

Island Park Tree Assessment

Grand Ledge Michigan



By: The Visiting Arborist

February 2019

Introduction

In January of 2019 The Visiting Arborists were approached by the City of Grand Ledge to do a quick assessment of the health of the trees growing on Island Park in Grand Ledge. The Visiting Arborists surveyed the major trees in the park for defects that could cause tree parts to fail and cause damage. The survey included identification of trees in need of removal for other reasons.

The survey was a walk-by survey which gathered the following information on the trees that need work, species, diameter, height, nature of the concern. The survey started at the eastern end of the park and proceeded westward. Trees discussed are numbered on the site map (approximate locations).

Island Park East End



Island Park West End



Point 1

Point 1 is two cottonwood trees with 50 inch diameter and are 50+ feet tall located on the far east end of park. The overall health of the trees appears good. Both trees lean but appear stable. The root systems and base of the trees have been buried but how far is unknown. There are no signs of rot or fungi at the base of the trees which would be typical of trunk or root rot. Staff should inspect the trees for mushrooms or other signs of rot every time they visit the park. There is some deadwood in the crown of both trees.



Point 2

Point 2 is a 30 inch diameter silver maple that is 20 to 25 feet from loading dock of the river boat. The tree's health is poor. The tree leans toward the boat and has a large deadwood section and a large scar on northeastern side of tree that is rotting. Removal of deadwood or the entire tree is appropriate.



Point 3

Point 3 is 70 inch diameter cottonwood located in the central grass area near the central electrical box. Overall, the trees health appears to be good. It has extensive rot in some sections of the crown which appears to be taking advantage of wounds caused by storms. Crown reduction pruning is recommended in those areas to reduce the weight on the limbs involved. Deadwood should be removed throughout the crown.



Point 4

Point Four is a 34 inch diameter, 40 foot tall cottonwood tree located on the south bank of the island that is leaning to the south. The tree is near the Steven H. Wilton memorial crab apple tree. This tree is in poor health and is in the process of uprooting. The tree has severe root and lower trunk rot and should be removed . If the tree fails there is a good chance it will take a large portion of the stream bank into the river which will promote erosion.



Point 5

Point 5 is a 28 inch diameter cottonwood located on north bank of the park. Its health appears good but it does have some deadwood that should be pruned out of the tree.



Point 6

Point 6 is 2 trees. Both trees are 30 to 45 feet west of the last cottonwood. They are 12 and 14 inch diameter silver maples. Neither tree is at immediate risk of failing but tree 1 is dead, and tree 2 has had the top knocked out by storms. Tree 2 has extensive rot in the crown and will never be good tree. It is recommended that both trees be removed.



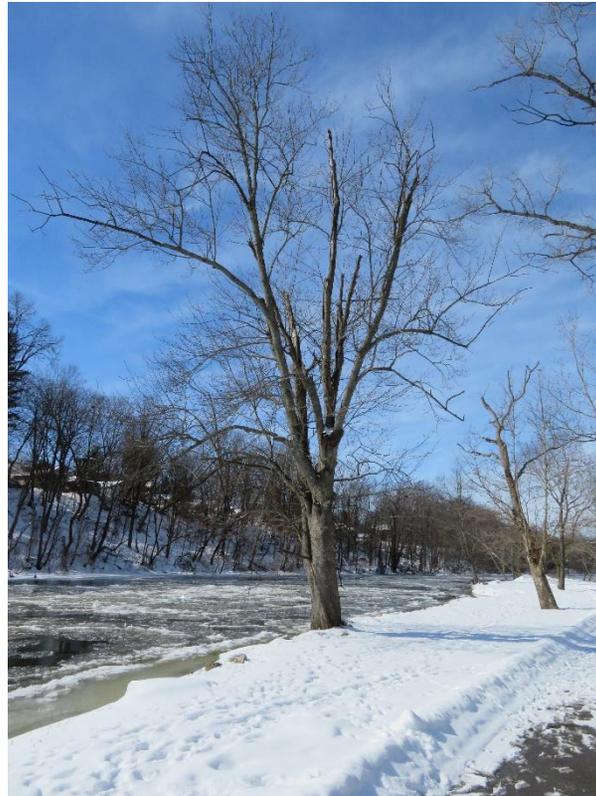
Point 7

Point 7 is a 12 inch silver maple with 4 inch diameter broken hanging branch 20 feet above ground. The branch should be removed as soon as possible. The trees overall health appears good.



Point 8

Point 8 is a 30 inch diameter silver maple that is 40 feet tall. It has a substantial amount of deadwood up to and above 10 inches in diameter. This tree is in decline but it appears it does not need to be removed at this time. The deadwood should be removed.



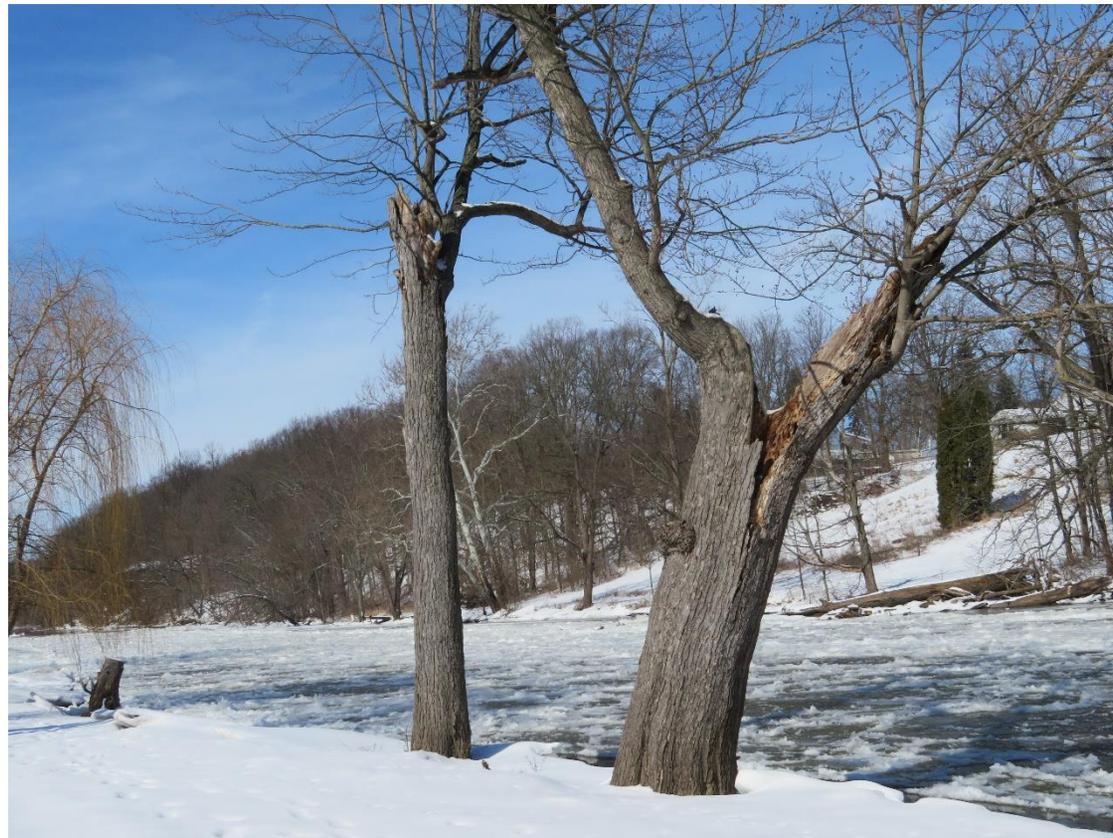
Point 9

Point 9 is a 26 inch diameter sycamore with a large hollow at base which predisposes it to whole tree failure. The tree has significant deadwood in the crown. The tree is 25 to 30 ft tall and is in decline. Tree removal should be considered. It is located just south of the sidewalk.



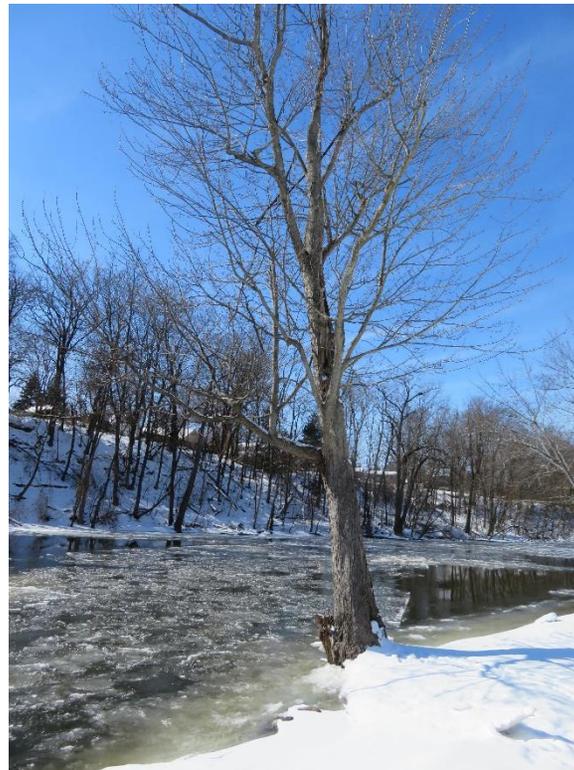
Point 10

Point 10 is 2 trees, 34 and 20 inch diameter silver maples. The 34 inch silver has major trunk rot and hollows. Most of the trees crown is missing and the branches that remain are growing on a rotting trunk. The 20 inch diameter tree has extensive deadwood and a large section of the top is missing. The remaining limb is growing on a rotted base and is subject to failure. Consider removal of both trees.



Point 11

Point 11 is a 28 inch diameter silver maple located on the south bank of the island. The base of the tree is entirely hollow and has only a small portion of the trunk holding the tree up. The crown of the tree has a spiral hollow which is a major defect. Tree leans toward the south river bank. Removal of this tree should be performed as possible.



Point 12

Point 12 is a 30 inch diameter 40+ foot tall sycamore located along the south bank of the island near the west end of the island. The tree has a large section of dead trunk supporting several limbs. The weight on the rotten area should be reduced through pruning. This tree will need to be removed due to rot within an estimated 10 years.



Point 13

Point 13 is a sycamore located on the far western end of the island. It leans at approximately a 45 degree angle over the river. It has been in this state for many years as is evidenced by the growth of limbs near the base of the tree growing vigorously upward, toward sunlight. The tree appears stable and does not pose a risk to island users. The trees root system is unlikely to fail soon because it has adjusted to the trees growing conditions.



The health of trees not mentioned in this report is generally good. All the major trees in the park have deadwood 2 inches or larger in diameter that should be pruned from the trees.

In all instances where trees are being removed near the stream bank it is wise to leave the root systems in place. These root systems will help hold the stream bank in place for several years. If it is desired to promote wildlife on the island, tree trunks can be left in place for several years to serve as homes for wildlife.