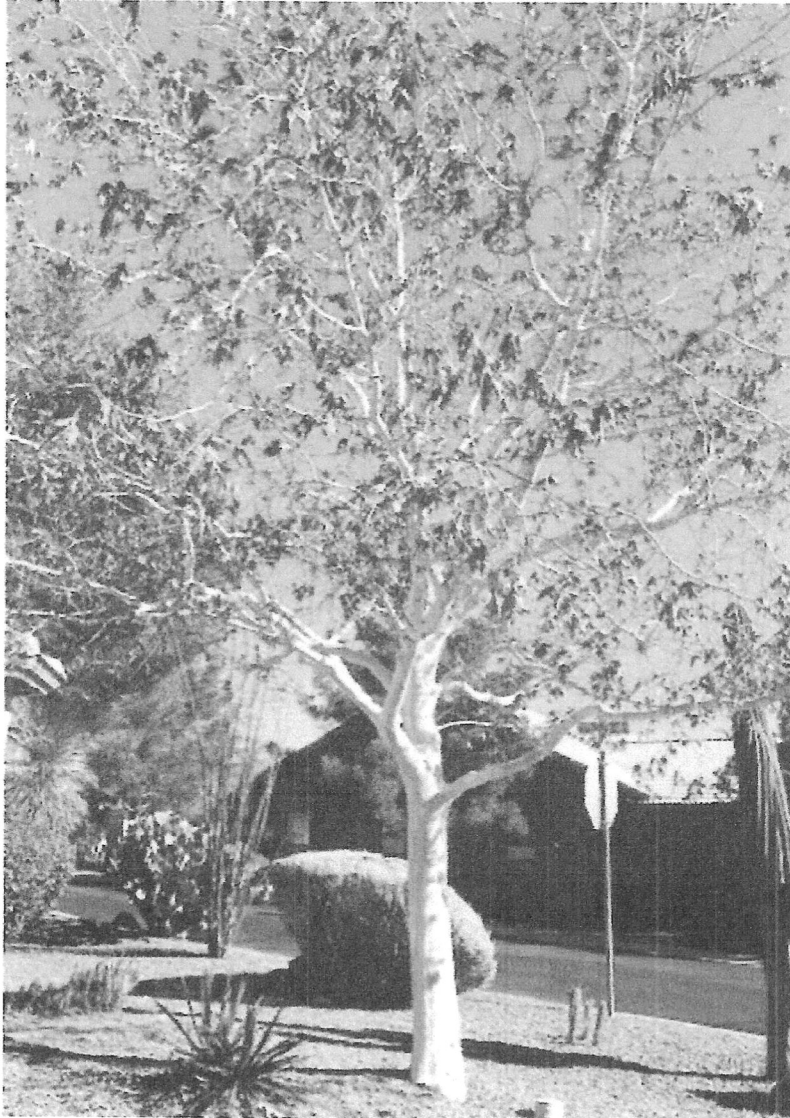


Urban Forest Management Committee Report

Units 35 and 35A Villa Board

January 14, 2025



Committee:

Clayton Thomas, Chair

Tony Ingle, Deputy Chair

Jo Parsons

Anne Schrempp

Bob Schrempp

Fran Meckler, Board Liaison

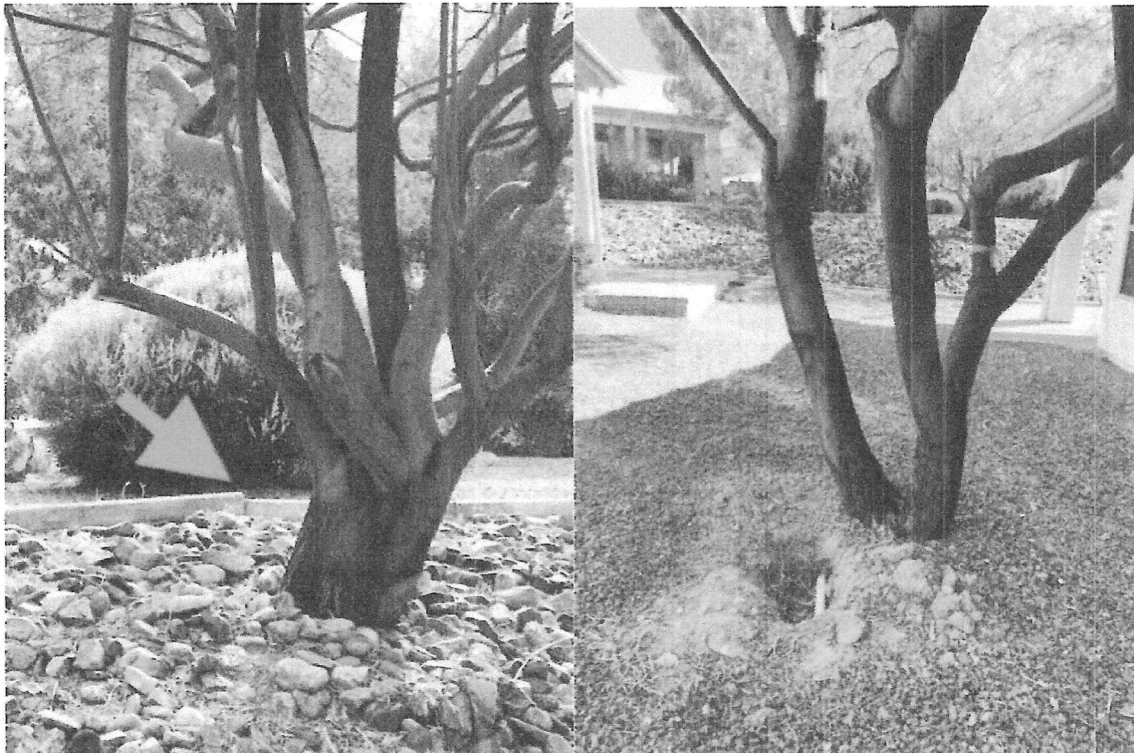
Urban Forest Management Committee Report January 14, 2025

Action Requests

Three important documents have been finalized by the Urban Forest Management Committee (UFMC) and are submitted to the Villa Board of Directors for action.

1. Prioritization Guidelines for Tree Removals- Action requested

The first document is the **Prioritization Guidelines for Tree Removals** and is critical to making consistent and equitable decisions about tree removals. It is a **procedure** as opposed to a **policy** and eventually should find its proper place in the governing documents. The UFMC needs the Board's approval now because tree removal decisions are regularly being made. Budget restraints necessitate picking and choosing priority trees. The proposed guidelines are the result of several revisions over the past few months and are submitted now for the Board's consideration and approval. HOA2 ALC Guidelines Number 49, that we must follow, addresses volunteer trees. The reason for their guidelines, and our including it in our Prioritization Guidelines, is best explained by the two pictures below. Volunteer trees permitted to grow unmanaged often cause damage resulting in significant Association expenditures. The tree in the rock wall is starting to cause curb damage and removing the tree will cost several hundred dollars. The other volunteer tree, pictured on the right, has already damaged the irrigation system requiring a section to be replaced. The tree was removed at a cost of \$800. Both of these expenses were avoidable.



Volunteer trees

how many Trees

Prioritization Guidelines for the Removal of Urban Forest Trees

SaddleBrooke Villas Units 35/35A

1. Trees and related growth that are a threat to or are damaging driveways, roofs, or other structures.
2. Trees that are diseased and/or dying.
3. Trees in overcrowded areas.
4. Nonindigenous trees that consume a significant amount of water*
5. Trees that are not part of the original Villa community landscape design*
6. Other trees including resident request for removal.

* Trees originating from seeds, sprouts, and those not a part of the original landscape design are covered under HOA2 Guidelines, Article III: Specific Requirements and Guidelines, Number 49 that states, "Volunteer trees that naturally sprout must be approved for type and location if they are to be retained in the landscape." They are subject to removal when conditions permit.

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2. Long-range Plan- Action requested

The second document is the **long-range plan** for the Urban Forest Management Committee. It is a dynamic working document and will be revised as needed. While the Board's action might be to simply accept the plan, the plan has another purpose. That purpose is to respond to the HOA2 ALC's earlier request for our "plan" for managing the forest. This long-range plan should fill that request. Thus, the Urban Forest Management Committee requests that the Villa Board formally **authorize it to be forwarded** to the HOA2 ALC. It is also consistent with our own UPMC Goal 4 to "Coordinate with HOA2's ALC Committee and their Guidelines."

Urban Forest Long-Range Plan SaddleBrooke Villas Units 35 and 35A

MISSION

To actively manage and improve Villa Units 35/35A's urban forest following professional guidelines

VISION

The SaddleBrooke Units 35/35A Association urban forest will be attractive, add value to property, contribute to a healthy environment, be responsive to financial concerns and be compatible with the Southwest desert landscape.

GOAL 1

To develop a management plan for the Villa Association's urban forest

Objective 1.1 Obtain Villa Board approval for a prioritization guide for tree removal decisions.

Who: Committee

How: Consensus

When: December, 2024

Objective 1.2 Employ a tree removal process that includes stump removal, grinding or flush cutting and may include root removal.

Who: Originator of RFP

How: Include in RFP

When: Every RFP

Objective 1.3 Maintain an annual program of tree trimming, shaping, and removal.

Who: UPMC

How: RFP

When: Contract renewal time

GOAL 2

To-understand the-long-term financial liabilities of urban forest.

Objective 2.1 Annually report the cost of trees removed or replaced by to Villa Board.

Who: Chair or designate

How: Written report

When: January Villa Board meeting

Objective 2.2 Maintain an on-going tree inventory indicating location and species of each tree.

Who: Chair or designate

How: Excel type program and/or risk assessment

When: Annually

GOAL 3

Develop an informational process for residents

Objective 3.1 Establish a weekly SB Villas 2 Urban Forest Management Committee on-line news reporting program.

Who: Chair or designate

How: Monday news blast

When: Weekly

Objective 3.2 Establish regular news release program for the Villas Voice

Who: Chair or designate

How: Villa Voice website section

When: As needed, reviewed monthly

Objective 3.3 Upgrade the villa website a minimum of every three years.

Who: Chair or designate

How: With webmaster

When: January

GOAL 4

Coordinate with HOA2's ALC Committee and their Guidelines

Objective 4.1 Annually review HOA2 guidelines for trees and related matters to identify required changes to policies or procedures.

Who: Committee

How: Scheduled Committee meeting

When: December

Objective 4.2 As per HOA2 guidelines, obtain their approval before removing or replacing any villa focus tree-

Who: Chair or designate

How: Email

When: Each occurrence

Objective 4.3 The Urban Forest Management Committee, with the help of an arborist, will select the replacement trees required by HOA2 guidelines.

3. Tree Removal Statement- action requested

The third action request is to remove the January 19, 2018 **Tree Removal** statement. There are multiple reasons to rescind this statement. They are enumerated within the enclosed request. There is no need to replace it at this point because it is narrowly focused on removing crowded trees. What is needed is a broader policy statement regarding tree removals that is part of a collection of policies and procedures readily available to all residents.

Removal of January 19, 2018 Trees Statement - Action Requested

REMOVAL OF TREES

At the Annual Board Meeting on January 19, 2018, the Board of Directors approved by a 5-0 vote the following action regarding trees:

Work with a tree surgeon, the property owner, and the Board to discuss if a tree needs to be removed because of overcrowding of trees. Currently no tree removal has been approved by the Board. If it is determined that a tree needs to be removed all adjacent Lot owners will be given an opportunity to review and comment on the plan. Ultimately, your Board will make the final decision for all tree removals.

Reasoning

The above statement, approved by the Villa 35/35A Board of Directors on January 19, 2018 should be removed for the following reasons:

1. Regardless of what the intent was when the Board approved it, the wording clearly states that it is when trees are removed for overcrowding. We removed 15 trees this year and none were for overcrowding, nor will there likely be anytime soon. So, trying to apply this policy to all tree removals, as some do, is inappropriate.
2. Having all the adjacent property owners weigh in on each tree to discuss the "plan" is not workable. Does each board member want to have a discussion with surrounding residents on every tree so they can decide? This would not be a pleasant task. If the board member is a winter resident are the decisions going to have to wait until they return?
3. The wording could be much improved. It is not a tree surgeon that should be involved, but an arborist. Surgeons carry out treatment diagnosed by a certified arborist.
4. The statement, "Currently, no tree removal has been approved by the Board," is time dated and a side comment, not a policy statement. Finally, the statement, "Ultimately, **your** Board will make the final decision switches to a possessive pronoun, not appropriate for a policy statement.

Forest Management Activities Report

Cleaning up stumps and problem Trees

Finest Tree Service was contracted to remove three trees and grind their stumps. One was a large Pine on lot 56A on the corner of Casual Dr. and Holiday Dr. that was cracking the E. Holiday Dr. curb in several places. Another tree removed was a Mesquite in the open area behind lot 45A on Serenity that died from beetle infestation. The third tree was a sizable volunteer Arizona Oak between lots 14 and 15 on Casual Dr. that was permitted to grow on top with irrigation system damaging it. (See Photo Above)

In addition to the three tree removals, a large Pine stump remaining at lot 95 at the corner of Holiday and Tranquill was ground and landscaped. Two stumps and their surface roots behind lots 44A and 45A were also removed.

Finest Tree Service was also contracted to remove the large Oak stump on lot 50A on Holiday Dr. and kill the extensive sprout field that had emerged both around the stump and under the driveway. (See Photos Below) The eradication of the Oak sprouts has included herbicide applications over several weeks and removal of the surface roots. The expectations are that more treatment will be needed again to fully kill the root system. This is the tree that I have cited earlier that has cost us over \$5000. It was an Oak tree planted too close to the concrete, yet allowed to grow into one of the larger Oak trees, preferring instead to replace the driveway. This scenario will be repeated again unless some difficult decisions are made. I offer as a sample another picture of an Oak between two driveways. This tree is not the focal tree for this villa model.



Oak root sprouts



Not focal tree for this villa model

Planning for 2025

1. The UPMC has begun exploring vendor options for 2025. The Northwest Landscape arborist, has made two recent trips to our forest to update her May 2024 risk assessment in preparation for their 2025 -2027 bid.

The UPMC has been discussing having a single vendor for both landscaping and tree maintenance.

2. The UPMC is exploring options for replacement focal trees, if a focal tree is removed. HOA2 ALC's list of acceptable and not acceptable trees are being used as guidelines (ALC Appendix A.2.) Only small draught tolerant trees are being considered (UPMC Goal 4 Objective 4.1.) The focal point requirement itself is also under discussion since it will be impossible to meet current HOA2 setback requirements in our small villa yards.

3. Consistent with the committee's long-range plan, a weekly announcement in the Monday Blast has begun. It will be both informational and educational (UPMG 3, Objective 3.1.)

4. In conjunction with the landscape committee, the urban forest information has been posted on the Villas Voice website (UPMG Goal 3, Objective 3.2.)