Town of New London

PLANNING BOARD

375 Main Street
New London, NH 03257

Guidelines for tree cutting in the Shore Land Overlay District Waterfront Buffer

The New London Planning Board offers the following procedural guidelines for shorefront residents seeking approval to cut trees within the 50′ Waterfront Buffer.

A waterfront plan and inventory, along with a cutting and planting plan, must be prepared for, submitted to, and approved by the New London Planning Board before cutting or felling any tree within the Waterfront Buffer, including dead trees.

TOWN OF NEW LONDON
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE
JUL 24 2015
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The New London Zoning Ordinance (Article XVI G. 2. c (3)). states:

> "If the total tree and sapling score in any 50 by 50 foot segment exceeds 50 points, then the Planning Board may authorize the removal of trees, saplings and shrubs as long as the score for the remaining trees, saplings and shrubs in that segment does not total less than 50 points...."

To facilitate the implementation of this ordinance please observe the following steps:

1. A tree-cutting request shall include a plot plan of the site showing all existing trees and saplings in each 50′ by 50′ segment within 50′ of the reference line, clearly indicating the points for each tree or sapling and the total points for the segment, which trees the property owner intends to remove and their points and the resulting points for each segment if the trees were removed (see over for a detailed explanation and sample plot). This plan shall also indicate the type, points, and location of replacement plantings if needed. New plantings shall be native species, such as white pine, hemlock, high- bush blueberries, etc.
2. A representative of the Town must visit the site to verify plan conditions (contact Zoning Administrator at 526-4821 x16, zoning@nl-nh.com to arrange a site inspection). Based on this visit, the Town representative makes a recommendation to the Planning Board on the proposed tree-cutting plan. This step is very important because the Planning Board is inclined to follow the recommendations of the Town representative.
3. No cutting shall occur until *after* the Planning Board has approved the plan and the property owner has been notified of the approval and conditions thereof, if any.

Prop. Owner: William & Gladys Dowd Date: 7/23/2015

Mailing Address: PO Box 1587 New London, NH 03257

Phone: Email:

Contractor: David Corey Phone: 526-6319 Cell:

Map/Lot: 045 - 035 - 000 Street Address: 160 Camp Sunapee Rd, New London

Visited By: Date of Site Visit:

Planning Board Review Date: Approved: Denied:

(603) 526-4821 (telephone)
(603) 526-9494 (fax)

Excerpt from Article XVI G. 2. C of the New London Zoning Ordinance March 10. 2009

2.c. Starting from the northerly or easterly boundary of the property, and working along the shoreline, the Waterfront Buffer shall be divided into 50 by 50 foot segments. Within each segment a minimum combined tree and sapling score of at least 50 points shall be maintained. If for any reason there is insufficient area for a full segment, the number of points required to be maintained in that partial segment shall be proportioned to that required for a full segment.

(1) Tree and sapling diameters shall be measured at 4½ feet above ground and are scored as follows: Diameter Score:

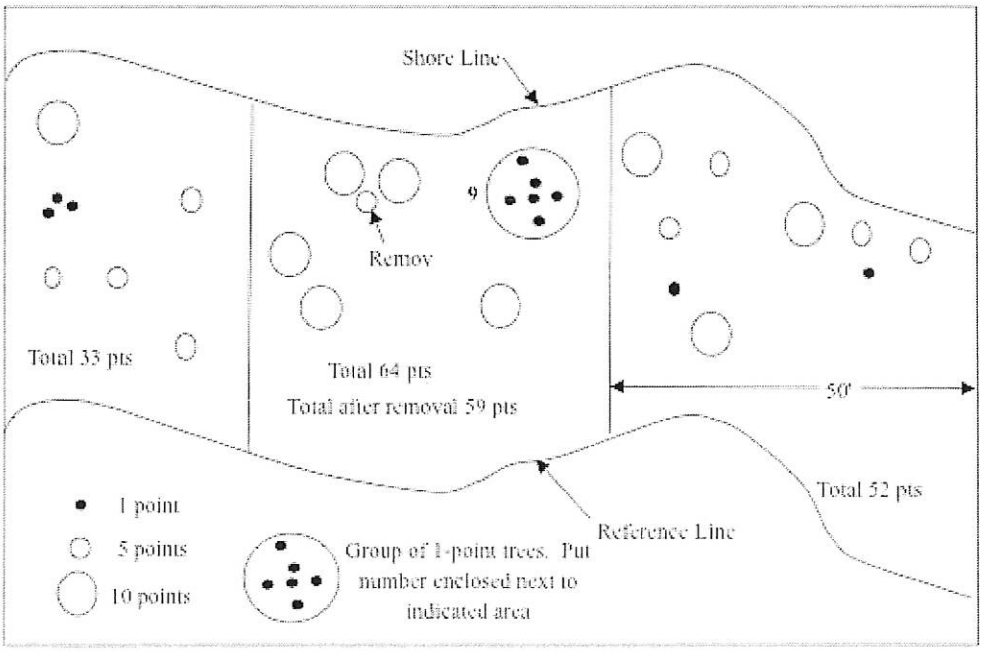
- **1 inch to 6 inches: 1 point**
- **Greater than 6 inches to 12 inches: 5 points**
- **Greater than 12 inches: 10 points**

(2) Dead, diseased, or unsafe trees or saplings (as determined by the Planning Board) shall not be included in scoring.

(3) If the total tree and sapling score in any 50 by 50 foot segment exceeds 50 points, then the Planning Board may authorize the removal of trees, saplings and shrubs as long as the score for the remaining trees, saplings and shrubs in that segment does not total less than 50 points. The remaining scores in partial segments shall be treated similarly.

(4) The Planning Board may authorize the removal of trees and saplings on a segment of a property having less than the required minimum score of 50 points, as long as trees, saplings and shrubs are replanted in sufficient quantity to equal or exceed the score that existed prior to the removal activity. The Planning Board shall not approve a cutting request that results in less than the required minimum score of 50 points or less than the score that existed prior to the request being filed.

Sample plot plan with 50' by 50' segments (tree cells) and trees identified by points



William J. Dowd

P. O. Box 1587
160 Camp Sunapee Road
New London, NH 03257

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JUL 24 2015
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July 24, 2015

Town of New London
375 Main Street
New London, NH 03257

RE: Tree Removal Application

To whom it may concern:

Enclosed is my permit application to remove a tree that is a danger to my home and its occupants. The tree is within 15 feet of the shoreline on Little Lake Sunapee.

I have a 3.15 acre lot, over 80% of which is wooded. With one exception, my home is reasonably safe from storm damage as a result of falling/uprooted trees. However, I have a large white pine that is a hazard (danger) to my home and its inhabitants. I want to remove this tree.

Issue

During the storm this past Sunday evening (July 19th), I realized just how dangerous the situation is as my wife and I watched this towering pine sway above our home. Out of fear, we retreated to the safest part of the house in case the tree fell. Thankfully it did not fall, but the experience left us deeply worried. (A week earlier, we had our five grandchildren in the bedrooms immediately in the fall line of the tree based on Sunday's storm.)

U.S. Forest Service; Hazard/Danger Tree Definition

The U.S. Forest Service offers the following hazard/danger definition: *Tree hazards include dead or dying trees, dead parts of live trees, or unstable live trees (due to structural defects or other factors) that are within striking distance of people or property (a target). Hazard trees have the potential to cause property damage, personal injury or fatality in the event of a failure.*

Expert Opinion

At my invitation, Pierre Bedard (land use consultant) visited my home and inspected the tree. Mr. Bedard is a New Hampshire licensed surveyor and forester, a certified wetlands scientist, and a certified sewage disposal designer.

His recommendation: "… it is my opinion that the tree presents a significant and growing hazard to your residence. Removing this tree will have the benefit of releasing the surrounding trees from competition…"

His full report dated July 23, 2015 is included along with a photograph of the tree and our home.

Plot Plan with 50' x 50' Segments

We have divided our shoreline land into 10 zones each of which is essentially a 50' x 50' square. The first zone starts at the Dowd-Berger boundary and the last zone terminates at the Dowd-Koron boundary.

The point counts run from a high of 172 (Dowd-Berger boundary) to a low of 21 (Dowd-Koron boundary) where the old boys camp had its beach and road to the beach.

The zone in which the subject tree is located (K) has a point count of 62. After removing the subject tree, the point count will be 52.

The average point count for the 10 zones is 65.8 (this statistic covers our entire shoreline).

Enclosed are: (1) a plot plan showing each of the 10 zones, (2) a statistical summary showing the number of trees and the points in each zone, and (3) individual tree maps of each of the 10 zones.

Contractor

David Carey will remove the tree using a crane. As David said, "When we finish, the only disturbance will be a little sawdust from the cutting. All of the surrounding trees, shrubs and flower gardens will be untouched."

The stump will be left to decompose naturally.

Sincerely,

William J. Dowd

William Dowd

PIERRE J. BEDARD & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

LAND USE CONSULTANTS, SURVEYORS, FORESTERS, & WETLAND SCIENTISTS
P. O. Box 238
WILMOT, NH 03287

Telephone 603 526-4928
e-mail: pjbedard@comcast.net

July 23, 2015

Mr. William J. Dowd
160 Camp Sunapee Road
New London, NH 03257

Dear Mr. Dowd:

You requested that I evaluated the conditon a large white pine tree located on on your property. You provided me with the following statement:
"We have a large white pine located on the above property that is approximately 25 feet from the west side of our home. It is also approximately 15 feet from the edge of our property line on Little Lake Sunapee. We are assessing the possibility of removing this tree out of concern for potential damage to our home in the event that it were to fall as a result of a storm.

We would like to, remove this tree for safety and protection of our home. It presents an unpredictable danger to our home and to its inhabitants due to its size and location towering over two of our three bedrooms. I base my opinion on the following facts:

- *Sheer Size and Proximity to Home: This is a massive white pine, approximately 32 inches in diameter and perhaps 70 feet tall. Due to its mass and kinetic energy, it is capable of slicing through a major portion of our home should it fall in a storm.*

- *Ground/Soil Conditions: We have a considerable amount of granite ledge on our property, particularly where our home is situated. As an aside, because of the granite, our home is on a slab, and this is the reason why we did not construct a traditional basement, despite being well above the lake's high-water mark. The subject tree has grown directly above a granite ledge, and portions of the ledge can be seen on two sides of the tree. White pine trees in particular, develop and maintain a large shallow root system which make them susceptible to the affects of strong winds. Root systems that extend horizontally tend to follow the soil surface and can be shallow, spreading several times wider than the width of the canopy. Most of the roots are found within the top few inches of soil, rarely extending deeper than 12 inches. Given the nature of our soil and the visible granite, this suggests that our tree is excessively dependent on shallow roots for its stability. In addition, its roots are "blocked" by our foundation wall and the lake, both of which are under the canopy.*

- *Wind, Rain, Snow or Ice Conditions: It is essential to note that usually white pines are uprooted, not broken part-way up. It is more usual for them to pull up*

from the roots. This happens after drenching rains followed by high winds with or without snow. The weather we experienced this past Sunday evening produced considerable uprooting of trees in our area.

- *Disease: Our tree seems to be reasonably healthy despite the limitations on its habitat. However, I did not perform any tests to verify its health. To the extent that there is invisible damage, this would enhance the argument for removal of the tree to ensure our home and its occupants are safe during a storm."*

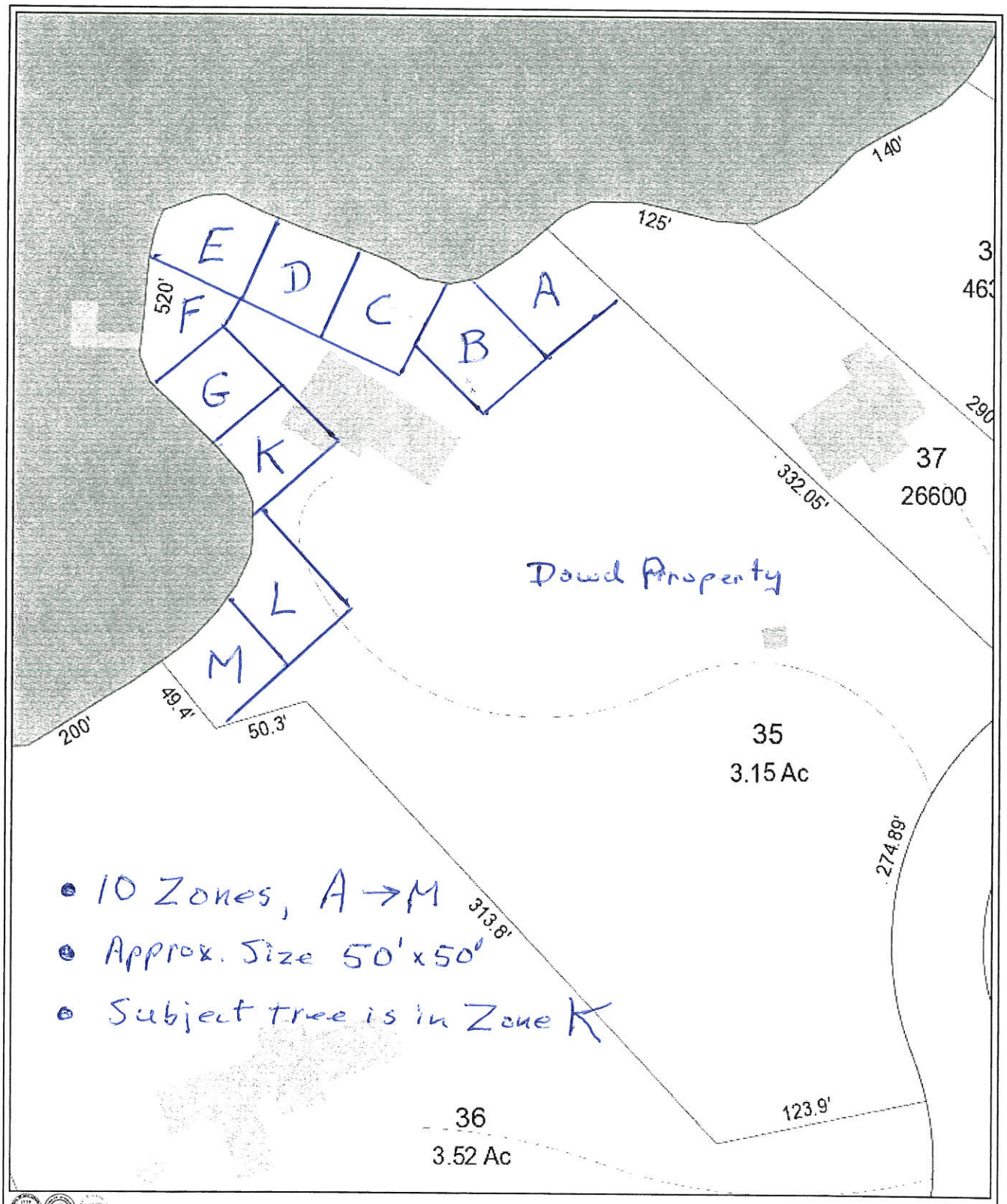
I have visited the site and evalutated the conditon. I would agree with most of what you have stated. In addition I would add that the white pine tree is mature and has a large canopy. Its location and size above most of the surrounding trees leave it suceptible to exposure from windstorms. As the tree ages its suseptibility to the wind will continue to increase. For this reason it is my opinion that the tree presents a significant and growing hazzard to your residence.

Removing this tree will have the benefit of releasing the surrounding trees from competition allowing them more room to grow.

Sincerely,

Pierre J. Bedard, Licensed Professional Forester # 98

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PIERRE J. BEDARD
No. 98
LICENSED
PROFESSIONAL FORESTER



Tri Town, NH
1 Inch = 72 Feet
July 21, 2015

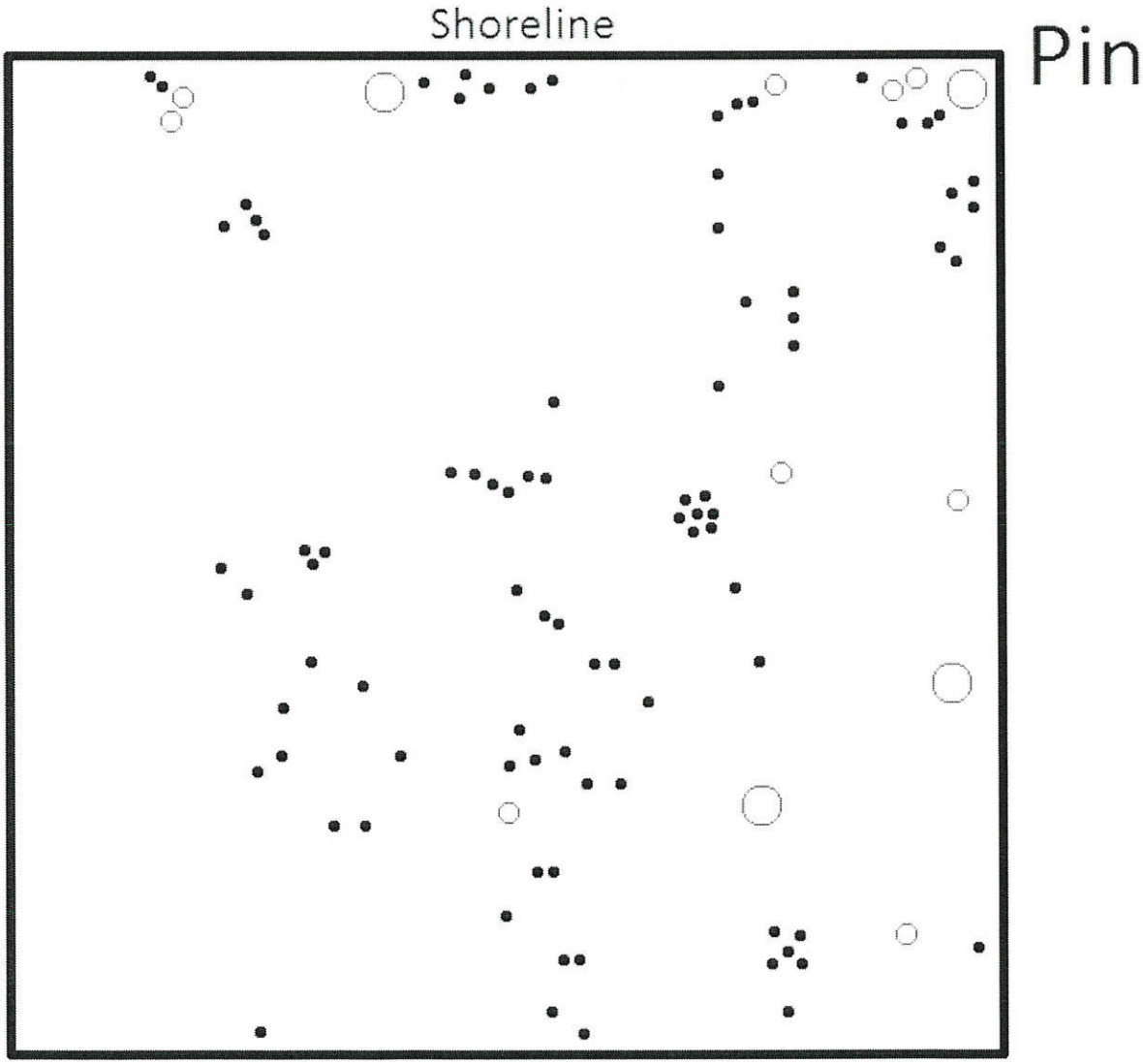
Data shown on this map is provided for planning and informational purposes only. The municipality and CAI Technologies are not responsible for any use for other purposes or misuse or misrepresentation of this map.

www.cai-tech.com

Dowd Property - 160 Camp Sunapee Road
Tree Count/Inventory within 50' Waterfront Reference Line
July 23, 2015

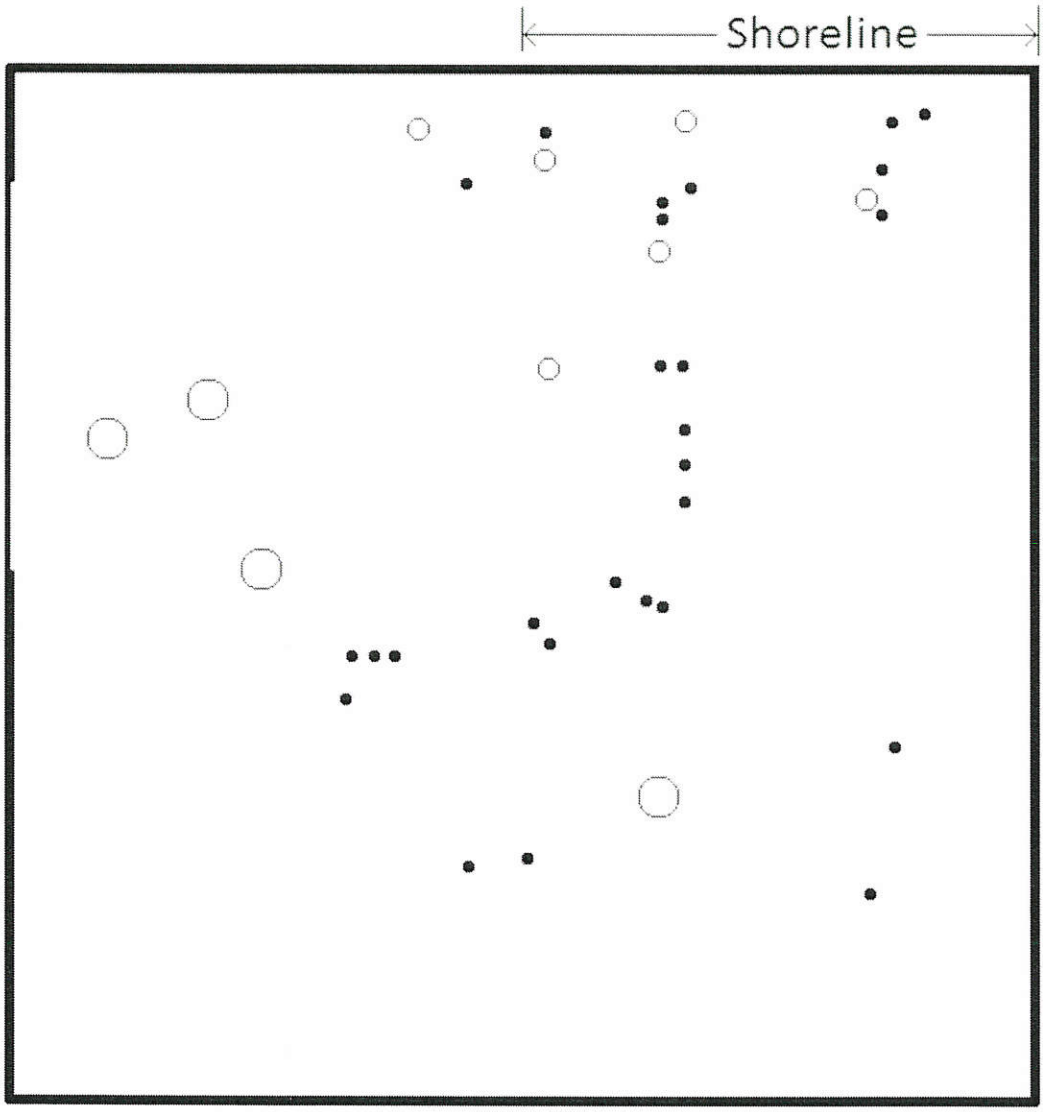
		Tree Count by Point Score			Total	
	Points:	1	5	10	Points	Notes
Zone	A	87	9	4	172	
Zone	B	27	6	4	97	
Zone	C	18	9	2	83	
Zone	D	20	4	1	50	
Zone	E	5	4	2	45	
Zone	F	6	4	2	46	
Zone	G	10	3	0	25	
Zone	K	12	4	3	62	Subject tree's zone
Zone	L	7	4	3	57	
Zone	M	6	3	0	21	Boy's camp beach
Totals all Zones		198	50	21	658	
Zone Average					65.8	points per zone

Zone A



Points	1	5	10	Points Total
Tree count	87	9	4	172

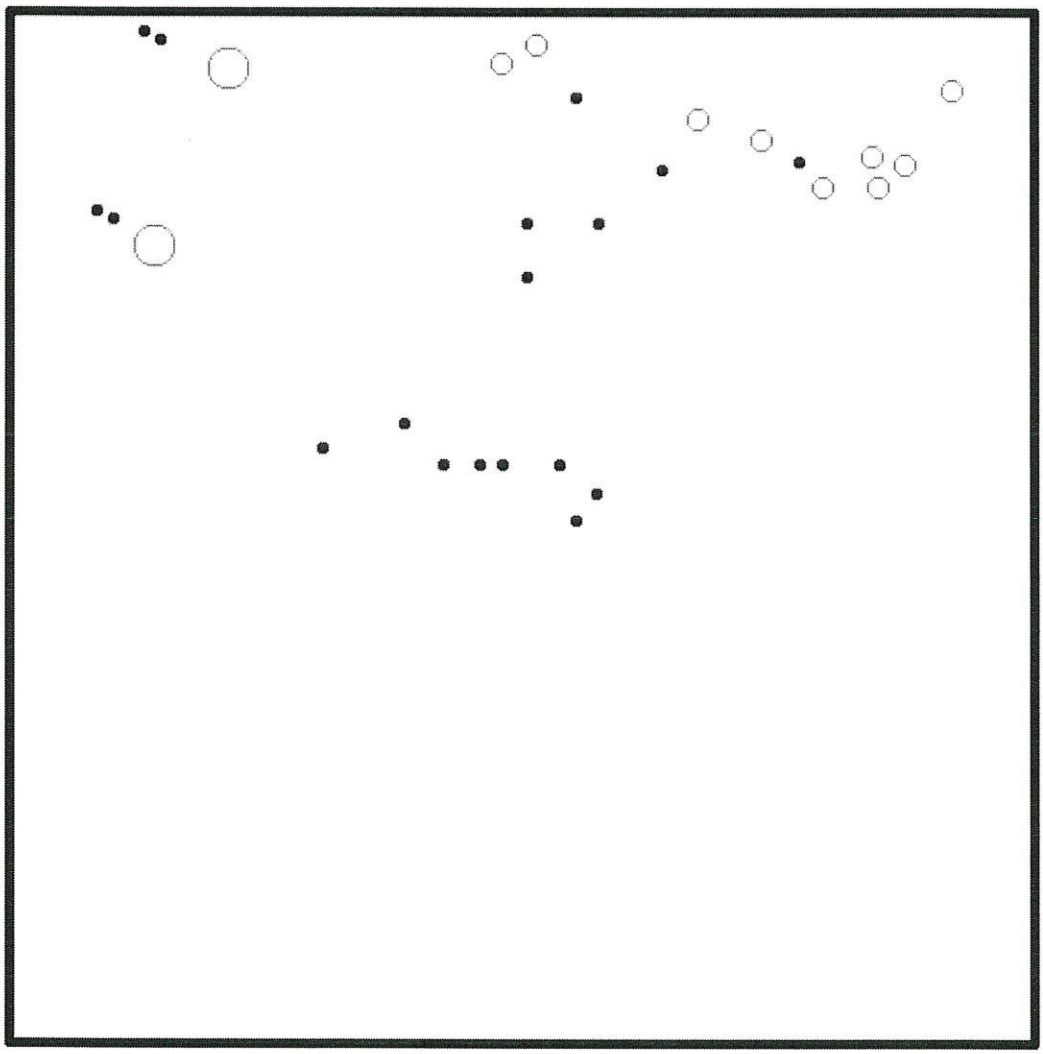
Zone B



Points	1	5	10	Points Total
Tree Count	27	6	4	97

Zone C

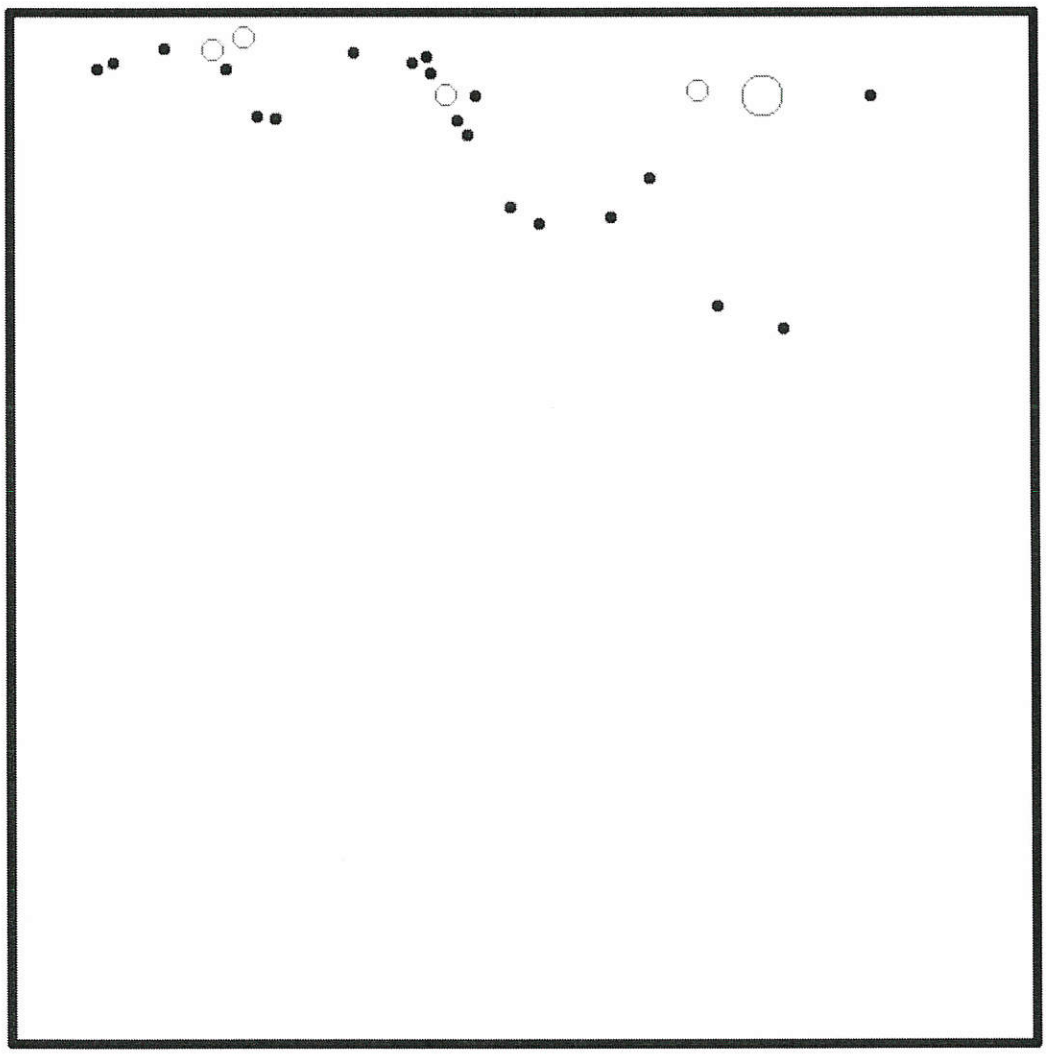
Shoreline



Points	1	5	10	Points Total
Tree Count	18	9	2	83

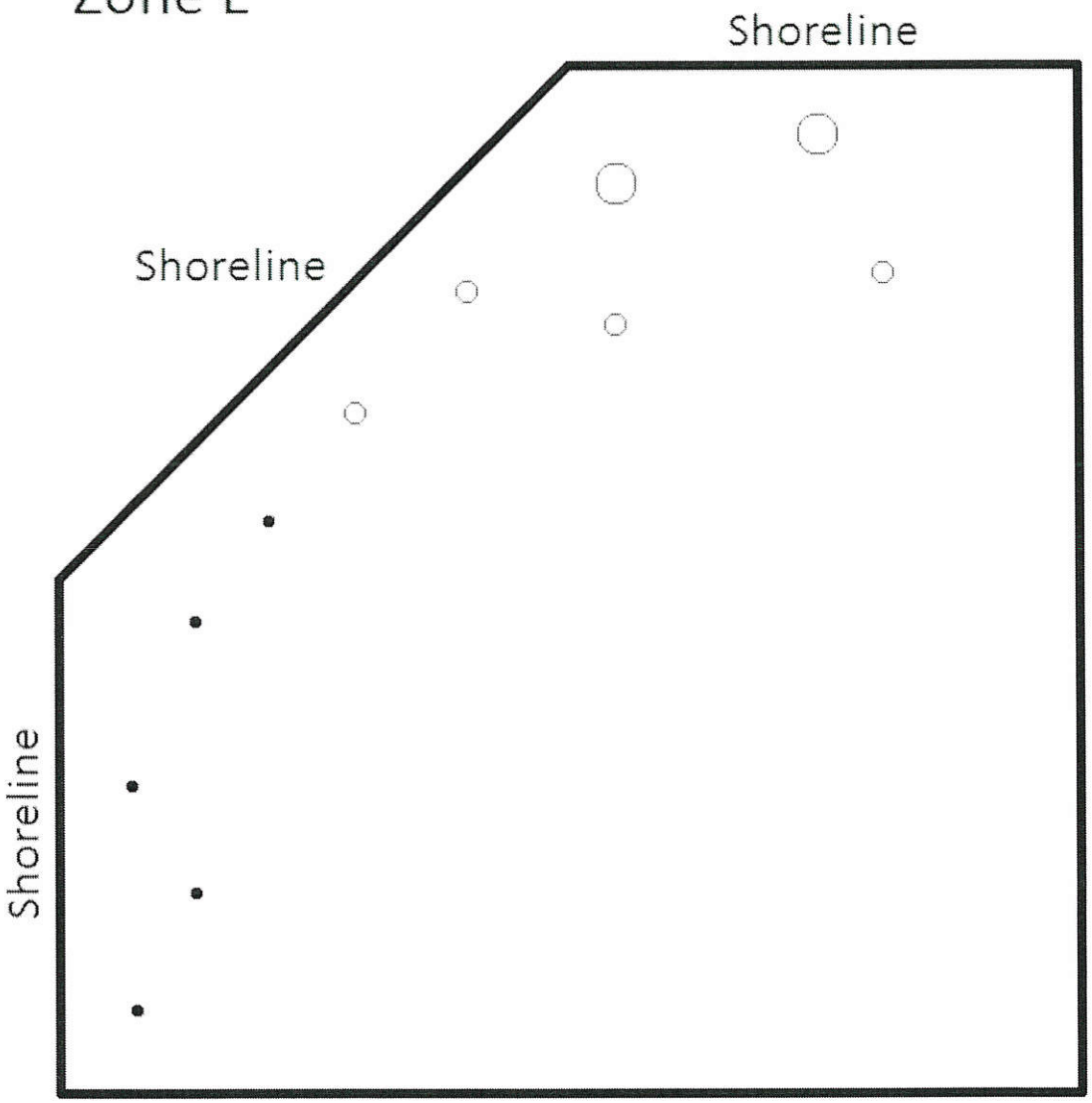
Zone D

Shoreline

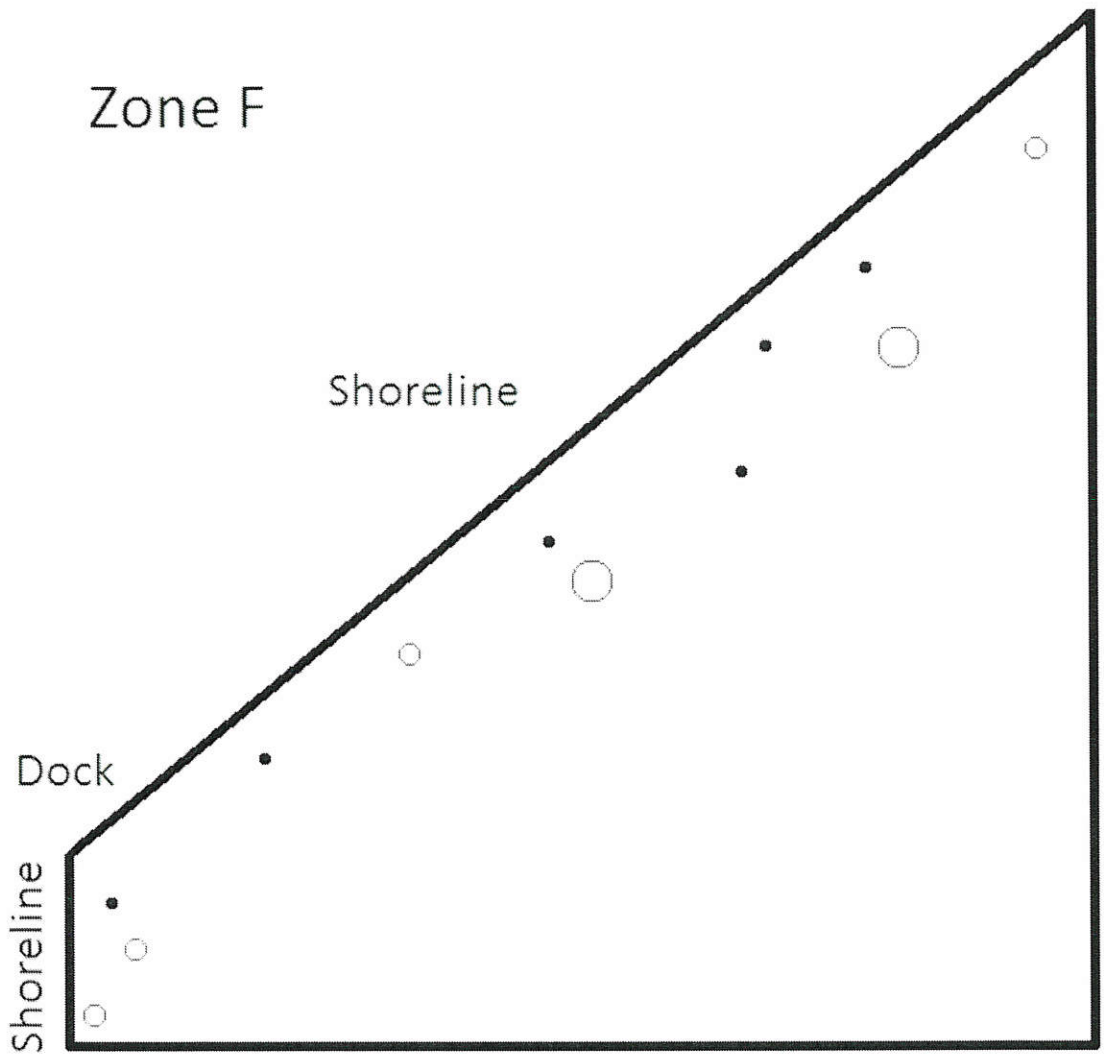


Points	1	5	10	Points Total
Tree Count	20	4	1	50

Zone E



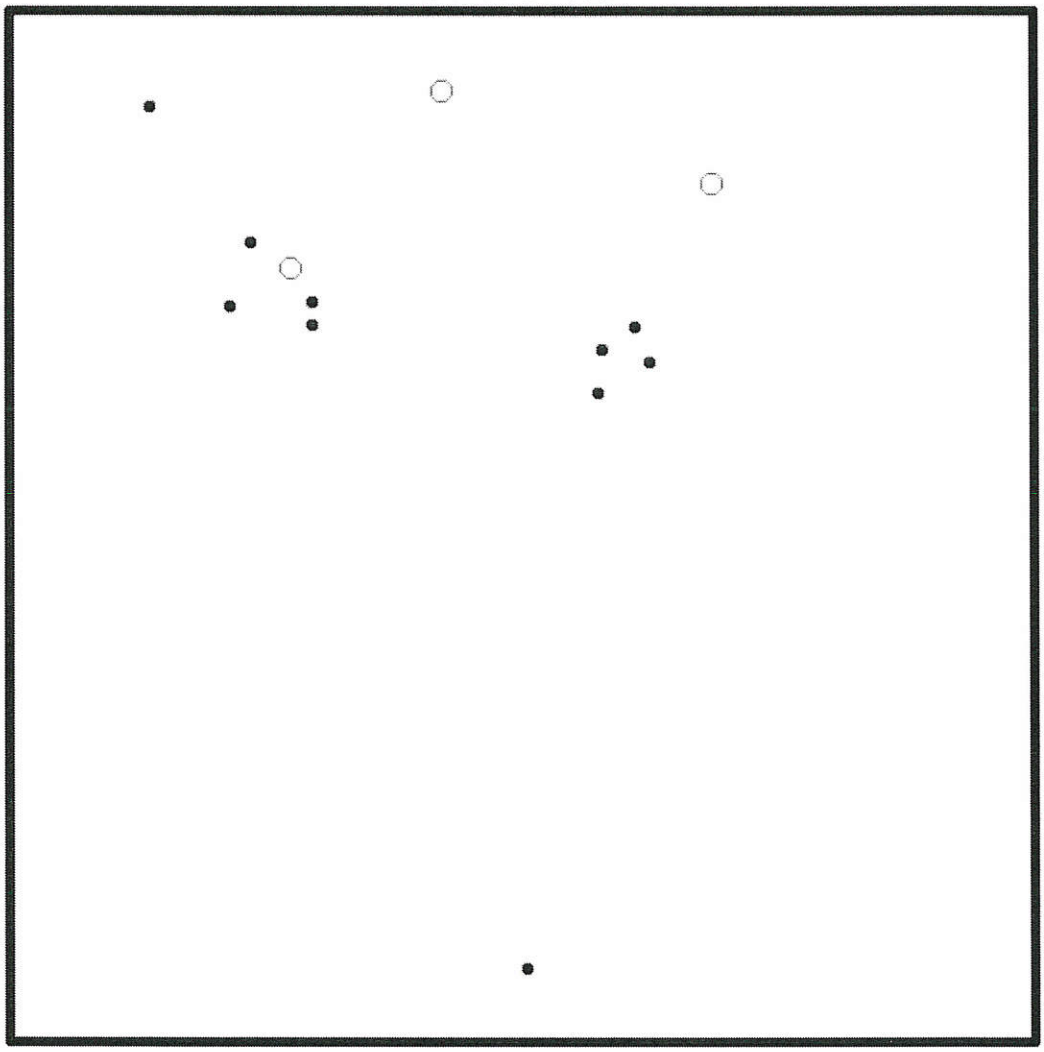
Points	1	5	10	Points Total
Tree Count	5	4	2	45



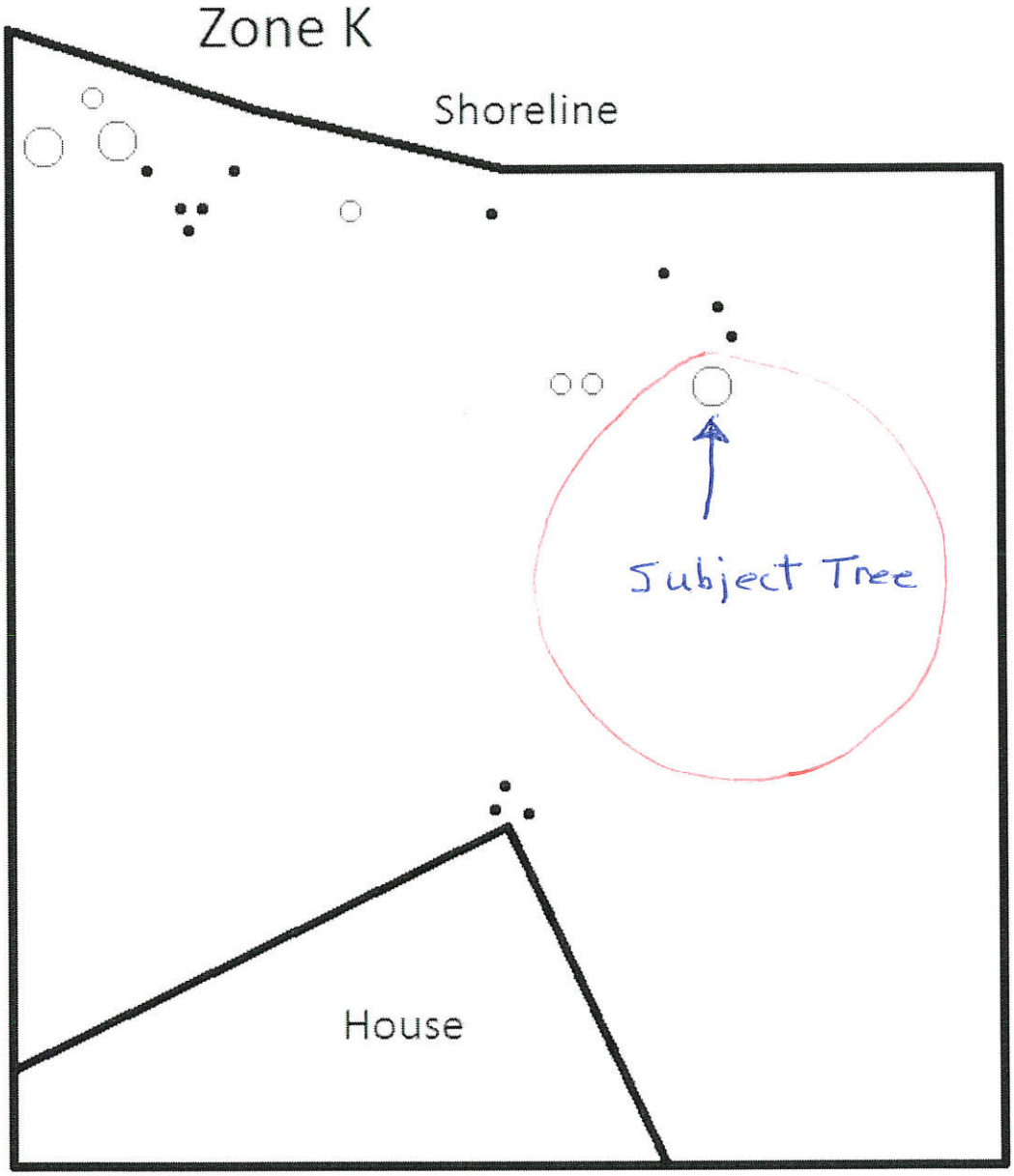
Points	1	5	10	Points Total
Tree Count	6	4	2	46

Zone G

Shoreline

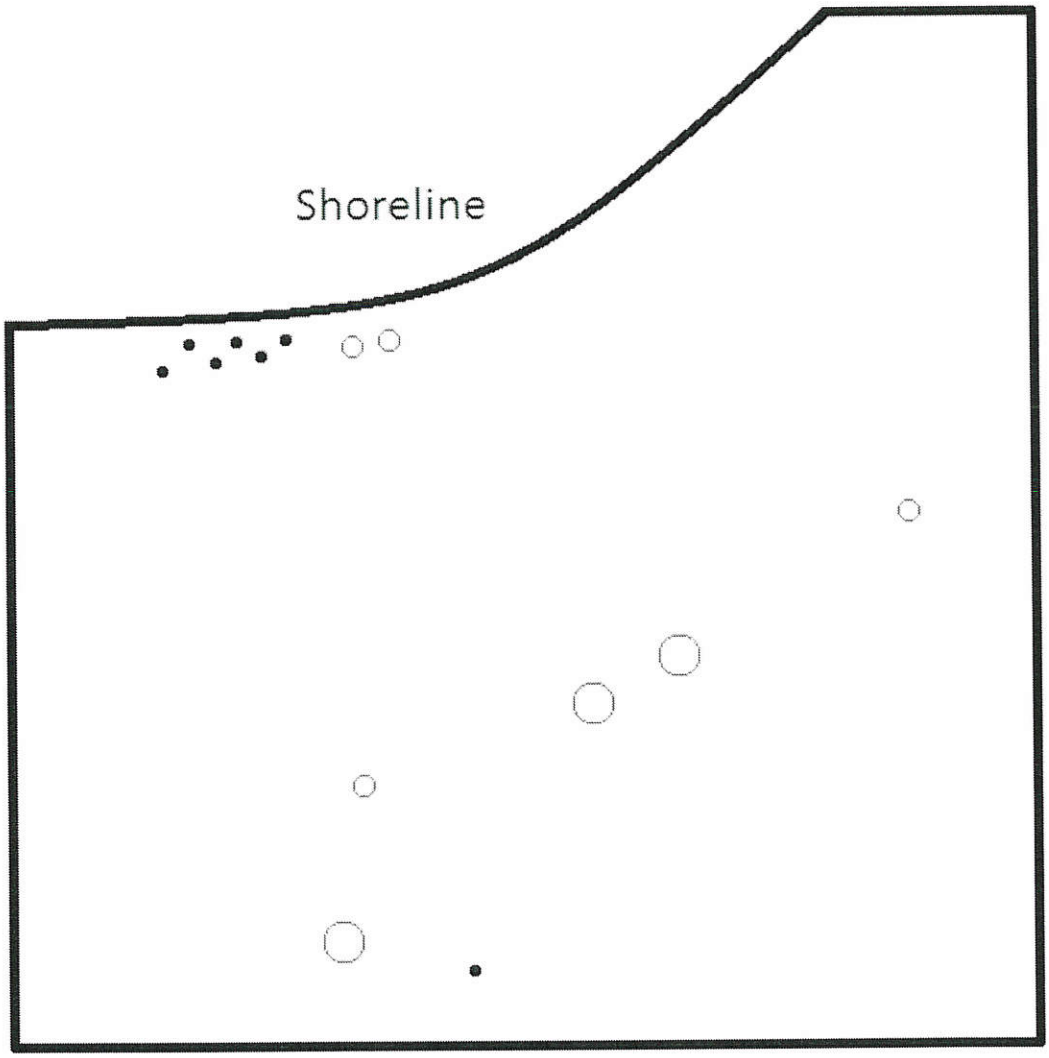


Points	1	5	10	Points Total
Tree Count	10	3	0	25



Points	1	5	10	Points Total
Tree Count	12	4	3	62

Zone L



Points	1	5	10	Points Total
Tree Count	7	4	3	57

Zone M

Shoreline

Points	1	5	10	Points Total
Tree Count	6	3	0	21