

THE BASS LAKE BULLETIN

The Voice of the Bass Lake Community
<http://basslakeaction.org>

THE BASS LAKE ACTION COMMITTEE

The Bass Lake Action Committee was formed by a group of concerned property owners in the Bass Lake Area and incorporated in 2003 as Non-profit organization, a 501(C)(4) corporation.

Our Mission Statement:

To provide a voice for Bass Lake homeowners in dealing with the county and other community agencies.
To keep homeowners informed about issues and meetings.



image credit - Mariya Muschard from Pixabay

PRUNING OAK TREES IN THE BASS LAKE AREA: A GUIDE FOR HOMEOWNERS

By John Davey

The Bass Lake area boasts a diverse landscape featuring a variety of oak species, including Interior live oaks, valley oaks, California Black Oak, and blue oaks. Proper pruning is crucial for maintaining the health and safety of these majestic trees.

Why Prune?

Tree Health: Pruning can remove dead, diseased, or

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PRUNING OAK TREES *(cont)*

damaged branches, improving air circulation and sunlight penetration within the tree canopy. This helps prevent the spread of disease and promotes overall tree vigor.

Weight Reduction: Heavy limbs can become a hazard during storms, potentially causing damage to the tree itself or surrounding structures. Pruning can reduce the weight of the tree canopy, mitigating this risk.

Light Penetration: Pruning can open up the interior of the tree, allowing more sunlight to reach the lower branches and promoting healthier growth.

Safety & Insurance: Overhanging branches can pose a safety risk to homes and structures, potentially causing damage during storms or high winds. This can impact homeowner insurance coverage.

Fire Prevention: Pruning lower branches and creating defensible space around trees can significantly reduce the risk of fire damage to properties.

When to Prune:

Dormant Season: The ideal time to prune most oak trees is during their dormant season, typically between late winter and early spring

(February-March) before new growth begins.

How Often to Prune:

Regular Maintenance: For most mature oak trees, light pruning for maintenance purposes can be conducted annually.

Severe Pruning: More significant pruning should generally be avoided or limited to specific circumstances, such as addressing structural issues or removing hazardous limbs.

How Much Can Be Pruned?

Avoid Over-Pruning: Oak trees are generally slow-growing and can be sensitive to heavy pruning.

Over-pruning can stress the tree, making it more susceptible to disease and decay.

Consult a Professional: For significant pruning projects, it's highly recommended to consult with a certified arborist.

What Parts of an Oak Tree to Prune:

Dead, Diseased, or Damaged

Branches: These should be removed promptly to prevent the spread of disease.

Crossing or Rubbing Branches:

These can cause damage to the bark and increase the risk of disease.

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PRUNING OAK TREES *(con't)*

Water Sprouts: These are vigorous, upright shoots that often grow from the trunk or major branches. They can weaken the tree structure and are typically removed.

Low-Hanging Branches: Branches that pose a safety hazard or interfere with structures should be pruned or removed.

What Should Not Be Pruned:

Large Limbs: Removing large limbs can significantly stress the tree and may cause serious damage.

Topping: Topping, the practice of severely cutting back the top of a tree, is highly detrimental to oak trees and should be avoided at all costs.

Pruning Neighboring Trees:

Overhang Concerns: If branches from a neighboring tree are overhanging your property and causing a concern (safety hazard, damage to structures, etc.), you may have the right to prune those overhanging branches back to your property line.

Check Local Ordinances: Always check with local ordinances regarding tree pruning and property lines.

Communication: Whenever possible, it's advisable to communicate with your neighbor before pruning branches that overhang your property.

Who Should Prune:

Property Owner: For minor pruning tasks, such as removing small dead branches, property owners can often perform the work themselves.

Tree Company: For significant pruning projects, it's highly recommended to hire a qualified and insured tree company. Certified arborists possess the knowledge and expertise to safely prune oak trees while minimizing stress to the tree.

What If I Have To Remove An Oak Tree?

In El Dorado Hills, removing an unhealthy or dangerous oak tree typically requires navigating several layers of regulations:

El Dorado County Oak Tree

Ordinance:

Key Considerations: This ordinance aims to protect oak trees, which are a vital part of the local ecosystem.

Potential Requirements: You'll likely need to demonstrate that the tree removal is necessary due to safety concerns (e.g., imminent risk of falling, significant structural issues).

Documentation:

Arborist Report: A report from a certified arborist assessing the tree's health, identifying hazards, and recommending removal.

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PRUNING OAK TREES *(con't)*

Photographs: Documentation of the tree's condition (e.g., dead branches, cavities, leaning).

Permit Application: Submitting a formal application to the El Dorado County Planning & Zoning Department.

El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD) CC&Rs:

Review: The CSD may have specific rules regarding tree removal within the community.

HOA Involvement: If you live in an HOA, their regulations can also play a role.

Potential Requirements: You may need to obtain approval from the CSD or your HOA before proceeding with removal.

Documentation: This could include:
Notice to Neighbors: Informing your neighbors about the planned tree removal.

Landscaping Plan: If required, a plan for replacing the removed tree or mitigating the impact on the surrounding landscape.

Important Notes:

Consult with Experts: It's crucial to consult with a certified arborist.

Early Planning: Start the process well in advance, as obtaining necessary permits and approvals can take time.

Local Resources: Contact the El Dorado County Planning & Zoning Department, the El Dorado Hills CSD, and your HOA directly for the most up-to-date and specific information regarding tree removal regulations. ~

BASS LAKE ACTION COMMITTEE BOARD APPOINTS NEW DIRECTORS

By John Davey

The Bass Lake Action Committee is happy to announce the appointment of two new directors to our board. The Board has been operating short-handed, with two vacancies: Treasurer, and Director At Large.

Bass Lake Action Committee member Phyllis Lee was appointed as Treasurer, and Bass Lake Action Committee member David Smith was appointed as Director At Large. The appointments were made via Board Resolution on January 7, 2025 at a special meeting.

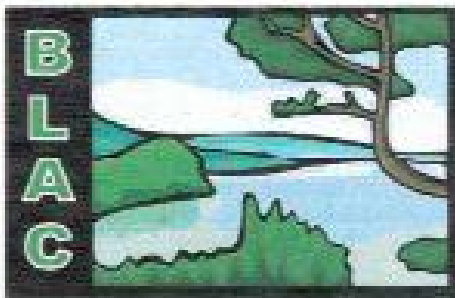
The Board of Directors are thrilled that Phyllis and David were willing to step in and serve on our board. They

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**BASS LAKE ACTION
COMMITTEE BOARD
APPOINTS NEW
DIRECTORS** *(con't)*

bring years of enthusiasm for the community, as well as fresh ideas about our non-profit.

Board of Directors meetings are held quarterly. Our next meeting will be Monday February 10th. The meeting will be Hybrid - in person, and virtual via Zoom. We encourage all members to participate.



**EDH CSD BASS LAKE
AREA UPDATES**

Excerpted from the El Dorado Hills Community Services District January 2025 Newsletter

**PARKS & MAINTENANCE
UPDATES**

**Ryan Kukkola
Parks Superintendent**

Happy New Year, 2025!

It remains my honor to serve all of you in El Dorado Hills, and we have

completed many projects I would like to share with you.

From all of us at your Parks Department, we wish you a Happy New Year and look forward to another great year in 2025.

Oak Knoll Park LED Lighting Upgrade:

The six parking lot and walkway lights at Oak Knoll Park were upgraded to new LED light fixtures. These light fixtures, which operate off of photocells, detect outdoor lighting and will turn on and off when needed. These lights also have a built-in motion sensor that will adjust the brightness of the lighting when motion is detected.



Oak Knoll Park Lighting "Before"

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EDH CSD BASS LAKE AREA UPDATES *(con't)*



Oak Knoll Park Lighting "After"

Bass Lake B Lighting, Landscape & Assessment District (LLAD):

The CSD installed 284 cubic yards of landscape bark, located at the corner of Bass Lake Road and Madera Way. This project was funded by the Fiscal Year 2025 Deferred Maintenance Budget.



all image credits: EDH CSD January 2025 Newsletter

Sign up for the El Dorado Hills Community Services District free [monthly newsletter](#).

You can also sign up for [EDH CSD Meeting Notifications via email](#).



**WOODRIDGE
SUBDIVISION
WINTER/SPRING 2025
WOODRIDGE OPEN
SPACE - HOMEOWNER
VOLUNTEER WORK DAY**

By David Smith

Happy New Year Woodridge Homeowners! While the winter, so far, has not been too bad, we would like to capitalize on our successful Homeowner Volunteer Work Day of 2024 with another one in 2025. There is still a lot of down debris in some areas left over from last winter that needs to be removed. Also, we want to move the brush line back in the area of Purple Martin Court this year if we can. We are again asking for homeowner volunteers to work with us to help reduce the fire danger in these areas of the open space.

We are scheduling a **Saturday Work Day on February 15, 2025 from 8am to 12pm** (rainout reschedule day would be February 22).

WOODRIDGE OPEN SPACE
HOMEOWNER VOLUNTEER WORK DAY
FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION WORK

**SATURDAY February 15, 2025
8AM – 12PM**

SIGN UP w/DAVID SMITH
916 761 4594

davidbsmith101@gmail.com

Our goals for the workday are to 1) cut and remove the small limbs, brush and leaves from the fallen trees, 2) drag the limbs and brush to central piles, strategically located so a chipper can access the limbs/brush piles, 3) buck the main tree limbs so they lay flat on the ground in large sections, spread out the large debris that will remain in the

open space, and heavy brush cutting and removal. This work will require some chainsaw use, hand or pole saws, loppers and axes/hatchets. If you have tools, and wish to help, please sign up! The larger limbs/trunks would be available for firewood gathering.

We will meet again to start the volunteer work day on 2/15/25, 8:00AM at Peach Spruce Drive and the Open Space near 8048 Peach Spruce Drive.



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WOODRIDGE OPEN SPACE - HOMEOWNER VOLUNTEER WORK DAY

(con't)

Two reminders regarding the Open Space: brush and debris cannot be left in the creek alignments, and motor vehicle access into the open space areas is prohibited.

If you are willing to help, please contact David Smith, one of the Woodridge homeowners.

He can be reached at davidbsmith101@gmail.com, or 916 761 4594. We will appreciate any and all help offered, regardless of whether you have operated trimming/cutting equipment.

Sincerely,
Concerned Homeowners of Woodridge
Subdivision

David Smith serves as Director At Large on the Bass Lake Action Committee Board of Directors

BOS PRESENTED A DISCUSSION ON BIOMASS OPPORTUNITIES AS WILDFIRE THREAT GROWS

By John Davey

The recent El Dorado County Board of

Supervisors meeting delved into innovative approaches to forest management and resource utilization, focusing on the potential of biomass as a sustainable energy source and a tool for mitigating wildfire risk.

The presentation, led by Jonathan Kusel, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, highlighted the urgent need for alternative approaches to forest management. "Big trees burn in big fires," Kusel emphasized, underscoring the devastating impact of recent wildfires on the region.

Kusel showcased the Institute's work in utilizing wood waste, particularly from the 2021 Dixie Fire, for innovative construction techniques. He presented cross-laminated timber as a viable and sustainable alternative to traditional stick framing, emphasizing its enhanced durability and fire resistance.

"Investing in wood utilization can contribute to a circular economy, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and significantly reduce air pollution, especially in rural and wildfire-prone regions," Kusel stated. He presented compelling visuals, including photos and videos of the Institute's building projects, showcasing the potential of these innovative approaches.

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BIOMASS *(con't)*

The discussion extended beyond construction to explore the potential of biomass as a renewable energy source. David Zelinsky, representing the Sierra Club and the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council, advocated for the utilization of existing infrastructure, such as non-operating mills and timber processing plants, for biomass conversion. This approach, he argued, would minimize the environmental impact and optimize resource utilization.

"Biomass conversion is a valuable opportunity," Zelinsky stated, "but it's crucial to prioritize appropriate locations and minimize disruption to existing communities."

However, the proposed location of a biomass facility in Grizzly Flat, a community severely impacted by the Caldor Fire, sparked significant concern among residents. Concerns were raised regarding the limited access to the proposed site, particularly during winter months, and the potential environmental and social impacts on the community.

"Grizzly Flat is a 'one-way in, one-way out' community with narrow roads," Zelinsky explained, "making it unsuitable for heavy industrial operations."

Former Supervisor Norma Santiago, participating in public comment, urged the Board to consider biomass conversion as a viable solution to the escalating wildfire crisis, emphasizing

the need for careful planning and community engagement.

Supervisor George Turnboo, who represents Grizzly Flat and has been actively involved in these issues, acknowledged the importance of exploring these innovative approaches while emphasizing the need to address community concerns and ensure responsible development.

While no immediate action was taken by the Board, the presentation served as a valuable platform for discussing the potential of sustainable forest management and the utilization of biomass resources in El Dorado County. It highlighted the need for a balanced approach that considers both environmental and community needs, ensuring that any future initiatives are both effective and sustainable.

This expanded article provides greater detail on the presentation, including specific concerns raised by residents and the potential benefits of utilizing existing infrastructure. It also emphasizes the need for careful planning and community engagement in the development of any future biomass projects.

Sources:

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes/Recording

[Mountain Democrat December 27, 2024 Reporting](#)

BASS LAKE AREA OPEN SPACES – MOTOR VEHICLES CAUSING DAMAGE AND DISRUPTION

By David Smith

Woodridge Open Space Maintenance Association

There have been several recent instances of unauthorized motor vehicle use within the open space areas surrounding Bass Lake. Motorcycles and mostly young riders seem to be the culprits, possibly trying out their new Christmas presents. The riders are causing damage to the existing trails and open areas, including the existing dam surface at Bridlewood Village. In addition, they pose a significant hazard to walkers, dogs and bicyclists as they zip down the trails at high speeds. It is important to note that all of the local open space areas have county ordinances in place that prohibit motor vehicle use within the open spaces. Signs designating this motor vehicle prohibition are in place throughout the open spaces. The El Dorado County Sheriff is the enforcement agency for ordinance violations of this type within the open space, and has been notified of the infractions.

Homeowners and parents in the Bass Lake Area that provide off road motor

vehicle usage to themselves and their family need to control that usage and go to proper designated riding areas, not the county open spaces.

Again, all motor vehicle use of any type is prohibited within the open space areas. Authorized maintenance vehicles are the only approved motor vehicles allowed within the open spaces. The Open Space Owners and Associations request the surrounding homeowner's assistance in controlling unauthorized usage, damage and disruption to other users.

Respectfully,
Woodridge Open Space Maintenance Association Board of Directors



DECEMBER LOCAL MEETING RECORDINGS

By John Davey

Recordings of local meetings in El Dorado Hills and El Dorado County in December 2024.

El Dorado Hills Area Planning Advisory Committee Meetings:

Typically the second Wednesday of each Month

December Meeting

https://youtu.be/_2cKfDqhIVU?si=e9VE dMVXZlhbZnG8

El Dorado Hills Community Services District Board of Directors Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

December Meeting(s)

January 9

<https://basslakeaction.net/edhcsd-1-9-25>

January 16

<https://basslakeaction.net/edhcsd-1-16-25>

El Dorado Irrigation District Board

EID Meetings, Agendas, Minutes -

<https://www.eid.org/about-us/board-of-directors/meetings-agendas-and-minutes>

EID Recorded Meetings on EID YouTube Channel -

www.EID.org/YouTube

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BLAC BOARD MEETING



The Bass Lake Action Committee Board of Directors is holding our first Quarterly Board meeting of 2025 on Monday February 10th at 7PM.

Members will receive the Agenda & Meeting location details via email invitation. All Members are encouraged to attend.

For more information about meetings and membership, please contact President John Davey at 530-676-2657, or email basslakemembers@gmail.com.

Bass Lake Area Residents can also visit our online membership form at <https://basslakeaction.net/members>