.

Lebanon Hills Regional Park in Eagan experienced similar damage to black cherry trees last winter.

*Anyone with information regarding this incident, or who observes similar tree damage should contact the Burnsville Police Department at 952-895-4609.*

**Cutline:**

Burnsville Forester  
Dave Grommesch  
inspects girdled trees  
in Terrace Oaks Park.

Anyone with  
information is asked  
to call the Burnsville  
Police Department at  
952-895-4609.



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