

ARBORIST REPORT-
Tree Survey & Recommendations for:

Student Services Building
3535 Truman Avenue
Mountain View, CA
November 4, 2021

Prepared for:

Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District
1299 Bryant Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94040

Prepared by:



ISA Certified Arborist WE0681A
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)

Table of Contents

SUMMARY	1
Background	1
Assignment	1
Limits of the Assignment.....	2
Purpose and use of the report	2
Resources	2
OBSERVATIONS	3-12
DISCUSSION	13-14
RECOMMENDATIONS	15

SUMMARY

This report provides the following information:

1. A summary of the health and structural condition of 5 trees.
 2. Recommendations for retention or removal of assessed trees based on their condition and anticipated construction impacts.
- Construction improvements are in progress for the new Student Services Building on MVLA Union High School District property.
 - I was assigned to evaluate the condition of five trees within the project area to help decide whether they should be retained, or if their removal is recommended.
 - Five cherry trees were evaluated.
 - Based on their current condition, and anticipated construction impacts, four of the five trees are recommended for removal.

Background

Construction is in progress for a new Student Services Building at Mt. View High School, 3535 Truman Avenue. RGM Kramer, Inc. has requested my services, to assess the condition of five trees within the project limits and provide recommendations on their retention or removal. Further, to provide a report with my findings, and recommendations to meet MVLA Union High School District requirements.

Assignment

Provide an arborist report that includes an assessment of identified trees within the project area.

To complete this assignment, the following services were performed:

- **Tree Survey, Assessment & Recommendations:** Inventory, evaluate and make recommendations for subject trees.

Limits of the Assignment

The information contained in this report covers only those items that were examined and reflects the condition of those items at the time of inspection on November 3, 2021.

The inspection is limited to visual examination of accessible items without climbing, dissection, excavation, probing, or coring. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the trees in questions may not arise in the future.

Purpose and use of the report

The report is intended to provide a condition evaluation and management recommendations for the trees inventoried.

This report is to be used by the Mountain View Los Altos High School District as a reference for existing tree conditions, and to help satisfy the District's planning requirements.

Resources

All information within this report is based on site plans as of the date of this report. Resources are as follows:

- Site Visit, Tree Survey & Condition Evaluation at, 3535 Truman Avenue, on 11/3/2021.

OBSERVATIONS

I evaluated five mature ornamental cherry trees, (*Prunus spp.*) on the Mountain View High School campus. The five trees are part of a landscape planting of about ten cherry trees planted in a linear fashion, with five trees growing outside the project area, and five growing inside.

There is currently construction underway that has impacted the condition of the cherries growing inside the project area. However, four of the trees have moderate to significant root decay observed in the trunk buttress area and surrounding surface roots. This decay is a pre-existing condition that has accrued over a period of years.

Two trees T2 & T4 were in poor condition, in a significant state of decline, and will not recover. Both are nearly dead. Tree T2, 10" diameter, is shown below, (Image #1).



Image #1 - Tree T2, a 10" diameter, cherry tree.

Tree T2 tree has significant buttress root decay, (Images #2 & 3)



Image #2 - Tree T2, cherry tree. Note decay, (circled).



Image #3 - Tree T2, cherry tree. The decay has progressed into the lower trunk area creating a significant cavity.

Where decay has progressed, associated roots have died reducing the trees ability to uptake water. I scraped the bark in several locations and there was no live cambium layer. The tree has a minimal amount of live tissue.

Cherry tree T4, (10" diameter), was in significant decline. The bark was splitting on the trunk, (Image #4).



Image #3 - Tree T2, cherry tree. Note splitting bark.

The bark was also splitting at the attachment point of the primary scaffolds, (limbs). The cambium layer at the split is brown color, (green is live), and dead.

I scraped the bark in several locations and there was no live cambium layer. The tree has a minimal amount of live tissue.

Tree T1, (12" diameter), was in fair condition, (Image #4).



Image #4 – Tree T1, cherry.

Leaves in the canopy were drooping and have lost color. Some areas had dropped leaves. Since it is fall season, it is difficult to discern if the leaf dropping and color loss was a seasonal pattern, or a result of a declining condition.

The tree has buttress root decay observed over about half of the buttress roots, and on some exposed surface roots, (Image #5).



Image #5 - Tree T1, cherry. Note root decay, (circled).

Fungal fruiting bodies were also observed adjacent to the trunk of tree T1, (Image #6).



Image #6 – Tree T1, cherry. Note fungi at tree base, (circled).

I was not able to identify the species of fungi. However, several species of fungi cause soil borne fungal diseases and root decay in trees.

Tree T3, (10" diameter), was in fair condition, (Image #7).



Image #7, - Tree T3, cherry.

The leaf canopy density and color is in a normal condition.

Cherry tree T3 has deadwood and decay over about half of its surface roots, (Image #8).



Image #8, - Tree T3, cherry. Note cracked and decayed roots, (circled).

Many surface roots were split and decay was visible.

Tree T5 was in fair condition (Image #9)



Image #9, - Tree T5, cherry.

The leaf canopy density and color is in a normal condition.

Some roots have been cut on tree T5 where a pipeline tie-in was done, (Image #10).



Image #9, - Tree T5, cherry. Several one half to 1" diameter roots were cut for tie-in, (circled).

The roots were cut 4-5 feet from the tree trunk.

DISCUSSION

Four of the five cherry trees have root decay. All five trees have been impacted to varying degrees by the construction activity. The construction impacts include root loss from the pipeline installation, (Image #8), and soil compaction from foot traffic and machinery within the trees root zone.



Image #10, - Trees T1, T2, T3 & T4, cherry. Note linear soil depression from pipeline installation.

The pipeline was installed within 4-feet of the cherry trees. Based on the distance of root disturbance from the trees, root losses from this work is estimated at moderate to significant.

Discussion with the onsite foreman indicated that two additional pipelines will be installed in the same trench. This is likely to cause additional root loss.

Trees T1 and T3 rated in fair condition, have suffered at least moderate root loss from the construction as indicated by their current condition when compared to the five adjacent cherries that are not within the construction project limits, (Image #11).



Image #11 – Cherry trees outside project limits.

The cherry trees outside the project limits have denser foliar canopies and have not yet dropped leaves. These trees also do not show root decay in the surface roots.

Since I do not know the condition of the trees T1 and T3 before the start of construction, it is not possible to determine the percentage of decline that has been caused by construction impacts and the amount caused by root decay or other factors.

However, based on their current condition, known construction impacts that have already occurred, and future anticipated impacts, if these were my trees I would remove them. In my opinion, current and future construction impacts will cause further decline, past the point that the trees can reasonably recover and provide a desired aesthetic.

Trees T1-T4 did not receive adequate tree protection for this project and this has contributed in part to their decline. Based on site constraints, if a pre-construction arborist report would have been done, it may have concluded they could not be retained based on anticipated impacts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Remove cherry trees T1, T2, T3 and T4.
2. Remove soil where roots were cut at cherry tree T5, back to where roots are in good condition and bark is intact. Cleanly prune roots with a Sawzall or another sharp tool. Backfill soil to cover cut roots.
3. After construction is completed, replant four cheery trees of the same species to retain the current landscape scheme and match existing trees.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Fouts

Kurt Fouts ISA Certified Arborist WE0681
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)



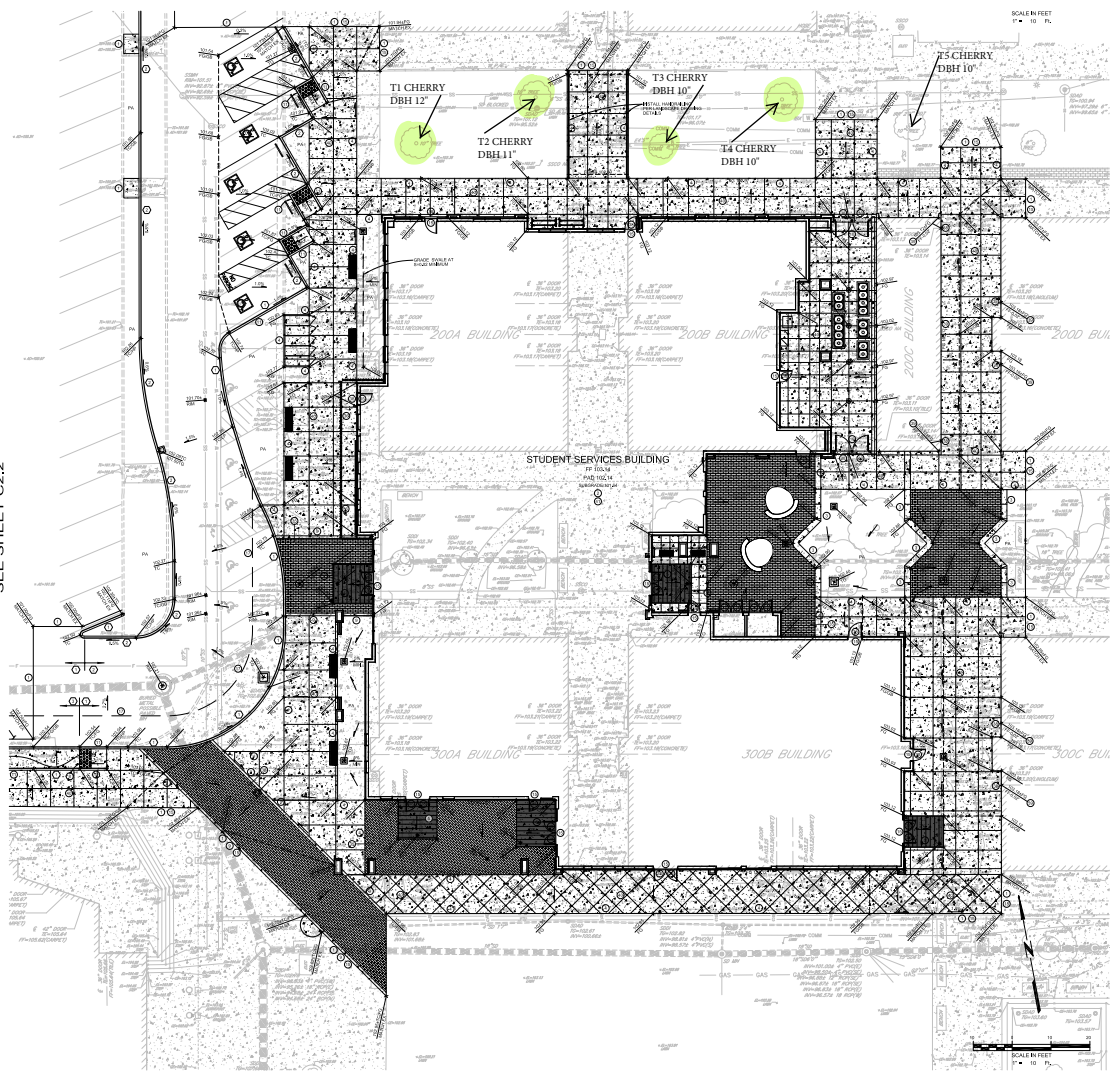
Attachments:

- Tree Location Map
- Assumptions & Limiting Conditions

SEE SHEET C2.2

PROJECT NO. 18-0000

DATE: 03/05/2021



GRADING NOTES

(ONLY NOTES RELATIVE TO THIS SHEET ARE SHOWN)

- ① MATCHED TO SHEET C2.1
- ② MATCHED TO SHEET C2.2
- ③ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.3
- ④ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.4
- ⑤ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.5
- ⑥ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.6
- ⑦ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.7
- ⑧ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.8
- ⑨ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.9
- ⑩ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.10
- ⑪ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.11
- ⑫ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.12
- ⑬ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.13
- ⑭ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.14
- ⑮ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.15
- ⑯ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.16
- ⑰ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.17
- ⑱ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.18
- ⑲ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.19
- ⑳ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.20
- ㉑ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.21
- ㉒ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.22
- ㉓ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.23
- ㉔ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.24
- ㉕ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.25
- ㉖ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.26
- ㉗ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.27
- ㉘ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.28
- ㉙ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.29
- ㉚ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.30
- ㉛ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.31
- ㉜ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.32
- ㉝ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.33
- ㉞ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.34
- ㉟ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.35
- ㊱ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.36
- ㊲ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.37
- ㊳ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.38
- ㊴ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.39
- ㊵ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.40
- ㊶ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.41
- ㊷ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.42
- ㊸ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.43
- ㊹ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.44
- ㊺ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.45
- ㊻ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.46
- ㊼ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.47
- ㊽ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.48
- ㊾ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.49
- ㊿ MATCHED TO SHEET C2.50

LEGEND

0000 FINISH TO TOP OF SHEET

ALL EARTHWORK, TRENCHING, EXCAVATION, SUBGRADE AND FOOTING PREPARATION, BACKFILLING, ETC., SHALL BE PER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SOILS REPORT TITLED "GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION - STUDENT UNION AND AUXILIARY GYMNASIUM BUILDINGS PROJECT - MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL," DATED SEPTEMBER, 2010.

OVEREXCAVATION, SOIL CHEMICAL TREATMENT, AND RECOMPACTION PER RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE SOILS REPORT IDENTIFIED ABOVE.

CONSTRUCTION STOP
 ONE OF THE ABOVE APPROVED
 APPROVED BY: [Signature]
 REVISION FOR: [Blank]
 DATE: 03/05/2021



Brelje & Race
 ARCHITECTS
 1000 N. Main Street, Suite 100
 Santa Ana, CA 92701
 Phone: 714.241.1111
 Email: info@breljeandrace.com



MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING

3535 TRUMAN AVENUE
 MOUNTAIN VIEW,
 CALIFORNIA 94040

MVLA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
 REVISION:

USA APP #11, 01-18994
 DRAWING NO. 1772-2020-000
 CLIENT: MVLA
 DATE: 03/05/2021
 100% CD
 MARCH 5, 2021

GRADING PLAN BUILDING

C2.1

ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITING CONDITIONS

1. Any legal description provided by the appraiser/consultant is assumed to be correct. No responsibility is assumed for matters legal in character nor is any opinion rendered as the quality of any title.
2. The appraiser/consultant can neither guarantee nor be responsible for accuracy of information provided by others.
3. The appraiser/consultant shall not be required to give testimony or to attend court by reason of this appraisal unless subsequent written arrangements are made, including payment of an additional fee for services.
4. Loss or removal of any part of this report invalidates the entire appraisal/evaluation.
5. 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(s) to whom it is addressed without written consent of this appraiser/consultant.
6. This report and the values expressed herein represent the opinion of the appraiser/consultant, and the appraiser/consultant's fee is in no way contingent upon the reporting of a specified value nor upon any finding to be reported.
7. Sketches. Diagrams. Graphs. Photos. Etc., in this report, being intended as visual aids, are not necessarily to scale and should not be construed as engineering reports or surveys.
8. This report has been made in conformity with acceptable appraisal/evaluation/diagnostic reporting techniques and procedures, as recommended by the International Society of Arboriculture.
9. When applying any pesticide, fungicide, or herbicide, always follow label instructions.
10. No tree described in this report was climbed, unless otherwise stated. We cannot take responsibility for any defects which could only have been discovered by climbing. A full root collar inspection, consisting of excavating around the tree to uncover the root collar and major buttress roots, was not performed, unless otherwise stated. We cannot take responsibility for any root defects which could only have been discovered by such an inspection.

CONSULTING ARBORIST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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 risk of living near trees, Clients may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations of the arborist, or to seek additional advice.

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 specified period of time. Likewise, remedial treatments, like medicine, cannot be guaranteed.

Trees can be managed, but they cannot be controlled. To live near trees is to accept some degree of risk. The only way to eliminate all risk associated with trees is to eliminate all trees.

