Vine Management

Guidelines

- Taken from the Kalamazoo Nature Center (KNC) report, invasive will be defined as "species that 'grow beyond their means' and displace native species and disrupt native or natural communities. These are often non-native (exotic) species, but sometimes are native species responding to an unnatural alteration of a native ecosystem."
- Vine management will require flexibility and judgment - no single rule will adequately cover all situations.
- Management should focus on a wider system approach rather than a simple species approach with the goal of maintaining/restoring balance, safeguarding native or high-value plants, maintaining/enhancing biodiversity, and maintaining wildlife habitat.
- Factors that should be considered during evaluation of a site:
    - Surrounding vegetation and landscaping
    - Intensity of spread and impact on the area
    - Intended use of the area
    - Overall plan for the area
    - Degree of control desired
    - Vines involved, pros and cons
    - Replanting of new plants
- Total removal of native vines from natural areas is not supported except where removal is part of a designed plan which includes replanting of the affected area. Native vines should be monitored and trimmed back as needed.
- Areas disrupted by the removal of non-native species should be replanted, preferably with native species.

Maintenance procedures

Several methods can be used to control and manage vine populations. If the growth area is small or has already been brought to a maintenance level, manual trimming near the base of the plant or higher may be sufficient to reduce growth to a desirable level for an extended time. If removal is needed, hand pulling and/or digging is also an option.

For larger areas, where vines have reached an invasive level, or where vines have grown into the tree canopies, the following procedure should be used:

1. Each vine should be cut at ground level and as high as can be reached while standing on the ground
2. Treat each stump with a dobber or brush of herbicide containing glyphosate or another active ingredient that will be effective.
3. Leave the remains of the cut vines in the tree to prevent damage to the tree. The vines will decay in the trees over several years and fall off.

Disposal

Disposal of cut vines depends on the species, volume, and location. Species which regenerate from cuttings or present a risk to humans or wildlife should be removed from the site and disposed of appropriately. Large volumes of cuttings may be removed in total or in part. If left on site, cuttings should be scattered over an extended area so as not to create unsightly debris or brush pile "dead zones".

Reporting

Any member of the Parkview Hills Community Association may contact the management company directly by phone, letter, or e-mail to report a problem.

KNC Identified Vines
Pros and Cons Table

	Poison Ivy	Grape Vine	Virginia Creeper	Japanese Honey-suckle	Oriental Bitter-sweet
Native to Michigan	v	v	v		
Provides food and habitat for wildlife	v	v	v		
Adds decorative value	All of these vines may be considered decorative depending on personal tastes				
Creates allergic reactions	v				
Shading prevents trees from receiving sunlight	v	v	v	v	v
Weakens trees by taking nutrients that would otherwise go to the tree	v	v	v	v	v
Weight of growing vine may damage tree	v	v	v	v	v
Strangles or chokes trees as it climbs				v	v
Provides low quality nutritional value or food for wildlife				v	v