Albany Hill Forest Management & Habitat Restoration Plan

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Commission Meeting September 12, 2024





Project Team



City of Albany



Restoration Design Group



Nomad Ecology



Creekside Science



Purpose Statement

The City seeks a comprehensive plan for the phased removal of dead and dying eucalyptus trees on Albany Hill and the restoration of habitat for monarchs and native plants and wildlife in a way that creates self-sustaining ecosystems with low fire hazards and minimal maintenance requirements



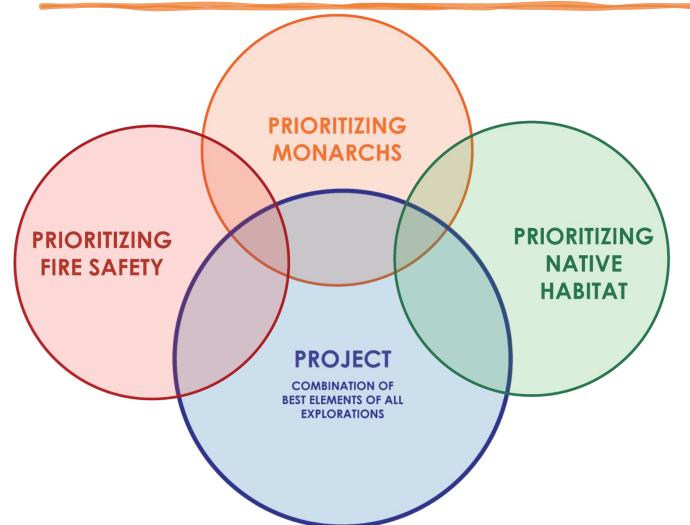


Session Goals

- 1. Provide an overview on project development
- 2. Share the Draft Plan Diagrams and Strategies
- 3. Solicit input from PROS Commission and the public



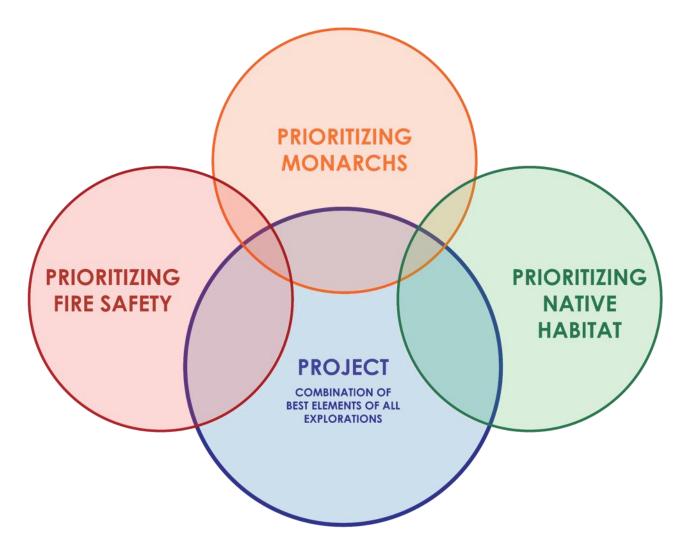
Previous Presentation

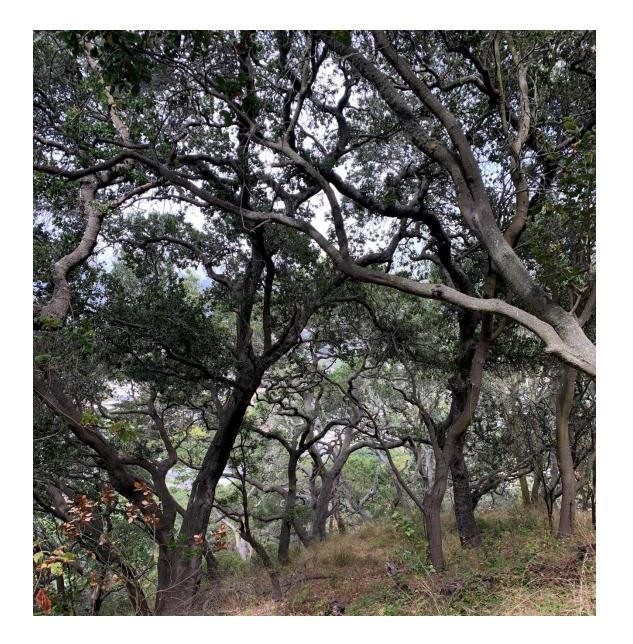


Priority Criteria were established based on public feedback, project mandates, and client goals.

By taking each priority and exploring its best expression, we generated three very different sets of options from which we can compose our final strategy.

Concept Exploration Phase Diagrams





Fire Department Priorities

- Good access to the Hill for Fire Department Equipment and personnel
- Disconnected canopy and understory – interrupt fire ladders
- An aesthetic, enjoyable park create a model for fire safe AND beautiful public spaces
- *Remove eucalyptus and replace with more appropriate canopy species*

Priority Tree Removal Criteria

FIRE SPREAD RISK PRIORITY

63 TREES

FIRE REPORT FUEL MODELS*

CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION:

- 1. 163/TU3 :
- Trees rated with spread rate high and flame moderate
- Represents treed areas with a significant amount of understory and ladder fuels, flame lengths can be moderate to high with torching trees likely
- 2. TL9 189 / TL5 185 :
- most hazardous timber-litter fuel model
- can produce high flame lengths and rapid spread
- stands categorized as TL9 can be expected to produce firebrands long distances

* See figure 3 (pp9) and table 1 (pp14) of "Characterization of Fuels Fire hazards Recommendations" WRM, 2022

RESIDENTIAL TARGET PRIORITY

95 TREES

TREES WITH IMPACTS TO ADJACENT PRIVATE PROPERTY

CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION:

- 1. Eucalyptus within 100' of a private residence
- 2. TRAQ2 arborist report listed 'residence' as target if the tree failed
- 3. TRAQ2 arborist report listed tree as Dead

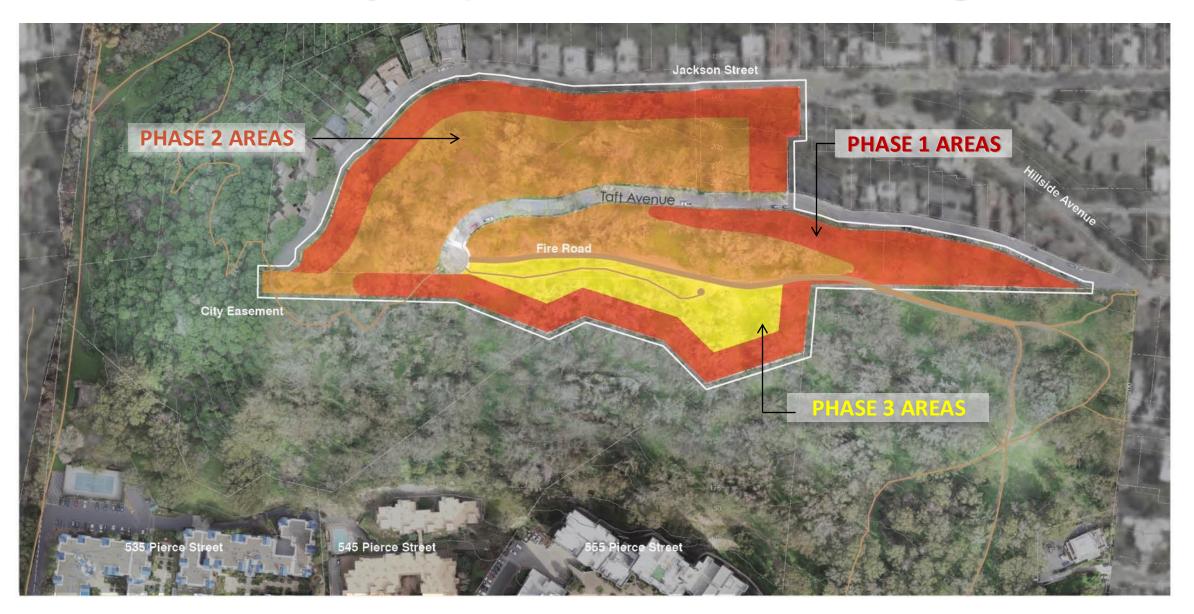


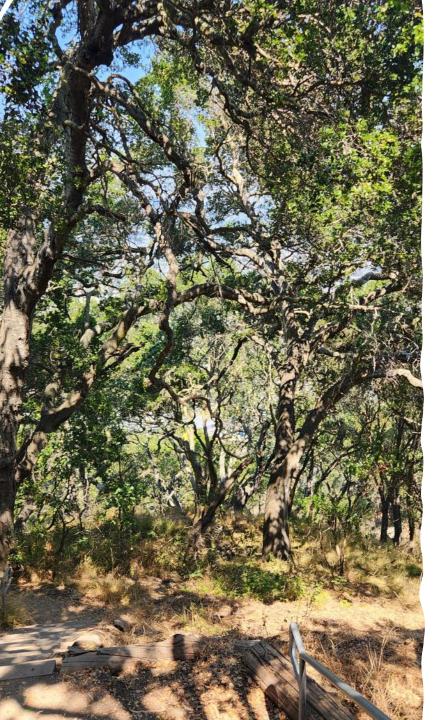
Priority Tree Removal List



- Pressing need for eucalyptus removals prior to onset of project
- Task was to list top 100-150 trees for ASAP triage
- Team reviewed the arborist reports, fire safety and life safety criteria
- No trees within Monarch cluster sites or windbreak trees were included
- PRIORITY TREE
 REMOVAL IN PROGRESS

Fire Priority Exploration – Phase Diagram





Native Habitat -What do we want to bring forward?

- A. Oak Woodland with Shrubs
- B. Open Oak Grasslands
- C. Native Coastal Grasslands



Native Habitat Priority Exploration

Open Oak Grasslands Open Woodland with Shrubs Grasslands

Retain existing natives as much as possible, and plant patches of new native species to inoculate the site. Focus on invasive plant suppression between the new native planting areas.

Eucalyptus Removal Protocols





Monarchs

Monarch Habitat

- Solar Access
- Wind protection

"Albany Hill supports overwintering monarch butterflies because of specific forest canopy structures that provide suitable wind shelter and insolation (sunlight)."

Creekside Science, 2022

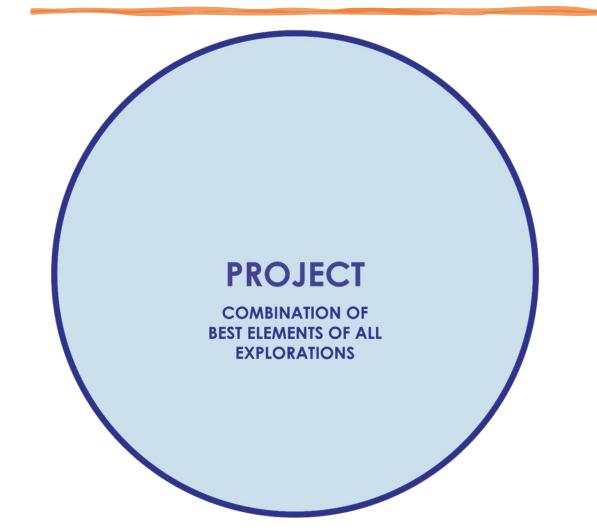
Ancestral Condition – Monterey Pines Pt. Lobos State Reserve 2011



Monarch Priority Exploration – Phase Diagram



Draft Plan – 7 Phases



Priority Criteria were established based on public feedback, project mandates, and client goals.

By taking each priority and exploring its best expression, we generated three very different sets of options from which to create our final composition and strategy

PUBLIC BID PROCESS – optimize chances for a successful outcome by separating project by expertise:

- **REMOVALS** one contractor in charge of tree removals and processing
- RESTORATION second contractor in charge of site protection, passive and active restoration activities

REMOVE FROM OUTSIDE IN – stand dynamics have an impact on remaining eucalyptus; changes in wind and solar exposure, water availability

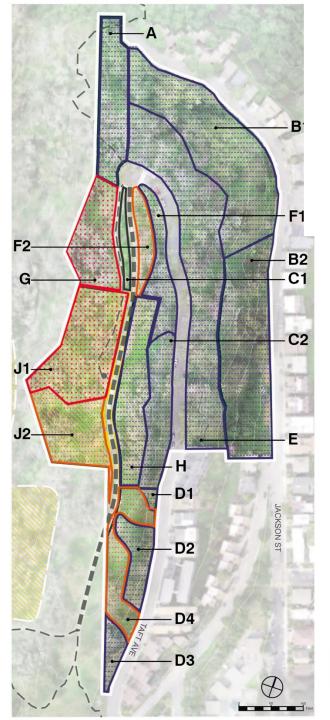
- OUTSIDE FIRST remove high fire and impact rated trees first, provide buffer zone for tree decline in remaining areas
- MONARCH MANAGEMENT AREAS sensitive habitat areas will be the last zones in project plan, to allow for assessment, replacement tree growth timelines, and City oversight.

PROTECT EXISTING BEFORE IMPORTING – by staggering the restoration and removal phases, we can prioritize the natural assets already present on the hill (Selective Removal Zones)

- PILOT PHASE salvage for transplant, collect seed and/or cuttings for propagation, plant field test replacement trees
- PRIORITY NATIVE PLANT STANDS (PNPS) Project biologists will work with Restoration contractor to flag PNPS for protection during subsequent removals work

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT – this project is the start of a long term stewardship and management effort that will taper off in time. Allowing time and space for adjustments along the way will improve outcomes.

- GENERAL REMOVAL AREAS in zones with limited or poor native plant communities, contract grown plant patches (islands) will be installed providing for more streamlined invasives control between islands. Over time, more successful species from the patches can be used for propagation or outplanting to expand the patches.



Restoration Overview

DIAGRAM AT LEFT SHOWS HABITAT AREAS BY TYPE

INDIVIDUAL PHASE DIAGRAMS WILL FOLLOW

RESTORATION PROJECT WILL HAVE A TRADITIONAL CONSTRUCTION SET WITH PLANT QUANTITIES, ETC.

POST-PROJECT HABITAT BY AREA

Native Grasslands

Oak Woodland + Shrubs



Phase 1 - Restoration (Pilot Phase)

Pilot Project: pre-removal work Areas A, B1-2, C1-2, D

Pilot Project: initiate field test of replacement trees Areas H, J1-2

Phase 2 - Removals (Exterior) - N.I.C.

Phase 3 - Restoration (Exterior)

Post removal planting and repair Areas A, B1-2, C1-2, D1-3

Pre-removal preparation Area F

Phase 4 - Removals (Interior) - N.I.C

Phase 5 - Restoration (Interior)

Post removal planting and repair Areas E, F, G, D4

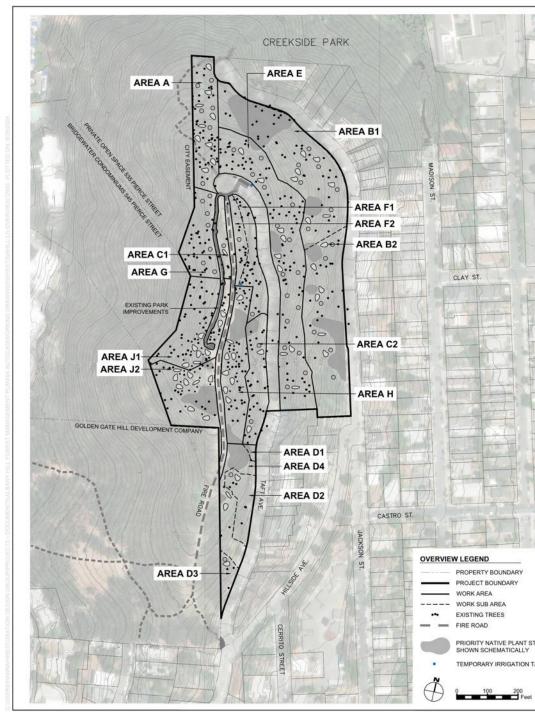
Pre-removal preparation Area H, J

Phase 6 - Removals (Assessment) - N.I.C

Phase 7 - Restoration (Monarch Support)

Post removal planting and repair Areas H, J1-2

Replacement tree planting



PROJECT S	UMMARY	AP	
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PHASE :	2 - REMOVALS (EXTERIOR) - N.I.C.	RE	
• PC	3 - RESTORATION (EXTERIOR) DST REMOVAL PLANTING AND REPAIR, AREAS A, B1-2, C1-2, D1-3 26 PERUVAL DERAPATION AREA E	DATE	
	RE-REMOVAL PREPARATION, AREA F		
	4 - REMOVALS (INTERIOR) - N.I.C. 5 - RESTORATION (INTERIOR)	-Q	
	5 REGIOVALIDANTING AND REPAIR, AREAS E, F1-2, G, D4		
• PF	RE-REMOVAL PREPARATION, AREA H, J1-2	1 -	
PHASE (8 - REMOVALS (ASSESSMENT) - N.I.C.	¥	
• PC	7 - RESTORATION (MONARCH SUPPORT) JST REMOVAL PLANTING AND REPAIR, AREAS H, J1-2 PLACEMENT TREE PLANTING, AREAS, AREAS H, J1-2	료	
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7. ANY PROP AND LICEN	ERTY LINE STAKES OR ROAD MONUMENTS DISTURBED DURING CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE REPLACED BY CONTRACTOR'S ENGINEER SED LAND SURVEYOR. TOR SHALL NOTIFY USA (UNDERGROUND SERVICE ALERT) AT 1-800-277-2600 A MINIMUM OF 24 HOURS BEFORE BEGINNING		
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	ONTROL NOTES	11 Ì	
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AS PART O	IF THE REMOVALS WORK. FICATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL EROSION CONTROL NOTES.	Ŧ	
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4. CONTRACT COMMENC	CH LAYOUT TO BE STAKED IN FIELD AND APPROVED BY O.R. PRIOR TO COMMENCING WORK. FOR TO LAY OUT PLANTS FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL PRIOR TO INSTALLATION VIA ONE MOCK-UP PER PATCH TYPE PRIOR TO ING INSTALLATION OR LAYOUT OF FURTHER PATCHES.	ALE	
 WATER IN IRRIGATION 	IALL BE PLANTED TO AVOID EQUAL SPACING, UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY 0.R. ALL PLANTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER PLANTING. SEE SPECS. N STRATEGY TO BE COORDINATED AND APPROVED BY 0.R. PRIOR TO COMMENCING PLANTING.		
9. FINAL PLAN CONTRACT	N (HAND WATERING OR DRIP) SHALL CONTINUE FOR THE FIRST THREE YEARS AFTER SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION. IT LIST PROVIDED BY THE CONTRACT GROW NURSERY FOR DELIVERY TO CONTRACTOR MAY DIFFER FROM PLANTING PLAN AND/OR I GUANTITIES. CONTRACTOR SHALL CONFIRM FINAL PATCH COMPOSITION WITH LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT AND O.R. PRIOR TO PLANT ION TO PATCHES OR COMMENCEMENT OF WORK.		
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IRRIGATION			
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1.3. SYSTE REQUI	TTION SUBMITTAL: THE CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE A DETAILED SUBMITTAL OF THE PROPOSED TEMPORARY IRRIGATION SYSTEM. M DESIGN AND INSTALLATION: THE ENTIRE IRRIGATION SYSTEM, INCLUDING FITTINGS, BACKFLOW PREVENTERS, AND METERS (IF RED), SHALL BE DESIGNED, INSTALLED, AND PAID FOR BY THE CONTRACTOR. YY IRRIGATION OPTIONS: THE CONTRACTOR MAY USE TEMPORARY IRRIGATION TANKS AND/OR DESIGN A TEMPORARY CONNECTION	Restoration 800 Berk T 510.644. www.restor	
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4. TEMPORAF 4.1. TANK I THROU	RY WATER STORAGE: LOCATIONS: REFER TO THE PLANS FOR PROPOSED TANK LOCATIONS. EACH TANK SHALL HAVE ZONES TO SUPPORT IRRIGATION JGHOUT THE PROJECT AREA. SPECIFICATIONS:		
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4.2.3.1.	TANKS SHALL BE INSTALLED ACCORDING TO THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS. TANKS MUST BE SUPPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE.		AUGI
4.2.3.2. 4.2.3.3.	THE INSTALLATION SITE MUST BE STABLE AND LEVEL TO SUPPORT THE TANK'S WEIGHT WHEN FULL AND CONSTRUCTED TO ACCOMMODATE LOADS AS BEET THE CALLECTRUM UNDER CODE	SHEET	
4.2.3.3.	THE INSTALLATION SITE MUST BE STABLE AND LEVEL TO SUPPORT THE TANK'S WEIGHT WHEN FULL AND CONSTRUCTED TO ACCOMMODATE LOADS AS PER THE CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE. FICATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.		Г-



Removals Overview



Removals Phase 2: 5.3 ac total Removals Phase 4: 2.8 ac total Removals Phase 6: 2.4 ac total Critical Monarch Zone - N.I.C.

DIAGRAM AT LEFT SHOWS COLOR CODED REMOVAL PHASES

INDIVIDUAL PHASE DIAGRAMS WILL FOLLOW Phase 1 - Restoration (Pilot Phase) - N.I.C.

Phase 2 - Removals (Exterior)

Selective removals protocol: Areas B1-2, C1-2, D

General removals Area A

Phase 3 - Restoration (Exterior) - N.I.C.

Phase 4 - Removals (Interior)

Selective removals protocol: Area F

General removals protocol: Areas E, G

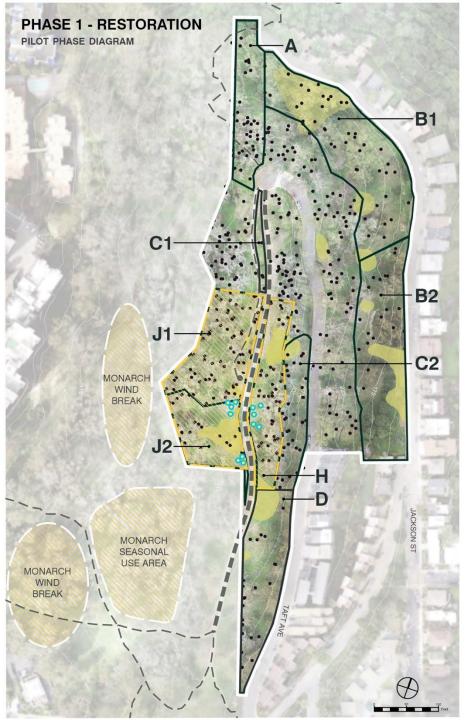
Phase 5 - Restoration (Interior) - N.I.C.

Phase 6 - Removals (Assessment)

Assessed removals protocol: Areas J, H

Phase 7 - Restoration (Monarch Support)

For each area description on the following pages, total trunk counts from Lidar survey and best correlation of arborist tag numbers are included for Contractor reference. Total tree count for each eucalyptus removal area to be VIF by contractor.



AREA A

- Trail protection
- · Identify and flag removal access routes

AREA B1-2, C1-2, D

- Pre-removal plant salvage
- Identify and flag priority native plant stands
- Identify and flag removal access routes

AREA H

- Plant field trial trees
- Pruning/limbing of Eucalyptus near trails

AREA J1

• Pruning/limbing of Eucalyptus near trails

AREA J2

- Plant field trial trees
- Pruning/limbing of Eucalyptus near trails

LEGEND







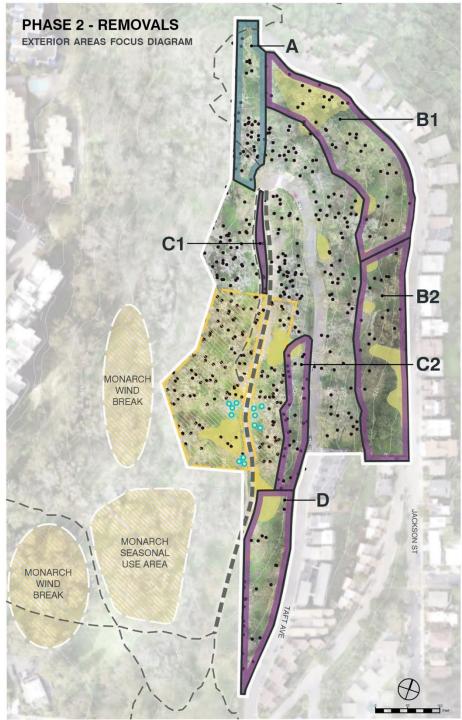
Monarch Management Areas

PNPS

Field Trial Tree Locations

Phase 1 **Pilot Work**

- ADVANCE PREP WORK IN AREAS SLATED FOR FIRST REMOVAL EFFORTS
- FIELD TRIAL TREE PLANTING
- PRUNING AND LIMBING NEAR TRAILS



SELECTIVE REMOVAL **GENERAL REMOVAL** ZONES ZONES No need for understory

protection.

contractor.

Drag routes per

• Mulch may be left on site

up to a depth of 8".

to be used on site

for bioengineering

installations. See Construction Documents,

Placed Log detail.

Lengths of trunk

- Contractor will walk site with O.R. prior to commencing work to review Priority Native Plant Stands (PNPSs) and flagged existing plants to protect in place.
- Contractor to confirm designated drag routes indicated as a result of Restoration Phase 1.
- Trees within a PNPS may be cut at field grade or left with up to 4' of trunk as needed to protect adjacent vegetation.
- All Eucalyptus stumps to be treated per specifications.

See specifications for

other requirements. AREA B1: ±45 EUCS • Arborist #: 329-356, 385-388

AREA B2: ±27 EUCS

• Arborist #: 357-384

AREA C1: ±6 EUCS • Arborist #: 9,12, 81, 85,

AREA C2: ±26 EUCS • Arborist #: 64, 102-124 AREA D: ±12 EUCS Arborist #: 48-67, 125-127, 176-197

128, 129

- AREA A: ±41 EUCS
 - Arborist #: 1-13, 261-328
- See specifications for other requirements.

- Phase 2 Removals
- SELECTIVE REMOVAL PROTOCOLS TO AVOID PNPS
- **GENERAL REMOVALS IN AREA A**

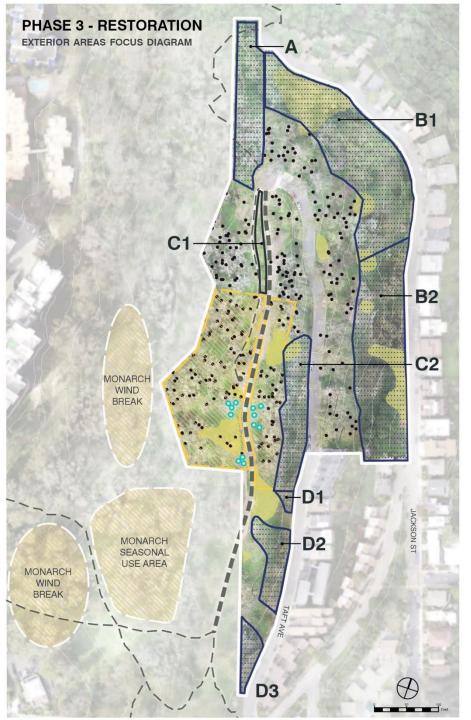
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Monarch **Management Areas**

PNPS

Field Trial Tree Locations



AREA A

- Heavy mulch for invasive control
- Tree patches/ planting islands

AREA B1-2, C2, D1-3

- Mulch for invasive control
- Reinstall salvaged plants to original areas
- Install Placed Logs on slope to help with erosion control
- Native plant patches

AREA C1

- Mulch for invasive control
- Reinstall salvaged plants to original areas

AREA D4

 Heavy mulch for invasive species outside PNPSs

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Monarch Management Areas

PNPS

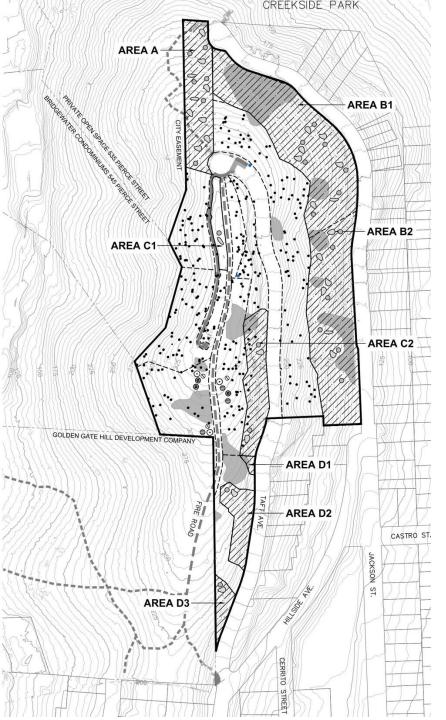
Field Trial Tree Locations

TARGET HABITATS

Grassland

Phase 3 Restoration

- MULCH FOR CONTROL OF INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES
- NATIVE PLANT PATCH AREAS
- REINSTALL SALVAGED PLANTS



Phase 3 Restoration Construction set draft

- MORE INTENSIVE PLANTING IN GENERAL REMOVAL AREAS
- LIGHTER PLANTING IN SELECTIVE REMOVAL AREAS ADJACENT PNPS TO STREAMLINE MAINTENANCE EFFORTS

LEGEND

- ---- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- PROJECT BOUNDARY
- FIRE ROAD
- ---- WORK AREA
- ••• EXISTING TREES
- • • REMOVED EUCALYPTUS (STUMP)
 - PRIORITY NATIVE PLANT STANDS (PNPS) SHOWN SCHEMATICALLY
- TEMPORARY IRRIGATION TANK
- TREE PATCH
- O REVEGETATION PATCH
- REPLACEMENT TREE (SPECIES DETERMINED DURING PHASE 6)

CONTRACTOR TO CONFIRM STAGING AREAS WITH O.R. AND TEAM BIOLOGIST

FIELD TRIAL TREE LOCATIONS SHOWN SCHEMATICALLY



Fred o	SELECTIVE REMOVAL	GENERAL REMOVAL			
いたいないというということので、この	 Contractor will walk site with O.R. prior to commencing work to review Priority Native Plant Stands (PNPSs) and flagged existing plants to protect in place. Contractor to confirm designated drag routes indicated as a result of Restoration Phases 1 and Phase 3. Trees may be cut at field grade or left with up to 4' of trunk as needed to protect adjacent vegetation. All Eucalyptus stumps to be treated per specifications. See specifications for other requirements. AREA F: ± 45 EUCS Arborist #: 68-101, 128-139 	 Mulch may be left on site up to a depth of 8". Lengths of trunk to be used on site 			
「「「「「「」」」」」」」」」」」」」」」」」」」」」」」」」」」」」」」」	LEGEND Monarch Management Areas PNPS Phase 1 & 3 Bestoration				
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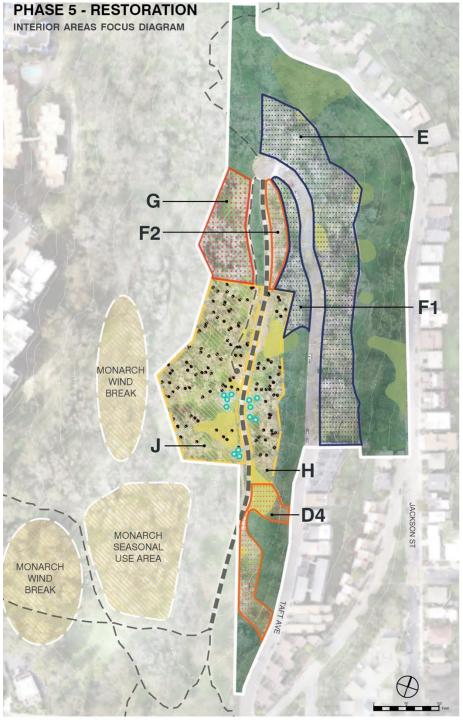
Field Trial Tree Locations

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Phase 4 Removals

- INTERIOR REMOVALS ADJACENT TAFT
- WESTERN REMOVALS SOUTH OF
 TAFT CIRCLE
- GENERAL AND SELECTIVE
 REMOVAL



AREA E, F1

- Mulch for invasive control
- Install Placed Logs on slope to help with erosion control
- Additional patches/tree planting
- F1 only: Direct transplant into Phase 2 removal areas

AREA F2, D4

- Mulch for invasive control
- Direct transplant into Phase 4 removal areas

AREA G

- Heavy mulch and slash to remain for erosion and invasives control
- Native oak planting patches

MONARCH MANAGEMENT AREA (AREA J, H)

- Pre-removal work for Phase 6
- Assessment to inform last removal phase

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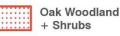




Restoration

Locations

TARGET HABITATS

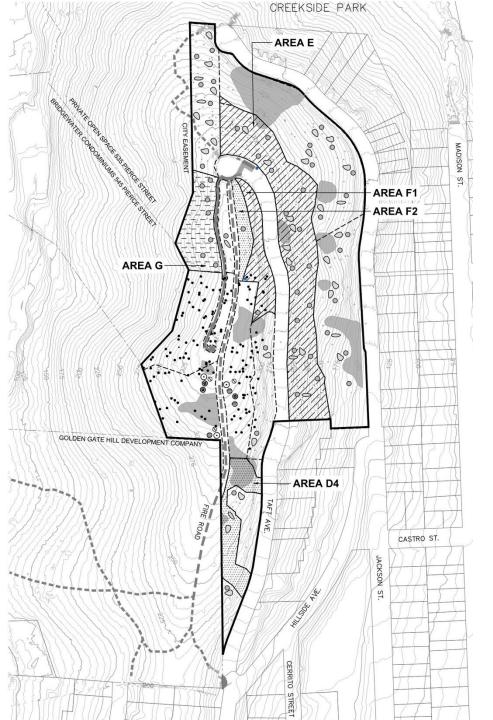


Native Grasslands

Open Oak Grassland

Phase 5 Restoration

- MULCH FOR CONTROL OF INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES
- NATIVE PLANT PATCH AREAS
- REINSTALL SALVAGED PLANTS



Phase 5 Restoration Construction set draft

- ADDRESSING AREAS FROM PHASE 4 REMOVALS
- LIGHTER PLANTING IN SELECTIVE REMOVAL AREAS ADJACENT PNPS TO STREAMLINE MAINTENANCE EFFORTS

LEGEND PROPERTY BOUNDARY PROJECT BOUNDARY FIRE ROAD WORK AREA **EXISTING TREES** ... REMOVED EUCALYPTUS (STUMP) 0 0 0 PRIORITY NATIVE PLANT STANDS (PNPS) SHOWN SCHEMATICALLY TEMPORARY IRRIGATION TANK TREE PATCH 0 D **REVEGETATION PATCH** . **REPLACEMENT TREE (SPECIES DETERMINED DURING PHASE 6)** CONTRACTOR TO CONFIRM STAGING AREAS WITH O.R. AND TEAM BIOLOGIST FIELD TRIAL TREE LOCATIONS SHOWN SCHEMATICALLY



ASSESSED REMOVALS

 Trees in the Monarch Management Buffer Area will be assessed for health and potential removal in this phase.

Trees in the Critical Monarch Zone are N.I.C. The City of Albany will regularly evaluate the trees in this area and remove them as needed, at their discretion. Monarch protection BMPs are to be strictly enforced in the Critical Monarch Zone.

MONARCH MANAGEMENT BUFFER ZONE: ± 53 EUCS

- Tree removal to be assessed
- Arborist #: 221-230, 140-153

CRITICAL MONARCH ZONE: ± 66 EUCS

- No tree removal N.I.C.
- Arborist #: 154-176, 231-250, 389, 390

LEGEND



Critical Monarch Zone

PNPS



Phase 1 & 3 Restoration

Field Trial Tree Locations

Phase 6 Removals

- TREES IN BUFFER ZONE ASSESSED FOR REMOVAL
- CRITICAL MONARCH ZONE ARE NOT IN THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE REMOVALS CONTRACTOR – WORK IN THIS AREA CLOSELY CONTROLLED BY CITY OF ALBANY



AREA H

- Mulch for invasive control
- Native plant patches
- Additional patches/tree plantingInstall Placed Logs
- on slope to help with erosion control

AREA J1-2

- Mulch for invasive control
- Install Placed Logs on slope to help with erosion control
- Direct planting of salvage plants from restoration phase

 Replacement tree species selected from field trials to be planted in groves at spacing to provide monarch habitat at maturity. Locations to be assessed after Phase 6 - Removals and

REPLACEMENT TREE

PLANTING

- to be assessed after Phase 6 - Removals and reviewed by O.R. prior to installation.
- Trees shown in this phase assume stand survival at the start of Phase 7. Assessment in Phase 6 - Removals may result in trees removed from Monarch Management Area (J1-2 and H).

Phase 7 Monarch Support

- REPLACEMENT TREE PLANTING SPECIES SELECTED DURING PHASE 6 ASSESSMENT
- MONARCH SUPPORT PLANTING PATCHES
- LOCATION AND ARRANGEMENT OF REPLACEMENT TREES TO BE VERIFIED IN FIELD IN CONSULTATION WITH MONARCH EXPERTS – SHOWN DIAGRAMATICALLY

LEGEND

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Phase 1, 3, & 5 Restoration

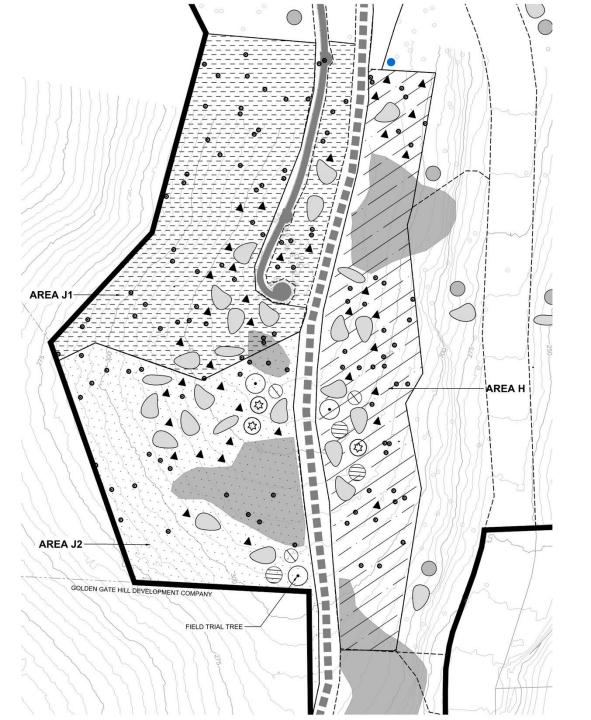




Replacement Tree Locations

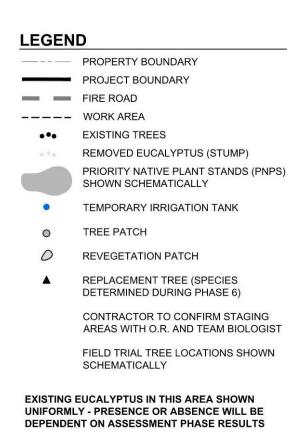
TARGET HABITATS





Phase 7 Restoration Construction set draft

- REPLACEMENT TREE PLANTING
- MONARCH SUPPORT PATCHES





What do we plant for the future?

- Replacement trees need to have a better fire profile (reduce ground fuels and ladders created)
- Drought tolerant and adapted to a rocky, coastal soil profile
- Provide the morphology needed for Monarch use (leaf shape and general structure)
- Less invasive don't plant a future problem!
- PROJECT IS CURRENTLY PROPOSING 4
 SPECIES FOR FIELD TESTING

Pinus sabiniana – Foothill Pine (native)



Pinus canariensis – Canary Island Pine (non-native)



Eucalyptus diversicolor – Karri (non-native)



Bonarup Drive, Western Australia by David Jones Karri trees of the Bonarup Forest near Marget River, Western Australia by nodeworx

Lyonothamnus spp– Catalina Ironwood (native)



65% Design Cost Estimates

Phase 1 (Pilot):	\$54,000
Phase 2 (Removal):	\$461,000
Phase 3 (Restoration):	\$672,000
Phase 4 (Removal):	\$462,000
Phase 5 (Restoration):	\$661,000
Phase 6 (Removal):	\$80,000
Phase 7 (Restoration):	\$310,000

Next Steps and Timeline

STAY INFORMED

• <u>https://www.albanyca.org/albany-hill/</u>

NEXT MEETINGS

- Winter 2024
 - Possible 2nd site walk or PROSC presentation
 - Present to City Council
- PUBLIC INPUT Will be solicited at each meeting please reach out with your comments! <u>AlbanyHillEucProj@albanyca.org</u>



