

# LARSON WOODLAND

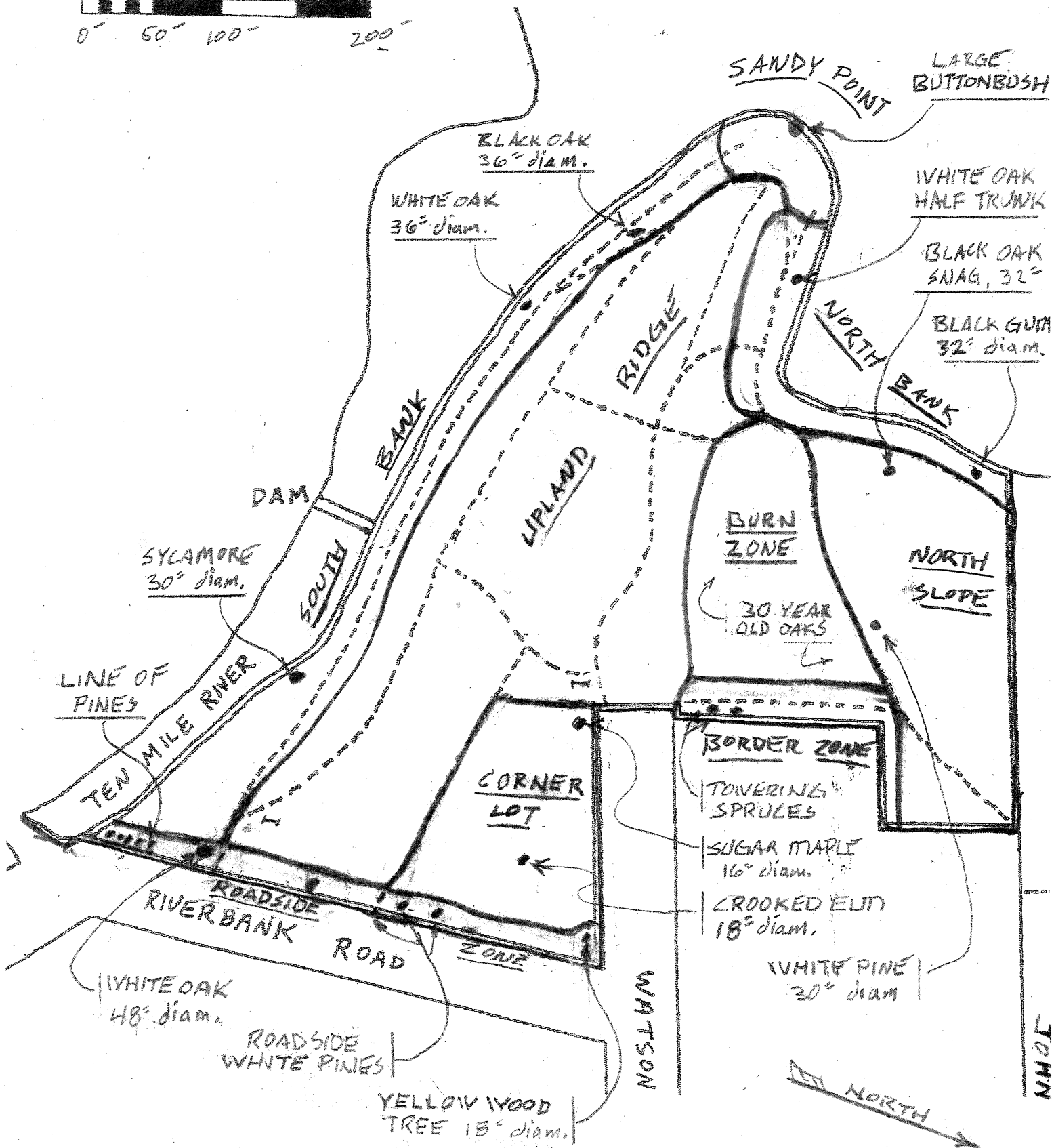
LANDSCAPE SURVEY AUG. 2019

MAP A - ZONES & SENTINALS

## Legend:

Boundary 

Trail 



# LARSON WOODLAND

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## Legend:

Boundary 

Trail   
0' 50' 100' 200' 

NORWAY MAPLE  
CANOPY 

BITTERSWEET 

WISTERIA 

PURPLE  
LOOSESTRIFE 

HONEY-  
SUCKLE 

BUCK-  
THORN 

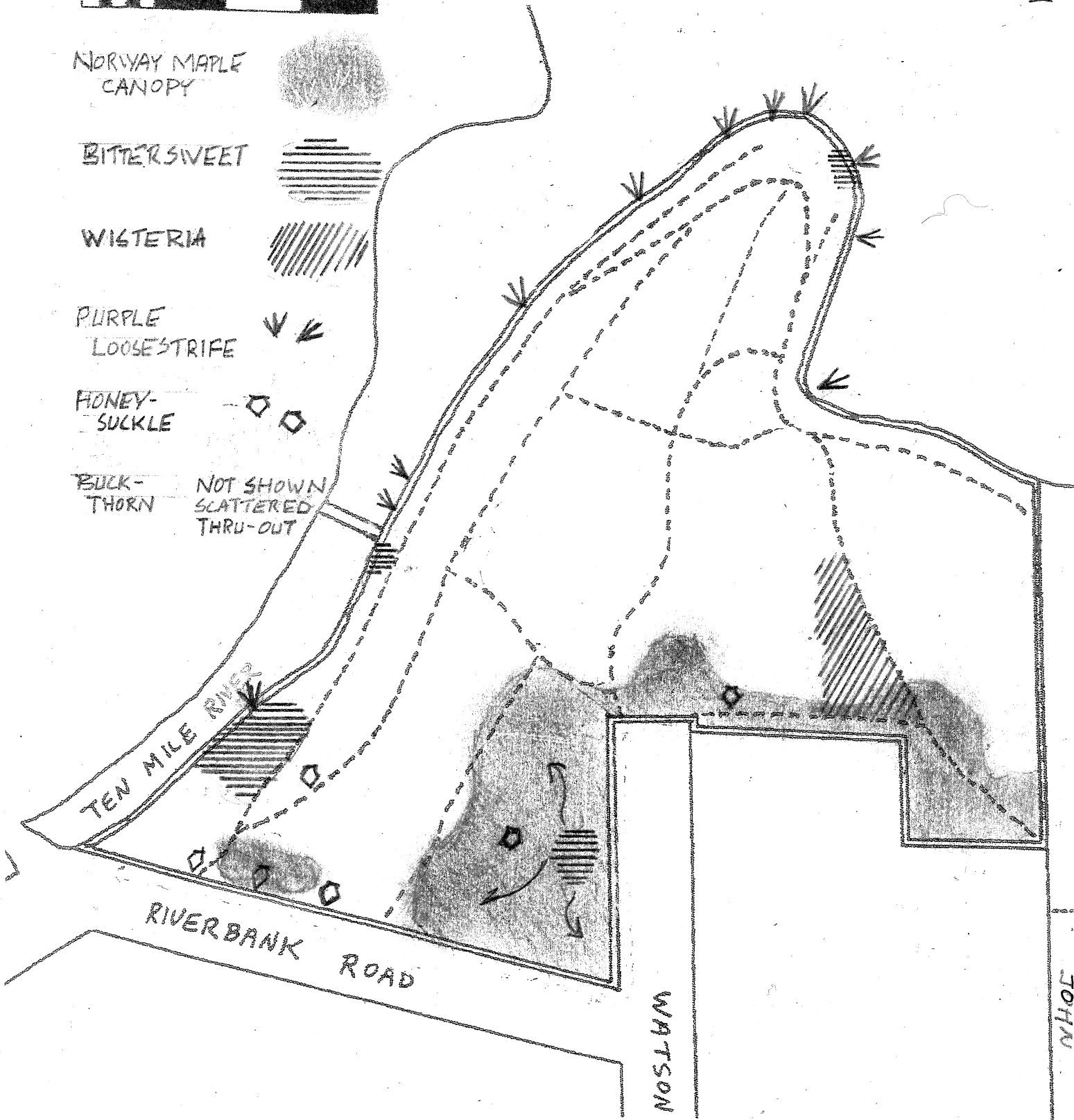
NOT SHOWN  
SCATTERED  
THRU-OUT

TEN MILE RIVER

RIVERBANK ROAD

WATSON

JOHN



**Overstory**

Larson Woodland is an upland ridge with banks on the Ten Mile River and Mechanics Pond. Property lines define the north corner, while the east border is Watson Ave and Riverbank Rd. An even mix of white, red and black oaks creates the majority of the canopy. Other trees in the crown, and in the understory, shall be pointed out for each area delineated on Map A.

**Upland Ridge**

The crown also includes a small number of ash trees.

The understory tends to be mostly young oaks with some cherry, white birch, white pine, ash and high-bush blueberry. Where the land starts to slope towards the river we find more ash and white pine, also hickory, basswood, yew, buckthorn, struggling sugar maples, and the early beginnings of a beech stand. In the area adjacent to the Corner Lot are incursions of Norway maples.

The ground layer is a lot of low-bush blueberry, briar and scatterings of maple leaf viburnum. Also, there can be found the following; wood aster, Virginia creeper, spotted wintergreen, false Solomon seal, golden rod, Indian pipe and poison ivy.

**Roadside Zone**

The crown of oaks, pines, and maples also features a yellow wood tree on the corner.

The understory is young basswood, yellow wood, pines, oaks and maples.

The ground layer was recently cut back the width of a sidewalk, which was not enough to take out the honeysuckle bushes.

**South Bank**

The crown gives us sycamores, basswoods, ash, hickory and red maple.

The understory has the young of trees noted, also black gum, cherry, hop-hornbeam, rough apple, mulberry, hack berry, silky dogwood and buckthorn.

The ground layer has many plants already noted. In addition, there are wetland reeds and sedges, jewelweed, raspberry, water hemlock and purple loosestrife. There is a thick matt of bittersweet, briar and poison ivy downstream from the dam, and more bittersweet entwined with silky dogwood at the base of the dam.

### Sandy Point

No crown to speak of.

Understory plants consist of American hornbeam, paper birch, red maple, silky dogwood, arrow wood, senna, buckthorn and a magnificent buttonbush.

Ground layer plants include briar, swamp milkweed, ragweed, mullien, evening primrose, poison ivy, bittersweet, barberry and loosestrife.

### North Bank

The crown is a diverse collection of oaks, red maple, paper birch, elm and black gum.

The understory has white pine, hop-hornbeam, witch hazel, sassafras, staghorn sumac, clethra, buckthorn, high-bush blueberry, and a dense thicket of sweet pepperbush.

The ground layer has briars, Virginia creeper, asters, ferns, Indian pipe and loosestrife.

### North Slope

The crown sees a good amount of red maple, also some paper birch and white pine. In the north corner near John Street are Norway maples mixed in with the oaks.

The understory includes hickory, ash, white pine, red maple, chestnut, rough apples, sweet pepperbush and buckthorn.

The ground layer has maple leaf viburnum, low-bush blueberry, aster, spotted wintergreen, Canada mayflower, false Solomon seal, wild celery, poison ivy and briar.

### Burn Zone

The crown consists of 30 year old oaks and encroaching Norway maples.

The understory is white pine, cherry and ash saplings, and one lone holly tree.

The ground layer has blueberry, wood aster, lily of the valley, briar and wisteria.

### Border Zone

The crown has Norway spruce, fir and Norway maples.

The understory has honeysuckle, yew, daylily, and young Norway maples.

The ground layer has lily of the valley, wisteria and pokeweed.

### Corner Lot

The crown is dominated by Norway maples, with twelve inch diameter trunks common, and up to twenty-four inches. A crooked elm, a single sugar maple and a couple of oaks hold space in the canopy.

The understory includes mulberry, white pine, yew, basswood, yellow wood, honeysuckle, buckthorn and more young Norway maples.

The ground layer has maple leaf viburnum, briar, bittersweet and poison ivy.

### Invasives – Map B

Norway maples reside in the east end of Larson Woodland. Fully mature trees dominate the Corner Lot. Speculation has it that this once was a gravel extraction site, which could possibly have been the original disturbance opening the land to these aggressive trees. They have spread down through the woods along Riverbank Road. They also occur in the Border Zone and at the end of the North Slope towards John Street. Young trees, saplings and seedlings can be found spreading westward. Rarely, if at all, are they found further in the woods where oaks, red maple and other natives are firmly established.

Bittersweet is regularly but sparingly found in the Corner Lot. It is also entwined with silky dogwoods and other such vegetation at both Sandy Point and at the base of the dam. A thick mat of it is situated at about 70 feet from Riverbank Road, stretching for another 70 feet between the trail and the river. It is mixed with briar and poison ivy, making its removal a difficult proposition. A formidable excavation may be required.

Wisteria is on the edge of the Burn Zone, threatening to overwhelm the young trees repopulating the area.

Honeysuckle is growing in locations in the Roadside and Border Zones. Its removal should correspond with a replanting of native plants suitable to these somewhat sunny locations.

Purple loosestrife occurs occasionally along the water's edge. There is no large colony of it, nor does it appear to be overpowering other vegetation, yet.

Buckthorn is mixed with mulberry and white pine to create an understory stand in the middle of the Corner Lot. It otherwise is integrated sparsely through much of the property. Any program to remove buckthorn should be done with expert caution to not inadvertently take out desirable native plants.

### Landscape Survey

An assessment was made and field information collected on August, 31 by Phil Boucher and Gary Krofta. The report is written and maps drawn by Gary Krofta.