



ARBORIST REPORT ELK GROVE, CA

January 17, 2022

Elk Grove Unified School District
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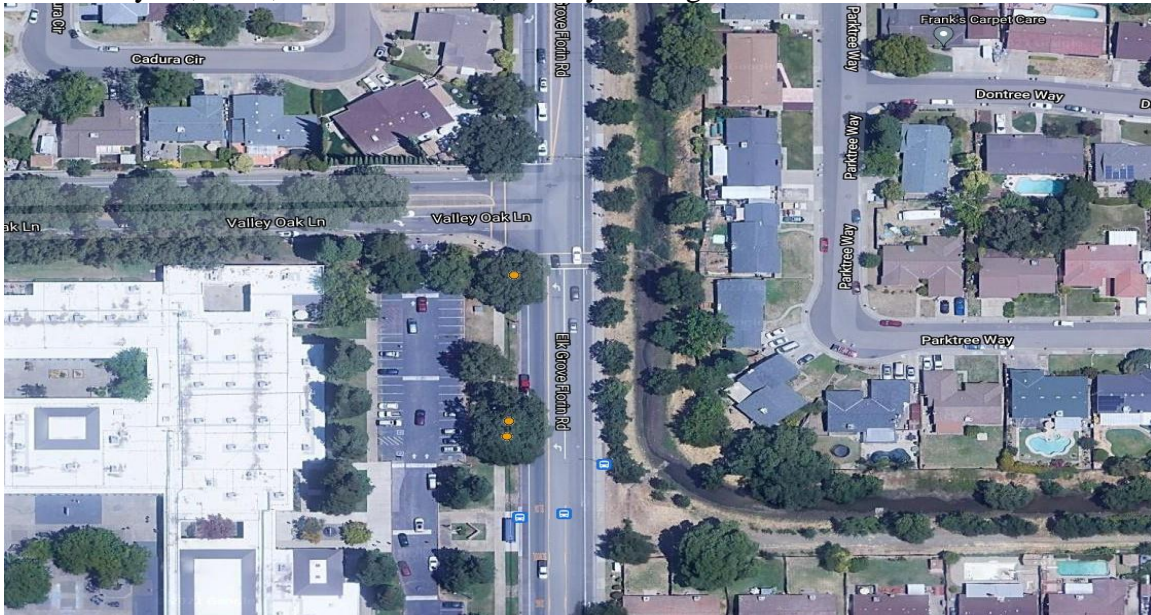
Re: Elk Grove High School Root Crown Inspections

SCOPE OF WORK

The purpose of this report is to summarize my findings from performing three root crown inspections on three valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) trees located along the frontage of Elk-Grove Florin Rd. in front of Elk Grove High School. This report is an addendum to the original report (attached) I wrote back in May of 2021, where I inspected the remainder of the trees on the grounds.

OBSERVATIONS

On January 12, 2022, I visited the site, and my findings are as follows:



The dots in the above image depict the general location of the subject trees.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Valley oak trees #152-154 had an absence of root flare and were buried in cobblestone. When I checked the historical imagery on Google Earth, I noticed that the empty tree well with cobblestones south of the subject trees had a large oak that died sometime in early 2006. In addition, there were more oaks located in similar tree wells that were removed at some point in the 1990s.

Yesterday I excavated the cobble back from the trees and revealed that the root flares were located 2-3 feet below grade level and sitting in standing water. Consequently, when the High School was built in 1964, these oaks resided at a natural grade 2-3 feet lower, and they had to raise the grade during the development of the school grounds. Oak trees, in general, do not tolerate their root collars being buried by an additional 2-3 feet of soil. An arborist most likely back in 1964 recommended that the trees be backfilled with cobble to prevent the root rots associated with raising the grade around oaks. I believe this method has been somewhat successful, albeit in the short run. At this point, 50-60 years later, the trees have begun to succumb to the constant dark wet soil conditions and developed evidence of root rots and root plate shifting.

I recommend removing all three trees due to the buried root flares that impede inspection, the presence of pathogenic root rot, and the potential for root plate shifting in saturated soil conditions. See photos and captions below.



Depicted in the above photo is the northeast side of tree #154. The red arrow shows an area of healthy pink-colored tissue, whereas the yellow area shows a duller yellow-brown tissue associated with pathogenic root fungus. Bark plates have rotted away from this area as they were in a saturated environment. Notice how I am only approximately 18 inches below grade and have yet to find a root flare or a buttress root.



Tree #153 shown above and below has been excavated to approximately 30 inches below soil grade and is sitting in a few inches of standing water.



The white spot depicted by the red arrow above was an area of mycelium I found beneath the bark accompanied by the same dull yellow-brown colored sapwood suggesting the presence of pathogenic root rot.



Tree #152, pictured above and below, was also standing in several inches of water. It was apparent that the root plate may have shifted to the southeast. There was some new construction on the adjacent traffic signal on the anchoring side of the tree (northwest) since my inspection in May that may or may not have affected the subject tree’s stability.



The red arrow depicts the new concrete where some excavation may have been performed. Notice the lean of the trunk to the southeast. In addition, a significant amount of excavation and grading was performed beneath the dripline of the subject tree well within the trees TPZ (Tree Protection Zone) that may have had an additional impact on the subject tree.



January 2022 Notice the distribution of the canopy and the lean to the south.



May 2021. Notice there is no cobble embedded in the concrete, as shown in the photo on the bottom of the previous page.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist you in your tree assessment needs. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact me directly at (916) 417-1979.

Respectfully,

Kelley Gilleran
ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist #688
ISA Board Certified Master Arborist #WE7061-B
ISA Qualified Tree Risk Assessor #1541



ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITING CONDITIONS

1. Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data has been verified insofar as possible; however, the Consultant can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information provided by others.
2. The Consultant will not be required to give testimony or to attend court by reason of this report unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made, including payment of an additional fee for such services as described in the fee schedule and contract of engagement.
3. Loss or alteration of any part of this report invalidates the entire report.
4. Possession of this report or a copy thereof does not imply right of publication or use for any purpose by any other than the person to whom it is addressed, without the prior written consent of the Consultant.
5. This report and any values expressed herein represent the opinion of the Consultant, and the Consultant's fee is in no way contingent upon the reporting of a stipulated result, a specified value, the occurrence of a subsequent event, nor upon any finding to be reported.
6. Unless expressed otherwise: 1) information contained in this report covers only those items that were examined and reflects the condition of those items at the time of inspection; and 2) the inspection is limited to visual examination of accessible items without dissection, excavation, or coring. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the tree(s) or property in question may not arise in the future.
7. Arborists are tree specialists who use their education, knowledge, training, and experience to examine trees, recommend measures to enhance the beauty and health of trees, and attempt to reduce the risk of living near trees. It is highly recommended that you follow the arborist recommendations; however, you may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations and/or seek additional advice.
8. Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the structural failure of a tree. Trees are living organisms that fail in ways we do not fully understand. Conditions are often hidden within trees and below ground. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, or for a specific period of time. Likewise, remedial treatments performed cannot be guaranteed.
9. Any recommendations and/or performed treatments (including, but not limited to, pruning or removal) of trees may involve considerations beyond the scope of the arborist's services, such as property boundaries, property ownership, site lines, disputes between neighbors, and any other related issues. Arborists cannot take such considerations into account unless complete and accurate information is disclosed to the arborist. An arborist can then be expected to consider and reasonably rely on the completeness and accuracy of the information provided.
10. Trees can be managed, but they cannot be controlled. To live near trees is to accept some degree of risk. Trees carry risk. The only way to eliminate all risks associated with trees is to eliminate all trees.