



ENVIRONMENTAL
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TRAINING

**Tree Assessment & Arborist Report Peer Review
Pebblebrook Road at Buckner Road
Mableton (Smyrna), Georgia 30126
Cobb County
Project # 2019-10-005**

October 31, 2019

Prepared For: Tyler J. Sniff, Esq.
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Thank you for contacting KADAS, Inc. (KADAS) to assess the trees located on the property at Pebblebrook Road at Buckner Road and to provide our opinion on the Specimen Tree Report and Rezoning Tree Location & Protection Plans. The Specimen Tree Report was prepared by James Mahoney, ISA Certified Arborist #SP-10291A of Root Zone Tree Consultants and is dated 9/10/2019. The Rezoning Tree Location & Protection Plan was stamped by Doug McClure, RLA of 360 Studio and is dated 9/13/2019. Both Root Zone Tree Consultants and 360 Studio are divisions of Planners and Engineers Collaborative.

The purpose of the site visit was to provide an initial assessment of the trees on the client property. During the site visit, trees were also observed on the subject property to the north. To avoid entering the subject property without permission any trees, off the client property, were viewed from the clients property to the south and from the Buckner Road right of way. The site visit was conducted on October 22, 2019 by Mr. David Shostak, Principal Scientist, with KADAS a Graduate Forester and an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist, and the City of Alpharetta City Arborist. Trees were viewed with the naked eye as well as with a digital SLR cameral with a 28-200mm zoom lens and a 100-300mm zoom lens. Photographs can be found at the end of this report. Additional photographs taken during the site visit are on file with KADAS.

The trees on the property were visually assessed for biological and structural health and insect and disease infestations. The condition criteria set forth in Section 106-30 of the, current and proposed, Article II Tree Conservation and Replacement Code were considered. However, it is our opinion that most trees, even good quality trees, can be discounted and not meet the specimen tree criteria by using the current condition criteria in the code. For example a tree with two or more dead major limbs would not be considered a specimen tree. However, a simple deadwood pruning by an ISA Certified Arborist would fix this problem and you would be left with a good quality tree that would provide all of the benefits trees provide such as clean air, clean water, stormwater runoff mitigation, increased property values, etc. These trees

would have a long and useful life ahead of them if provided with some basic tree care. The condition criteria in the proposed code allows for a more accurate assessment of the condition of specimen trees without easily being discounted from being considered a specimen trees, especially for things that can be easily corrected for with pruning and basic tree care. During the site visit the majority of the trees that were viewed were located in the northeast corner of the clients property and at the southeast corner of the subject property. This is also the area where the majority of specimen trees is located on the subject property. What was observed was in general a good quality stand of specimen trees of forest and open grown trees (see photographs in the appendix). Per the City of Smyrna Code a Specimen Tree Stand is a contiguous grouping of four or more trees which has been determined to be of high value in the opinion of the Community Development Director. This determination is based upon the following criteria:

1. A relatively mature, even-aged stand.
2. A stand with uniform species composition or of a rare or unusual nature.
3. A stand of historical significance.

In my opinion this stand and the individual trees meets the conditions set forth in the City of Smyrna code since it is an even aged stand of approximately twenty one trees of mostly white oaks and post oaks with a mixing of specimen size and quality trees within the stand. This type of stand of good quality mature trees of this size and age are a rare and unusual find within the City of Smyrna and Cobb County. With the City and County converting from a rural and suburban county to a more urban setting these types of stands will become even rarer. If allowed to be removed this would be a great ecological and historical loss. An even more unique characteristic of this stand of specimen trees is that it crosses the southern property line where approximately six of the twenty one trees are located. Some of the six trees on the neighboring property meet the conditions to be considered specimen trees and boundary trees and should also be protected as part of this stand.

A review of the Rezoning Tree Location & Protection Plans do not show any proposed tree saves of significance. There are no trees proposed to be conserved outside of the stream buffer area on the southwest corner of the property or the undisturbed open space on the northeast corner of the property. In addition, the plan proposes to remove trees that are located on the client property and not the subject property. In my opinion this plan does not meet the intent or letter of the code, Section 106-36 of Article II, and is a tree removal plan and not a tree protection plan as required.

Discrepancies were identified in the Specimen Tree Report by Mr. Mahoney. For example tree # 325 was identified as a White oak on the report but it is a Post oak. Tree # 312 only had approximately 20% canopy decline, not over 50%, and should be OK with proper pruning and care. Tree # 302 did not have included bark at the split. This tree should also be OK with proper pruning and care. A full review of the trees and their condition is recommended.

It is our opinion that the trees located in the southeast corner of the subject property, warrant protections under the City of Smyrna Article II Tree Conservation and Replacement Code. The majority of these trees are in good condition and make up a unique and rare stand of trees

located in a developing part of the City of Smyrna and Cobb County that is becoming more urban.

The observations, discussion, and recommendations stated above are based upon my professional experience and education. It is important to note that trees are natural living things and it is impossible to predict when a tree may die or fail, especially when impacted by construction, human intervention, natural causes, or other means.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist you with this project. Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be contacted by email at dshostak@kadasusa.com or by phone at (770) 940-1625.

Sincerely,



David Shostak, MS
ISA Certified Arborist: SO-5867A
Alabama Registered Forester: #1994

Photographs







