

# Arborist Report

## **Timberline Recreational Trail Placer County, CA**

October 2008



*Prepared for:*

**Raney Planning and Management  
ATTN: Nick Pappani  
1401 Halyard Drive, Suite 120  
West Sacramento, CA 95691**

*Prepared by:*



**GALLAWAY**  
CONSULTING, INC.  
117 Meyers Street, Suite 110, Chico, CA 95928  
Phone (530) 343-8327 Fax (530) 343-8312

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# Arborist Report

## Timberline Recreation Trail

### Placer County, CA

October 2008

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#### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Gallaway Consulting, Inc. conducted a tree evaluation and inventory for the proposed Timberline Recreation Trail (Project). The proposed trail is a 6-foot wide path which forms a loop and links up with the adjacent park to the east of the Project. An additional 7-foot buffer on either side of the 6-foot trail was surveyed to form a 20-foot wide total survey area (survey area). The project site lies northwest of the City limits of the City of Auburn in Placer County, California. This study and report were prepared in order to evaluate tree resources within the project site. The project site is characterized by dense blue oak woodland, and was surveyed to provide an overall quantitative and qualitative evaluation of existing trees 5 inches or greater in diameter at breast height (dbh), per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) standards (PR21083.4). A total of 98 blue oaks, 11 live oaks, and 1 valley oak 5 inches or greater in dbh were found to occur within the final trail alignment. Approximately 1.30 acres of tree canopy cover exists within the trail alignment.

The woodland within the site does provide some ecological quality, even though it is isolated and occurs within an infill area of the County. While surveying the area, signs of larger mammals including deer and black-tailed jack rabbit were observed.

**Note:** Hazard trees onsite included trees with an extreme lean, decay, and/or unstable limbs. Such hazard trees in close proximity to buildings, pedestrians, and roadways should be removed.

## INTRODUCTION

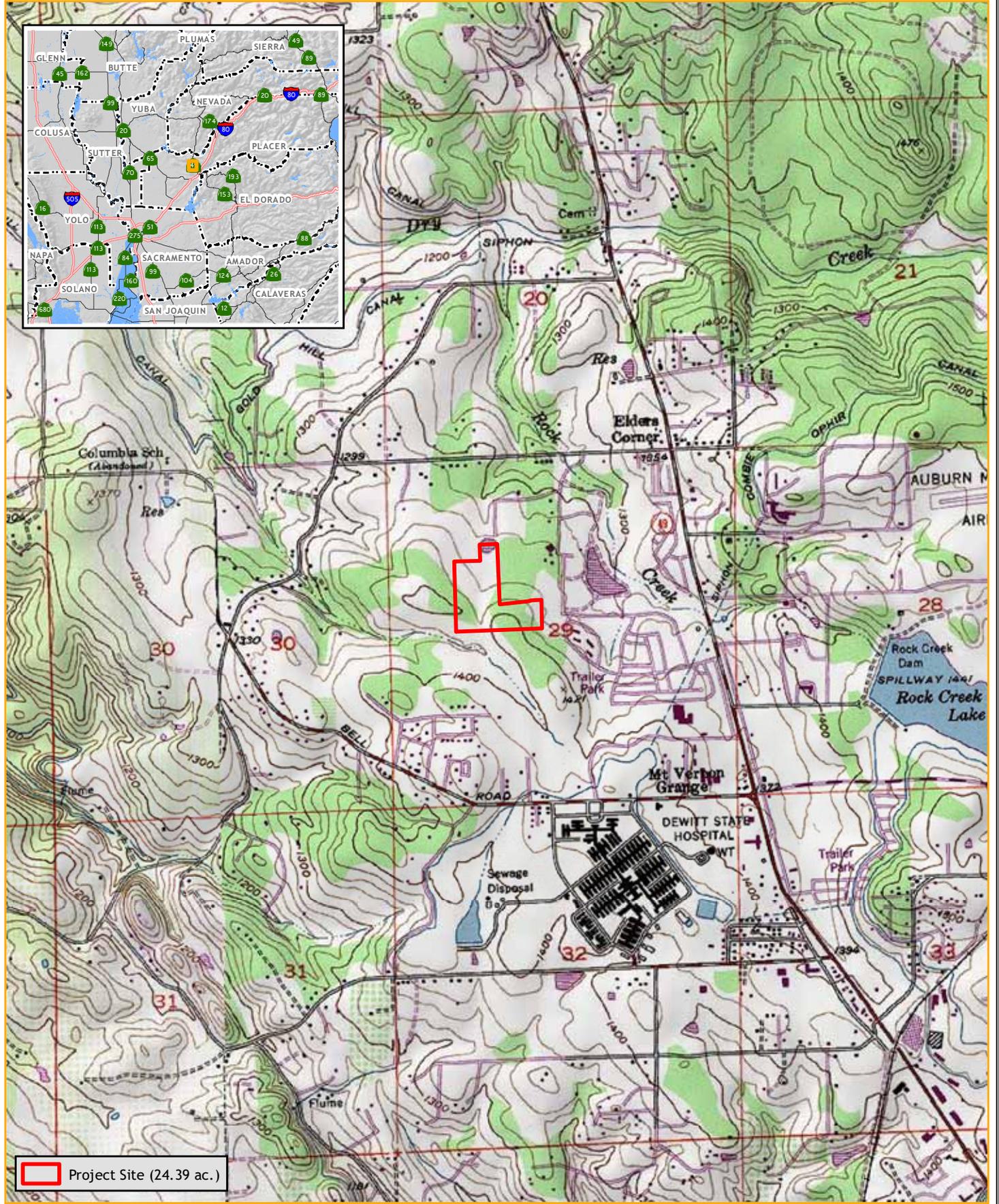
Gallaway Consulting, Inc. (GCI) conducted a tree survey within the proposed Timberline Recreational Trail project (Project), which includes a 6-foot wide path. A buffer of 7 feet on either side of the Project was also surveyed, making a 20-foot wide survey area (survey area). The survey area occurs on an approximately 24-acre property owned by the Auburn Recreation District (project site), located northwest of the City of Auburn in Placer County, California. More specifically, it is located in the northwestern portion of Section 29, T13N, R8E, as identified on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Auburn 7.5' Quadrangle (**Figure 1**). A site survey was conducted by certified arborist Elena Alfieri (ISA #WE-8033A) and assisted by biologist Trish Ladd on October 8, 2008 to evaluate the tree resources in the survey area. The 20-foot wide survey area encompasses roughly 1.84 acres.

This report was prepared as part of the project's requirements identified in Article 12.16 of the County Code. It is intended as an informative tool for both the project proponent and the County. The project proponent may use the data set forth in this report during finalization of the site plan to estimate impacts to tree resources and identify ways to minimize and avoid impacts. The County's project review process would include an evaluation of consistency between the proposed development and applicable sections of the municipal code.

## STUDY AREA

The project site is located on Auburn Recreational District land, northwest of the City of Auburn in Placer County, California. The site is located just west of Richardson Drive and adjacent to the County park (**Figure 1**). Existing residential and commercial buildings are located to the north and west of the project area. The project site is characterized as blue oak woodland, with relatively flat topography.

The project site's tree population is co-dominated by live oaks (*Quercus wislizeni*) and blue oaks (*Quercus douglasii*). Gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) is the other prominent tree species. The site's understory is comprised primarily of chaparral honeysuckle (*Lonicera interrupta*) and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). The oak woodland within the project site contains a large number of small, crowded and elongated trees, with extreme leans, which do not appear vigorous. Within the 20-foot wide survey area, the dominant tree species are blue oak, live oak, and valley oak (see site photos presented in **Appendix I**). The climate in the project area is classified as Mediterranean (Cs), with cool, wet winters and hot, dry summers. The average length of the growing season is 225 to 350 days. Annual precipitation in the study area vicinity is 25 to 40 inches (SCS, 1974).



 Project Site (24.39 ac.)



Project Site derived from Land Architectute AutoCAD  
 In Section 29 of T13N & R8E of  
 Auburn USGS 7.5' Quad.  
 Map shows Auburn & Gold Hill USGS 7.5' Quads.  
 Map Date: October 21, 2008

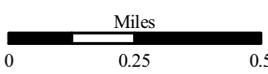


Figure 1

### Woodland Overview

The blue oak woodland within the project area is one of the few remnants of the larger, now fragmented oak woodland landscape within and in the outer City limits of the City of Auburn (**Figure 2**). Woodlands in the project site are isolated from remaining woodlands in the vicinity. One larger patch of undisturbed woodland occurs southwest of the site. However, residential developments separate the two areas preventing connectivity between them.

Though the woodland onsite is bisected by roads, wildlife is abundant onsite, as oak woodlands are function as one of the most important wildlife habitats in California.

If areas within the site are left as open space, thinning should be conducted to remove dead vegetation. Additionally, potential hazard trees were observed onsite, which exhibited signs of decay or structural defects, and were given a health rating of 1. These hazard trees should be removed if they pose a threat to buildings and/or pedestrians.

## **REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

### SB1334 – Oak Woodlands Protection Act

Senate Bill 1334, which was enacted in 2004, established regulations related to the conversion of oak woodlands within county jurisdictions. The Public Resources Code (§21083.4) requires counties to determine whether projects would result in potentially significant impacts related to the conversion of oak woodlands. A range of mitigation alternatives must be implemented if a county identifies potentially significant impacts related to oak woodland conversion.

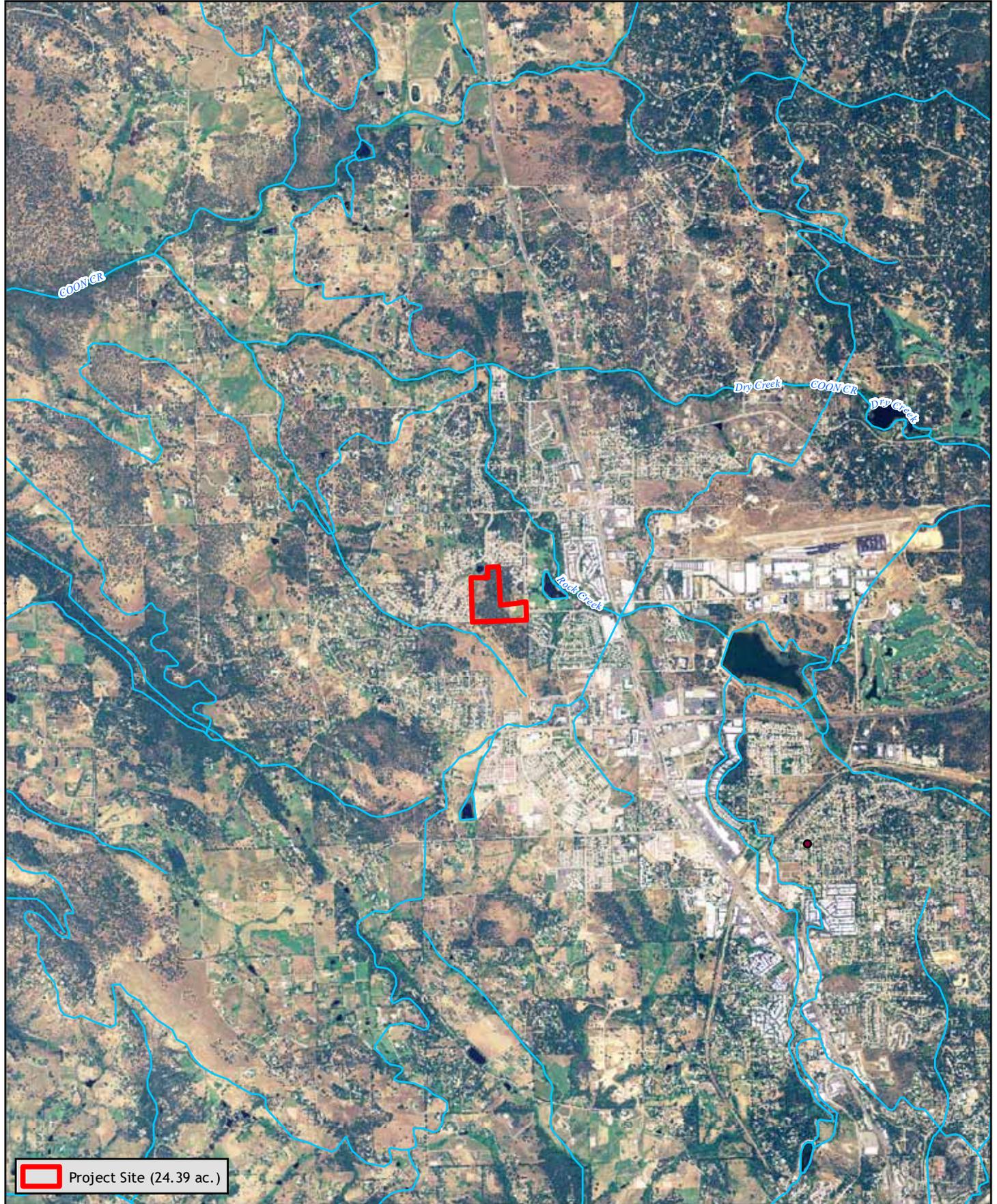
### Auburn/Bowman Community Plan

The Auburn/Bowman Community Plan (ABCP) is a component of the Placer County General Plan. The ABCP serves as the “land use policy document” applicable to the project site. The Plan establishes broad, *General Community Goals and Planning Principals*, which are followed by specific elements. The following goals and policies of the ABCP are likely applicable to the oak/oak woodland resources occurring within the project site:

#### *General Community Goals and Planning Principals*

##### General Community Goals

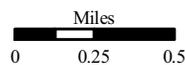
14. *PRESERVE THE NATURAL LAND FORMS; PRESERVE OUTSTANDING AREAS OF NATIVE VEGETATION INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, OAK WOODLANDS AND RIPARIAN AREAS, AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE AREA AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND HIGHER DENSITY RESIDENTIAL USES CAN RESULT IN THE LOSS OF NATURALLY OCCURRING AMENITIES. WHERE THIS IS ALLOWED TO OCCUR, ADHERENCE TO A SET OF COMMUNITY DESIGN GUIDELINES SHOULD ASSIST IN MITIGATING SUCH IMPACTS.*



Project Site (24.39 ac.)



Project Site derived from Land Architectute AutoCAD  
In Section 29 of T13N & R8E of  
Auburn USGS 7.5' Quad.  
Aerial: NAIP (2005)  
Map Date: October 21, 2008



GALLAWAY  
CONSULTING, INC.

Figure 2

## *Environmental Resources Management Element*

### *Vegetation Goals:*

1. *PRESERVE OUTSTANDING AREAS OF NATIVE VEGETATION AND TREES, NATURAL TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES, WILDLIFE HABITATS AND CORRIDORS, AND RIPARIAN CORRIDORS.*
2. *CONSERVE SIGNIFICANT GRASSLAND AND WOODED AREAS AS ESSENTIAL ECONOMIC, NATURAL, AND AESTHETIC RESOURCES.*

### *Vegetation Policies:*

1. *Conserve vegetative resources due to their importance for wildlife habitat, watershed protection, climate moderation, erosion control, and for their many other values.*
2. *Conserve the natural landscape, including minimizing disturbance to natural terrain and vegetation, as an important consideration in the design of any subdivision or land development project.*
8. *Encourage landowners and developers to preserve the integrity of existing terrain and native vegetation in visually sensitive areas such as hillsides, ridges and along important transportation corridors and designated scenic highways.*
10. *Conserve representative areas of undisturbed oak woodlands and valley grasslands that have significant value as wildlife habitat.*
11. *Preserve and protect landmark trees and major groves of native trees.*

### Placer County Code

Article 12.16 of the County Code establishes the primary tree preservation regulations applicable to the proposed project. The Tree Ordinance identifies protected trees and establishes protection requirements for projects that may impact these trees. Protected trees are described as all native tree species with a dbh of  $\geq 6$  inches. The Auburn/Bowman Community Plan Area is established as a Tree Preservation Zone, subject to the provisions of the Tree Ordinance. In addition, the ordinance establishes county-wide protections for landmark trees and trees within riparian zones.

### Other Guidance

#### *Placer County Oak Woodland Management Plan*

The County's Oak Woodland Management Plan is intended to provide a framework of consistent policy for projects subject to CEQA review and the Tree Ordinance. While this management plan is not codified, it is a synthesis of many different policies and guidelines related to oak woodlands within the County's jurisdiction.

#### *Interim Guidelines for Evaluating Development Impacts on Oak Woodland*

These Guidelines, while interim in nature, are intended to provide a consistent environmental review process for projects that would occur within the County's oak woodlands. The Interim Guidelines are based on the County's Tree Ordinance and General Plan as well as the CEQA Guidelines. Portions of this

arborist report are based on the inventory and impact assessment standards set forth in the Interim Guidelines. For example, “significant oak trees” within the project site are identified in this report. The Interim Guidelines establish a dbh threshold of 24 inches for significant oak trees.

## **METHODS**

Prior to conducting the onsite survey, aerial photos of the site were reviewed in order to identify the likely location(s) of tree stands. The survey was conducted on foot by certified arborist Elena Alfieri and assisted by biologist Trish Ladd to identify trees that were 5 inches or greater in dbh (**Figure 3**). The County Code states that “breast height” is 54-inches (4.5 feet) above the ground. This standard is consistent with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) guidelines. All evaluated trees within the survey areas were:

- Measured to determine dbh
- Individually numbered
- Evaluated for health rating
- Measured to determine approximate canopy radius
- Cataloged spatially in a Geographic Information Systems for map generation.

### Tree Health Ratings

Inventoried trees were assigned a health rating of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent. The health ratings were based on the following standards:

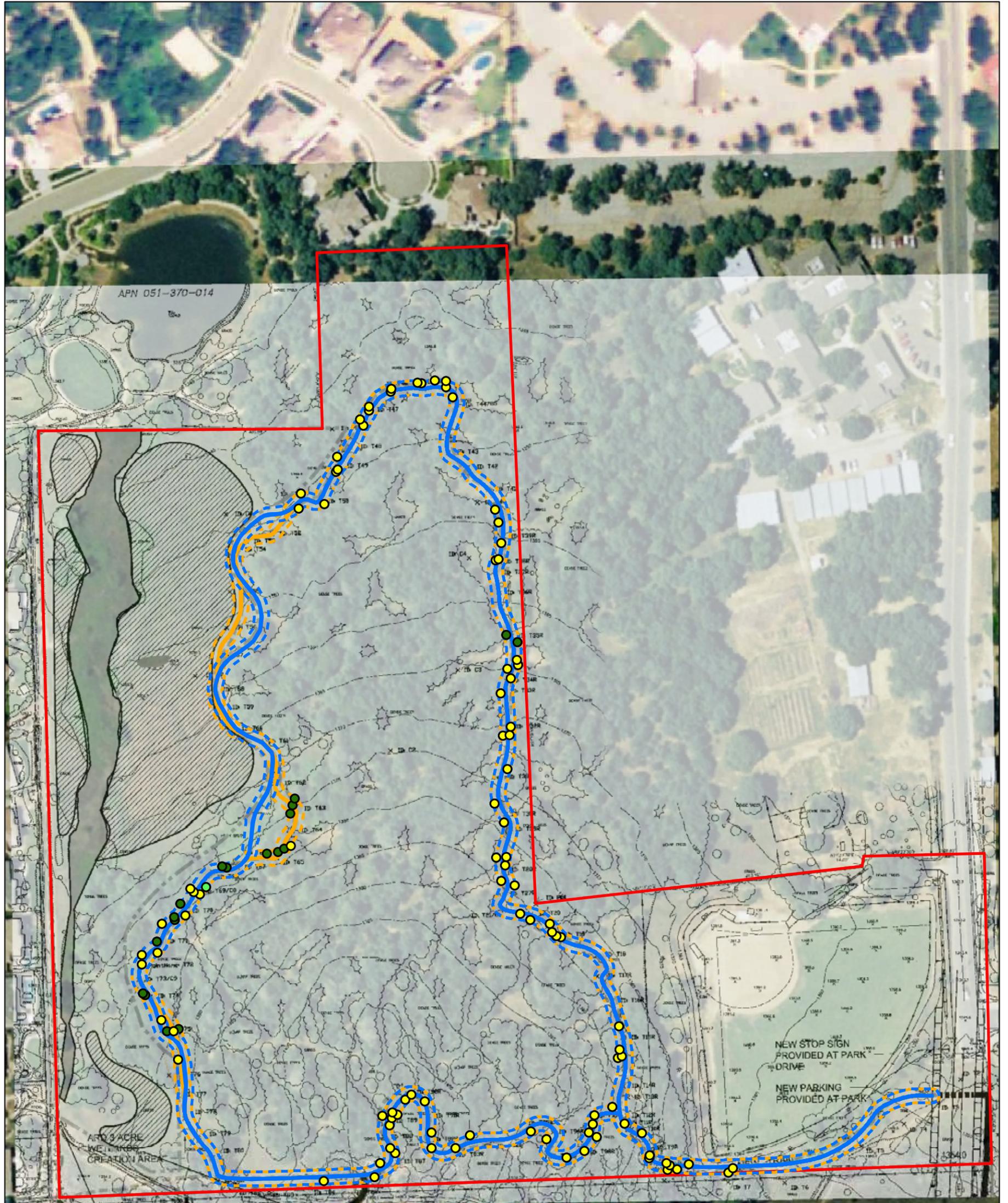
**1:** These trees have a major defect and are considered a potential hazard. The defect is typically extensive decay located within the trunk.

**2:** These are generally sound trees but often have prominent leans, trunk elongation, or general branching defects. Other potential health detractors include excessive deadwood from competition with other trees and mistletoe/ivy overgrowth.

**3:** These are average trees; generally in good health and without prominent defects in their branching pattern and overall structure. These trees also have adequate growing room and are not overgrown with mistletoe or ivy.

**4:** These trees are above average, with good branch form. The trees are not overcrowded or light-starved and have plenty of room to grow. These trees often look much like a “3” except they are larger, older, and better established in the tree stand.

**5:** These trees are considered excellent in all aspects: form, branching, and structure.



Project Site (24.39 ac.)	<b>Species in staked field alignment survey area (118 occ.)</b>	<b>Species in final proposed trail survey area (110 occ.)</b>
	Blue Oak (99 occ.)	Blue Oak (98 occ.)
	Live Oak (18 occ.)	Live Oak (11 occ.)
	Valley Oak (1 occ.)	Valley Oak (1 occ.)
	Staked field alignment 6 ft. wide trail	Final proposed 6 ft. wide trail
	Staked field alignment 20 ft. wide survey area (1.85 ac.)	Final proposed trail 20 ft. wide survey area (1.84 ac.)

Project Site outline and Site Plan provided by Land Architecture  
 Arborist survey by EA, TL (10/08/2008)  
 Aerial: 2005 (NAIP), Microsoft Virtual Earth  
 Map date: February 12, 2009

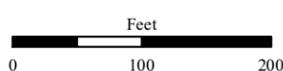


Figure 3

An evaluation of aerial images using remote sensing techniques was used to estimate total canopy area. Color gradients on aerial photographs were associated with different vegetative communities on the project site. Once specific gradients were assigned to the tree species occurring onsite, the total area of canopy cover on the project site was calculated (**Figure 4**). Potential loss of tree canopy can be estimated through a comparison of canopy cover distribution and site plans.

Per the Guidelines for Evaluating Development Impacts on Oak Woodland, “significant oak trees” with a dbh of 24 inches or greater were noted and are presented spatially in **Figure 5**. These specimens are considered outstanding specimens of their respective species in terms of aesthetic quality, dbh, shape, and branch structure. All significant trees were cataloged spatially with GPS units for later evaluation.

## **RESULTS**

The number of trees  $\geq 5$  inches in dbh inventoried in the project site totaled 110 (**Figure 3, Appendix II**). All of the 110 inventoried trees in the survey area are native oaks. Canopy cover within the survey area accounts for approximately 1.30 acres, or approximately 5%, of the entire 24.39-acre site and 70% of the 1.85-acre survey area (**Figure 4**).

### Native Oak Trees

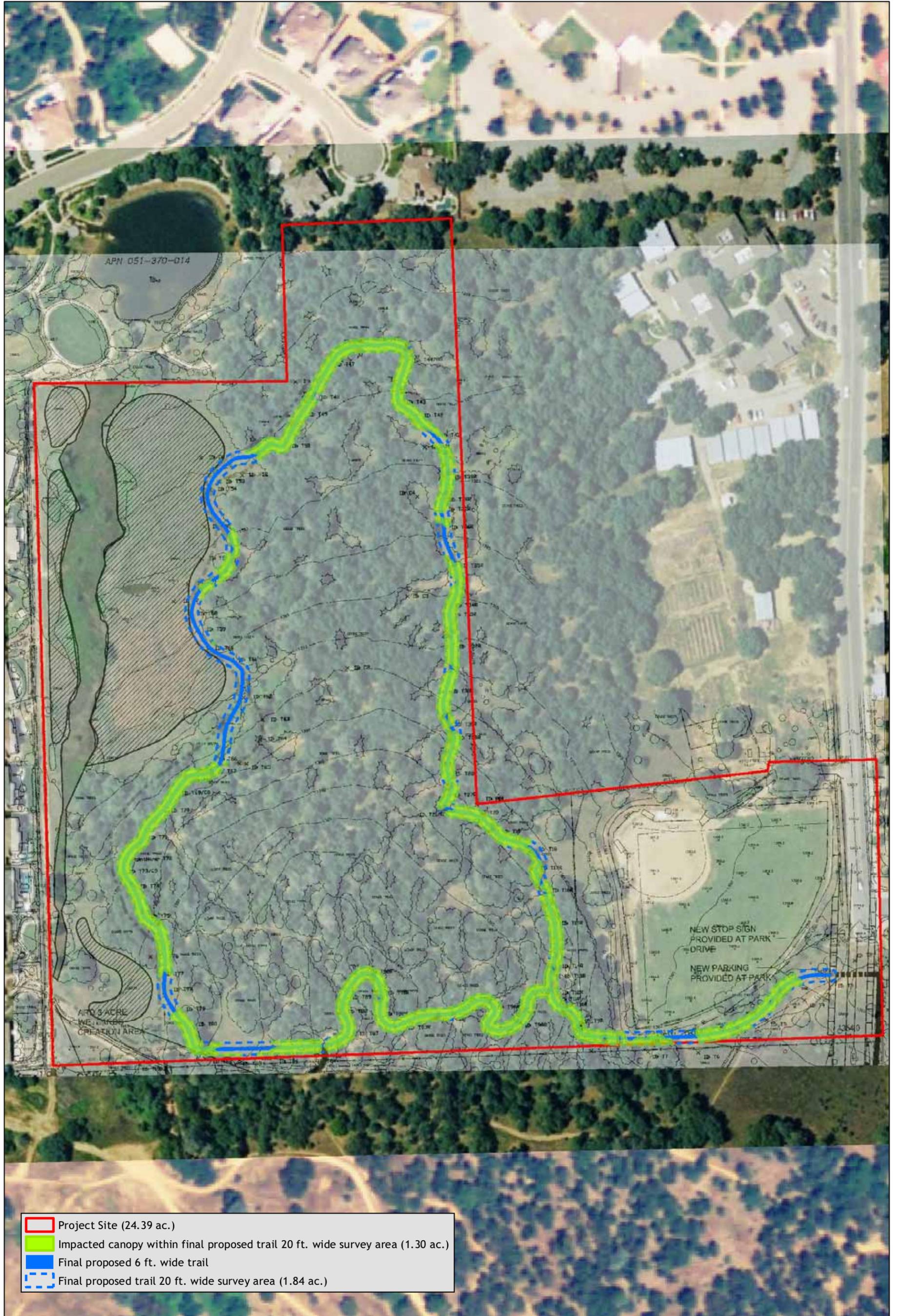
A total of 110 trees were inventoried within the Survey Area. All of these inventoried trees were native oaks including blue oak, live oak, and valley oak. The remote sensing analysis of aerial images resulted in a total canopy cover of 1.30 acres in the survey area. One acre of canopy cover on the site contains approximately 88 trees measuring at least 5 inches in dbh.

### Significant Trees

Trees with 24 inches in dbh or greater were identified within the survey area as significant trees. These individual trees are exceptional trees within the site due to their size, shape, and branch structure. They contribute greatly to a stand by producing high numbers of acorns for regeneration and in some cases they appeared to comprise their own micro-woodland as young oaks and other associated species develop under their canopy. Field surveys resulted in the identification of 2 blue oaks with a dbh of 24 inches or greater within the area surveyed (**Figure 5**).

### Evaluation of Tree Resources within the Site

Tree stands within the project site are composed primarily of blue oak with live oak and valley oak. The stands are generally small, densely growing trees that compete for sunlight and nutrients. The understory of poison oak and chaparral



Project Site outline and Site Plan provided by Land Architecture  
 Canopy calculated by remote sensing.  
 Aerial: 2005 (NAIP), Microsoft Virtual Earth  
 Map date: February 12, 2009

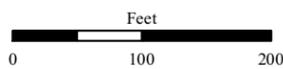
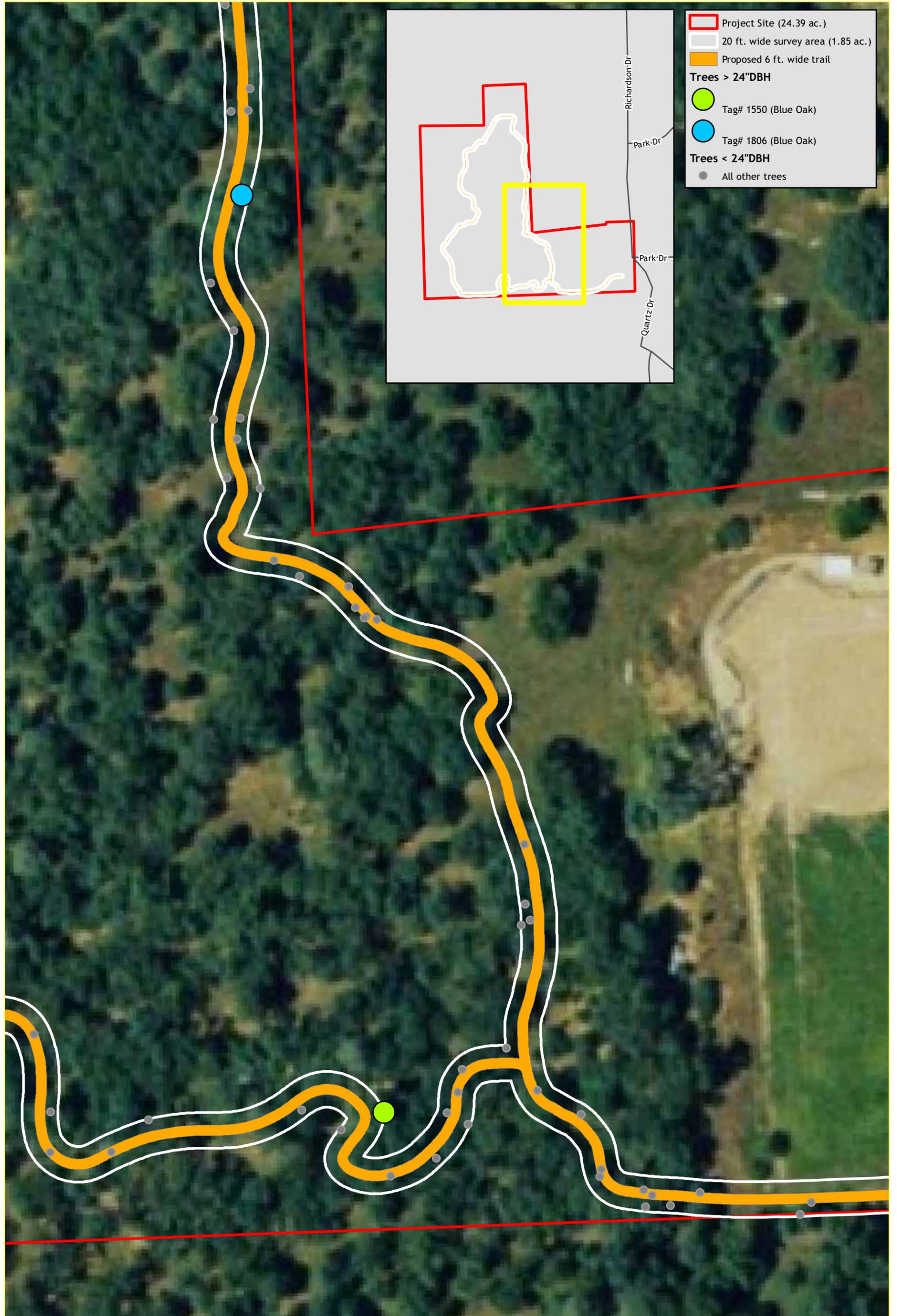


Figure 4



Project Site outline provided by Land Architecture  
Arboret survey by EA, TL (10/08/2008)  
Aerial: 2005 (NAIP)  
Map date: 10/20/2008

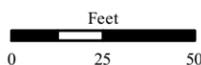


Figure 5

honeysuckle is patchy onsite with large areas devoid of understory vegetation due to the dense canopy cover. The average oak tree dbh was 9 inches within the survey area. The average health of inventoried trees was 2 on a 1 to 5 scale.

## **DISCUSSION**

Tree stands within the survey area are comprised entirely of blue oak, live oak, and valley oak trees. During surveys it was found that tree stands within the site were often densely growing small trees. Typically, these areas contained small elongated trees often with poor structure and evidence of drought stress.

Before tree removal can occur, the project proponent must prepare a plan for ensuring that trees designated for preservation are not damaged during construction and will be adequately protected in the long-term. The plan, prepared by a qualified professional, shall include tree protection measures for all trees or groups of trees where grading, fill, building, utility installation, redirection of natural drainage to or away from trees to be preserved, or similar activities will occur. To address the requirements set forth by Placer County in Article 12.16 of the County Code, a site specific tree preservation plan should be drafted. General tree preservation guidelines are included as **Appendix III**.

The current trail alignment will result in the removal of 33 blue oaks and 2 live oaks (**Figure 6**). However, this alignment design will retain 80 native oak trees, and the remainder of the 24-acre project site is not proposed for development and will also be retained as open space. Neither of the 2 significant trees located within the survey area will be directly impacted by the proposed trail construction (**Figure 5**).

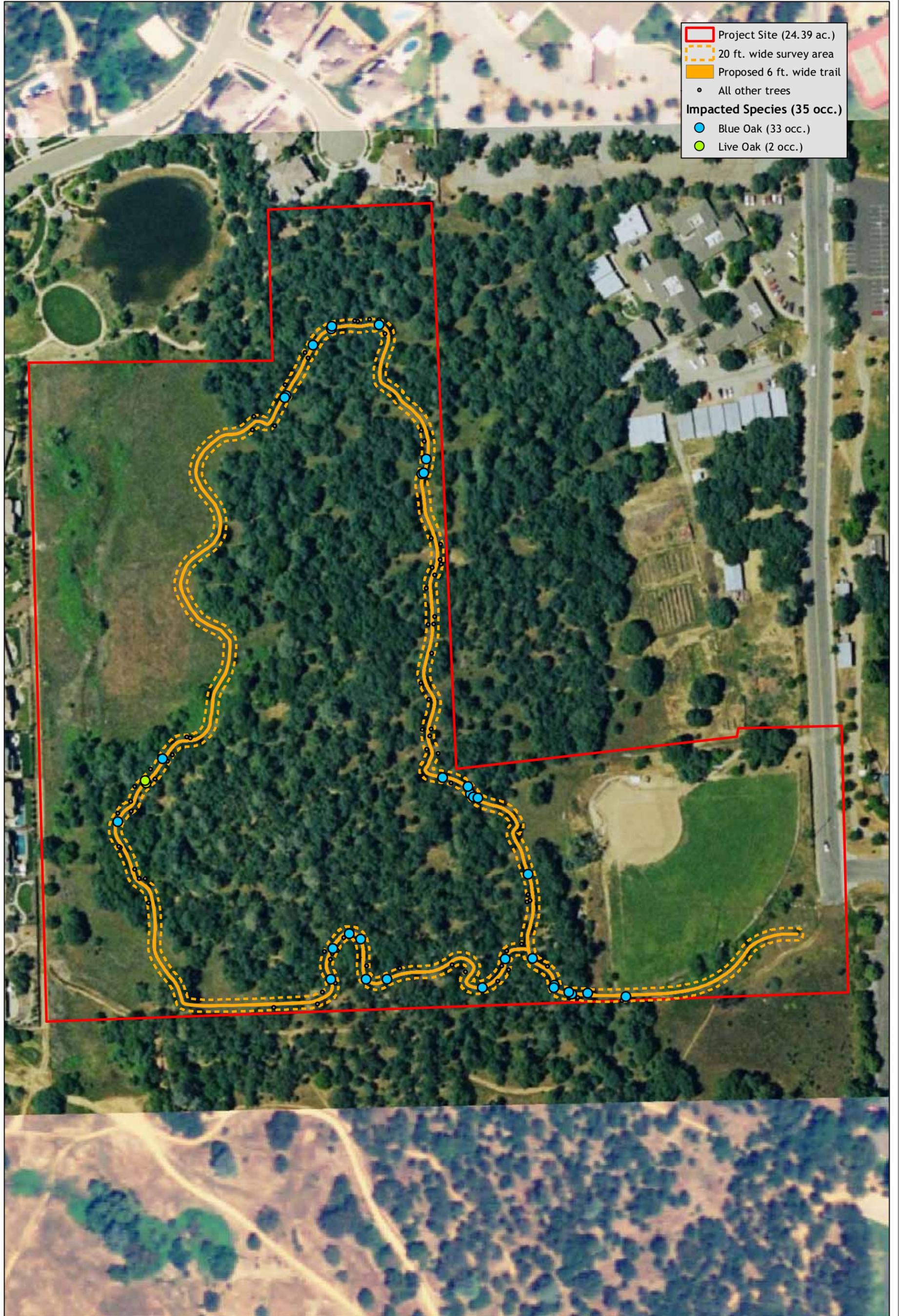
## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Consistent with the objectives of the General Community Goals described in the Auburn/Bowman Community Plan, it is recommended to incorporate avoidance measures into the project design to maximize the preservation of healthy trees. Since it assumed that tree removal will occur as part of the development the trail construction, upon completion of a final site design the proponent should apply for a tree removal permit from the Placer County Planning Department.

For trees retained within the survey area, measures must be taken to ensure these trees are properly protected during and after construction activities. General tree preservation recommendations are presented in **Appendix III**.

Due to the public use of the trail, it is recommended to notify the public on the importance of preserving the resources on the site and to prevent off-trail access.

Upon review of this report it may be necessary to alter site plans to accommodate County's tree retention requirements and a final tree preservation plan will be required by the County prior to the issuance of the tree removal permit (**Figure 6**). A final tree preservation plan cannot be developed until an



Project Site outline provided by Land Architecture  
Arborist survey by EA, TL (10/08/2008)  
Aerial: 2005 (NAIP)  
Map date: 2/27/08

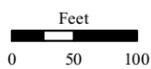


Figure 6

identification of all preserved or avoided trees is made. At that time, a definitive, site specific, tree preservation plan can be produced. Gallaway Consulting, Inc. will make itself available at the cost of the project proponent to assist in additional consultation for finalization of the project plan and development of the tree preservation plan.

Note: This report is an initial evaluation of the tree resources within the Timberline Recreation Trail project site. It is this author's understanding that the ultimate goal of this tree resource evaluation is for the project proponent to obtain a tree removal permit and construct a recreational trail. An arborist disclaimer is provided in **Appendix IV**.

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## PERSONAL COMMUNICATION

Schmidt, Christopher. Placer County, Planner. Telephone communication (530-745-3076) with GCI Arborist Elena Alfieri regarding: thresholds of significance, land use designations and zoning districts as they pertain to preparation of arborists' reports.

**APPENDIX I**  
Site Photos

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Example of a tree with a health rating of 1 within the survey area



Representative example of the oak woodland in the survey area

**APPENDIX II**

List of Inventoried Trees

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## List of Inventoried Trees

Species	Tag #	Multiple Stems (in.)	DBH (in.)	Dripline (ft.)	Health (1-5)
blue oak	1505		6	3	2
blue oak	1506		6	5	2
blue oak	1516		6	4	2
blue oak	1517		7	6	3
blue oak	1518		10	7	3
blue oak	1521		6	4	1
blue oak	1522		8	4	3
blue oak	1528		7	5	3
blue oak	1529		10	10	3
blue oak	1537		8	4	3
blue oak	1539		15	12	4
blue oak	1542		5	4	3
blue oak	1543		8	5	2
blue oak	1544		13	8	4
blue oak	1545		5	2	2
blue oak	1546		8	5	3
blue oak	1547		6	3	2
blue oak	1549		6	5	2
blue oak	1553		11	6	1
blue oak	1556		5	3	1
blue oak	1568		18	14	4
blue oak	1573		15	11	4
blue oak	1574		5	4	2
blue oak	1575		5	5	2
blue oak	1578		5	3	2
blue oak	1579	6,4=10	10	4	1
blue oak	1580		6	3	2
blue oak	1595		5	2	1
blue oak	1596		5	2	2
blue oak	1597		5	4	1
blue oak	1598		5	4	1
blue oak	1599		7	4	2
blue oak	1604		5	3	2
blue oak	1605		16	10	2
blue oak	1610		7	4	2
blue oak	1614		8	8	2
blue oak	1618	17,8=25	25	15	4
blue oak	1630	5,6,6,5=22	22	10	3
live oak	1634		6	4	2
blue oak	1635		6	3	2
live oak	1636		6	4	3
blue oak	1638		7	6	2
live oak	1647	4,4,5,6,3=22	22	6	3

<b>Species</b>	<b>Tag #</b>	<b>Multiple Stems (in.)</b>	<b>DBH (in.)</b>	<b>Dripline (ft.)</b>	<b>Health (1-5)</b>
live oak	1648	6,4=10	10	4	1
blue oak	1654	7,6=13	13	7	3
blue oak	1655		6	4	2
blue oak	1657		6	3	1
live oak	1658		5	2	1
blue oak	1663		5	3	2
live oak	1664	5,3=8	8	6	2
live oak	1665		5	4	1
blue oak	1666		8	4	2
live oak	1669		5	2	1
blue oak	1673		6	5	2
blue oak	1674		6	3	2
blue oak	1675		6	2	1
valley oak	1679		7	6	2
live oak	1683	8,6=14	14	6	2
live oak	1684		5	4	1
live oak	1685	4,3,2,2,1=12	12	5	2
live oak	1686		5	4	3
live oak	1688	4,4,2=10	10	3	2
blue oak	1690		12	8	3
live oak	1692	4,4,3,3,3=17	17	4	2
live oak	1695	10,6=16	16	9	3
live oak	1698	5,5,4=14	14	6	1
blue oak	1707		7	5	2
blue oak	1710	10,8=18	18	7	1
blue oak	1712		13	9	3
blue oak	1714		6	3	2
blue oak	1715		8	5	1
blue oak	1716		6	4	3
blue oak	1726		7	4	2
blue oak	1727	5,4=9	9	3	2
blue oak	1730		8	5	1
blue oak	1731		6	3	2
blue oak	1734		9	8	3
blue oak	1735		6	6	2
blue oak	1745		7	4	3
blue oak	1746		5	3	2
blue oak	1747	4,4=8	8	4	2
blue oak	1754	6,5=11	11	5	2
blue oak	1755		6	4	3
blue oak	1758		15	8	3
blue oak	1774		7	4	2
blue oak	1775		6	2	1
blue oak	1776		6	3	3
blue oak	1778		12	7	3

<b>Species</b>	<b>Tag #</b>	<b>Multiple Stems (in.)</b>	<b>DBH (in.)</b>	<b>Dripline (ft.)</b>	<b>Health (1-5)</b>
blue oak	1779		8	4	1
live oak	1782	5,6,4=15	15	4	2
live oak	1789	10,7,3=20	20	6	2
blue oak	1790		7	5	1
blue oak	1791		8	5	2
blue oak	1792		10	7	3
blue oak	1794	7,4,4=15	15	7	3
blue oak	1797	6,3=9	9	7	1
blue oak	1802	4,3,2,2	11	3	1
blue oak	1803	5,5,4=14	14	3	2
blue oak	1804	5,5=10	10	4	1
blue oak	1806		30	17	5
blue oak	1808	10,4,4=18	18	15	3
blue oak	1809	8,7=15	15	6	2
blue oak	1813		6	5	2
blue oak	1814		8	4	2
blue oak	1815	8,4=12	12	7	3
blue oak	1816		9	6	2
blue oak	1817	6,2=8	8	6	1
blue oak	1825		5	4	2
blue oak	1826		9	6	2
blue oak	1828		9	5	2
blue oak	1829		5	4	2
blue oak	1830		5	4	2
blue oak	1831		5	3	1
blue oak	1832	6,5=11	11	4	1
blue oak	1844		13	12	3
blue oak	1846		14	12	4
blue oak	1847		6	4	1
blue oak	1848	7,8=15	15	8	2

**APPENDIX III**

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General Tree Preservation Recommendations

## **General Tree Preservation Recommendations Timberline, Placer County, CA.**

### **Preservation and Maintenance of Existing Oak Trees.**

As a general rule, the existing ground surface within 6 feet of the drip line of any oak tree and 10 feet of the drip line of any significant tree to be preserved, shall not be cut, filled, compacted or pared. Excavation adjacent to any oak tree shall not be permitted where, in the judgment of a qualified professional, or Planning Director (Director), damage to the root system will result. Exceptions may be approved by the Director based on consultation with a qualified professional, at the cost of the developer, resulting in reasonable assurance that the tree will not be destroyed. Anticipated exceptions include making allowances to construct planned public improvements such as roads and sidewalks when it is not feasible to design the public improvements in a manner that will avoid encroachment into the drip line. The following criteria are to be used when considering permission to encroach into the drip line of an oak tree:

1. When proposed developments encroach into the drip line of any oak tree, whether the tree is located on the property being developed or on an adjacent property, special construction techniques to protect the roots shall be required by the Director with respect to any application for a building, grading or development permit. During construction, such protection measures may include, but not be limited to, installing a tree protection fence six to ten feet out from the perimeter of a tree or trees to be preserved.
2. Unless specifically approved by a qualified professional, no trenching whatsoever shall be allowed within the drip line(s) of preserved oak trees. If it is absolutely necessary to install underground utilities within the drip line(s) of a preserved oak tree, a tunneling method of installation should be used.
3. Landscaping beneath preserved oak trees may include non-plant materials such as boulders, cobbles, wood chips, etc. Plant species planted within the drip line(s) of oak trees should be drought tolerant plants that are indigenous to the Auburn/Placer County area. All landscaping shall be subject to the approval of the County.
4. Paving within the drip line(s) of preserved oak trees shall be minimized to the greatest extent feasible. When it is absolutely necessary, porous material should be used.
5. During grading of any part of the property on which there are oak trees of five (5) inches or greater diameter at breast height (dbh), the following standards of oversight shall apply:
  - (a) If grading, cutting or filling is approved for areas within the drip line of preserved oaks or within a six (6)-foot distance of the drip line of an oak to be preserved, the work shall be supervised by a Certified Arborist. The arborist shall

be responsible for maintaining protective fencing and insuring the oak trees are not damaged by grading related activities. The arborist shall be paid for by the applicant / developer of the property. Placer County reserves the right to hire an independent Certified Arborist if it is deemed necessary by the Director to provide adequate supervision of grading.

### **Safeguarding Trees During Construction.**

A. For the purposes of safeguarding oak trees during construction, the following conditions shall apply:

1. Prior to issuance of a grading or building permit, all preserved oak trees in the vicinity of a construction area shall be inventoried by the owner of such site or by the contractor as to size and location within the site. The inventory shall be submitted to the County, and field checked by County staff, or contract assistance at the applicant's cost, to verify the number, size and location of the trees and the adequacy of protective fencing prior to construction in the vicinity of the preserved oak trees.
2. Damage to any tree during construction shall be immediately reported to the Director. The property owner shall be responsible for correcting any damage to oak trees on the property in a manner specified by a Certified Arborist hired by the County at the applicant's cost.
3. Oil, gasoline, chemicals and other construction materials or equipment which might be harmful to certain oak trees shall not be stored within the drip line of the tree.
4. Necessary drains shall be installed according to county specifications so as to avoid harm to the oak trees due to excess watering.
5. Wires, signs, and other similar items shall not be attached to the oak trees.
6. Cutting and filling within the drip line of an oak tree shall be done only after consultation with the Director, and then only to the extent authorized.
7. No paint thinner, paint, plaster or other liquid or solid excess or waste construction materials or waste water shall be dumped on the ground or into any grate between the drip line and the base of the preserved oak trees, or uphill from any preserved oak tree where such substance might reach the roots through a leaching process.
8. Tree protection fences, of a type and design subject to the approval of the Director or his/her designated representative shall be installed at the drip line to prevent compaction and injury to a tree's surface roots.
9. Wherever cuts are made in the ground near the roots of any preserved oak tree,

appropriate measures shall be taken to prevent exposed soil from drying out. All cuts within the drip line of a tree are to be made with hand tools (no backhoes or graders).

10. All root pruning is to be done by hand.

B. If the Director has reason to believe that construction or development activities may endanger a preserved oak tree, he may seek professional consultation, at the expense of the applicant seeking to undertake construction or development of the property, to recommend measures necessary to safeguard the tree(s).

### **Safeguarding Trees After Construction.**

Oak trees required to be kept on a building site and oak trees required to be planted as a condition of construction shall be maintained after completion of construction according to County requirements for the purpose of maintaining or furthering the health of such trees. The Director may require that drought-resistant landscaping be installed as an alternative to irrigated landscaping where appropriate.

To protect preserved trees in perpetuity, it will be necessary to record applicable deed restrictions, and/or conservation easements on open space areas. Where preserved trees occur on private property, deed restrictions preventing removal of preserved tree/s will be necessary, as well as, informing homeowners of the importance of maintaining preserved trees through an informative brochure or other applicable means. Penalties for removal of preserved oak trees should be outlined in the deed restriction and enforceable by the County or potentially a homeowner's association.

### **Enforcement.**

The County shall be responsible for the enforcement of this chapter in coordination with the Director of Public Works (who is responsible for issuance of Permits).

**APPENDIX IV**  
Arborist's Disclaimer

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## **Arborist Disclaimer Statement**

Arborists are tree specialists who use their education, knowledge, training, experience, and research to examine trees and woodlands. Arborists recommend measures to enhance the beauty and health of trees and forests, while attempting to reduce the risk of living near them. Clients may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations of the arborist. Or seek additional advice.

Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the structural failure of a tree. Trees are living organisms subject to attack by disease, insects, fungi and other forces of nature. There are some inherent risks with trees that cannot be predicted with any degree of certainty, even by a skilled and experienced arborist. Arborists cannot predict acts of nature including, without limitation, storms of sufficient strength, which can cause even a healthy tree to fail. Any entity who develops land and builds structures with a tree in the vicinity should be aware and inform future residents of the risks of living with trees and this arborists disclaimer.

Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, or for a specified period of time. Likewise remedial treatments, like medical care, cannot be guaranteed 100%.

Treatment, pruning, and removal of trees may involve considerations beyond the scope of the arborists services, such as property boundaries, property ownership, disputes between neighbors and other issues. Consulting arborists cannot take such considerations into account unless complete and accurate information is disclosed to the arborist by the client. An arborist should then be expected to reasonably rely upon the completeness and accuracy of the information provided.

Neither this author nor Gallaway Consulting, Inc. has assumed any responsibility for liability associated with the trees on or adjacent to this project site, their future demise and/or any damage, which may result therefrom. To live near trees is to accept some degree of risk.

Thank you for choosing Gallaway Consulting, Inc. to provide arborist service for your project. If you have any questions, or additional service requests, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,  
Elena Alfieri  
ISA Certified Arborist WE-8033A  
Gallaway Consulting, Inc.

**ATTACHMENT A**

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Electronic Copy of Report on CD