

Tree Committee – Survey Tour of Onanda Park – 23 April 2022

Present: Dennis Brewer, Dan Marion, Eric Obernauer, Edith Davey

Lake Side:

Silver maple tree opposite the gate house should be removed due to deteriorated condition, angle of leaning across the driveway and proximity to the gate house. This is a safety concern. Silver maple located near the entrance drive is decayed and exhibiting fungus infestation; proximity to a power line is concerning.

Two creek-side black locust trees are dead. One rootless and is leaning toward the restroom cabin roof. Both are supported by slender living trees but will cause damage if dislodged by wind or water.

A sugar maple tree adjacent to the boat launch driveway has dead branches that should be removed due to the location above a picnic table.

A large Norway maple near the playground equipment has a broken cable that needs to be replaced.

An extremely large spruce tree was estimated to be approximately 150 years old and probably was planted as a lightning rod for the original farm house. This tree should be documented and carefully preserved.

It was recommended that flowering native species trees be considered for planting in the lake side area. Stump removal and replanting was recommended at a site along the boat launch driveway.

Upper Hillside:

Numerous dead trees and branches near, across, and overhanging the trails are of grave safety concern. These included black cherry trees with heart rot near the trail, dead oak trees, and some split trees. The worst specimens will be marked and immediate removal is recommended before increased summer-time pedestrian usage occurs. Passage beneath dead, broken trunks is inherently unsafe.

Other concerns: The trails need to be re-mulched to protect tree roots - thereby protecting the trees (and the hikers' shoes). This would also promote hikers staying on designated trails.

Extensive infestations of invasive buckthorn, multiflora rose, and oriental bittersweet were noted. Large wild grapevine is also present. The bittersweet and grapevine distort and strangle supporting trees, as well as growing high enough to over-shade the canopy. Removal would be beneficial and is recommended.

Some new gypsy moth egg masses were noted but it is believed the infestation resulting will be lighter than in previous years. Woolly adelgid infestation was noted on hemlocks on private property adjacent to the park.

Trees have encroached on the yellow rose area; increased shading is detrimental to the roses. Some of the trail-side chairs need to be repaired due to rotted boards.