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2026 DED Survey Summary for the Town of Outlook, Saskatchewan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On July 22 and 23, 2026 Living Tree Environmental Limited (Living Tree) completed a comprehensive Dutch elm disease (DED) survey within the community of Outlook. This survey included a full inspection of all American elm (*Ulmus americana*) trees for symptoms of DED, to identify DED and communicate all violations that are in contravention of *The Dutch Elm Disease Regulations (2005)* within the community's legal boundaries. Surveys were completed by vehicle and on foot and a total of 35 DED-infected American elm trees (57 stems) were identified. The Living Tree survey crews marked them for removal with orange tree-paint rings or collected confirmatory branch samples for laboratory analysis. During the 2026 survey project, Living Tree survey crews identified 7 violations. All survey data was submitted to the Town of Outlook on July 28, 2026. All data was collected using Garmin 64 and 66i GPS units. Navigation in the buffers was aided by Avenza Maps Pro applications on a handheld tablet. Like the 2025 survey project, most landowners cooperated with the survey crews and provided access to properties. This continued cooperation greatly assists in the detection and management of DED in the buffers and the urban forests they protect.

INTRODUCTION

Dutch elm disease (DED), *Ophiostoma novo ulmi*, has been an urban forest threat since the pathogens were first detected in Saskatchewan in the early 1980s. Currently, the disease has spread extensively throughout southern and central Saskatchewan. *Ophiostoma novo ulmi* is a pathogenic fungal disease that causes DED in American elm, *Ulmus americana,* trees. Once an American elm tree is infected with this fungus, the tree will succumb to the disease in a time frame of a few weeks to several years. The leading vectors of the disease continue to be the Native elm bark beetle and smaller European elm bark beetle (*Hylurgopinus rufipes* and *Scolytus multistriatus* respectively), root graft transmission, transfer via unsterilized pruning tools and illegal movement of firewood.

Under the Saskatchewan Dutch elm Disease Regulations (2005) (Regulations) both the Dutch elm disease (DED) pathogens and the elm bark beetle, are named declared pests. All municipalities, in the province of Saskatchewan have the responsibility and authority to prevent and control DED under the Regulations. By appointing a DED municipal inspector, your municipality can thus enforce the Provincial DED Prevention and Control Measures under these regulations.

https://pubsaskdev.blob.core.windows.net/pubsask-prod/archived/2387/P7R3.pdf

METHODS

The survey team, composed of 2 field personnel (1 x two–person crews), completed the DED field ground surveys by vehicle and on foot. The community was contacted 5 days before the survey. All private landowners are contacted in person prior to the planned property DED survey. When landowners did not have a contact method or Living Tree personnel were not granted permission to survey the property, it was carefully documented and reported to the community for follow-up.

Maps for each buffer region containing municipal boundaries, street names and green space areas are built on ESRI Arc GIS software and published on Arc GIS Online for the survey crews to use to complete the surveys. All maps are uploaded onto Living Tree handheld tablets. Crews navigated the communities using these maps. When arriving at the property, survey crews were instructed to introduce themselves to the landowner by first visiting the home at the property. When completing the work, survey crews used Garmin 64, 65 and 66i GPS units along with their tablets to log the locations of all infected trees, violations, and all treated stumps and tracks. The survey involves completing a full visual scan for DED symptoms of all

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American elm trees located on every property located within each buffer. The following symptoms are associated with DED: pre-mature wilting of leaves located in the canopy (also known as flagging), premature leaf drop, early and rapid discoloration of leaves and progressed dieback.
The survey crews scanned all American elm tree canopies located on each individual property from all angles for DED symptoms and identify when they were consistent with Dutch elm disease. If DED symptoms were not well defined, a sample was taken from the canopy of the tree and sent to the Provincial Crop Protection Lab "Lab", located in Regina, Saskatchewan, for morphological identification of the fungi that causes DED, *Ophiostoma novo-ulmi*. Instead of using orange-tree paint to mark a tree that has been tested for the presence of the DED fungal pathogen, all sampled trees are marked with orange flagging tape. This helps avoid the permanent marking of trees when a DED negative diagnosis is received from the Lab.

RESULTS

Elm Wood Storage Violations

During the survey, 7 violations were identified. If elm firewood had been found, an appointed pest inspector should talk to the homeowners to arrange for the wood to be removed and disposed properly. If the homeowner is unwilling to do so, then the inspector can enforce the removal. Table 1 provides a summary of the violations detected during the survey.

Table 1. DED Regulation Violations

Address	Waypoint Lat/Long	Public/ Private	Type of Violation	Contact with Landowner (Y/N)	Notes/Comments
[redacted]	51.4896085327949/ -107.060826978607	Public	Elm High Stump	N	Flagged with orange for identification
[redacted]	51.4846269833333/ -107.06057715	Private	Elm Firewood/Wood Pile	Y	Located on West edge of property. Homeowner disposing of July 24th 2026.
[redacted]	51.4819716413738/ -107.062398517115	Public	Elm High Stump	N	Flagged with orange for identification
[redacted]	51.48763215/ -107.0503396	Private	Elm Firewood/Wood Pile	N	Unable to contact homeowner /leave letter.
[redacted]	51.4851022833333/ -107.050171566667	Private	Elm Firewood/Wood Pile	N	Flagged with orange for identification
[redacted]	51.4850500689343/ -107.049651796806	Private	Elm High Stump	N	Located on South edge of house on property.

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Address	Waypoint Lat/Long	Public/ Private	Type of Violation	Contact with Landowner (Y/N)	Notes/Comments
[redacted]	51.4850508918044/ -107.049657569795	Private	Elm Firewood/Wood Pile	N	Located on South edge of house on property, Flagged with orange for identification

Photo 1. DED Regulation Violations

Address: [redacted]

UNDER THE REGULATIONS

Elm wood disposal of both DED infected and hazard trees

3(1) Where an elm tree is an infected tree or is a hazard tree, the owner of the elm tree shall, in accordance with subsection (2), immediately:
(a) burn:
(i) all bark material from all parts of the elm tree; or
(ii) the elm tree until all bark material has been burned from all parts of the elm tree; or
(b) bury all parts of the elm tree:
(i) to a minimum depth of 25 centimetres; and
(ii) so that no part of the elm tree is exposed or subject to exposure by natural means; so as to render the elm tree useless for elm bark beetle habitation or breeding.
(2) Every owner of an elm tree who is required by subsection (1) or 4(6) to burn or bury all or any part of an elm tree shall:
(a) where the elm tree is located in an urban municipality, remove the elm tree and burn or bury the elm tree at a designated disposal site in the manner specified in subsection (1) or 4(6);
(b) where the elm tree is located in a rural municipality or a northern municipality:
(i) remove the elm tree and burn or bury the elm tree at a designated disposal site; or

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(ii) burn or bury the elm tree on the owner's property where the elm tree is located; in the manner specified in subsection (1) or 4(6).
(3) Every person who removes an elm tree shall:
(a) remove the stump of the elm tree to a minimum depth of 10 centimetres below the soil line; or
(b) treat the elm tree stump in a manner satisfactory to an officer.

Elm Wood Storage

Storage, use, exchange, sale and transportation of elm trees
6(1) No person shall:
(a) store;
(b) use;
(c) exchange;
(d) sell; or
(e) transport:
(i) within Saskatchewan; or
(ii) into Saskatchewan from any:
(A) province or territory of Canada;
(B) state or territory of the United States of America; or
(C) country;
any elm tree or part of an elm tree that is not an infected tree or a hazard tree for use as fuel wood or for any other purpose unless the person has obtained the written authorization of an officer pursuant to subsection (2) to store, use, exchange, sell or transport the elm tree or part of an elm tree.

DED Infected and Hazard Elm Trees

During the survey in the Town of Outlook, the survey crew identified and marked for removal, 35 hazard/DED symptomatic American elms. Table 2 below summarizes the results.

Table 2. DED Infected or Danger Trees Marked for removal.

Address	Waypoint Lat/Long	Public or Private Tree	Branch Sample Submitted (Y/N)	Additional Notes
[redacted]	51.4896066784309/ -107.06085823444	Public Tree	N	Located in park way walk behind 427 Park Avenue.
[redacted]	51.4896069062482/ -107.060842673295	Public Tree	N	Located in park way walk behind 427 Park Avenue.
[redacted]	51.4896078775753/ -107.060834662758	Public Tree	N	Located in park way walk behind 427 Park Avenue.
[redacted]	51.4896075234536/ -107.060831725071	Public Tree	N	Located in park way walk behind 427 Park Avenue.
[redacted]	51.4896077065123/ -107.060829667654	Public Tree	N	Located in park way walk behind 427 Park Avenue.

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Address	Waypoint Lat/Long	Public or Private Tree	Branch Sample Submitted (Y/N)	Additional Notes
[redacted]	51.4896093054075/ -107.06082838889	Public Tree	N	Located in park way walk behind 427 Park Avenue.
[redacted]	51.4896084311801/ -107.060827405142	Public Tree	N	Located in park way walk behind 427 Park Avenue.
[redacted]	51.4896087692325/ -107.060826966118	Public Tree	N	Located in park way walk behind 427 Park Avenue.
[redacted]	51.4896087321386/ -107.060825764696	Public Tree	N	Flagged orange for identification
[redacted]	51.4896087827824/ -107.060824804503	Public Tree	N	Located in park way walk behind 427 Park Avenue.
[redacted]	51.4972599/ -107.063855283333	Private Tree	Y	Flagged orange for identification
[redacted]	51.4973032333333/ -107.057676033333	Private Tree	Y	Located on North edge of property.
[redacted]	51.4973115495045/ -107.057717433709	Private Tree	N	Located on North edge of property.
[redacted]	51.4972901537446/ -107.057722168881	Private Tree	N	Dead elm located on the south edge of property
[redacted]	51.497273504531/ -107.057723126607	Private Tree	N	Unable to take DBh safely with deadfall in way. Located directly South of tree #14. Previous flagging from 2024/2025
[redacted]	51.4982092444874/ -107.057680604155	Private Tree	N	Flagged orange for identification
[redacted]	51.4982968666667/ -107.057657683333	Private Tree	N	Flagged orange for identification
[redacted]	51.4985620719083/ -107.057697461876	Private Tree	N	Previously marked 2025
[redacted]	51.4987986102749/ -107.057790484633	Private Tree	N	Flagged orange for identification
[redacted]	51.4986552166667/ -107.0578119	Private Tree	N	Flagged orange for identification

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Address	Waypoint Lat/Long	Public or Private Tree	Branch Sample Submitted (Y/N)	Additional Notes
[redacted]	51.4986197333334/ -107.057791266667	Private Tree	N	Flagged orange for identification
[redacted]	51.4985305333333/ -107.057800933333	Private Tree	N	Flagged orange for identification
[redacted]	51.4983164588138/ -107.05776312756	Private Tree	N	Flagged orange for identification
[redacted]	51.4983668500001/ -107.057777683333	Private Tree	N	Flagged orange for identification
[redacted]	51.5022114234904/ -107.060970591396	Public Tree	N	Located on South edge of cemetery
[redacted]	51.4928493629243/ -107.059469786103	Private Tree	N	Located on North edge of house on property. Previously marked in 2025
[redacted]	51.4928474241424/ -107.059498427643	Private Tree	N	Unable to leave home owner a letter, entrance blocked.
[redacted]	51.4919798828836/ -107.059705289331	Private Tree	N	Located on NW corner of property, flagged with orange for ID. Previously marked 2024/2025
[redacted]	51.4831451/ -107.062579483333	Public Tree	N	Located on South edge of hospital.
[redacted]	51.48193007803/ -107.062046036988	Public Tree	N	Flagged orange for identification
[redacted]	51.4819593666667/ -107.062359916667	Public Tree	N	Flagged orange for identification
[redacted]	51.4819641225456/ -107.062372225972	Public Tree	N	Flagged orange for identification
[redacted]	51.4819692727022/ -107.062429336801	Public Tree	N	Flagged orange for identification
[redacted]	51.4866785166667/ -107.065565783333	Public Tree	N	Previously marked in 2025, remarked in 2026.
[redacted]	51.4885584754754/ -107.063914532598	Private Tree	N	Located in backyard on SE corner.

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Under the DED regulations:

Hazard Tree

"hazard tree" means any elm tree that:
(i) in the opinion of an officer, has deteriorated to the point that it is capable of supporting elm bark beetle habitation and breeding making that elm tree a hazard that may promote the spread of Dutch elm disease; and
(ii) has been identified to the owner as a hazard tree, by:
(A) written notice sent by regular mail to the owner by an officer; and
(B) a clear marking placed on the elm tree by an officer that distinguishes the elm tree from other elm trees that are not hazard trees or infected trees; Although the DED survey has been completed, we must stay vigilant against the threat of DED, because if left unmanaged, this disease could severely impact the remaining healthy American elm trees in the urban forest. This survey by Living Tree, offers a snapshot of your urban forest for that day.

Infected Tree

"infected tree" means any elm tree that:
(i) has been determined by an officer to be infected with Dutch elm disease; and
(ii) has been identified to the owner as an infected elm tree by:
(A) written notice sent by regular mail to the owner by an officer; and
(B) a clear marking placed on the elm tree by an officer that distinguishes the elm tree from other elm trees that are not infected trees or hazard trees.

DISCUSSION

To continue to reduce and slow the spread of DED infection in your municipality, Living Tree recommends the following steps be incorporated into the urban forest management plan:

A. Continue to complete at least 1 uninterrupted, comprehensive DED survey each summer (between July 1 and August 25). This survey must be completed by an experienced and well-trained survey crew. For communities with numerous annual DED infections, we recommend 2 surveys (between June 15 and August 25).
B. Conduct rapid enforcement/removal/disposal of all high-risk elms/DED infected elms and elm wood violations.
C. Maintain a DED public awareness/education campaign focused on DED wilt symptoms.
D. Consider completing a tree inventory of your public trees. This will provide your local government with valuable information about the species composition within your urban forest, will include an overall health assessment of your trees and can even estimate the approximate dollar value of the publicly owned urban forest.
E. Incorporate a pruning schedule for your urban forest between September 1 and March 31. This may be 3-to-5 or 5-to-7-year pruning cycles. Remove dead and dying elm branches. Living Tree recommends hiring an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist to remove the dead and dying branches as they can be beetle habitat. It will improve the overall health and vigour and make the trees less susceptible to insect and disease infestations and infection.
F. Be aware of the Provincial elm pruning ban between April 1 and August 31. Elm bark beetles are most active at this time and can be attracted to the scent of fresh tree cuts, possibly infecting a healthy elm.

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Photo 2. DED Infected or Danger Trees Marked for removal

Address: [redacted] (Lat/Long: 51.4896077065123/-107.060829667654)

Address: [redacted]

Address: [redacted]

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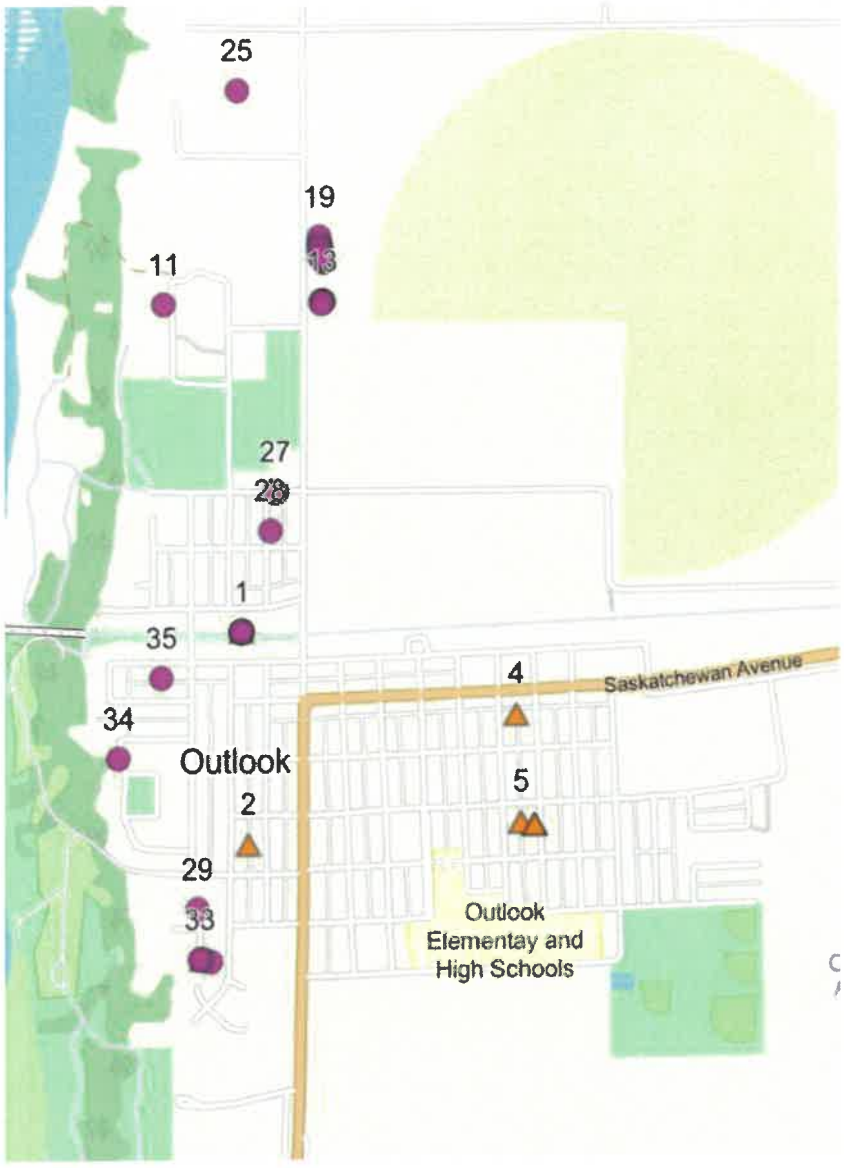

Figure 1. Map of the Town of Outlook illustrating the hazard/DED symptomatic American elms (purple circles) and elm wood storage violations (orange triangles) identified.

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Once again, Living Tree is very grateful for the opportunity to complete this valuable urban forest health survey in your community this season and we look forward to assisting your community with any future urban forest health projects that may be required.

Sincerely,

The Living Tree Environmental Team

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