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**Meeting Date:** May 4, 2026  
**Department:** Community Services  
**Report No.:** CS-2026-21  
**Submitted by:** Darren Dowding, Community Services Operations Manager  
**Approved by:** Rob Lilbourne, Director of Community and Development Services

**SUBJECT:** Southgrove Park, Hazard Tree Removals

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**RECOMMENDATION: THAT:** Council provide staff direction to proceed with the recommended removals and site remediation.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

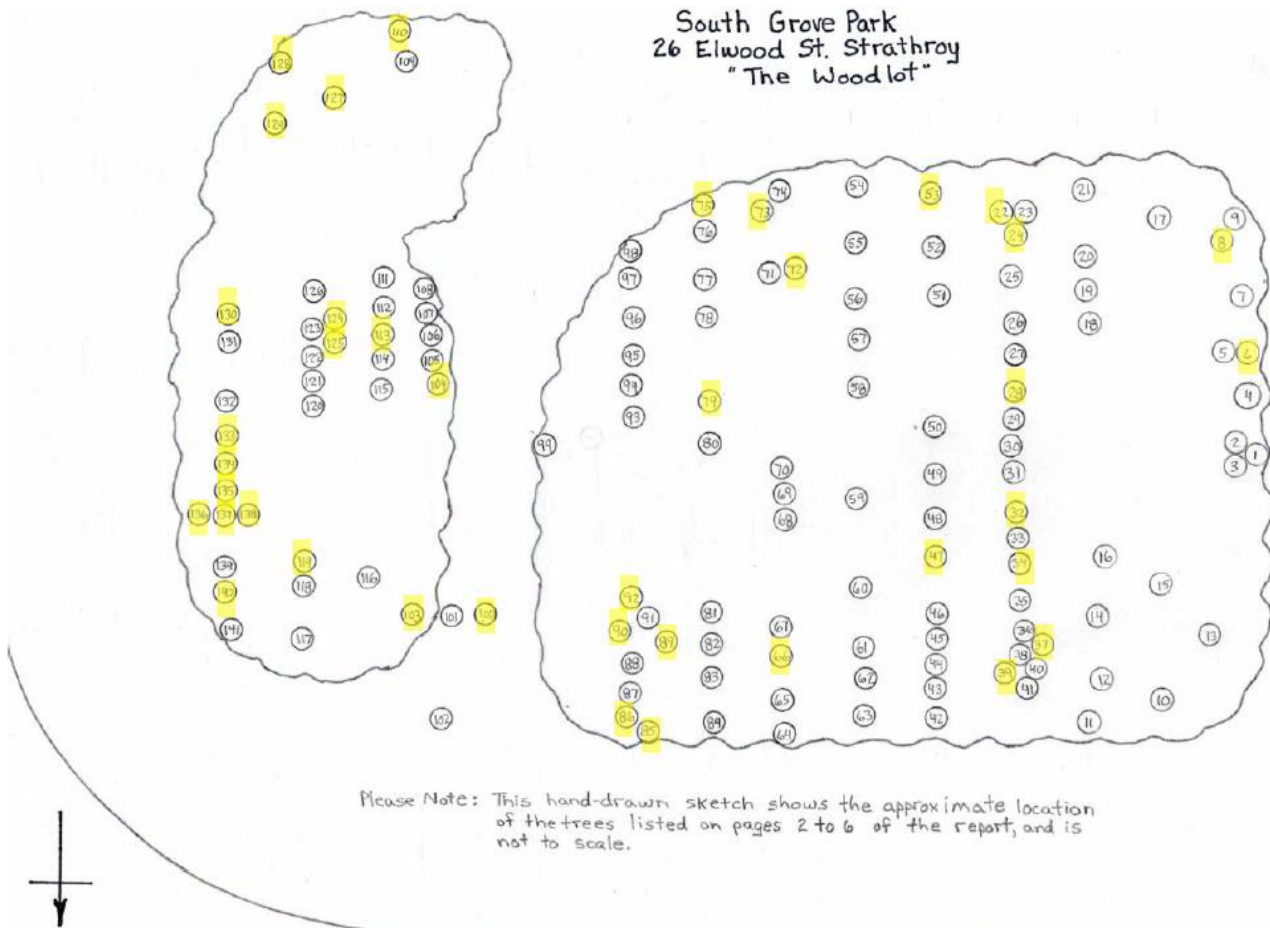
In 2025, Southgrove Park was approved, with the construction of the Park and Pathway system throughout occurring in early 2026. In the North East corner of the property remains a woodlot consisting of a wide variety of trees, which were once part of a larger woodlot before development. As a result of the removal of a substantial number of exterior supporting trees during development, hazard trees have been identified within the remaining woodlot. The potential for removals was communicated by Staff to residents during the Community Engagement sessions. The Municipality has engaged Ian Johnston, a Certified Arborist, to complete a full assessment of the treed lot in the NE corner of the property.

#### **COMMENTS:**

The attached report contains detailed observations and recommendations. A summary of the report as follows;

A total of **141** trees and partial trees were assessed within the woodlot. These represent the larger and more significant specimens. Numerous smaller trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation are present throughout the site, but were not individually assessed, with the exception of select desirable native species identified on-site with pink flagging tape. These flagged specimens are included in the total tree count. Trees to be removed highlighted in yellow.

South Grove Park  
26 Elwood St. Strathroy  
"The Woodlot"



The woodlot is predominantly comprised of a former plantation of Red Pine and Scots Pine, estimated to be approximately 50 years old and averaging 18 metres in height, classifying them as semi-mature. Approximately 95% of the coniferous canopy is Red Pine. Both species exhibit good wind firmness due to relatively deep and wide-spreading root systems.

A total of **41** trees (or portions thereof) have been identified for removal and were marked with white paint at the base. These range in size from small understory growth to mature trees.

Each tree was evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Tree health
- Structural integrity
- Potential hazard risk
- Available growing space
- Presence of invasive species

A significant infestation of Poison Ivy exists throughout the woodlot, primarily as climbing vines on tree trunks and ground cover. Recommended actions are as follows:

- Sever vines at ground level

- Remove vine material up to safe contact height
- Implement a multi-year herbicide treatment program (e.g., glyphosate-based applications such as Roundup) to control regrowth
- Monitor and treat new growth from both roots and seeds

Wood lot cleanup will also be necessary due to a large amount of deadfall, construction materials and tree stumps.

A tree replacement plan was also noted in the overall project. Planting of native trees throughout the Park lot will occur in the Fall of 2026. Tree varieties, and exact locations have not yet been determined.

### **CONSULTATION:**

Ian Johnston, Certified Arborist

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Cost of associated work will be applied to the Tree budget line in the Community Services Operating budget.

### **ALTERNATIVE(S) TO THE RECOMMENDATION:**

1. (Alternative, if any)
2. Council to provide alternate direction.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

Residents of all ages in Strathroy-Caradoc will have access to community amenities and activities that are accessible and support active lifestyles and wellbeing.

Households and businesses in Strathroy-Caradoc will be supported by reliable, financially responsible, and well-maintained infrastructure networks.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Arborist Report – Ian Johnston