

RESOLUTION NO. 11- 08

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF ST. LEO TOWN COMMISSION APPROVING THE
SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY INC. TREE REMOVAL REQUEST WITH CONDITIONS.

WHEREAS, a Tree Removal Permit application has been submitted by Saint Leo University, Inc. for construction of a Practice Field pursuant to Article XII: Landscape Buffering and Tree Protection, Sec. 12.6 Tree Protection and Restoration.

WHEREAS, the tree removal request for twelve (12) Grand Trees requires approval by the Town Commission. In addition, ninety (90) protected trees are also being removed.

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on July 11, 2011, before the Town of St. Leo Town Commission, which gave full and complete consideration to the recommendations of the staff and evidence presented at the meeting.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF ST. LEO TOWN COMMISSION:

SECTION A. REQUEST

The Applicant is requesting removal of twelve (12) Grand Trees and ninety (90) protected trees.

SECTION B. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Based on the facts and analysis presented in the Staff Report and the Applicant's submittal (Exhibit A), which includes a report prepared by Mr. Jeffery Aker, certified arborist, stating that six (6) Grand trees and four (4) protected trees located within the tree removal area are in severe states of decline, and the Applicant's justification, the Town Commission finds that the removal of twelve (12) Grand Trees and ninety (90) protected trees is warranted. Further, pursuant to Mr. Aker's report and Town staff report, one (1) Grand Tree is located outside the tree removal area and is in a severe state of decline, and therefore; its removal is warranted.

SECTION C. TOWN COMMISSION DECISION

The Town Commission hereby APPROVES the tree removal request with the following conditions:

1. The seven (7) Grand Trees and four (4) protected trees identified by Mr. Aker as being in severe states of decline do not require tree replacement.
2. The Applicant shall plant 238 replacement canopy trees (per LDC list or other Town approved tree), each a minimum of three (3)-inch DBH and ten (10) feet in height, Florida

Quality Grade One. Alternatively, pursuant to Section 12.6.6 provide fewer, but larger than three (3)-inch DBH trees and/or pursuant to Section 12.6.9, pay the tree mitigation fee for up to fifty (50) percent (119 trees) of the required trees to be replaced. At least fifty (50) percent of the required replacement trees shall be planted around the Practice Field north and/or east boundaries. Given the existing tree canopy coverage of the Practice Field site, the replacement trees around the Practice Field shall be planted in clusters to provide for future tree grove canopy effect, similar to the pre-tree removal condition.

Note that any required landscape buffer related to the Practice Field pursuant to Sec. 12.2 cannot count toward meeting the tree replacement requirement. Requirements related to landscape buffers are in addition to the required replacement trees.

3. The Applicant shall submit a tree replacement plan by October 31, 2011 for Town review/approval. The replacement trees shall be planted by the Applicant prior to final inspection of the Practice Field project by the Town's Building Official or Planning Consultant. Any payments to the Tree Mitigation Fund must be made prior to final site inspection approval. Upon completion of the project, the Town Commission or its designee shall be permitted by the Applicant to inspect all planted replacement trees pursuant to the Tree Removal Permit approval for compliance. The Applicant shall be required to replace any trees or shrubs deemed to be in either poor condition or have died within 45 days of said inspection. The date that the Town's Planning Consultant determines compliance with the tree replacement requirements will be known as the approved "Compliance Date".
4. No final inspection approval will be issued by the Town until these conditions are met.
5. Upon one (1) year after the completion of the project, the Town Commission or its designee shall inspect all planted replacement trees and the Applicant shall be required to replace any trees deemed to be in poor or dead condition within 45 days of the date a written notice of said inspection is mailed to the Applicant.
6. The edge of the Practice Field shall be no closer than 145 feet from the east property boundary with Lake Jovita. The top of the slope shall be no closer than 125 feet from the east property boundary with Lake Jovita.
7. The distance from the east property boundary with Lake Jovita and the toe of slope for the Practice Field shall be no less than 65 feet.
8. Within the minimum 65 foot area between the east property boundary with Lake Jovita and the toe of slope for the Practice Field (the "Buffer Area"), the following shall occur:
 - a. For the first 220 feet along the northern end of the east property boundary, the Buffer Area shall remain in its existing, undisturbed state and no new plantings per the Town's LDC shall be required.

- b. For the remainder of the east property boundary (227 feet),
 - (1) The first 15 feet of the Buffer Area from the property boundary shall remain in its existing, undisturbed state.
 - (2) Within the remaining 50 feet of the Buffer Area, landscaping and trees shall be installed and maintained in a manner to achieve 80% percent opacity within 4 years ("Buffer") in accordance with and as described in a buffer plan model ("Buffer Plan Model"). Native trees and shrubs, excluding palm trees, shall be used. St. Leo University shall hire a licensed landscape architect to prepare a detailed Buffer Plan Model that includes one year and four year growth projections. The Buffer Plan Model shall be the standard used to demonstrate that the proposed plantings, with their associated growth projections, will achieve 80% opacity within 4 years. The Town's Planning Consultant shall inspect the Buffer Plan 4 years after the approved Compliance Date as defined in Condition #3. Based on this inspection the Town's Planning Consultant shall make a recommendation to the Commission as to compliance with the Buffer Plan. If the proposed plantings performed as the Buffer Plan Model intended within the 4 years, then the Buffer shall be deemed compliant with this condition no. 7.b.(2). If the proposed plantings did not substantially perform in accordance with the approved Buffer Plan Model four year growth projections, then Saint Leo University shall bring the plantings into compliance with the approved model growth standards pursuant to approval by the Town Commission. The Buffer Plan Model will be reviewed by a representative of the Lake Jovita Homeowners' Association, who shall be a licensed landscape architect. In a coordination and consultation role, the Town's Planner shall coordinate and consult solely with Lake Jovita's licensed landscape architect and Saint Leo University's licensed landscape architect to produce a mutually agreed upon Buffer Plan Model. The Buffer Plan Model shall be submitted to the Town for presentation and acceptance by the Town Commission on or before October 31, 2011. There shall be no encroachments within the Buffer Area. There shall be no construction of the Practice Field prior to acceptance of the Buffer Plan Model by the Town Commission.

9. Along the northern boundary, the following shall occur:

- a. The first 65 feet from the east property boundary shall remain in its existing, undisturbed state.
- b. For the remainder of the northern boundary, a Type C buffer per the Town's LDC shall be required. Existing trees shall remain and may be used to meet the LDC requirements. Native trees and shrubs, excluding palm trees, shall be used to meet the requirements. Saint Leo University's licensed landscape architect shall prepare a tree and plant selection plan, which shall be reviewed by a representative of the Lake Jovita's Homeowner's Association, who shall be a licensed landscape architect. In a coordination and consultation role, the Town's Planner shall coordinate

and consult solely with Lake Jovita's licensed landscape architect and Saint Leo University's licensed landscape architect to produce a mutually agreed upon tree and plant selection plan. The tree and plant selection plan shall be submitted to the Town for presentation and acceptance by the Town Commission on or before October 31, 2011. There shall be no construction of the Practice Field prior to acceptance of the tree and plant selection plan by the Town Commission.

10. To the maximum extent possible, native replacement trees shall be planted along the eastern and northern boundaries between the toe of slope and the practice field.
11. The Buffer Area shall be staked prior to commencement of construction activities and shall be protected during construction which shall include appropriate erosion control measures and LDC tree protection requirements.
12. The Practice Field shall not be permanently lit without approval of an amendment to the PUD by the Town Commission with notice consistent with the LDC public hearing requirements.

SECTION D. EXHIBITS

The following exhibit is attached to this resolution and incorporated by reference:

Exhibit A: Town Staff Report with exhibits

Exhibit B: Applicant's application and supporting documents.

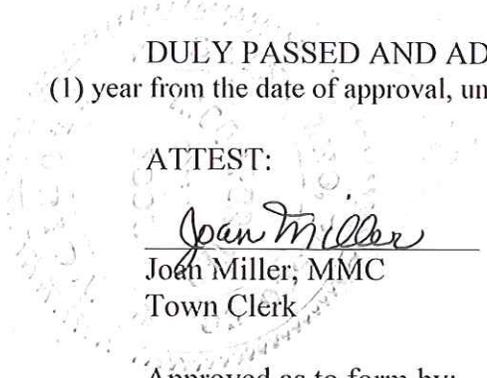
SECTION E. TOWN COMMISSION MOTION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the St. Leo Town Commission vote as follows:

William E. Hamilton, Mayor
Donna DeWitt, O.S.B. - Mayor ProTem
Richard Christmas
Robert Courtney
Jack Gardner

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of July, 2011. This approval is valid for one (1) year from the date of approval, unless construction has started prior to the expiration date.

ATTEST:


Joan Miller
Joan Miller, MMC
Town Clerk

William E. Hamilton
William E. Hamilton
Mayor

Approved as to form by:

Patricia A. Petruff
Patricia Petruff, Esquire, Town Attorney

EXHIBIT A
Town Staff Report with exhibits and
Applicant's application and supporting documents



Town of St. Leo

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT REVIEW (TRP) STAFF REPORT
TRP# 11-A: Saint Leo University Practice Field
Town Commission Public Hearing Meeting July 11, 2011

Property Owner: Saint Leo University Inc.

Applicant: Same

Representative: Frank Mezzanini

Request: Remove twelve (12) Grand Trees, forty-five (45) trees between 10-inch and less than 20-inch DBH and forty-five (45) trees greater than 5-inch DBH, but less than 10-inch DBH, for new a Practice Field.

Location/Legal Description: Northeastern Quadrant of the Saint Leo University East Campus

Property Appraiser Folio: 06-25-21-0000-00300-0010

Land Use Designation: Institutional

Zoning: Institutional

Tree Removal Review Application Overview:

The University proposes to construct a new Practice Field (Exhibit A). The site is located within the portion of the University dedicated to sports/recreation at the northeastern quadrant of the University campus. The Practice Field site is currently a wooded and open area located north of the tennis courts and east of the new Softball Stadium parking lot. The Lake Jovita development golf course is to the north and Lake Jovita residential development to the east.

At the April 11, 2011 public hearing, based on concerns raised by Lake Jovita residents, the Town Commission continued the hearing to permit time for the University and residents to resolve issues. The University has revised the Practice Field site plan resulting in a revised tree removal request. The applicant's revised application and tree survey are contained in Appendix A.

A majority of the trees to be removed are located within the proposed play field area (Tree Survey drawing TR-3, yellow highlighted area). The remaining trees to be removed result from sloping the new grade of the Practice Field down to the north and east property boundaries.

The following table provides a comparison of the original and revised tree removal submittal.

Tree Removal Comparison Table

Protected Trees to be Removed	Original	Revised
Trees 5" DBH < 10" DBH	55	45
Trees >10" DBH < 20" DBH	59	45
Trees 20"+ DBH (Grand Trees)	14	12
Total	128	102

The reduction in the number of trees to be removed results from shifting the Practice Field to the west. As shown on the survey, a total of 102 protected trees are proposed to be removed comprised of Live/Laurel Oaks, Sweet Gum and Cedar trees. Twelve (12) trees are Grand Trees, removal of Grand Trees requires a public hearing with notice to surrounding property owners. The remaining trees to be removed are either under five (5)-inch DBH or are not considered protected trees. These non-protected trees include Camphor, Chinaberry, Cherry Laurel and palms. The Applicant has also provided an evaluation of six (6) Grand Trees and four (4) large protected trees within the tree removal area and one (1) Grand Tree outside the tree removal area by Mr. Jeffrey Aker, a certified arborist with the University (Appendix A).

Based on the Applicant's application, although the fields will be grass, the site requires regrading for the purpose of drainage and site leveling for playing purposes. The Practice Fields provide for multiple uses such as soccer, lacrosse, baseball and jogging path; and therefore, the existing open area requires expansion to the north and east. The existing grade of the site slopes from an elevation of 167+/- feet at the northwest corner to 133+/- feet at the southeast corner resulting in a grade change of thirty-four (34) feet. The trees indicated to be removed outside the playing field area, but within the thin dashed line area on the tree survey, are because of the regrading needed to create the level playing fields and expansion of the Practice Field area.

Along the north and east boundaries fill will be needed to bring the low areas up to the new finish grade. The trees would not survive placement of several feet of fill around them. The lighter contour lines on the survey indicate existing grade lines while the darker lines indicate new grade. It is in those areas of new grading where the trees need to be removed. The Tree Survey (TR-3 drawing) provides a cross-section at the approximate midpoint of the east property boundary of the site depicting the existing grade compared to the new grade. Here the existing grade change from the top of bank to the east property boundary is 26.5+/- feet over a distance of approximately 280 feet. The new grade change will be 26.5+/- feet over a distance of approximately 150 feet.

The protected trees requiring a permit to be removed are as follows:

Grand Trees (12 trees):

- Live/Laurel Oak: Eleven (11), 20-inch to 38-inch DBH.
- Cedar: One (1) 42-inch DBH.

Trees 10-inch DBH, but less than 20-inch DBH (45 trees)

- Live/Laurel Oaks: Forty-three (43), ranging from 10-inch to 18-inch DBH.
- Sweet Gum: Two (2), ranging from 10-inch to 14-inch DBH

Trees five (5)-inch DBH, but less than ten (10) inch DBH (45 trees)

- Live/Laurel Oaks: Forty-three (43), ranging from 5-inch to 8-inch DBH.
- Sweet Gum: Two (2), ranging from 6-inch to 8-inch DBH.

Relevant LDC Sections

Sec. 12.6 Tree Protection and Restoration

Sec. 12.6.1 Purpose and Intent

- A. To promote the health, safety and welfare of the current and future residents of the Town of St. Leo by establishing minimum standards for the regulation of the preservation, protection and removal of trees within the Town of St. Leo.
- B. Trees are declared as a significant natural and visual resource, particularly as related to protecting the aesthetic character of the visual corridors (SR 52 and Lake Jovita) defined in the Town of St. Leo Visual Corridor Study.
- C. Protecting trees maintains the aesthetic character and quality of the Town of St. Leo as adopted in the Comprehensive Plan. The aesthetic quality of the Town is comprised of the forested shoreline of Lake Jovita and its surrounding hillside, and the forested hillsides along S.R. 52.
- D. Trees provide significant environmental benefits such as purifying and cooling the ambient air, providing shade, conserving energy, reducing noise levels, providing important habitats for wildlife and preventing soil erosion and flood control.

Sec. 12.6.3 Tree Removal Permit Required

- A. Any commercial, institutional, multi-family or residential subdivision development requires a tree removal permit for the following:
 - 1. Removal of ten (10) percent or more of the total trees on a property or development site that are greater than five (5) inch diameter at breast height (DBH) or
 - 2. Any tree ten (10) inch DBH or greater.
- C. The removal of a Grand Tree (20-inch DBH or greater) on any property requires approval by the Town Commission at a public hearing pursuant to the requirements of Sec. 9.1.

Sec. 12.6.6. Tree Replacement

- A. Minimum tree replacement size is three (3)-inch DBH and ten (10) feet in height, and Florida No. 1 grade quality or better.
- B. The replacement tree(s) shall be of a species listed on the Tree Species List. The replacement tree(s) may be located anywhere on the subject property. Required tree replacement is pursuant to sections C, D and E below or by providing replacement trees (greater than three (3)-inch DBH) equivalent to the total required DBH.
- C. Minimum number of replacement trees for the removal of a tree less than ten (10)-inch DBH is at a ratio of two (2) replacement trees for each tree removed. Palm trees may be utilized as replacement trees at a ratio of three (3) palms per one replacement tree.
- D. The minimum number of replacement trees for a tree removed of ten (10)-inch DBH to less than twenty (20)-inch DBH is at a ratio of three (3) replacement trees for each tree removed.

- E. The minimum number of replacement trees for removal of a Grand Tree is at a ratio of four (4) replacement trees for each tree removed.
- F. Pursuant to approval by the Town Commission, tree replacement may be achieved by contribution to the Town's Tree Mitigation Fund.

Staff Review

The proposed project is located within the northeastern quadrant of the University campus, which is an area dedicated to sports and recreational activities. The site requires regrading for the purpose of drainage and site leveling for playing purposes. Appendix B provides site photographs prepared by the Town's Planning Consultant. Photographs A-F show various views of the existing trees. Photographs G and I show the existing grade of the edges of the existing Practice Field. The top of the grade will be extended beyond its current terminus. Photograph H is a view from the top of the existing field looking toward the Lake Jovita residences. Photograph I shows the existing grade at the southeastern corner of the site.

The applicant has provided a justification statement as part of the application. It is noted that the University has submitted a revised application for General Site Plan review for the Practice Field project.

The LDC requires a canopy tree replacement ratio of two (2) to one for any tree between 5-inch DBH and less than 10-inch DBH, a ratio of three (3) to one (1) for any tree 10-inch DBH to less than 20-inch DBH, and a ratio of four (4) replacement trees for each Grand Tree removed. Therefore, a total of 273 replacement trees would be required as follows:

- 12 trees are Grand Trees = 48 replacement trees
- 45 trees are ten (10) inch DBH to less than 20-inch DBH = 135 replacement trees.
- 45 trees are greater than five (5) inch DBH, but less than ten (10) inch DBH = 90 replacement trees.

The Applicant has also provided an evaluation of seven (7) Grand Trees and four (4) large protected trees by Jeffrey Aker, a certified arborist with the University (Appendix A). It is noted that the Applicant's tree survey tree replacement table excludes the trees identified by Mr. Aker as being damaged. These trees are listed separately on the Applicant's tree survey table and are reflected in the above tree replacement count prepared for this report. Based on Mr. Aker's letter and the Town's Planning Consultant's field inspection, the seven (7) Grand Trees and four (4) large protected trees are in fact in severe states of decline. Six (6) Grand trees and the four (4) protected trees are located within the tree removal area; therefore, it is recommended that these Grand and protected trees could be removed and not require tree replacement. Therefore, the adjusted required total tree replacement within the tree removal area would be as follows:

- A total of six (6) are Grand Trees = 24 replacement trees
- A total of 42 trees are ten (10) inch DBH to less than 20-inch DBH = 126 replacement trees.
- A total of 44 trees are five (5) inch DBH, but less than ten (10) inch DBH = 88 replacement trees.

The revised total number of required replacements trees is 238 or the equivalent of 714 inches DBH (240 x 3-inch DBH). [Note: the tree replacement table on the Applicant's Tree Survey is incorrect]. Pursuant to Section 12.6.6 the Applicant could provide fewer, but larger than three (3)-inch DBH trees and/or pursuant to Section 12.6.9, pay the tree mitigation fee for up to fifty (50) percent (119 trees) of the

required trees to be replaced. Not all replacement trees would be required to be planted within the Practice Field area.

As noted previously, one (1) Grand Tree is located outside the tree removal area and identified by Mr. Aker as being in severe state of decline. It is recommended that this tree can be removed without requiring tree replacement.

Town Commission Alternatives:

The Town Commission has at least two decision-making alternatives:

Alternative 1: Based on the report from Mr. Jeffrey Aker, determine that there is a hardship to remove seven (7) Grand Trees and four (4) protected trees; however, there is no hardship or justification for removal of the remaining six (6) Grand Trees and 86 protected trees. Therefore the Tree Removal Permit application is DENIED and the trees are to be preserved and protected, except those trees noted in Mr. Aker's letter.

Alternative 2: Determine that based on the Applicant's justification statement, Mr. Aker's letter, site constraints and photographs that the removal of the twelve (12) Grand Trees and 90 protected trees and the one (1) Grand Tree located outside the tree removal area is warranted, and therefore, the Tree Removal Permit is APPROVED with the following conditions:

1. The seven (7) Grand Trees and four (4) protected trees identified by Mr. Aker as being in severe states of decline do not require tree replacement.
2. The Applicant shall plant 238 replacement canopy trees (per LDC list or other Town approved tree), each a minimum of three (3)-inch DBH and ten (10) feet in height, Florida Quality Grade One. Alternatively, pursuant to Section 12.6.6 provide fewer, but larger than three (3)-inch DBH trees and/or pursuant to Section 12.6.9, pay the tree mitigation fee for up to fifty (50) percent (119 trees) of the required trees to be replaced. At least fifty (50) percent of the required replacement trees shall be planted around the Practice Field north and/or east boundaries. Given the existing tree canopy coverage of the Practice Field site, the replacement trees around the Practice Field shall be planted in clusters to provide for future tree grove canopy effect, similar to the pre-tree removal condition.

Note that any required landscape buffer related to the Practice Field pursuant to Sec. 12.2 cannot count toward meeting the tree replacement requirement. Requirements related to landscape buffers are in addition to the required replacement trees.

3. The Applicant shall submit a tree replacement plan by October 31, 2011 for Town review/approval. The replacement trees shall be planted by the Applicant and inspected by the Town Planning Consultant prior to final inspection of the Practice Field project by the Town's Building Official or Planning Consultant. Any payments to the Tree Mitigation Fund must be made prior to final site inspection approval. No final inspection approval will be issued by the Town until these conditions are met.

4. Upon one (1) year after the completion of the project, the Town Commission or its designee shall inspect all planted replacement trees and the Applicant shall be required to replace any trees deemed to be in poor or dead condition within 45 days of the date a written notice of said inspection is mailed to the Applicant.

This report has been prepared by:



Jan A. Norsoph, AICP
Engelhardt, Hammer & Associates, Inc.
Town of St. Leo Planning Consultant

Engelhardt, Hammer & Associates reserves the right to update this report upon becoming aware of new or updated information.

EXHIBIT A
Aerial of Practice Field Site

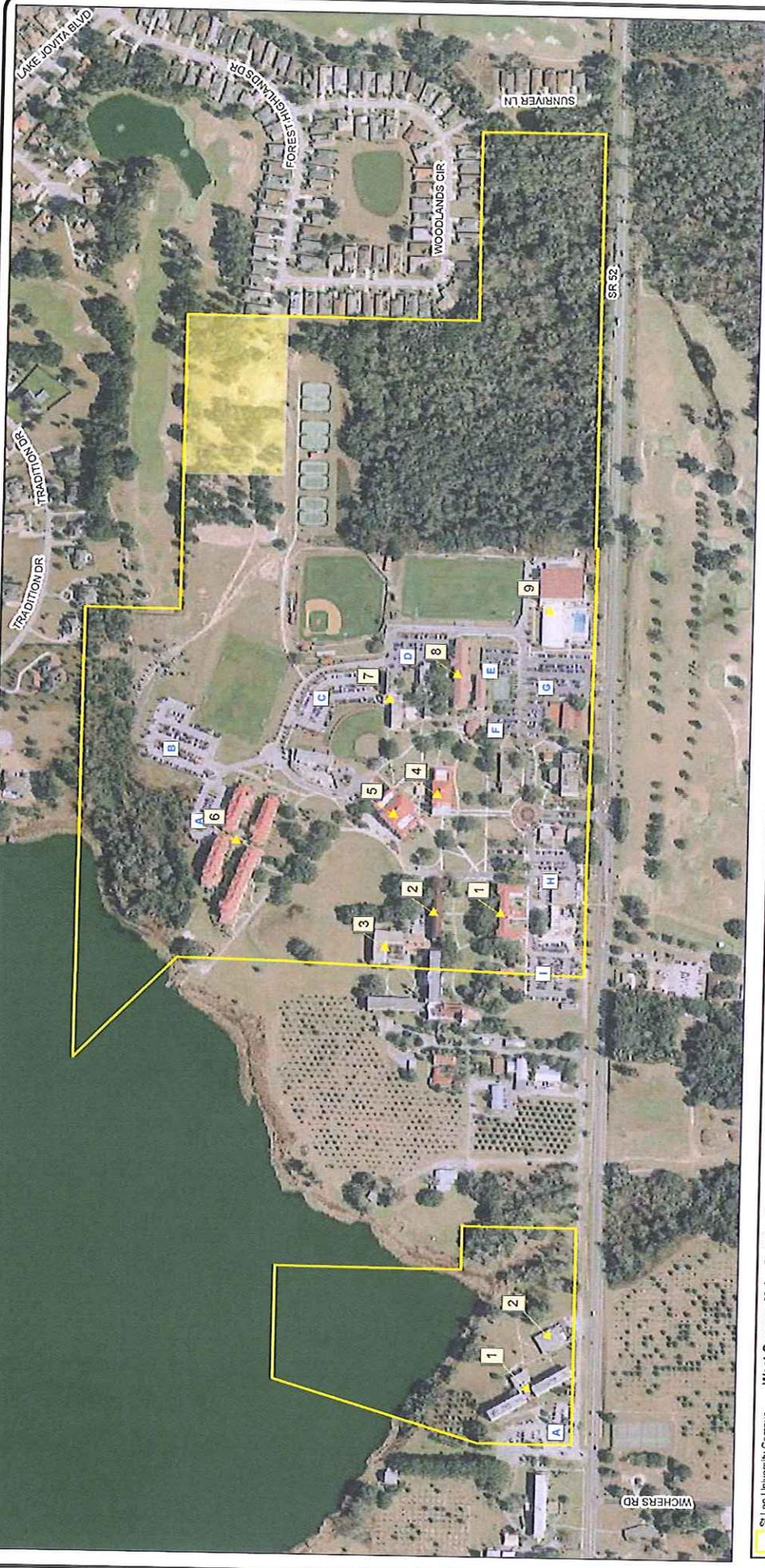


Exhibit A
 Saint Leo
 University Campus

ENGELHARDT, HAMMER & ASSOCIATES
 Landscape Architecture
 4121 Inshore Plaza Parkway, Suite 226, Tampa, Florida 33613
 Telephone (813) 899-8106, Fax (813) 899-8511



Source: SWFWMD 2009 Aerial

West Campus Major Building Number, Name	East Campus Major Building Number, Name	West Parking Lot	East Parking Lots
1, Marion - Snyder Hall	1, St. Edward Hall	Parking Lot A	Parking Lot A
2, Marion Center	2, Student Housing Buildings		Parking Lot B
	3, Cannon Memorial Library		Parking Lot C
	4, Student Activities Building		Parking Lot D
	5, Student Community Center		Parking Lot E
	6, Student Housing Buildings		Parking Lot F
	7, Henderson Hall		Parking Lot G
	8, Roderick Hall		Parking Lot H
	9, Marion Bowman Activities Center		Parking Lot I

DRAWING TR-3
Play Field Area/Cross Section

APPENDIX A
Applicant's Tree Removal Application, Submittal Documents
And Report by Jeffery Aker

TOWN OF ST. LEO
TREE REMOVAL PERMIT APPLICATION
P.O. BOX 2479, ST. LEO, FLORIDA 33574 - 352.588.2622 FAX 352.588.3010
PLEASE SEE TOWN OF ST. LEO LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE 12.4 - 12.4.11

NOTE: It is incumbent upon the applicant to submit correct information. Any misleading, deceptive, incomplete or incorrect information may invalidate your approval.

DATE 2/23/11 ZONING DISTRICT A RDR MDR IL^X B POL LJ

PROPERTY ADDRESS 33701 State Road 52, Saint Leo, Florida 33574

PROPERTY OWNER Saint Leo University

Application must be completed by homeowner or attach notarized Affidavit to Authorize Agent.

PROPERTY PARCEL I.D.# 01-25-20-0000-03000-0010

REPRESENTATIVES NAME Frank Mezzanini PHONE(S) 352.588.8215

Information required for a single-family tree removal permit:

1. Identify all trees on the property, indicating the tree(s) to be removed either on property survey, aerial photograph, or hand drawn sketch. The plans shall delineate the tree species, height and size (DBH) to be removed.

2. Is tree diseased? . If tree is diseased and deemed unsafe, please verify by written documentation signed by a licensed professional (forester, arborist or horticulturalist) and attach documentation.

Information required for residential subdivision, multi-family, commercial or institutional development tree removal permit.

1. Identify all trees on the property, indicating the tree(s) to be removed either on a site or aerial photograph (scale of one (1) inch: two hundred (200) feet or smaller). Plans or an aerial photograph shall delineate the tree species, height and size (DBH) to be removed.

2. Tree is diseased and deemed unsafe and verified by written documentation signed by a licensed professional (forester, arborist or horticulturalist). If yes, attach documentation.

Submit a written justification statement for the proposed tree(s) removal based on the criteria contained above. Sites to replace trees must be included in site plans and project description.

FEE: \$50.00 In addition to the application fee, the applicant will be billed for the actual expenses related to the Town of St. Leo's Planning Consultant review of application. This may include, but not be limited to, time spend reviewing the application for completeness, preparing a report to the Town Commission, telephone conversations and/or written correspondence to the applicant, and attending any meetings with the applicant, including Commission meetings, if necessary. The Town Commission may request an advanced partial payment based on an estimate of the Planning Consultant's fees and expenses.

 Date: 2/21/2011
Signature of Title Holder (Owner)

Date: _____ Application Expires: _____
St. Leo Signature for Tree Removal Approval

Saint Leo University
Practice Field
Tree Removal Permit Application
Justification Statement
Revised 6.22.11

Pursuant to the submitted Site Plan Review application for the practice field, it is necessary to remove the designated trees in order to construct it.

The University is growing its student intramural sports programs due to rising enrollment, and growing its collegiate competitive sports program with men's and women's lacrosse. Due to this growth their existing sports fields are inadequate with insufficient space. The practice field will provide relief for the overcrowded facilities.

Trees to be removed include those in the way of the field and along the edge transitions from field elevation to existing grade along the property line. The change of grade will result in slopes that the existing trees would not survive on. Please see accompanying tree survey in which trees to be removed are shown, as well as calculations determining replacement trees.

Because of the large number of replacement trees needed, the university would like to study options and planting concepts as part of the process of providing a planting drawing for approval. Although the university will heavily plant trees along the Lake Jovita development property line, and on the newly sloped areas, those areas will not accommodate all of the required plantings so other areas on campus are to be studied for enhancement. We seek approval to submit a replacement planting plan by October 1 for review & approval of the Town without holding up the issuance of the Tree Removal Permit.



March 21, 2011

Jeffrey Aker
Certified Arborist
FI-5725A
36929 Sunshine Rd.
Zephyrhills Florida
Phone 352-467-0107
Fax 352-588-8377

Jose Caban
Physical plant manager
Saint Leo University
33701 Sr. 52 W.
Saint Leo Florida

Re: Tree assessment of wooded

Dear Mr. Caban,

Per your request I have completed my evaluation of the wooded area beside the tennis courts. Below please find my synopsis of the tree decline assessment. I have numbered the trees on the plan, and attached it to this email.

Tree 1 Oak 24"

Hit by lightning summer 2010 Cambium damage.



Appendix "A"

Tree 2 Oak 38"

The tree has been multi-stemmed from an early age, and competing for space with 2 camphors.



Tree 3 Cedar 42"

The tree is the old cedar. The tree appears to have been hit with lightning before (second pic); it also appears to have suffered many storms.



Pic 2

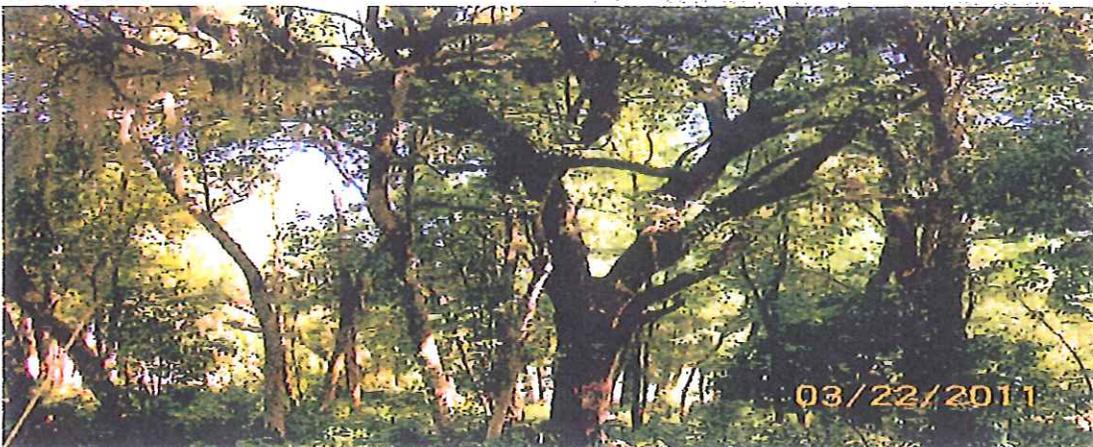


Tree 4 Oak 28"

This is a very old tree that is suffering from the canopy of surrounding trees limiting its phototropism. It has a lot of dead branches and is very close to its end.



Tree 4 Pic 2



Tree 5 Oak 20"

This tree was hit by lightning several years ago. There is a split down the whole side.



Trees 6-7 4 oaks 22"-24"-12"-5"

These trees (in background leaning) have been competing with the camphor trees for sun, the camphors' have grown faster and are causing the decline of these 2 oaks



Tree 8 2 oaks 14"-10"

Is an oak in decline due to competition with the china berries', palms and camphors.

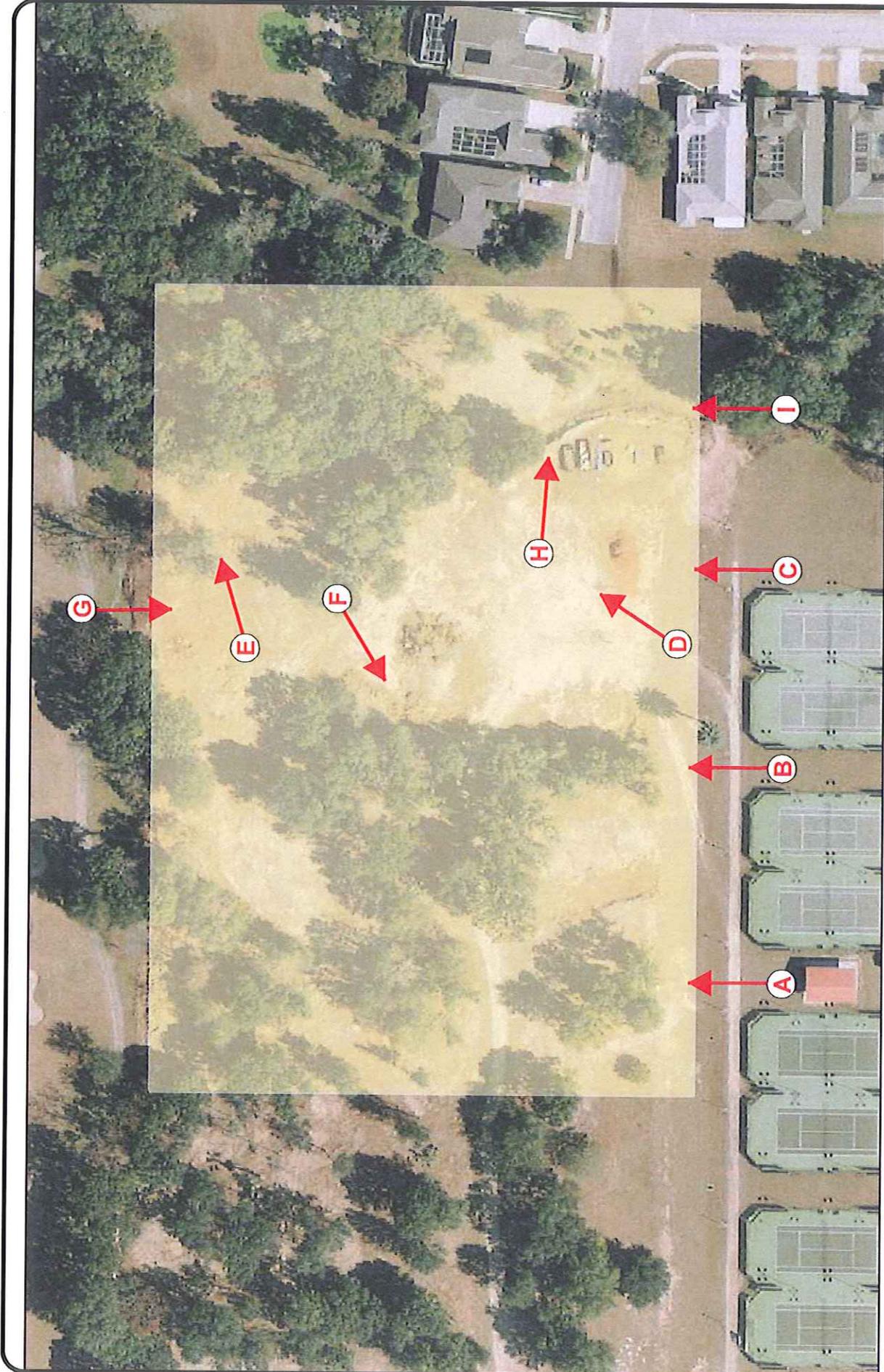


All 8 trees are in a heavy rate of decline.

Please feel free to call me with any questions about the evaluation.

Jeffrey Aker

APPENDIX B
Site Photographs
(Prepared by Town Planning Consultant)



Legend

Approximate Practice Field Area



0 60 Feet



Source: SWFVAMD 2009 Aerial

Practice Field Project
 Site Photographs
 Saint Leo University Campus

ENGELHARDT, HAMMER & ASSOCIATES
 LAND PLANNING + GIS + EXPERT ENVIRONMENTAL
 4342 Anchor Plaza Parkway, Suite 270, Tampa, Florida 33634
 Telephone: (813) 889-4700, Fax: (813) 889-8877



SITE PHOTOGRAPH A: SW corner of Practice Field looking north from tennis courts.



SITE PHOTOGRAPH B: Central Practice Field area looking north from tennis courts.



SITE PHOTOGRAPH C: View of central area from eastern tennis courts looking north.



SITE PHOTOGRAPH D: View of central area from eastern tennis courts looking northeasterly.



SITE PHOTOGRAPH E: View of tree grove at northeast corner adjacent to Lake Jovita golf course looking easterly.



SITE PHOTOGRAPH F: View from central open area looking southwesterly toward tennis courts.



SITE PHOTOGRAPH G: View looking from Lake Jovita golf course from north boundary toward the Practice Field. This illustrates the existing elevation of the Practice Field and the area to the east (left) and north (foreground) to be filled to match the existing grade.



SITE PHOTOGRAPH H: View from Practice Field eastern edge looking east toward Lake Jovita residences. Note the small portion of the chimney top to the left.



SITE PHOTOGRAPH I: View looking north from southeastern corner of Practice Field area. The existing landscape buffer to the right buffers the adjacent Lake Jovita residences. This photograph illustrates the existing elevation of the Practice Field (top left). The area to be filled to match the height of the existing Practice Field will extend parallel approximately to the small black silt fence in the foreground and then slope down toward Lake Jovita.