

September 2022

To: LARPD Board of Directors
Subject: **REPORT ON BURNED OAK PROJECT**
From: Mary Ann Hannon, with Conni Naylor, Michael White, Shawna Soren

On Aug. 16, 2020, lightning started a wildfire in Upper Sycamore Grove Park. The fire burned down slope into Lower Sycamore Park. About 180 acres were burned. While surveying the burn area soon after, Ranger/Naturalist, Amy Wolitzer, noticed that valley oaks in the Valley View drainage were turning green and even putting out catkins (oak tree flowers). She shared her observations with Mary Ann Hannon, Open Space volunteer, who shared Amy's interest in native plants. Both were curious about the trees greening up so soon after being burned. After consulting with Hugh Safford, Regional Ecologist, US Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region and reading several papers on fire and oaks, Amy and Mary Ann decided to organize a volunteer project to observe the recovery of valley oaks burned in the fire. The "burned oak" volunteer observers were Conni Naylor, Michael White (also photographer), Shawna Soren, (also Google Docs creator), Mary Ann Hannon, (also recorder).

Proposed Goals for the Project

- 1) Engage volunteers in monitoring and equip them to better understand our oak woodlands and the seasonal events that occur there.
- 2) Document oak recovery and seasonality with photos (non-standardize).
- 3) Share findings and photos on Sycamore Grove's Facebook and Instagram along the way.
- 4) Offer a "Valley Wilds" program to the public about this time next year during which ranger staff and the observers would walk the area and talk about what they had noticed during the monitoring.
- 5) Put together a presentation showing photos over time/comparison photos and anything noteworthy observed.
- 6) Offer to share our findings at an LARPD board meeting.

Appendix A:

Identifier	GPS decimal	GPS d/m/s	Nearest Trail	location descriptor	Elevation (in feet)	Circumference	DBH (inches)	Evidence of fire damage on trunk
B1	37.63126N, 121.77498W	37°37'52.5"N 121°46'29.9"W	Wagon Road Loop	Near reflecting pond foundation	549	6'7"	25.15	trunk charred 12" up from ground
B2	37.63147N, 121.77416W	37°37'53.3"N 121°46'27.0"W	Wagon Road Loop	NE of tree B1	559	4'2"	15.92	trunk charred 7" up from ground
B3	37.62.920N, 121.77801W	37°37'45.1"N 121°46'40.8"W	Wagon Road Loop	Just above big rock pond	583	5'9"	21.96	bark seemed ashy 11' up trunk
B4	37.62899N, 121.77763W	37°37'44.4"N 121°46'39.5"W	Valley View Tr	Partly up Valley View along drainage above Big Rock Pond	628	8'3"	31.51	fire burned through the bark on the east side of the tree and under side of low branch; cambium exposed under peeling bark
B5	37.62642N, 121.77810W	37°37'35.1"N 121°46'41.2"W	Valley View	Well up Valley View Tr. along drainage above Big Rock pond	687	9'11"	37.88	a deep burn through the bark 1'2" tall and 1'2" at widest part

Appendix B

% Green in Canopy				
Date	12/20	7/21	12/21	6/22
B1	12%	95%	75%.	100%
B2	0	80%.	10%	75%
B3	3%	80%.	30%.	60%
B4	0	0	0.	0
B5	90%	100%.	50%	100%