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Arborist Report

April 16, 2026

Client: Community Services Department
Parks and Recreation Facilities
Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc

Assessment Location: South Grove Park
26 Elwood Street
Strathroy, Ontario

Objective: Assess the Remanent Trees of a Former Tree Plantation, for Hazards and Longevity, and Provide Recommendations for Future Tree Planting

Introduction

On Wednesday, April 15, 2026, I paid a visit to South Grove Park, in Strathroy, to assess the condition of the current tree population. It is comprised of mostly coniferous species, namely, tall, semi-mature Red Pines, and a few similarly aged Scots Pines. There are various species of deciduous volunteer growth that have taken up residence among the Pines. The majority of the conifers are healthy, with good structure.

Observations with Comments and Recommendations

One hundred and forty-one trees or part-trees were assessed, these being the larger and/or significant tree species within the woodlot.
There are many small trees and shrubs, as well as herbaceous undergrowth growing throughout the woodlot; these generally were not assessed individually, so are not included in the 141 trees. The exception to this is small, desirable native species that were identified on site with pink flagging tape tied to them. These desirable small trees are included in the 141-tree count.
The remaining trees of the original plantation of Red and Scots Pines, are likely in the region of 50 years old. They are approximately 18 metres in height and would be considered semi-mature. Both species are fairly windfirm with somewhat deep and wide-spreading root systems. Most (95%) of the Pines are Red Pine.

Forty-one trees or remaining parts of trees, were marked for removal, with a band of white paint around the base of the trunks; these ranged from large to quite small trees. The following criteria was used when assessing each tree:

1. Health
2. Structure
3. Potential hazard
4. Room for the tree to develop
5. Invasive species

Following is a list of all the assessed trees, with comments. They are listed in the order that I found them, as I worked my way across the woodlot. I basically followed the north-south rows of Pines, starting at the west end:

Tree ID #

1. Manitoba Maple (*acer negundo*) – Healthy, good shade tree on the edge of the tree stand **Action**: Prune to raise the lower canopy for head clearance.
2. Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) – Healthy with no visible defects.
3. Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) – Reasonably healthy, with a few medium-sized dead branches that could cause injury if they fell. **Action**: Prune off the dead branches
4. Scots Pine – Healthy with no visible defects.
5. Scots Pine – Healthy with no visible defects.
6. Black Cherry – **REMOVE** - Located too close to a Scots Pine and will eventually cause harm
7. Scots Pine – Healthy with no visible defects.
8. Black Cherry – **REMOVE** – It will not be able to fully develop as it I too close to a Scots Pine.
9. Scots Pine – Healthy with no visible defects. **Action**: Prune to raise the lower canopy for head clearance.
10. Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*) - Healthy with no visible defects
11. Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) – Young, native species which will contribute to the in-filling of an open area and it provides diversification of species within the tree stand. **Note:** Diversification is important when one considers the impact, for example, of the Emerald Ash Borer, which wiped out all of the Ash trees in this area, and in many areas across Ontario. If an insect or a disease came along that leads to the death of Red Pines, there wouldn't be much left of the woodlot as it is today.
12. Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*) - Young, native species which will contribute to the in-filling of an open area and it provides diversification of species within the woodlot.
13. Choke Cherry (*Prunus virginiana*) - Young, native species which will contribute to the in-filling of an open area and it provides diversification of species within the woodlot.
14. Choke Cherry - Young, native species which will contribute to the in-filling of an open area and it provides diversification of species within the woodlot.
15. Hackberry - Young, native species which will contribute to the in-filling of an open area and it provides diversification of species within the woodlot.

16. Bitternut Hickory - Young, native species which will contribute to the in-filling of an open area and it provides diversification of species within the woodlot.
17. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
18. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
19. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
20. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
21. White Mulberry (*Morus alba*)– this species of tree originates from East Asia; it has become naturalized in Canada, is quite prolific, produces berries and is considered an invasive. Many of these trees, small to medium sized, have become established throughout the woodlot. All of them are marked for removal, in an effort to eliminate the seed source.
22. Red Pine – **REMOVE** - Removing this tree will allow room for a young Hackberry to develop
23. Hackberry – Healthy with no visible defects.
24. Red Pine – **REMOVE** - Removing this tree will allow room for a young Hackberry to develop
25. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
26. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
27. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
28. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.
29. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
30. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
31. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
32. Choke Cherry – **REMOVE** - Located too close to adjacent Red Pines and will eventually cause harm
33. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
34. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.
35. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
36. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
37. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.
38. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
39. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.
40. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
41. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
42. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
43. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
44. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
45. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
46. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
47. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.
48. Red Pine Stump – identified for removal just to ensure it is removed as part of the general cleanup of the woodlot.
49. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
50. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.

51. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
52. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
53. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.
54. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
55. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
56. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
57. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
58. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
59. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
60. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
61. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
62. Choke Cherry - Young, native species which will contribute to the in-filling of an open area and it provides diversification of species within the woodlot.
63. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
64. Hackberry – Healthy with no visible defects.
65. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
66. Red Pine – **REMOVE** - dead and fallen over
67. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
68. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
69. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
70. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
71. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
72. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.
73. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.
74. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
75. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.
76. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
77. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
78. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
79. Red Pine - **REMOVE** - dead trunk stub
80. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
81. Red Pine – Trunk is bowed but the tree is secure in the ground, there are no visible defects in the trunk; healthy.
82. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
83. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
84. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
85. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.
86. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.
87. Hackberry – Healthy with no visible defects.
88. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
89. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.
90. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.
91. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
92. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.

93. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
94. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
95. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
96. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
97. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
98. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
99. Choke Cherry - Healthy - **Action**: Prune to raise the lower canopy for head clearance.
100. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.
101. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.
102. Eastern Cottonwood (Poplar) – **REMOVE** - Young tree; this species produces the white cottony fluff that blows into swimming pools, eavestroughs, gardens, etc. It would grow quite quickly into a large tree that, besides producing the aggravating fluff, also would encroach on nearby Pines
103. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.
104. Red Pine – **REMOVE** - Dead trunk stub
105. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
106. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
107. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
108. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
109. Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) – A major, large, significant tree; healthy; some lower dead limbs that have the potential to fall and cause injury – **Action**: Prune off the dead branches to eliminate the hazard.
110. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.
111. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
112. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
113. Red Pine – **REMOVE** - dead and fallen over
114. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
115. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
116. Red Pine – Trunk is bowed but the tree is secure in the ground, there are no visible defects in the trunk; healthy.
117. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
118. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
119. Red Pine – **REMOVE** - dead trunk stub
120. Choke Cherry - Healthy - **Action**: Prune to raise the lower canopy for head clearance.
121. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
122. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
123. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
124. Choke Cherry – **REMOVE** - Located too close to adjacent Red Pines and will eventually cause harm
125. Choke Cherry – **REMOVE** - Located too close to adjacent Red Pines and will eventually cause harm
126. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
127. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.
128. White Mulberry – **REMOVE** per commentary at Tree #21.

129. Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) – **REMOVE** – This small tree will chemically suppress nearby vegetation as it grows; creates a mess with its walnuts.
130. Black Walnut - **REMOVE** – This small tree will chemically suppress nearby vegetation as it grows; creates a mess with its walnuts.
131. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
132. Red Pine – Two co-dominant trunks; one is healthy and the other is dead – **Action:** Remove the dead trunk
133. Red Pine – **REMOVE** - dead trunk stub
134. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.
135. Red Pine – **REMOVE** - dead trunk stub
136. Choke Cherry – **REMOVE** - diseased
137. Choke Cherry – **REMOVE** - diseased
138. Choke Cherry – **REMOVE** - diseased
139. Hackberry – Healthy - **Action**: Prune to raise the lower canopy for head clearance.
140. Red Pine – **REMOVE** – The trunk has a significant bow; it hangs toward the future public sidewalk and street; it conflicts with the development of a nearby Hackberry.
141. Red Pine - Healthy with no visible defects.

Other Recommended Work

A general cleanup of the woodlot is recommended, to remove hazards such as building materials, garbage, debris, deadfalls, dead fallen limbs and Poison Ivy **(CAUTION! There is a major infestation of Poison Ivy within the tree stand. It is mostly growing in the form of a vine, and large, mature versions of the vine have grown up the trunks of a majority of the trees, as well as on deadfalls along the ground. The vines need to be severed at the ground and stripped from the trees to a height where people will not come into contact with them. It will sprout from the roots again, so an herbicide such as Roundup can be used to kill the plants as they resprout. This can take several applications. New plants will come up too, from seeds, therefore, an ongoing program may be necessary, to eradicate this menace. I expect the youth, as well as adults of the neighbourhood, will frequent this treed area of the park, so it may not be acceptable to leave the Poison Ivy in a natural state. Personal protective gear will be necessary (disposable coveralls, eye protection, disposable gloves), to prevent skin contact with the ivy, by workers susceptible to the plant's toxins. It is important to note that all parts of the ivy, including dead parts, can produce a rash, if contacted and it should absolutely never be burned, as breathing in the smoke is toxic and can cause severe, potentially fatal reactions. Disposal in a landfill is the safest way to dispense with it.**

Besides the hazards noted above, the removal of invasive vegetative growth is recommended. This includes plants such as Bush Honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*), Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Wild Grape Vines (*Vitis riparia*), and European Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartique*). There are quite a number of young trees that should be cleared out, as most of it is the invasive White Mulberry or it is trees that are not in a good location to develop. I have randomly marked some of these with the white paint, but any of the young tree growth that does not have an

identifying pink ribbon attached to it can be eliminated. As the Poison Ivy resprouts, so too will any of the deciduous trees that are removed in the tree stand. Thus, on-going maintenance will be necessary, to prevent the trees from re-establishing themselves.

Trees to Consider for Replacements

Over time trees in the woodlot may die or be taken down due to storm damage. To replace lost trees, species of trees native to the region are recommended, as they will typically establish, survive and thrive. The list below is comprised of trees that have varying degrees of shade tolerance. Shade tolerance is important, as the intent here is to replace trees within the woodlot, which is a shady place. A positive feature of the woodlot is that it is comprised of mostly native trees, (other than the Scots Pines and the invasive species noted elsewhere in this report). Maintaining the native nature of the woodlot will ensure longevity of the woodlot for the enjoyment of the public. The following is a list of native trees that have varying degrees of shade tolerance.

Shade Tolerant Trees Native to Southwestern Ontario

American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)

- Very shade-tolerant deciduous tree, up to 25 metres high

Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*)

- Shade-tolerant coniferous tree, up to 25 metres high

Basswood (*Tilia americana*)

- Shade-tolerant deciduous tree; good source of nectar for bees; up to 35 metres high

Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)

- Moderately shade-tolerant deciduous tree, up to 15 metres high

Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

- Moderately-shade tolerant deciduous tree, up to 15 metres high

Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)

- Very shade-tolerant coniferous tree, up to 30 metres tall

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

- Moderately shade-tolerant deciduous tree, up to 25 metres high
- The leaves are green but turn crimson in the autumn

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)

- Shade-tolerant, understory deciduous tree, up to 10 metres high

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

- Shade-tolerant deciduous tree, up to 30 metres

Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)

- Moderately shade-tolerant deciduous tree, up to 35 metres high
- The dark outer bark flakes off in irregular pieces, exposing the lighter coloured inner bark, resulting in a striking mottled effect

White Oak (*Quercus alba*)

- Moderately shade-tolerant deciduous tree, up to 35 metres high

White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

- Moderately shade-tolerant coniferous tree, up to 30 metres high

White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)

- Shade-tolerant coniferous tree, up to 25 metres high

Trees Options for Planting Out in the Park

Native and non-native trees can be considered for planting out in the open parkland. The following list of trees was produced considering suitability to the site, shade, durability, attractiveness and having little or no large cones, seeds, fruit, or nuts which would create a maintenance issue.

Trees for the Open Park Spaces

Basswood (*Tilia americana*)

- Deciduous; good source of nectar for bees; up to 35 metres high.

Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)

- Coniferous; will provide some (green) colour through the winter; up to 30 metres high; the cones are quite small.

Ginkgo (Ginko biloba)

- Deciduous; plant only the male tree, as the coating of the seed produced by the female gives off an offensive odour.
- Unique fan-shaped leaf; virtually disease and pest free; nice yellow fall colour; up to 25 metres high.

Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

- Deciduous; produces a small fruit which is of interest to fruit-eating birds; yellow leaves in autumn; up to 15 metres high.

Hedge Maple (*Acer campestre*)

- Deciduous; a smaller tree, up to 9 metres high; leaves turn a mild yellow to yellow-green in the fall.

Littleleaf Linden (*Tilia cordata*)

- Deciduous; has a compact form; up to 25 metres high.

Columnar English Oak (*Quercus robur 'Fastigata'*)

- Deciduous; upright, columnar form; up to 18 metres.

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

- Deciduous; the leaves are green but turn crimson in the autumn; up to 25 metres high.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)

- Deciduous; showy flower and fruit; popular food for birds; up to 10 metres high.

Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*)

- Deciduous; fast-growing; pale yellow to brown leaves in autumn; there are cultivars available with more fall colour; up to 35 metres high.

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

- Deciduous; nice fall colours of yellow to bright orange and bright red; up to 35 metres high

Tamarack (*Larix laricina*)

- Deciduous conifer – it loses its needles in the fall; yellow foliage in the fall; the crown is narrowly conical; up to 25 metres high

Tuli-Tree (Liriodendron tulipifera)

- Deciduous; a tulip-like flower forms after the leaves appear in spring; the flowers are a source of nectar for bees; leaves turn yellow in fall; up to 35 metres high

White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)

- Coniferous; will provide some (green) colour through the winter; up to 25 metres high; the cones are quite small.

Summary

The woodlot as it is today needs a considerable amount of cleanup work to eliminate invasive trees and vegetative growth, to make it safe for public use and to facilitate the development of desirable young trees. However, the "bones" of the woodlot are in good shape. The majority of the trees are large, native, healthy, strong Red Pines, with a few large Scots Pines that are also in good condition. The stately, large, mature Red Oak at the southeast corner of the woodlot makes a respectable contribution. Once the woods are cleaned up and maintained, to keep the invasives at bay, this will prove to be an asset to the park.

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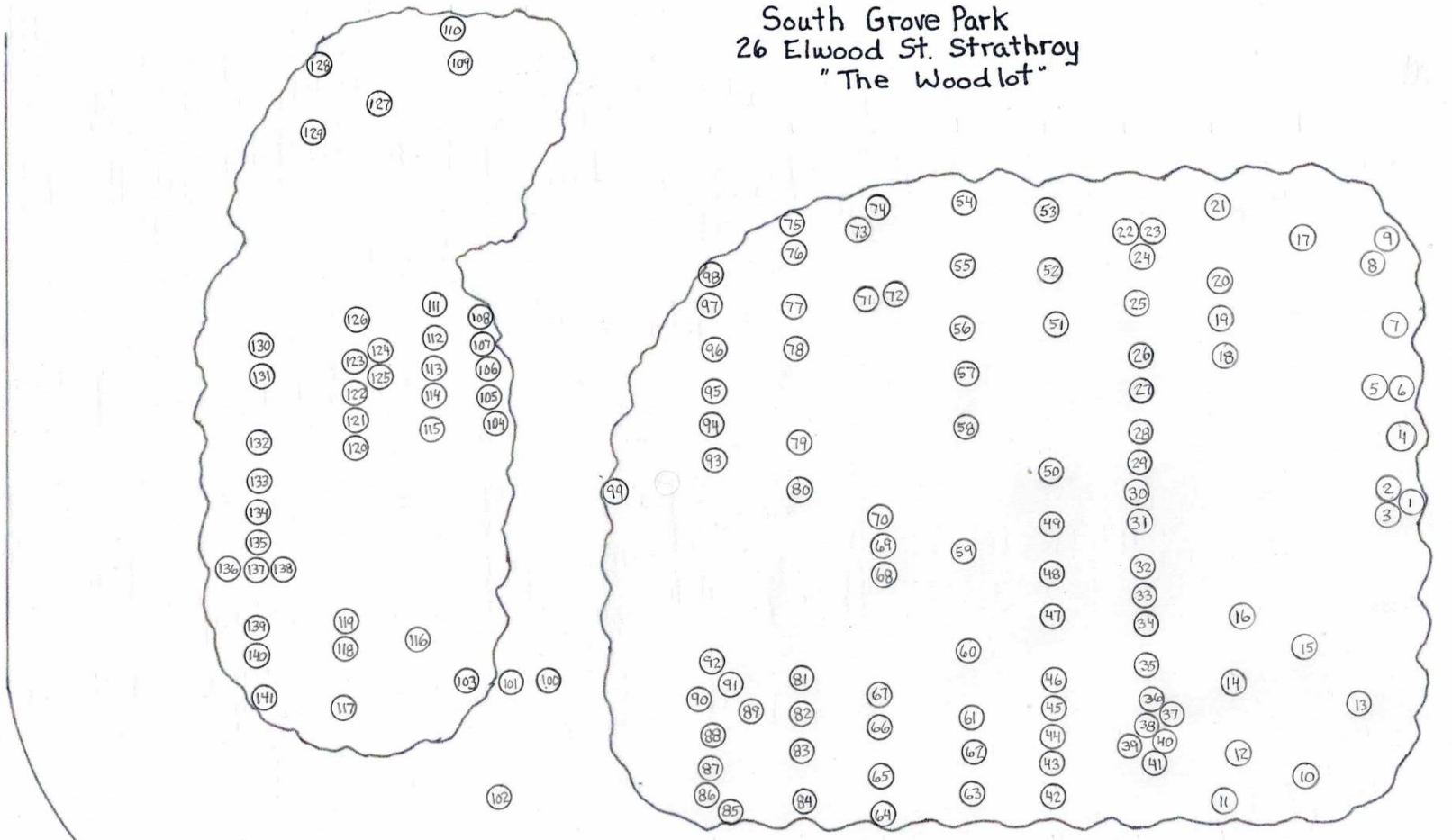
South Grove Park
26 Elwood St. Strathroy
"The Woodlot"



Please Note: This hand-drawn sketch shows the approximate location of the trees listed on pages 2 to 6 of the report, and is not to scale.