



## ARBORIST REPORT ELK GROVE, CA

May 14, 2021

Elk Grove Unified School District

**ATTN: Mr. Bill Heinicke**

9510 Elk Grove-Florin Rd.

Elk Grove, Ca 95624

**Phone:** (916) 525-5485

**Email:** wheinick@egusd

**Re:** Elk Grove High School Tree Inspections

### **SCOPE OF WORK**

The purpose of this report is to summarize my findings from performing a GPS inventory and health evaluation of all the trees located within the boundaries of Elk Grove High School. I inspected 168 sites in total. I performed a visual inspection from the ground. I did not ascend into the canopies of the subject trees. This report is a basic tree health evaluation with maintenance pruning or removal recommendations. This report should not be considered a formal tree risk assessment.

### **OBSERVATIONS**

In early May 2021, I visited the site multiple days, and my findings are as follows:



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



## **OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

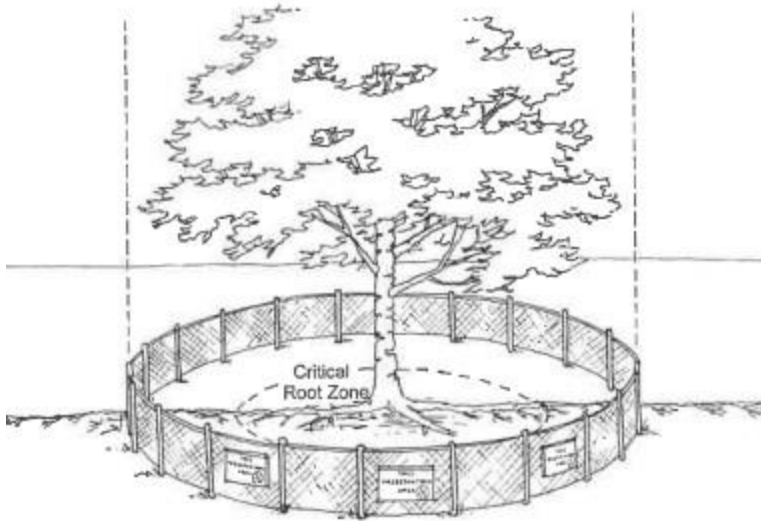
The 168 tree sites I inspected were located on school grounds and two medians along Valley Oak Ln.

During my inspection of the 168 trees, I found 13 trees that I recommend **for removal** as soon as possible. In addition, I found **60 trees that have structural problems that require immediate pruning to mitigate the issues**. 38 of these 60 poorly structured trees are in poor condition, while the remaining 22 are in fair condition but still require immediate attention. The remaining 95 trees are recommended for routine maintenance pruning every 3-5 years starting in 2021. Routine pruning will help get the trees on a cycle that will minimize branch failures in adverse weather conditions or otherwise in years to come. Routine pruning consists of crown cleaning dead branches, reducing weight on heavy limbs, and providing the necessary canopy clearance to buildings, roadways, and walkways.

Attached to this document is a large-scale .pdf map with the site numbers and recommended maintenance easily viewable at a glance. In addition, there is an excel spreadsheet outlining all my recommendations for all of the sites. My recommendations have been listed with a "Priority" rating in the furthest right-hand column of the excel spreadsheet. "**Immediate**" is the most urgent, followed by "**Routine**," and finally the least concerning (but still necessary to address) "**N/A**" rating.

**All trees with the recommendation "Trim-Poorly Structured" should have a 15% crown reduction performed on the entire canopy as well as branch end-weight reduction pruning on heavy lateral limbs overburdened with foliage and wood weight. Crown clean all dead branches 2" in diameter and larger from the entire canopy. While aloft inspect the crown for any cracks, splits, cavities, or decay, I could not identify from my visual inspection from ground level. All pruning must be directed by myself or a certified arborist in good standing with the International Society of Arboriculture.**

**Valley oak trees #152-154 have an absence of root flare and are buried in cobblestone within the tree well along the public sidewalk area in front of the school. It appears that 3 other trees were in the same planting situation and have either died or fell over due to root rot. I am recommending removing the cobblestone and exposing the root flare to check for pathogenic root rot. A report documenting the findings from the root crown examinations will be included if the School District desires this service.**



During the demolition of the old landscape in the front of the school, trees that are to be retained in the project were impacted by the construction (see photos in Appendix A). When I visited the site, there were no tree protection zones established. This report does not address the impact to the subject trees #1-11 and the root damage they may have sustained from the demolition and excavation equipment.

Depicted above is the dripline method for establishing a TPZ (Tree Protection Zone) that should be established before the start of any grading, excavation, or construction. Fencing should be sturdy and highly visible to discourage entrance into and disturbing the area. 4-foot-tall orange high-viz plastic net-type fencing is acceptable but not recommended. 6-foot-tall cyclone chain-link fencing is recommended. TPZ barriers should be clearly marked with signs stating the area is protected, and no one can enter or disturb soil without authorization from the project arborist.

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

## APPENDIX A – PHOTOS

### Photos #1-6



**The above photo depicts the absence of tree protection zones (TPZs) and excavation equipment within the critical root zone area beneath the dripline of the canopy.**



**Several roots were damaged during the excavation performed adjacent to trees #6-7**



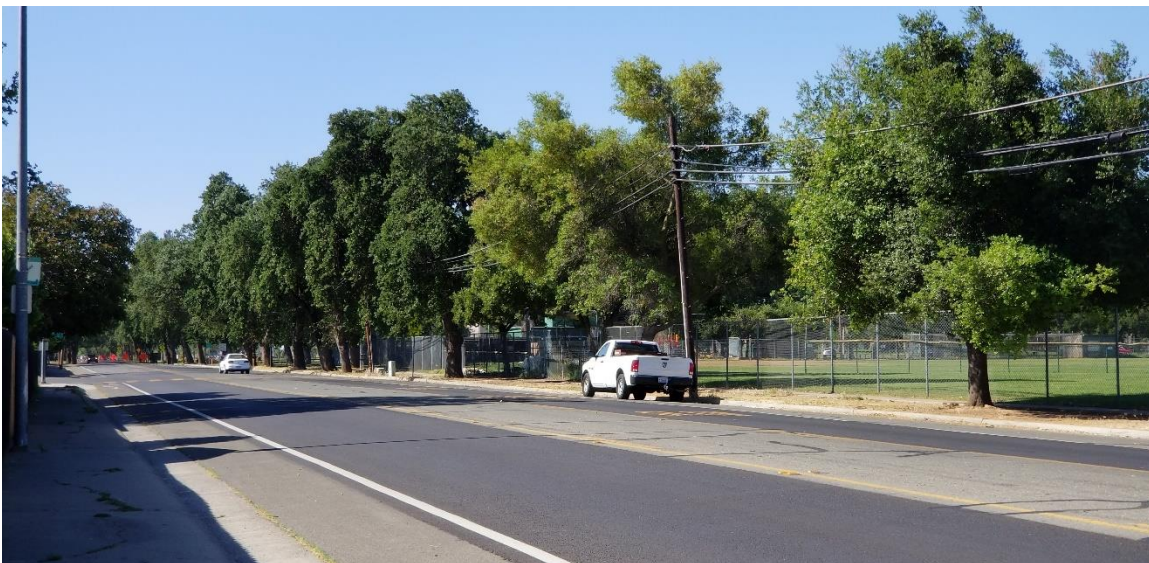
**Beefwood trees #85-118 are in poor condition and have a high potential for branches breaking in adverse weather conditions and otherwise. The red arrow in the above photo depicts a broken, hanging limb in the canopy.**



**Tree #152 above has an absence of root flare, and the root collar appears buried by the cobblestone. In addition, the USA (Underground Service Agency) markings beneath the dripline suggest the utility trenches may need to be accessed, which would result in root damage to the subject tree. An ISA certified arborist should be present to observe the excavation beneath the dripline and evaluate the extent of the damage.**



**Trees #153 and #154 are in the same situation as the previous photo but do not appear to require utility trenching beneath their canopies. I recommend removing the cobblestones from around the base of all three trees and exposing the natural grade of the root flare, and checking for signs of pathogenic root rot.**



**Trees #155-168 are all in need of immediate pruning to reduce the wood weight and the foliage of overextended lateral branches.**



## 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.