



October 11, 2023

Island Pointe Owners Assoc.
Attn: Mr. Warren Ludvigsen
152 Canyon Road
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

Re: Forest needs of the Island Pointe Resort Property

Assignment

Provide a walking tour throughout the property with Board members assessing health of the trees on site, looking for any potential threats to the overall health of the forest on this property. Provide recommendations via a written report to promote health of the trees on this property, and proactively manage potential risk.

Methods

I visited the site on October 3, 2023, to meet with Board Members and toured the property discussing forestry management options. Using our web-based inventory program, I located individual trees that require removal or safety pruning due to health, structural, or pest concerns.

Observations

Overall, the trees on this site have good health and ok structure. The stand of trees is an even-aged white pine plantation with some red pine and norway spruce mixed in. The association has been replanting trees as they are removed, laying the foundation for a new generation of trees to establish throughout the property.

During our walk through of the property, I observed the 2020-2022 management recommendations were followed to address the immediate tree hazards. This year, I identified 7 trees for removal due to property damage, declining health, or whole tree death. As I mentioned in 2022, I believe the association can begin addressing secondary needs such as "safety pruning". I identified trees adjacent to high use areas like the beach, or adjacent to member's cabins, that have large deadwood that should be pruned back to the living stem to mitigate risk. I believe the association should focus pruning in these areas to preserve safe use of this property.

Recommendations

Removals



Tree Id	Common Name	DBH
50	Eastern White Pine	16
47	Eastern White Pine	22
46	Eastern White Pine	24
45	Eastern White Pine	36
44	Eastern White Pine	11
42	Eastern White Pine	17
33	Buckthorn	4

A future removal consideration on site should be thinning of the red pine plantings by 30%-50%. Thinning these tree stands through selective tree removal will allocate greater resources (air, water, nutrients) to the remaining red pines and encourage better health of the tree stand.

Replanting

As trees are removed, I feel the association can do a better job of replanting with a more diverse selection of “evergreens”. The following species will help maintain the aesthetics of a forested cabin property, while diversifying the surrounding forest landscape and prevent excessive loss of trees to any singular pest:

Tall		Short	
Norway Spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>	Ames Juniper	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Ames'
Serbian Spruce	<i>Picea omorika</i>	Sea Green Juniper	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Sea Green'
		Trautman Juniper	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Trautman'
Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Chalet Swiss Stone Pine	<i>Pinus cembra</i> 'Chalet'

During our tour, I discussed the importance of not “over-stocking” this site with new trees. We discussed the long-term impacts of the current density of large trees on this site, and how that may be negatively impacting overall tree health due to a high number of trees sharing a finite amount of resources. I recommend replanting 1-2 trees for every 3-5 removals. New tree plantings should be focused on open spaces within the forest stand where the sky is visible through the forest canopy.

Treatment

There are 3 trees adjacent to the association beach areas that have stressed and/or declining health. I do not believe these trees need to be removed at this time. Rather, I recommend the association consider plant health care treatments that will benefit the long-term health of these trees. I do not recommend treating these trees with fertilizers that will promote new canopy growth. I recommend treatments of these three trees that will preserve the existing root system and promote the development of additional fine root systems. Treating root systems will improve the foundational health of these trees and will support future health in the coming years.



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Association members have observed a significant increase in sap dripping from mature pine trees across the property in 2023. During my tour, I did not observe widespread symptoms associated with a particular pest or disease that would be linked to an increased sap response of these trees. I did notice widespread recent branch failures in the upper canopies of trees throughout the property. Board members confirmed there were many large branch failures because of late winter storms and excess snow loading in February/March of 2023. It is my opinion that increased sap flow is linked to these widespread branch failures, resulting in the sticky mess members had to deal with throughout the forested sections of this property.

Safety Pruning

My recommendations of safety pruning on this property remain the same as in years past. The association should focus pruning efforts adjacent to beach areas and member's cabins, removing large deadwood that could fail and strike people/property below.

Other Pruning

During our tour, Board members asked about the opportunity for additional pruning of white pines that border the East parking lot. I believe these trees can sustain pruning of lower canopy branches to provide additional clearance to individuals using this lot and the equipment needed for snow removal during the winter. I pointed out that members should focus on pruning the lowest two layers of branches adjacent to the parking lot first to determine if the clearance is adequate. If additional clearance is needed, wait ~2-3 years before additional pruning to allow trees to respond to these pruning cycles.

Conclusions

The Island Pointe Resort property is a beautifully forested property that transports residents to that "up north" cabin. I was encouraged that management of hazardous trees is on track throughout the association. Continued proactive management will help preserve the beauty and safe use of this property. The age of most pines on this property is getting older, and individual tree mortality is expected. This will be beneficial to overall forest health. As individual trees die in the forest stand, that creates room in the canopy for other trees to grow, achieving a balance of young and old trees.

Certification of Performance

I, Nathan M. Schuettpelz, certify:

- That I have personally inspected the tree/trees and property referred to in this report and have stated my findings accurately. The extent of the evaluation is stated in the above report and the Scope of Work;
- That I have no current or prospective interest in the vegetation or the property that is the subject of this report and have no personal interest or bias with respect to the parties involved;
- That the assessment, opinions and conclusions stated herein are my own and are based on current scientific procedures and facts;
- That my assessment, opinions and conclusions were developed and this report has been prepared according to commonly accepted arboriculture practices;
- That my compensation is not contingent upon the reporting of a predetermined conclusion that favors the cause of the client or any other party nor upon the results if the assignment, the attainment of stipulated results, or the occurrence of any subsequent events.

I further certify that I am an ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist and International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist and Tree Risk Assessment Qualified.

Signed:



Nathan Schuettpelz

RCA # 732

ISA CERTIFIED ARBORIST WI-0887AM