

**From:** [Astrid Held-Rude](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** 185th Station Area rezoning comment  
**Date:** Monday, February 23, 2015 8:33:28 AM

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Dear Council members,

My name is Astrid and I am a Shoreline resident. And after many years in this country, also finally a citizen and am very happy to have the privilege and duty to vote.

I am from Germany so I grew up with a well functioning public transit system and understand the need it.

What I don't understand is the desire to rush and change this gem of a town into Ballard. Had we wanted to live in Ballard, we'd have moved there but we, just like many others, Millennials included, chose Shoreline for it's quality of life. Particularly the single-family home neighborhoods and the green spaces and parks. This is MY American dream.

While the newest maps seem to keep the shoreline park, soccer fields and play field intact, we will lose the trees in our neighborhoods and backyards, the same trees that give Shoreline it's 'green canopy' and make it Tree City USA. Nothing in these maps indicates a replacement of this loss - and how could you replace 80, 100 year old trees and all the micro and not so micro natural habitats they provide?

The existing park and recreation area would also by far not be sufficient to accommodate the 5-fold amount of people who would be living here per your maps.

But trees do so much more than house critters, help with energy conservation and storm-water reduction:

The U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest and Southern research stations found neighborhoods with tree-lined streets and larger yard trees have lower property and violent crime rates (after nine months of data analysis on 2,813 homes in southeast Portland).

However, you do know all this already.

That is why the city has in its comprehensive plan, Element 6, Natural Environment, Goals and Policies put into place 10 goals and every single one would be ignored with any of your upzoned maps. From "Minimize adverse impacts on the natural environment" and "Lead and support efforts to protect and improve the natural environment" to the very last goal "Maintain and improve the city's tree canopy".

Unless you have a looking glass and you know that in the next 100 years this economic growth will not be followed by a bust - as is natural and cyclical - I ask you to be conservative in your planning, take your time and await the results of all the studies needed.

Good neighborhoods, like trees, take a long time to grow, but are easy to destroy.

Thank you.

Astrid Held-Rude  
(Resident in the MUR-85 zone)

