



C I T Y O F
RENO
Memorandum

DATE: January 31, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Jackie Bryant, City Manager

FROM: Nathan Ulyot, Director, Parks and Recreation
Matt Basile, Urban Forester
Matt Brezina, Parks Manager

DEPT: Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Virginia Lake Park Tree Maintenance and Removal Project

The City of Reno Urban Forestry Division is planning a large tree maintenance project at Virginia Lake Park. The work includes the pruning of 51 trees and the removal of 19 trees, most of which are large Siberian elms (locations identified in Exhibits A & B). The 19 trees that are identified for removal are in very poor condition and will not have the vitality to recover from the effects of heavy pruning. Under ideal conditions, Siberian elms have a life expectancy of approximately 100 years, and many of the elms around Virginia Lake were likely planted in the 1930s and have reached the end of their lives. The project is scheduled to start February 24, 2025, and is expected to be fully complete June 30, 2025.

A significant impact on pedestrian traffic is expected as park users accessing the two perimeter walking trails will be diverted around the project working zones. Diversions will include using existing sidewalks to circumnavigate the work zone, and recirculating pedestrians before and after the work zone which will create a non-continuous loop around the lake. In certain instances, Urban Forestry staff may also need to divert vehicle traffic in order to perform the work, and all public notices and traffic control will be properly coordinated with the City's Maintenance and Operations Department. All pedestrian and vehicle traffic control will be set up at the beginning of each day and taken down at the end of each work shift.

In an effort to improve growing conditions for trees along the west and north sides of the park, the Parks and Recreation department is currently working with the Nevada Division of Forestry on a funding opportunity to repair poorly functioning irrigation around the park, which has contributed to the decline of the trees. Improving irrigation systems will give the department the ability to properly water and replant at least 68 new trees around the lake. Urban Forestry will work with the Communications team to ensure the public is aware of the project.

Exhibit A: Locations of 51 trees to be trimmed, shown in purple.

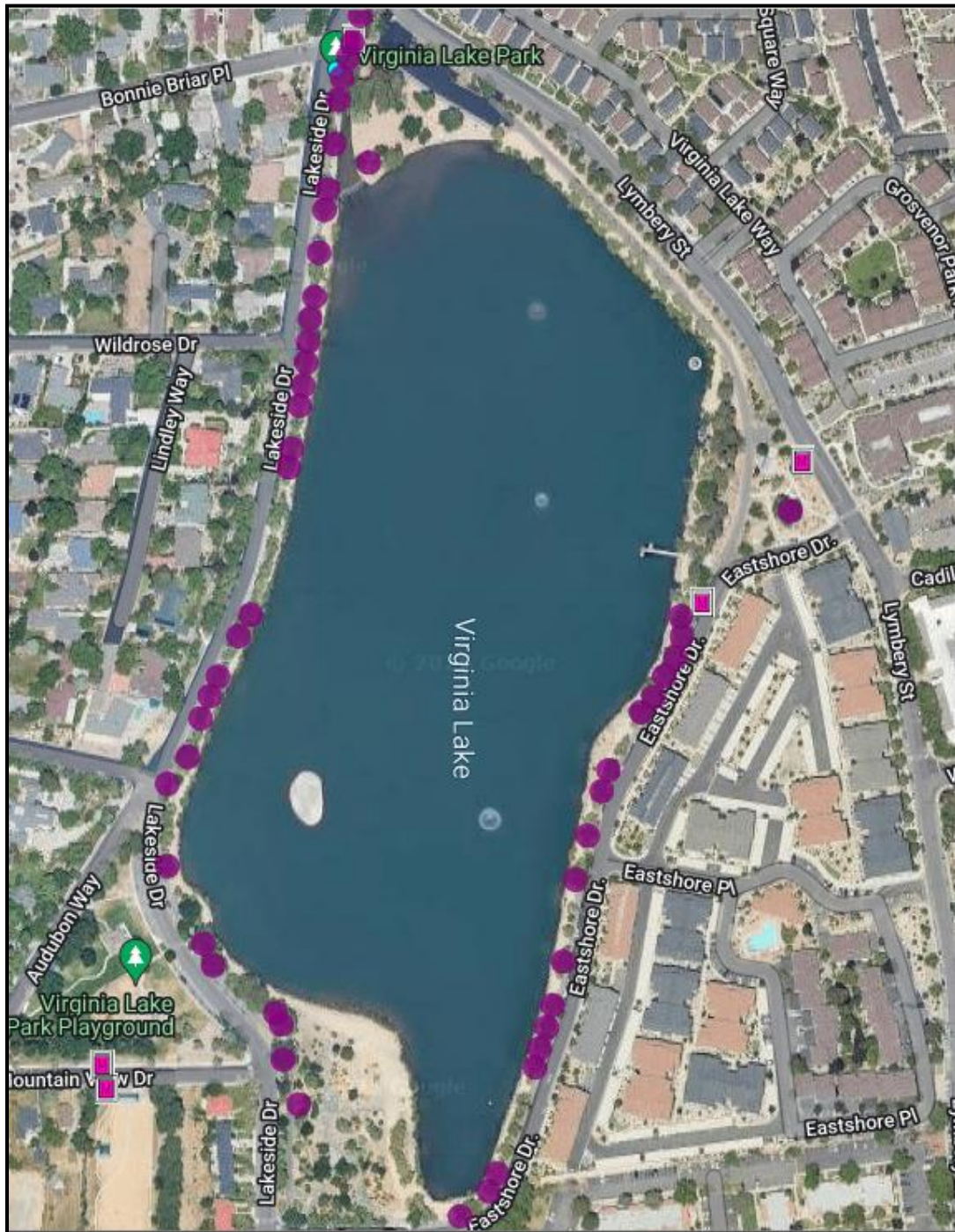


Exhibit B: Locations of 19 trees to be removed, shown in purple.

