

Light the Dark

4TH & COLLEGE
TRAFFIC ISLAND

MIDTOWN
SANTA ROSA

ILLUMINATION

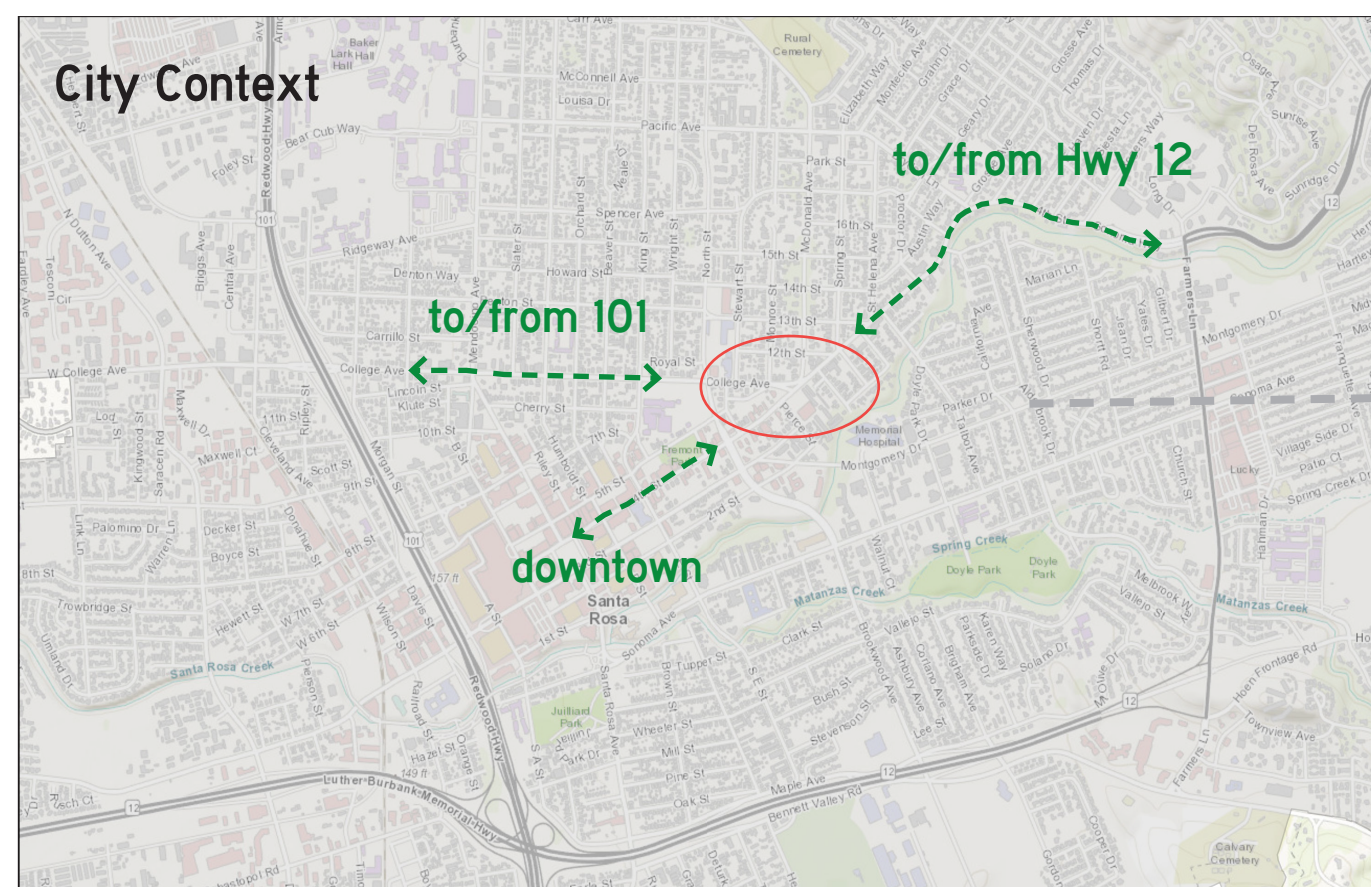
“Light the Dark” will gently and dynamically illuminate the currently dark void of a dark traffic island, highlighting the forms of street tree trunks, branches, and leaves, and reference both the shifting movement patterns of the City and the rhythms of the seasons and weather.

The project will consist of an installation of a solar-powered off-the-grid, computer-driven LED light strips and fixtures that will highlight the trunk, branch, and understory forms of the nine existing mature trees on the traffic island. The lights will be programmed as shifting blocks and shafts of light, to add interest and color to a currently dark space.

“Light the Dark” will be installed during the autumn of 2018, with the initial phase of the lights highlighting the skeletal forms of the leafless tree canopies and trunks. Seasonal interest will vary with the changing amount of winter daylight/nighttime darkness, take advantage of the moodiness of winter rains, and provide a soft glowing canvas for the springtime arboreal awakening and re-leafing.



Fourth Street is the City's Main Street, and College Ave is a connector thoroughfare for Hwys 12 & 101, and both bring considerable fast-paced traffic through a corridor of businesses, homes, schools, and restaurants. The project site is just northeast of downtown Santa Rosa and the newly revamped community hub and commons of Old Courthouse Square. The traffic island is triangularly-shaped, measuring 260' x 190' x 100', and is diagonal intersection of two major four-lane+ arterial connector roads and in the vicinity of two additional neighborhood streets that feed into the immediate area.

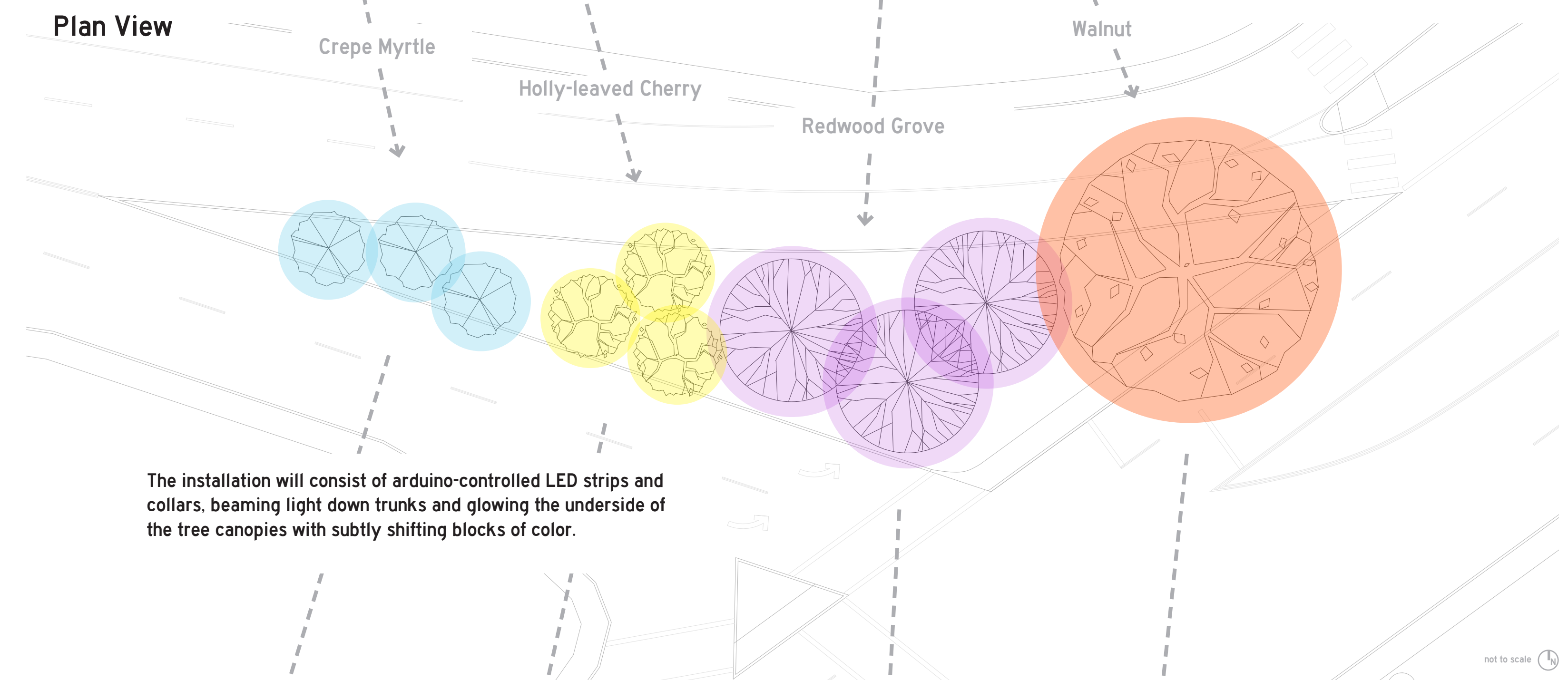


maps: Sonoma County GIS Data: <http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/PRMD/Administration/GIS/ActiveMap/>



not to scale

Plan View



The installation will consist of arduino-controlled LED strips and collars, beaming light down trunks and glowing the underside of the tree canopies with subtly shifting blocks of color.

not to scale

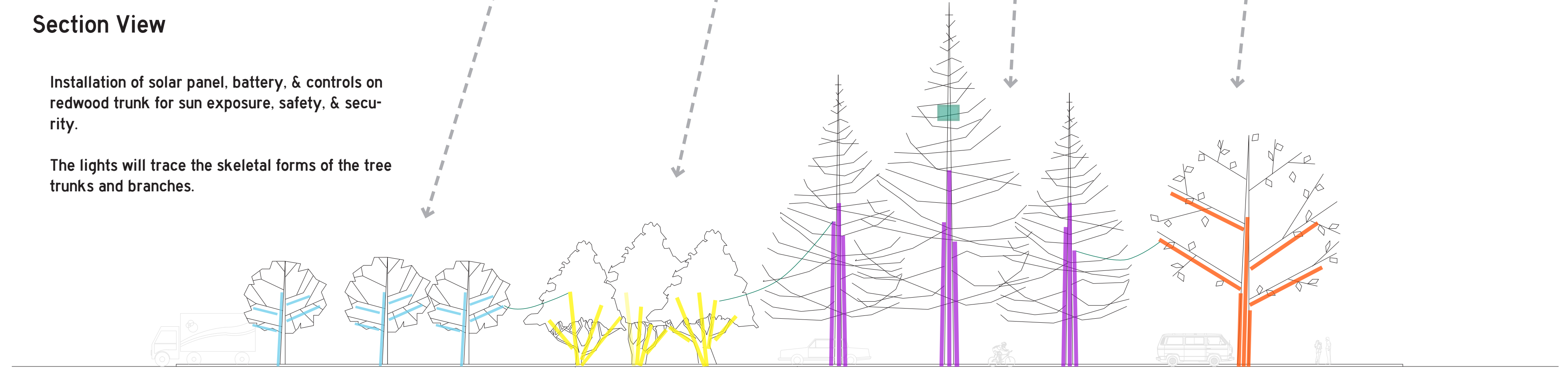
Planning and Design will take place in September/October, with construction occurring in October/November, and installation in November/December.

The installation schedule will harness the seasonal change of leaf drop, winter rains, and springtime flowering and re-leaf, to highlight the dynamic nature of tree growth and change over time. The light will call attention to different aspects of the trees with the shifting seasons and weather.

Section View

Installation of solar panel, battery, & controls on redwood trunk for sun exposure, safety, & security.

The lights will trace the skeletal forms of the tree trunks and branches.



not to scale