



# Guadalupe Oak Grove Park

12 February 2018





## **1987 Park Master Plan**

oak woodland identified as the park's most important feature

## **2016 Park Management Plan**

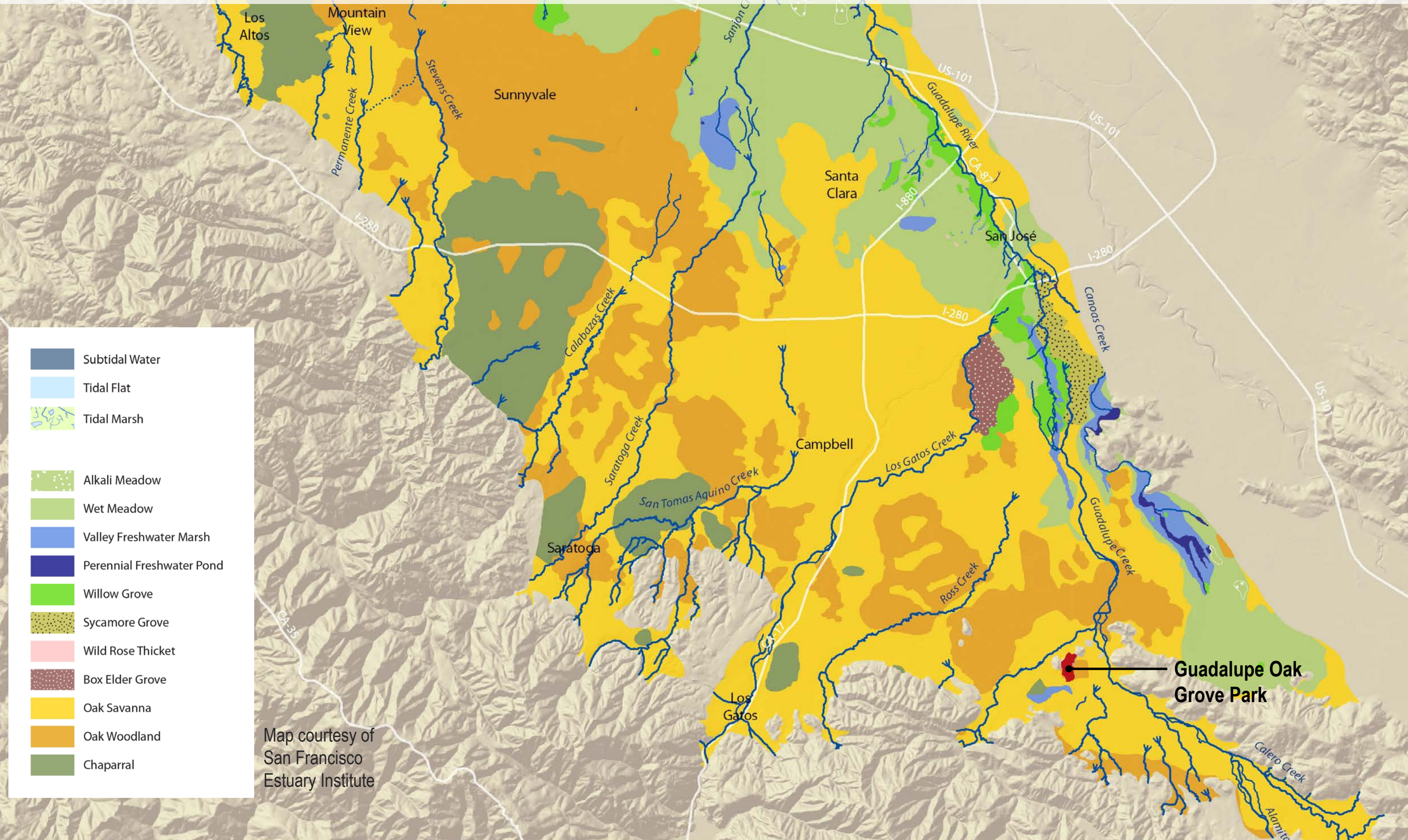
goals and actions

## **Today**

protect remaining oak savanna

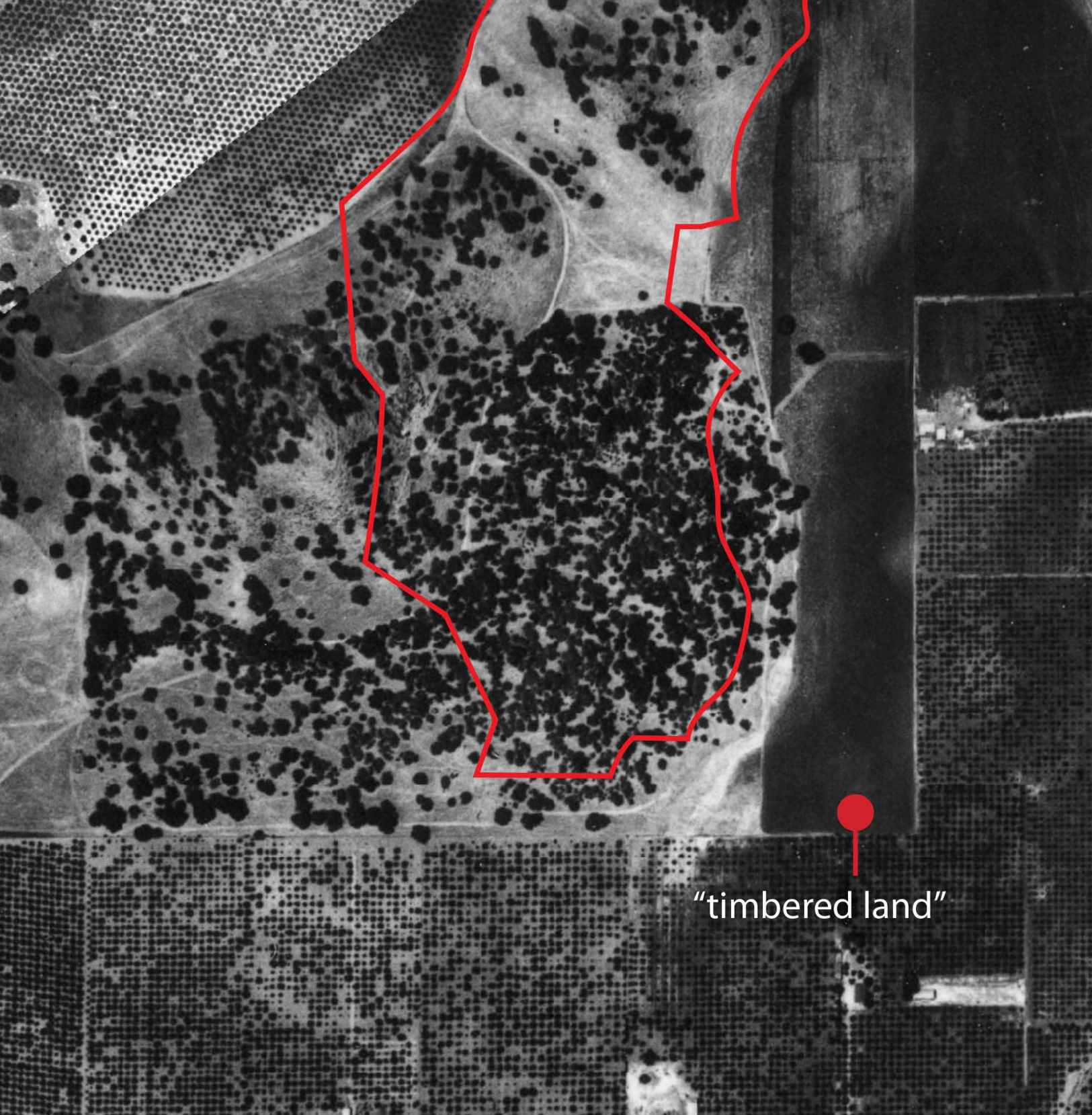


# Historical Conditions (circa 1850)



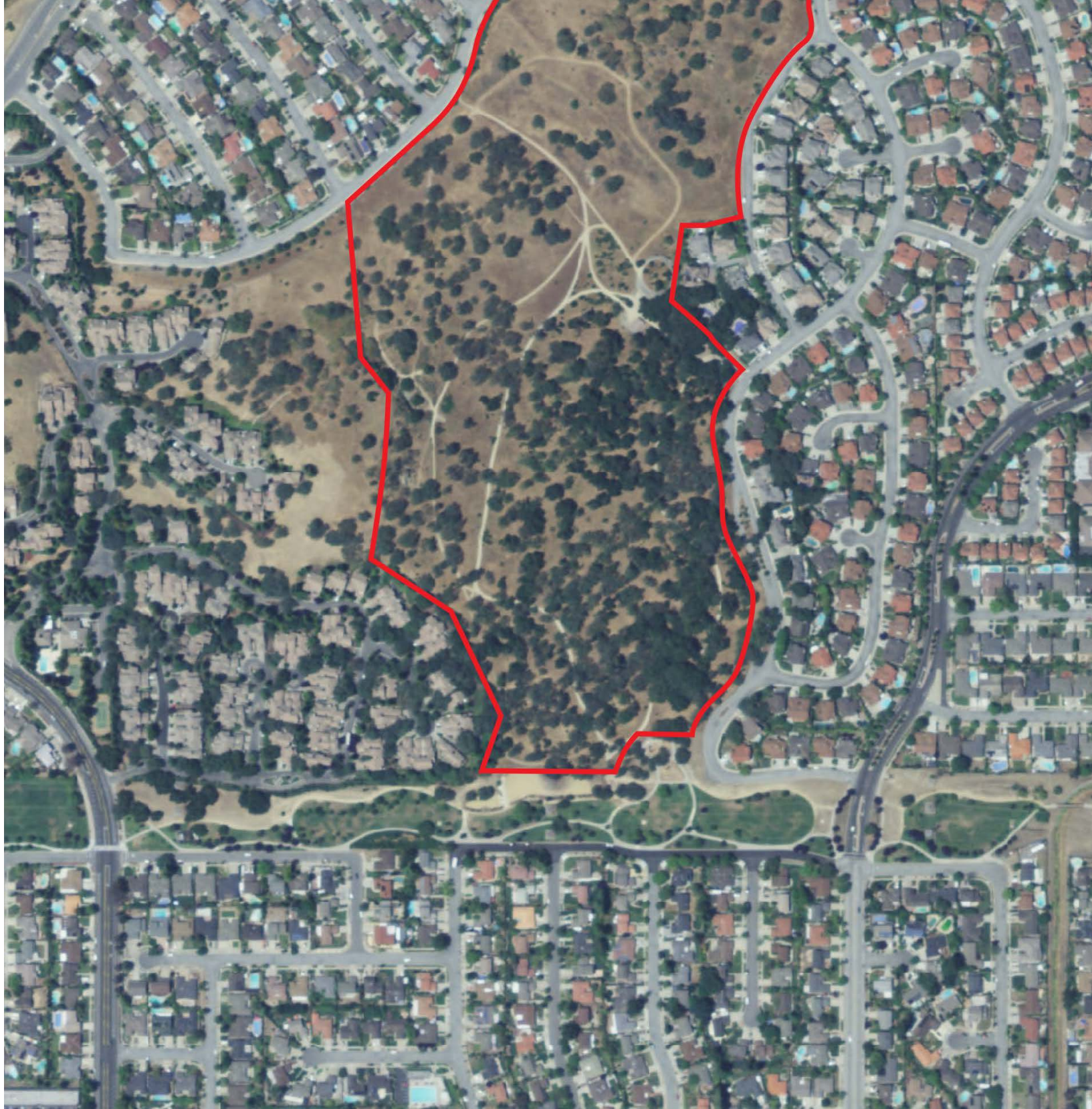


# Historical Conditions



Guadalupe Oak Grove Park in 1939

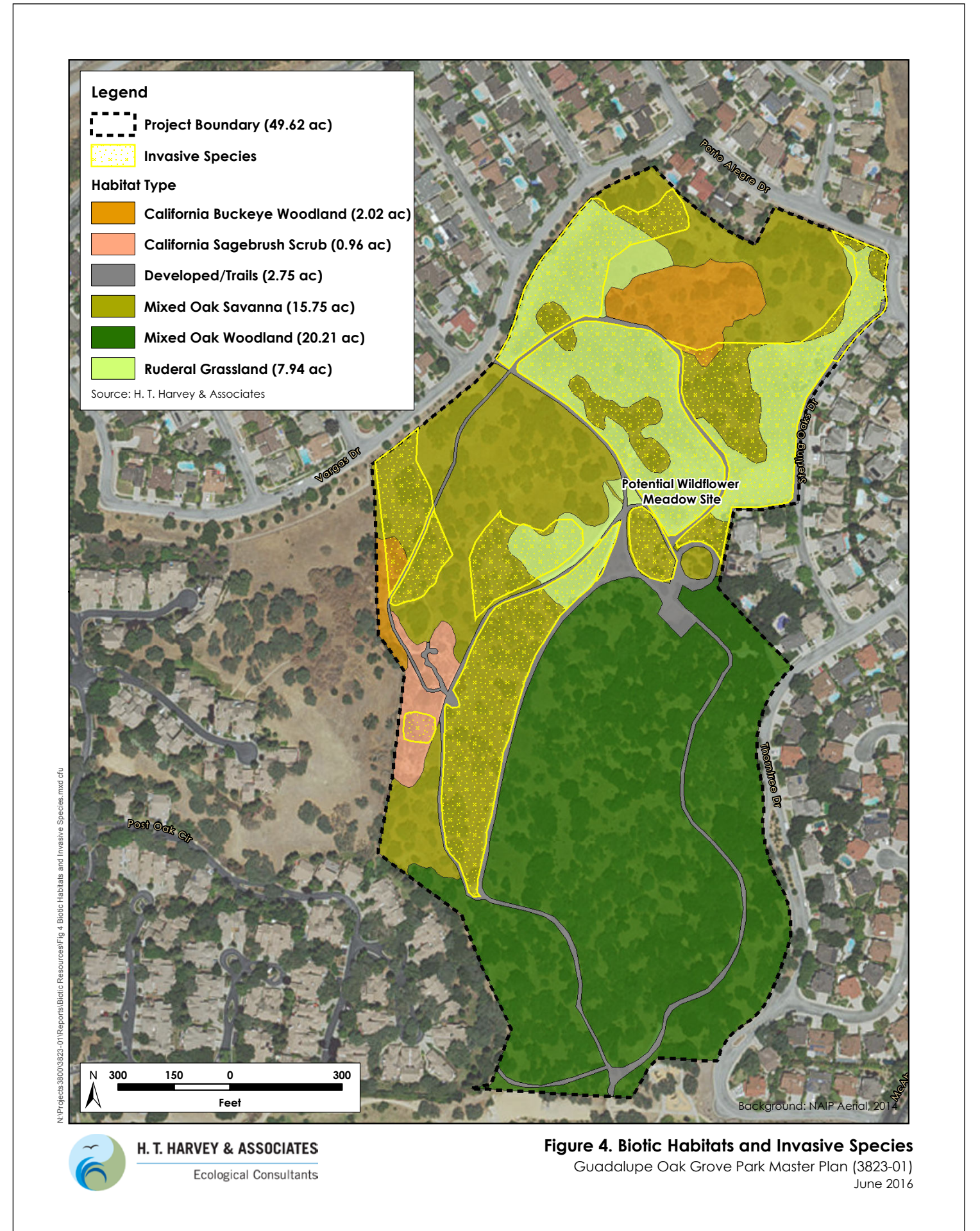
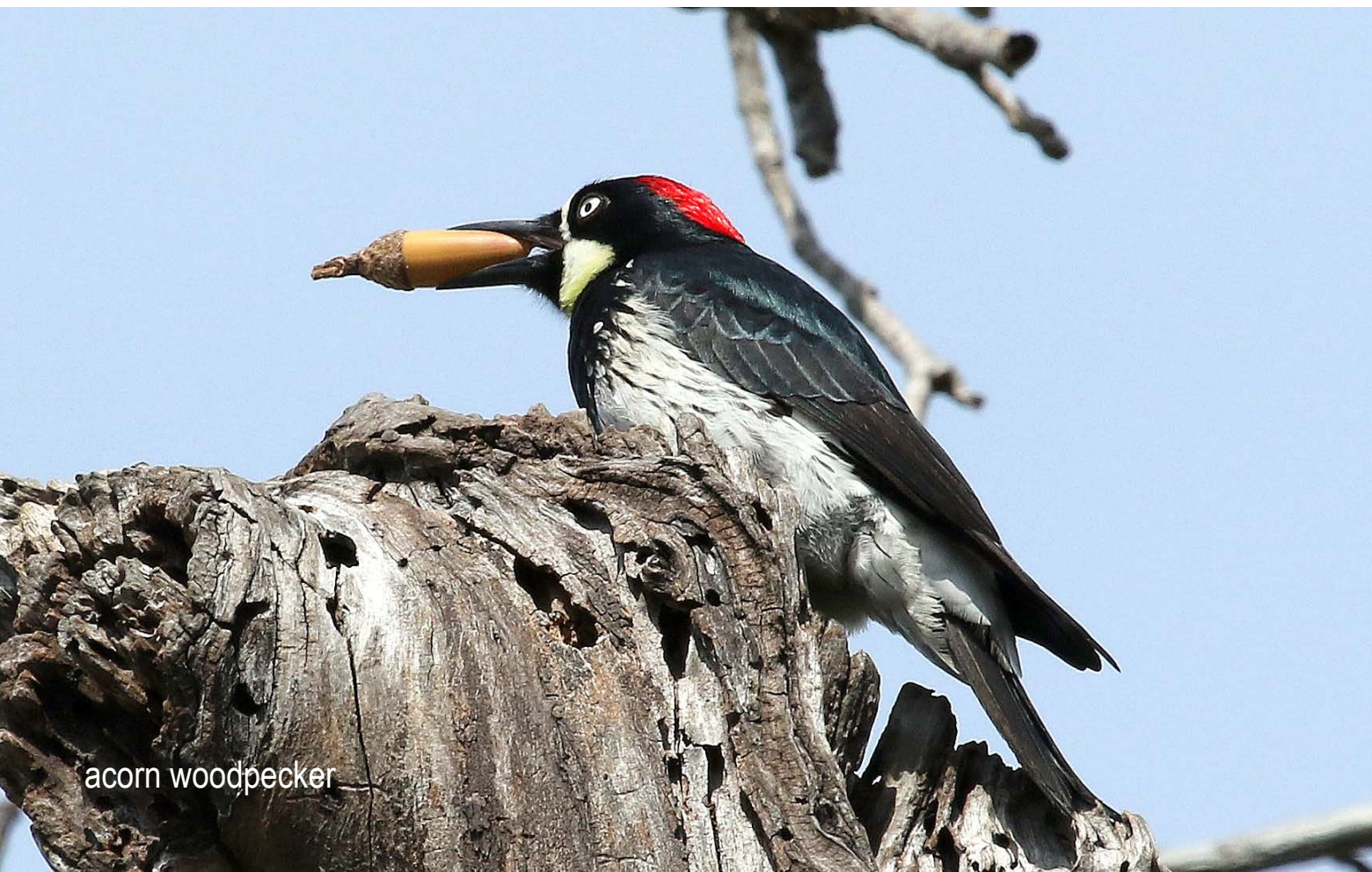
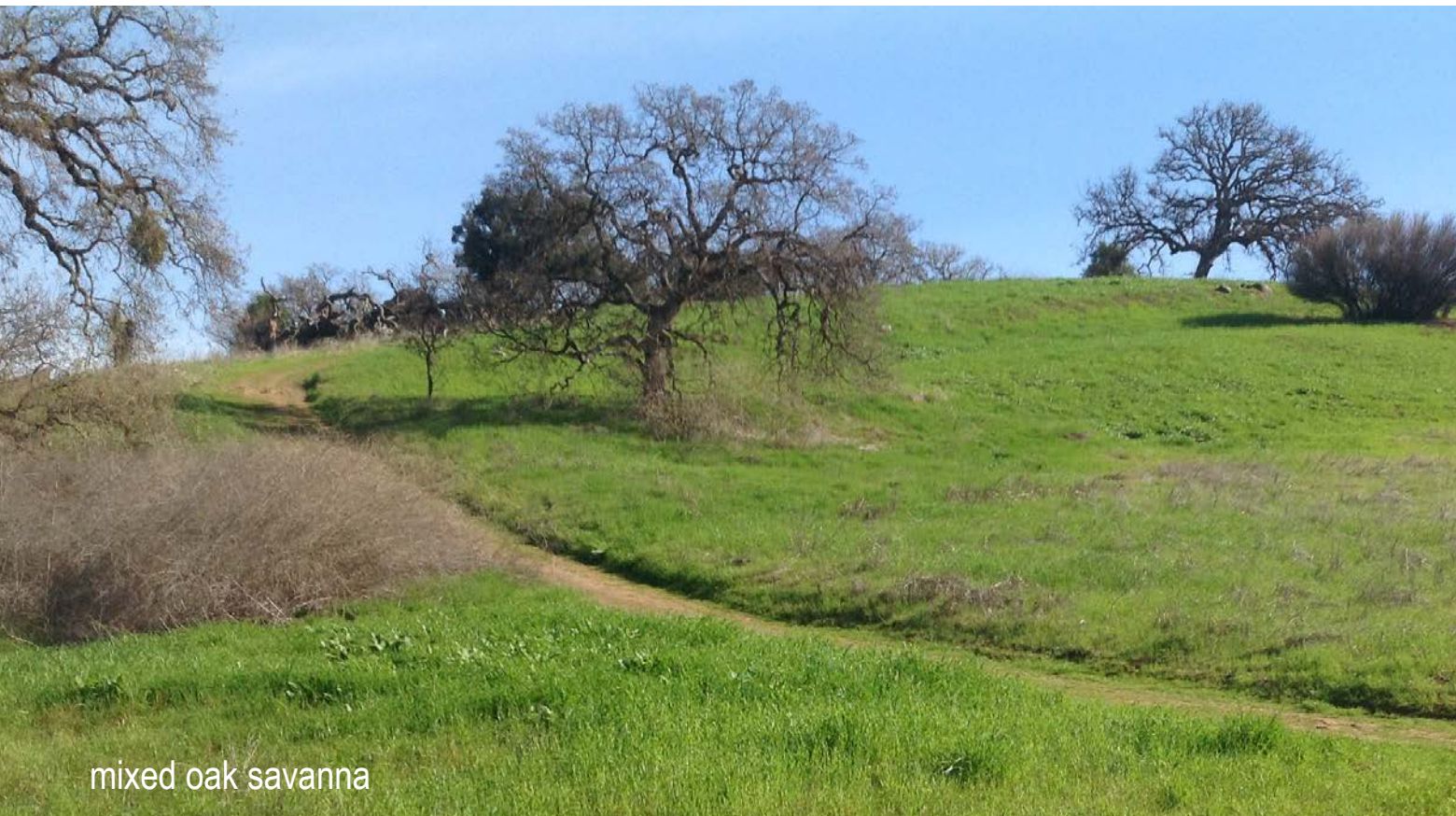
Images courtesy of San Francisco Estuary Institute



Guadalupe Oak Grove Park in 2005



# Habitat in the Park





# Deciduous Oaks

The park supports deciduous blue oaks (*Quercus douglasii*) and valley oaks (*Q. lobata*)



western bluebird



deciduous oak

*Although other oaks are resistant to drought, few of them combine all the mechanisms of opportunism, conservation, tolerance, and resiliency that are known in blue oak” - Bruce Pavlik*



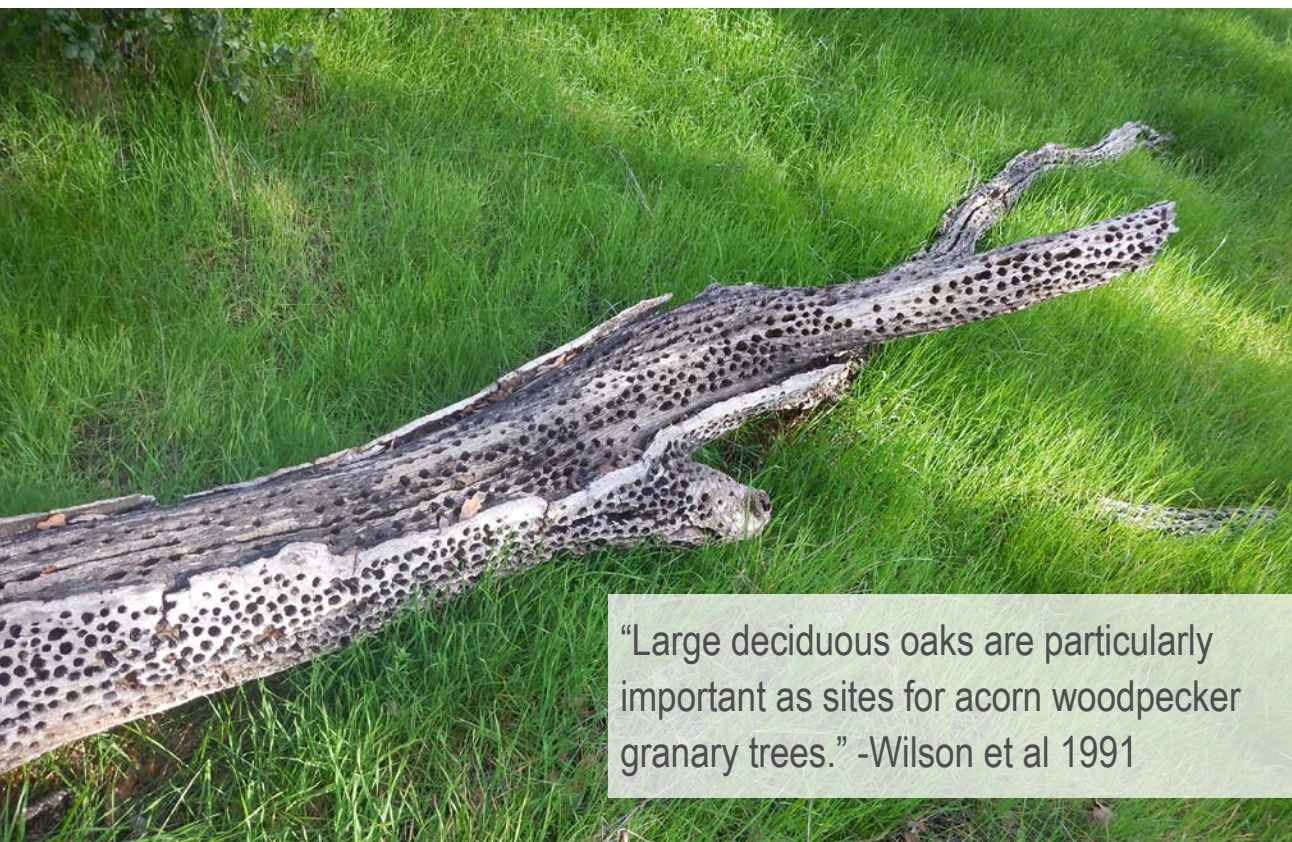
# Oaks and Wildlife Ecology

## Factors that contribute to greater bird diversity include:

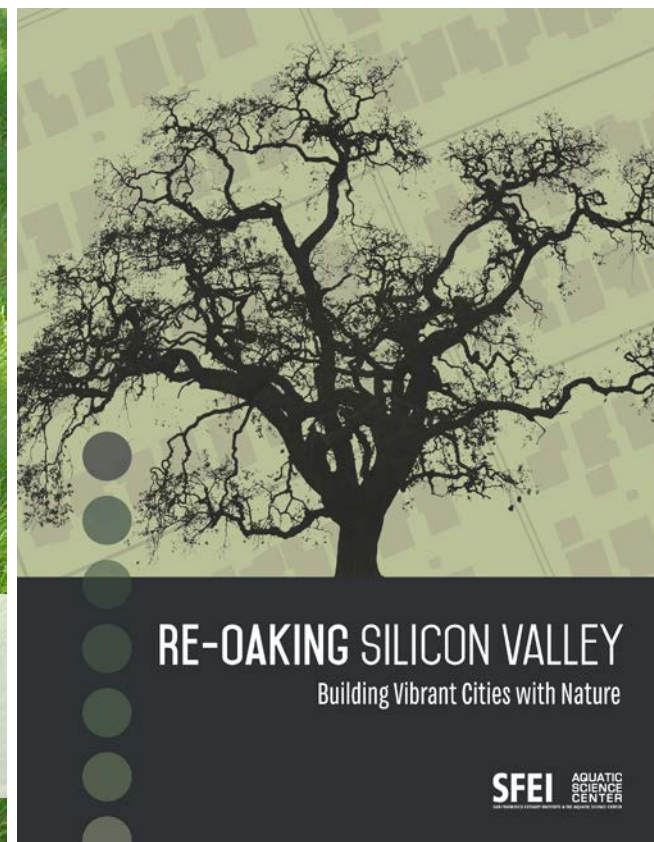
- species richness of oaks
- diversity in age and size of oaks
- varied spacing and density of oaks (including open canopy gaps)
- presence of snags and dead branches



Some of the bird species associated with blue oak savanna include Say's phoebe (pictured here) and western bluebird



"Large deciduous oaks are particularly important as sites for acorn woodpecker granary trees." -Wilson et al 1991



**RE-OAKING SILICON VALLEY**  
Building Vibrant Cities with Nature

**SFEI** AQUATIC SCIENCE CENTER



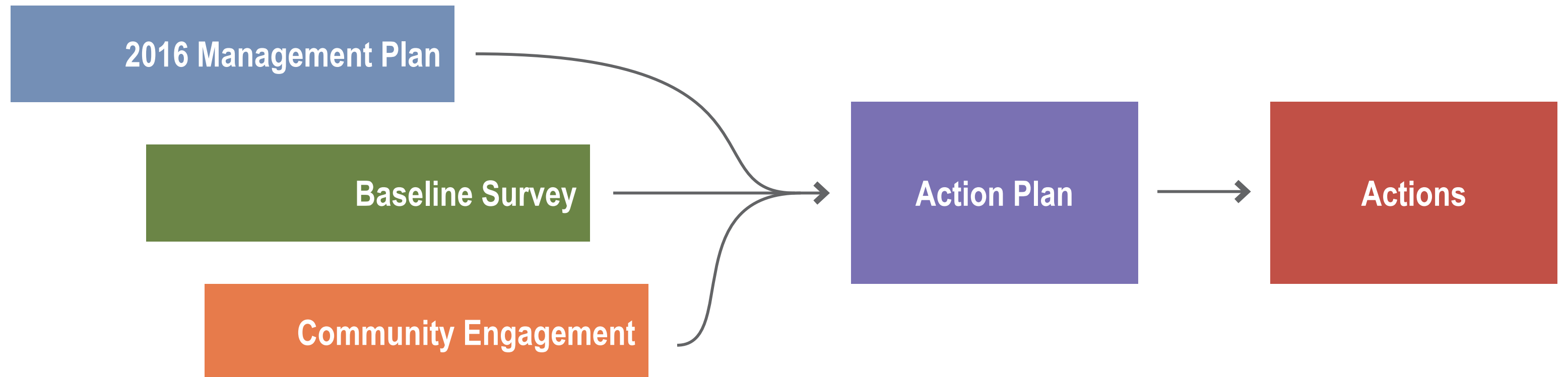


# Management Plan to Action

The 2016 vegetation-based Management Plan supplements the original master plan.

It outlines actions to:

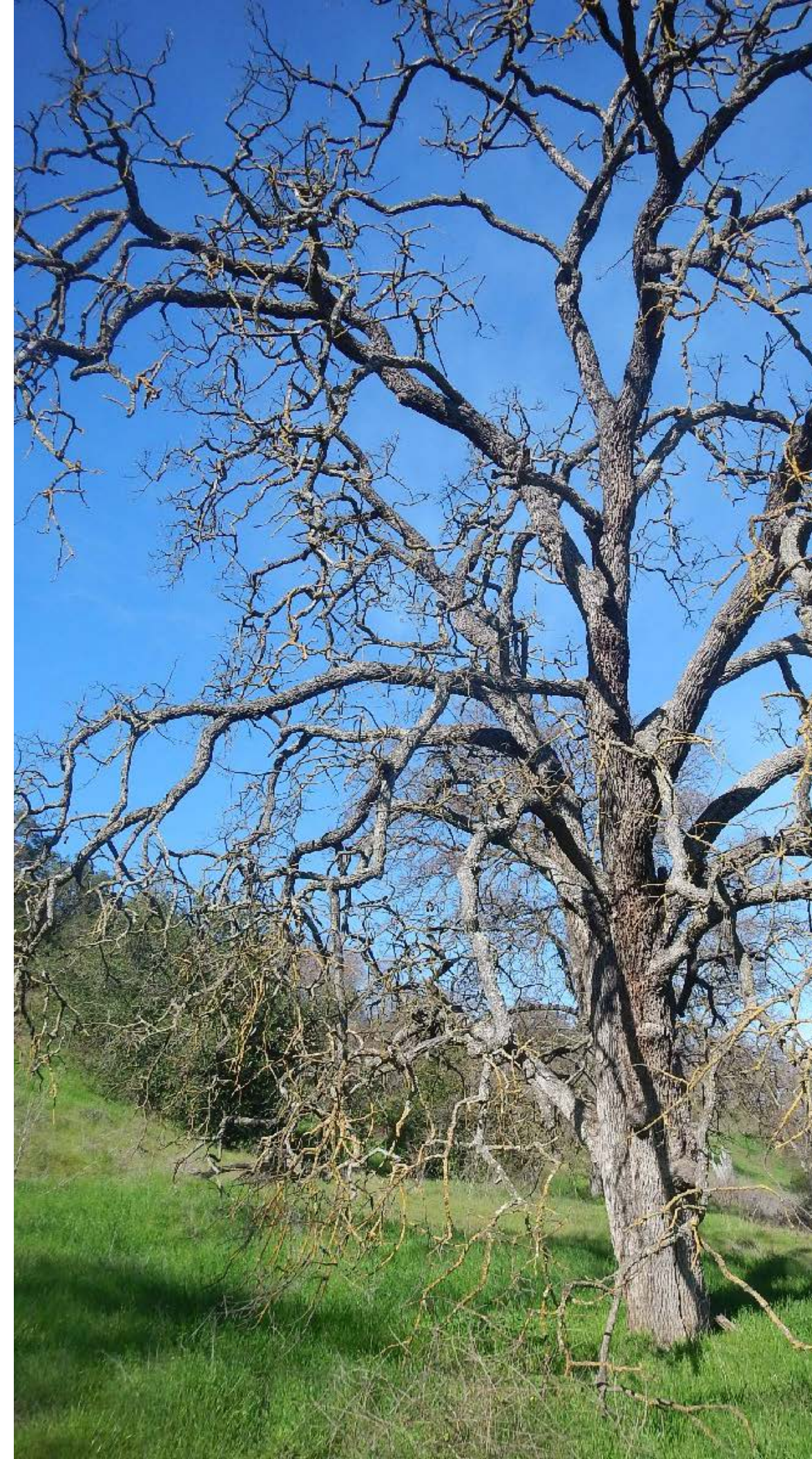
- preserve and enhance the park's natural resources
- balance natural resources with passive recreational use





# Management Plan Goals

1. The protection of natural resources will remain as a dominant theme to the design of management actions.
2. Maintain and encourage natural recruitment of native oaks in woodland, savanna, and grassland habitat types.
3. Preserve and/or enhance wildlife habitats.
4. Maintain the compatibility of recreational uses of the park and management actions that preserve and enhance its natural resources.
5. Encourage participation from the public, conservation groups, and resource agencies in the implementation of the Management Plan.



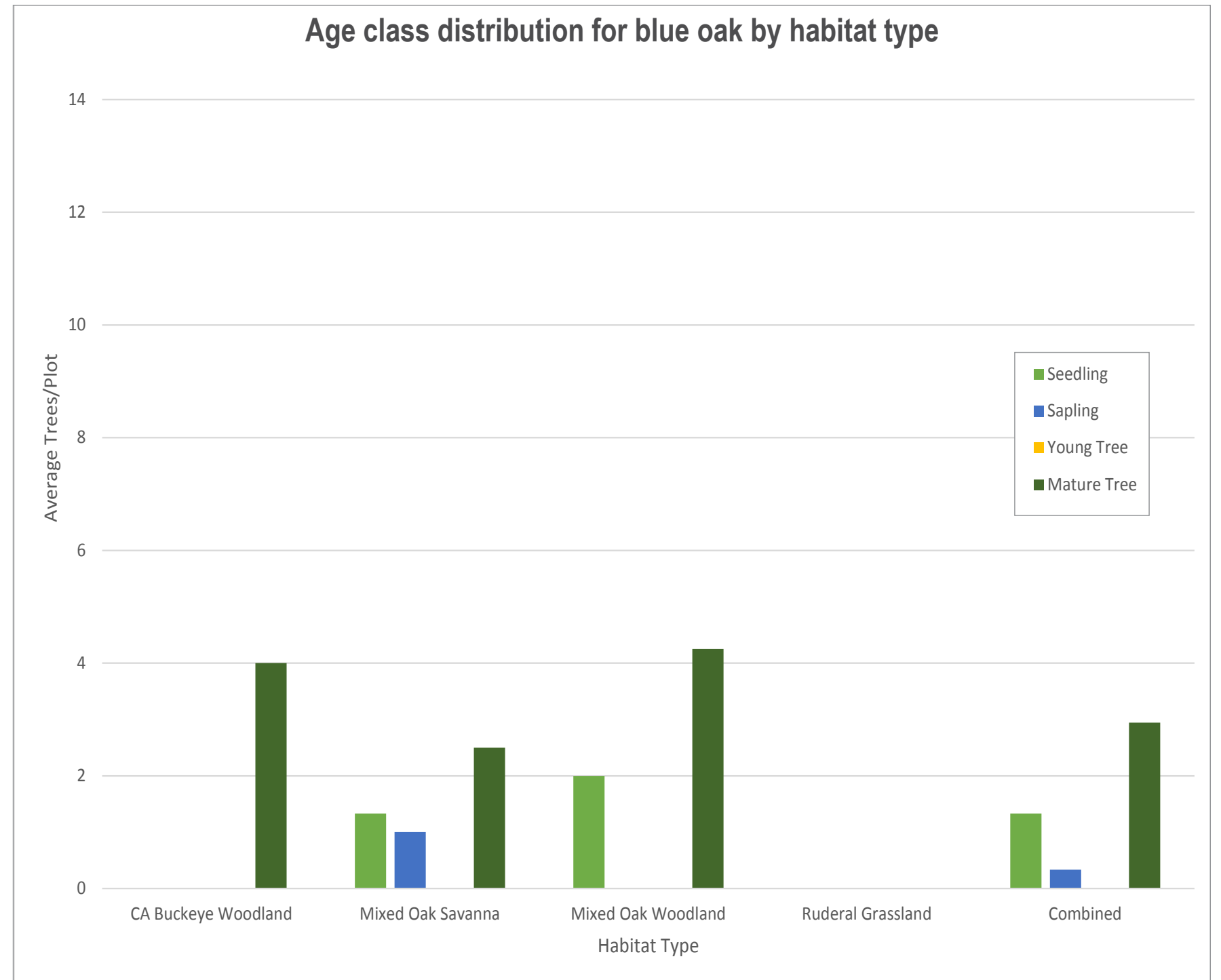


# Baseline Survey

We have conducted baseline surveys to identify:

- baseline conditions on the health and abundance of oak species;
- invasive species distribution; and
- the condition of existing signage and trails.

This baseline survey will allow the City to track change over time and evaluate the effectiveness of management actions over the long-term.



Takeaway: Recruiting blue oaks are not surviving past the seedling stage.



# Management Plan Actions

1. Plant blue oaks and protect mixed oak savanna habitat
2. Engage the public and encourage volunteers
3. Manage herbaceous vegetation and promote native grasses and forbs
4. Actively manage the park to reduce the risk of high intensity fire
5. Establish a wildflower meadow
6. Prevent the spread of oak pathogens





# Potential Volunteer Activities

- Remove invasive weeds
- Carefully clear coast live oak seedlings
- “Adopt a Tree”
- Collect, store, and propagate acorns
- Collect wildflower seeds
- Plant oaks and wildflowers
- Enhance wildlife habitat
- Pick up trash and keep the park beautiful



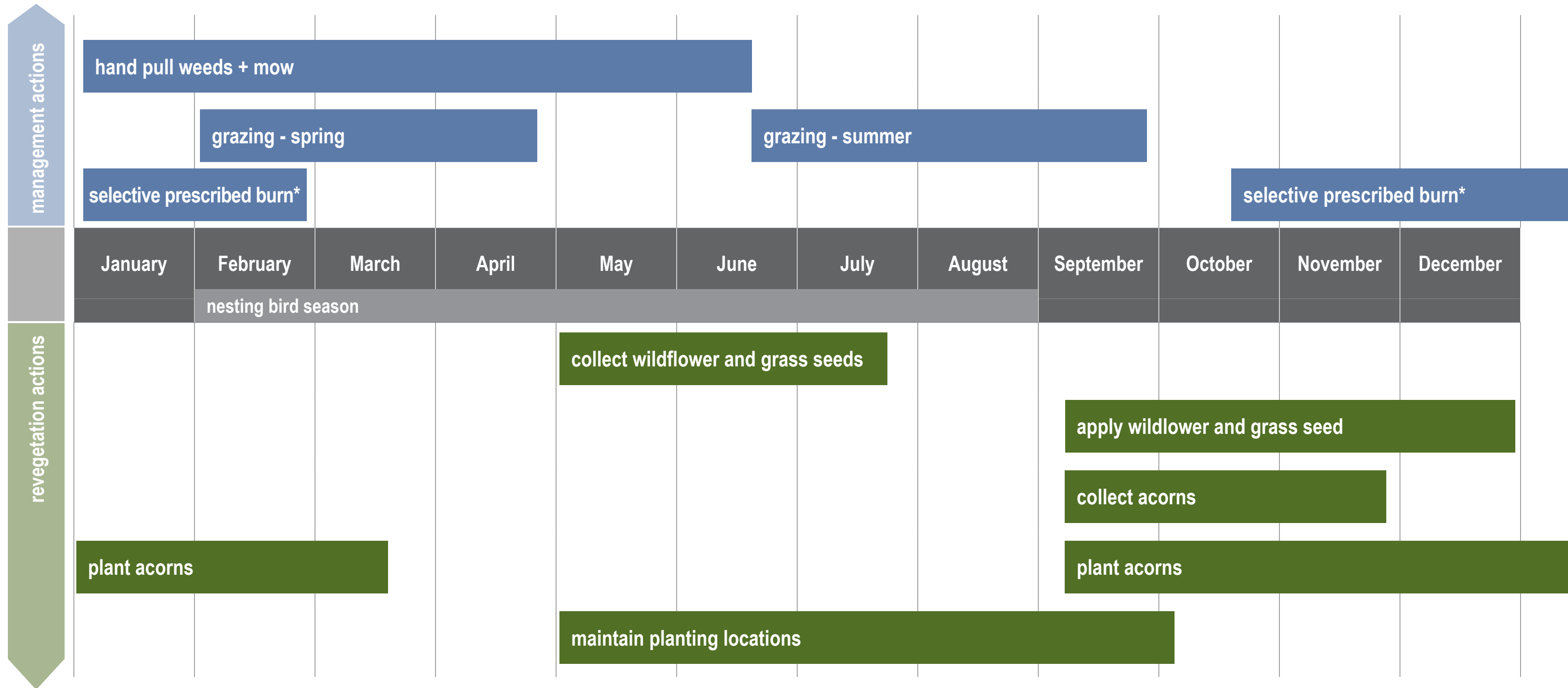




**Which objectives and activities should be prioritized?**



# Management Seasonality



\*exact timing contingent on safety conditions



# Volunteer Opportunities

- Engage with the Martin-Fontana Parks Association
- Volunteer and student groups
- Join us:
  - **April 7**
  - **July 21**
  - **October 20**

Registration at 8:30 am

Kickoff at 9:00 am

Done by noon!







## Contact

Mollie Tobias to volunteer  
[mollie.tobias@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:mollie.tobias@sanjoseca.gov)

Dan Greeley for park information  
[dan.greeley@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:dan.greeley@sanjoseca.gov)

*“Not in itself an attractive tree, the Blue Oak by reason of its form, color, and habit plays a strong and natural part in the scenery of the yellow-brown foothills.” - Willis Jepson*





**Appendix**



**No Management**

vs.

**Active Management**



**Monitoring**



**Management  
Priorities**

**Oak Preservation**

**Prevent Fire Hazard**

**Invasive Species  
Removal and Control**

**Actions to maintain  
existing conditions**

**Hand Removal**

**Mowing**

**Grazing**

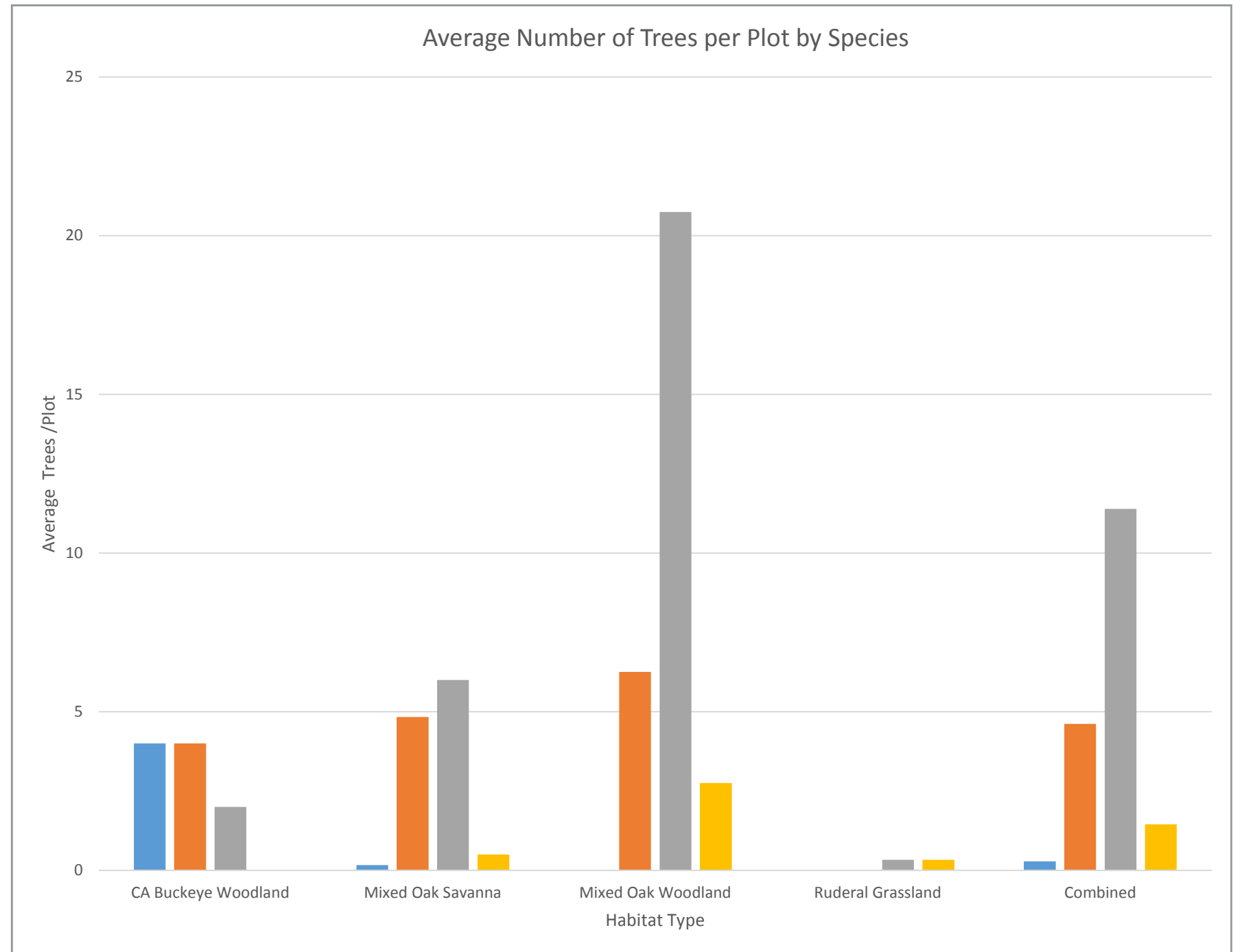
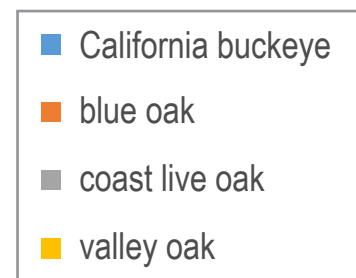
**Prescribed Burning**

**Actions to enhance  
natural resources**

**Revegetation of native oaks, shrubs, and wildflowers**



# Baseline Survey





# Baseline Survey

- Seedling
- Sapling
- Young Tree
- Mature Tree

