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April 8, 2026

An assessment was conducted on the Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) located in the rear left corner of the property at 892 W. Boston. The tree was measured at 51 inches diameter at Breast Height (DBH).

Tree age estimation for Eastern Cottonwood varies significantly depending on growing conditions and methodology. Non-invasive age estimation tools were utilized, as coring or sectioning was not performed in order to avoid harm to the tree. Based on multiple arboricultural age calculators and consideration of urban growth rates, the estimate age range for this tree is 75-100 years.

It is noted that numerous Eastern Cottonwoods measuring approximately 60 inches DBH that have been removed and subsequently examined through growth ring analysis have been determined to be 55-60 years of age. Taking this documented date into account, along with observed site conditions and growth characteristics, my professional opinion is that this tree is approximately 80 years old.

Eastern Cottonwoods typically exhibit a functional lifespan of 70-100 years, particularly in urban environments where soil compaction, restricted root space, and infrastructure conflicts accelerate decline. The subject tree displays significant large-diameter deadwood and bears evidence of historical utility line clearance pruning, including stub cuts, which further indicate reduced structural integrity and long-term vigor.

Considering the species characteristics, the age and current condition of the tree, the presence of extensive deadwood, the history of continual pruning, and the excessive structural loading created by the L-shaped branching habit, it is my professional opinion that this tree presents a hazardous condition. Failure of major limbs or trunk sections could result in significant damage to adjacent utilities, subject and surrounding properties.

Tim Ortwine,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Ortwine", is written over a white background.

ISA Certified Arborist, MI-3800A

Westside Forestry Service, Inc.

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*This assessment reflects the professional opinion of the arborist based on visual inspection and non-invasive evaluation methods as of the date noted above.