



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Winstead and City Councilmembers

FROM: Jessica Simulcik Smith, City Clerk

DATE: August 25, 2015

RE: Documents received at 8/24/15 Council Meeting

CC: Debbie Tarry, City Manager  
John Norris, Assistant City Manager

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Attached hereto are documents received from the public at your August 24, 2015 City Council Business Meeting.

- 1) Written comments regarding Seattle City Light vegetation management, submitted by Lance Young.
- 2) Written comments regarding Seattle City Light vegetation management, submitted by Nancy Morris.
- 3) Written comments regarding Seattle City Light vegetation management, submitted by Lorn Richy.

Subject: **Urgent action needed to save our Interurban Trail Trees**

It looks like the Interurban Trail and bike path is under attack again by the Power company. According to City Light staff that has been talking to property owners, they are planning to remove the majority of the trees along the west side of the trail within a couple weeks. This is even though the ink is hardly dry on an agreement with Shoreline to preserve these same trees. Without a lot of help and soon, we may lose these trees. If you can help please write or email to Shoreline, to City Light, or come to the council meeting this Monday 8/24/15 7pm (at City Hall 17500 Midvale Avenue N). Please ask them to live up to their agreement to preserve our trees. Contact information below. The tree cutting is scheduled for the first part of September.

Thanks! Lance Young 206-363-0859

**The Back Story:**

This story is almost too incredible to believe but the more questions I ask the more insidious it appears to be. It all started about five years ago when City Light decided that they were going to cut down all the trees along the Interurban Trail and bike path north of 145th. Basically because it was cheaper than coming back to prune periodically like they do for all of our street trees. With a lot of community action, a couple large meetings and about 600 petition signatures we were able to come to an agreement with the Power Company to preserve the trees. No one got everything they wanted but it was a good arrangement in which they would only cut down trees that were a hazard to trail users or the power system. The existing trees would instead be pruned every four years as they had been for decades. We also were able to have dead and dying mature trees snagged back for woodpeckers and other wildlife habitat, for the important bird population in the area.

This agreement that so many of us worked so hard on was memorialized in a letter of understanding between the City of Shoreline and Seattle City Light. Much of this wording we got incorporated into the City's main 15 year franchise contract for power services. This key wording read "Seattle City Light shall not remove trees on the Interurban Trail unless the tree is a hazard or an abutting property owner makes a request"...(see LOU attached)

**Deja Vu:** Now fast forward three years and everything seemed to be settling down, and we are all enjoying the shade provided by these trees during a very hot and dry summer. Well it's deja vu time. It appears that we are right back where we started somehow. I have only known about this for about three days and that was only because a city council member caught wind and made sure a call was made. According to a next door neighbor the City Light staff that knocked on his door told him that they were planning to cut down all or most all of the brush and trees smaller than 12" in diameter (8" for evergreens). This is all going to happen the first part of September (in just a couple weeks). I have not been visited by the Utility Company yet.

**So how is this possible with our preservation work and signed contract?** From what I can piece together in the last few days it appears that: the Power Company came to Shoreline (to Mr. John Norris) a couple weeks ago and told him that since there was no diameter specified in our contract wording, they had decided to define a tree as only those deciduous trees larger than 12" trunk diameter (8" for conifers). Everything smaller than this was not a tree and thus could be cut down. When in actuality City Light demonstrated they knew perfectly well what tree meant in our agreement during the previous pruning cycle where no trees big or small were cut down (except 1 Cottonwood sprout). Then again demonstrated this understanding when they called out 100 trees for cutting along this section of trail. By this new definition there are only a couple dozen trees here. What happened to the other 75 they used to call



trees?

**The timing of all this is very suspicious.** Evidently it was just a couple weeks ago that the City was told about the plan to cut. My neighbors didn't hear about it until two weeks prior to the event. Back in 2011 we were provided almost two months notice with door hangers and tree signs. This cutting was scheduled during the height of summer vacations. It may be a rude surprise for those on vacation. Further I just learned that it was scheduled during Seattle City Council's summer break. They are not scheduled to return until the second week of September, otherwise they could have been a help. For some reason they are coming back to cut trees after only three years instead of the usual four year cycle. Also somehow they have neglected to come by my house, yet they have visited others right next door. Now this may all be coincidence but it sure seems fishy.

**The utility has been misrepresenting the facts** to adjacent property owners in an effort to get them to sign a "Tree Removal Notice" they are handed. This would authorize removal of trees that would otherwise be off limits. In at least one case the City Light representative (Mr. Glen Allen) told a neighbor the following. When my neighbor asked if they had to sign the "Tree Removal Notice" Mr. Allen said if he didn't it wouldn't matter they would cut the trees down behind his house whether he signed or not, so he should sign. This even though the slip listed an otherwise untouchable 14" Laurel. Then the neighbor asked if they had talked with me about this matter since I have been pretty active in the whole preservation process. Their response was "he (Lance) is behind it 100%, he understands what is going on and he signed the paperwork". Clearly I am not on board, and have not even seen Mr. Allen for about two years so they have definitely not talked to me, or gotten my approval or any signature. Coercion invalidates any contract, and calls into question SCL's entire signature gathering process. See attached letters.

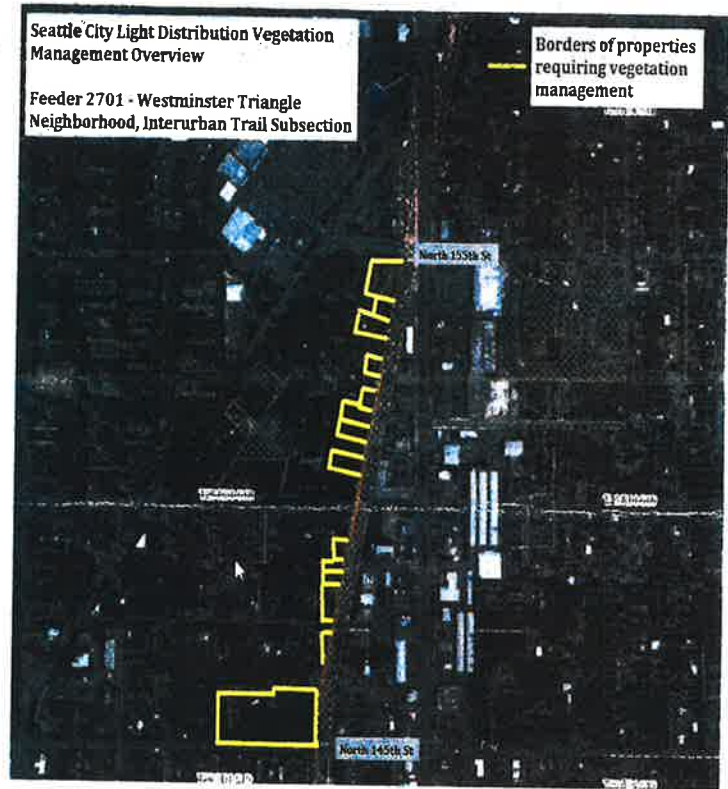
**All of this makes no sense.** If money saving is really the issue, how can the cost to prune this half mile of park trail be significant, compared to the cost of pruning thousands of miles of street trees. If it is safety from the homeless sleeping in the park, how can we be better off with no trees than with limbed up trees so that they provide visibility and a shady spot for walkers to rest. If this power company's redefinition of what a real tree is stands, it effectively eviscerates the tree preservation wording we worked so hard to incorporate into our contract with them. How can any rational person think that this is what we all intended with our negotiations. If diameter is really a problem why are they unwilling to discuss an appropriate resolution with the affected parties.

**\*\*Council Members Please help us save these trees, if we don't act now they may be gone in a couple weeks!**

1. ask John Norris to just say no to City Light, they can not redefine what a tree is. Or
2. at the very least tell them to postpone the pruning until **all the affected parties** can agree to any new terms.

### PROJECT IMPACTS

- Noise is expected during daylight hours.
- Temporary traffic and parking restrictions may be required, so crews can perform the work safely.



Brend Schmidt Sk  
Schmidt

### TIMING AND COORDINATION

**Construction Start:** Early September 2015

**Duration:** 1 day

**Schedule:** 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### MORE INFORMATION

**David Bayard**

Supervisor, Vegetation Management

(206) 386-1902

[david.bayard@seattle.gov](mailto:david.bayard@seattle.gov)

[www.seattle.gov/light/vegmgmt](http://www.seattle.gov/light/vegmgmt)

### TRANSLATION SERVICES AVAILABLE

AT (206) 684-3800

- Información en español
- Impormasyon sa Tagalog
- 中文資訊
- Thông tin bằng tiếng Việt
- 한국어 정보
- Macluumaad Af-Soomaali ah



### OUR MISSION

Seattle City Light is dedicated to exceeding our customers' expectations in producing and delivering environmentally responsible, safe, low-cost, and reliable power.



**Not a Tree?**



**Not a tree but fabulous bird habitat we saw five different small birds species within several minutes of watching. This an example of the neighborhood screening we could lose with City Light's redefinition of what a tree is.**

**Also not a tree by the new definition.**

From: Debbie Tarry <dtarry@shorelinewa.gov>  
To: Chris Eggen <chrisEggen@comcast.net> Doris McConnell <dorismccon@comcast.net> Janet Way <janetway@yahoo.com> Jesse Salomon <jsalomon10@hotmail.com> Robin McClelland <robinsink@comcast.net> William Hubbell <whubbell@comcast.net>  
Cc: Carolyn Wurdeman <cwurdema@shorelinewa.gov> Chris Eggen <ceggen@shorelinewa.gov> Chris Roberts <croberts@shorelinewa.gov> Doris McConnell <dmccconnell@shorelinewa.gov> Julie Underwood <junderwood@shorelinewa.gov> Keith McGlashan <kmcglashan@shorelinewa.gov> Shari Winstead <swinstead@shorelinewa.gov> Terry Scott <tscott@shorelinewa.gov> Will Hall <whall@shorelinewa.gov>  
Sent: Sunday, August 14, 2011 5:44 PM  
Subject: August 13th Weekly Update

Hi -

It was great to see several of you last night at the 4-Corners Brewfest. What a great turn out and the weather decided to cooperate and make it the nicest part of the day!

This update won't have a summary of the upcoming Council meetings as the Council traditionally takes a summer break for the last two meetings of August. Since August 30th is the fifth Monday of the month - and there are no Council meeting on the fifth Monday of a month - the next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, September 6th.

So barring the Council meeting updates here are some things going on:

#### Other Information

o Seattle City Light (SCL) Right-Of-Way Maintenance - As I mentioned last week, SCL will be holding a community meeting the Westminster neighborhood for Tuesday, August 23rd, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., to provide information and respond to questions regarding their planned maintenance of their right-of-way along the Interurban Trail. This week I met with the SCL staff and here is a summary of that meeting:

o SCL clarified that they rely on authority from RCW 64.12.035, WAC-296-24-960, and SCL best practices for the tree/vegetation clearance for their secondary, distribution, and transmission overhead power lines. SCL minimum requirements for clearance for 26kv distribution lines is 10 feet plus 4 to 5 years of growth and for 115kv transmission lines is 12.4 feet plus 3 to 4 years of growth.

o SCL has failed to maintain the Interurban Trail section in accordance with their standards for several years. As a result they are doing a lot of catch-up work this year. The City's MOA for the Interurban Trail specifically says that height limits for all vegetation shall be 12 feet. Vegetation that exceeds 12 feet shall be brought into compliance by SCL by either trimming or removal.

o SCL staff is willing to do some phasing of removal and topping of trees. This means that instead of removing all trees (defined as anything with a trunk diameter in excess of 6 inches - our Shoreline Municipal Code defines a tree as something with a trunk in excess of 8 inches) they would be willing to top some down to the acceptable height (probably around 10 feet), go ahead and replant, and then come back in 3 to 5 years to remove the tree after some of the replanting has had a chance to grow in. The topped trees will die over this time but should continue to provide screening during this period.

o Currently SCL is down to a total of 62 trees that will be removed or topped (originally this number exceeded 100). This is the total for both SCL right-of-way and private property. SCL indicated that they will be replanting more trees than they are removing - they will be developing the replanting plan over the next couple of months. SCL has a large list of acceptable species that they will be sharing with the community and they understand that the replanting needs to include a variety of conifers and deciduous trees to provide year round screening.

o Here is the proposed timeline and events that SCL will be conducting:

1. Week of August 15th - SCL will be marking trees that are planned for removal or those that are proposed for topping. - this is so the community can see which trees will be impacted.
2. August 23rd - Community Meeting. SCL is developing an agenda that provides time for those attending to get background information, to hear SCL's proposed removal and replanting plan, and time for attendees to ask questions and provide feedback. SCL will be providing visual pictures of similar areas where they have had to remove and replant, visuals of the mature look of the plants they may use for replanting, and visuals of what they are trying to create.

3. Late August - September - SCL staff will meet individually with residents that live along the Interurban Trail to get input from them on the removal, topping, replanting along their property.
4. October - removal and topping work to occur
5. September - November - Development of their replanting plan. This will include at least one additional community meeting to get feedback on a draft plan - before the final plan is developed.
6. January/February 2012 - Replanting. This is the best time to replant and when SCL can get the best plants for replanting. This means that there will be a couple of months between removal/topping and replanting.

\* BST Application in Echo Lake - The Bituminous Surface Treatment (BST) pavement preservation program work started this week in the Echo Lake neighborhood. The BST program is one of the major components of the City's annual Road Surface Maintenance Program included in the 2011-2016 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The BST process is done in phases. Over the last few days the contractor worked to apply the thick tar/oil and then distributed the small gravel that is rolled to adhere to the tar base. At this point the road goes from looking like a gravel road to a light grey road with more solid gravel. Next week the contractor will apply the fog seal, which will make it look like a newly black, paved road. This work is weather dependent-each day of wet weather postpones work by a day. In sun and temperatures above 70 degrees the fog seal will cure in about 90 minutes - if it is cloudy and cooler with fog it can take 4 to 5 hours. If it rains the contractor can't put down the fog seal. All work is scheduled to be complete by the end of August.

Events:

- o Celebrate Shoreline Activities - August 13th - 21st. Just a reminder of the activities that will be happening this week:
- o North City Jazz Walk - Tuesday, Aug. 16, 7:00-10:00 p.m. Live music at various venues in the North City neighborhood. Admission fee required. Music lineup, venues and related details are available at [www.northcityjazzwalk.org](http://www.northcityjazzwalk.org)
- o Youth & Teen Skate Competition - Friday, Aug. 19, Noon to 5:00 p.m. Skateboard competition (with prizes!) for various age groups & abilities. No admission fee, but a completed & signed liability form is required for minors. Connie King Skate Park, 15300 8th Avenue NE.
- o Parade - Saturday, Aug. 20, beginning at Noon Be a part of the action or just take in the sites as decorative floats, marching bands, drill teams and others wow the crowd. Parade travels south along 15th Avenue NE between NE 180th and NE 165th Streets.
- o Car Show - Saturday, Aug. 20, beginning at 10:00 a.m. See some beautiful, classic vehicles at this favorite annual event at Ridgecrest Elementary, 16516 10th Avenue NE.
- o Festival - Saturday, Aug. 20, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It's a party! Come on by the Ridgecrest Elementary School grounds, 16516 10th Avenue NE, for live music on stage, food vendors, community booths and fun for the whole family
- o Sandcastle Contest - Sunday, Aug. 21, registration begins at 11:30 a.m., competition held Noon to 3:00 p.m. Sponsored by the City of Shoreline and the Richmond Beach Community Association. Bring your friends & family to this summertime tradition, try your hand at a unique sand creation or just take in the competition from the sidelines. Prizes awarded! Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, 2021 NW 190th Street. As always

?? if you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Debbie Tarry  
Assistant City Manager  
City of Shoreline  
Phone: 206-801-2212  
E-Mail: [dtarry@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:dtarry@shorelinewa.gov)

Vicente Perez 3  
901 N 148th st  
Shoreline, wa 98133

August 21, 2015

Director Bernard M Ziemianek  
Seattle City Light  
700 5th ave #3300  
Seattle, Wa 98124-4023  
bernie.ziemianek@seattle.gov

Dear Mr. Ziemianek

Please withdraw my signature from the recent tree removal notice form. I do not authorize in any way tree removal along the Interurban Trail. I was given misleading and deceitful information by Seattle City Light staff Glen Allen and Heidi Narte when they requested that I sign their form. They stated I had to sign the form. I asked them several times, to be sure they understood the question, if I was obligated to sign the form and they said yes each time. They never gave me any reference information to back this up. They only gave me paper work on which trees were being removed.

I believe we (Shoreline) has just finished a tree saving agreement with Seattle City Light that says they would not remove any trees or vegetation on the interurban trail. They were only supposed to prune existing trees not remove any. This what all our community meetings were about. Doesn't our agreement with you mean anything? When Glen and Heidi came to my house they said that I was obligated and had to sign the paper to agree to have the trees removed and that it was going to happen no matter what. I asked several times why I was obligated to sign they told me nothing only said I have to sign no matter what. I felt as if I was being bullied.

I also asked them several times if they have spoke to Lance Young who is one of my neighbors and an advocate for the trees on the Interurban Trail, and has served as spokesman for our community on the issue. They said yes they had spoken to him and that "He is behind it 100%, he understands what is going on and he signed the paperwork". Every time I asked they lied straight to my face. They also repeatedly confirmed that all of my neighbors had signed the forms that everyone was in 100% agreement for removal of trees and no matter what, it was going to happen anyway. Again I felt like I was being bullied. I have since spoken to Lance Young and one other neighbor as well, on this topic of removing trees on the Interurban Trail, they have not been spoken to, do not approve of removal, and have not signed anything. This is the exact opposite of what I was told

I have no problem maintaining and pruning the trees that you want to remove by my house to your guidelines. I would much rather keep a tree than remove a tree. Seattle City Light is a huge customer-based company and for them to have staff members bully and be deceitful and lie to customers to get what they want is very concerning to me, it is for this reason I am writing this letter. This also makes me want to let the mayor, King 5, and the Seattle Times know of your actions just because it is hard to believe that City Light would run their company this way?.

Trees are important to our community for many reasons including security and screening, prevention of flooding, they actually clean the soil absorbing pollutants, they are a sound barrier for me from the Aurora business district over my back fence, they provide wildlife habitat etc.

Once again please remove my authorization and signature for tree removal along the Interurban Trail because I was lied to with misleading and deceitful information not to mention bullied by your Seattle City Light staff Glen Allen and Heidi Narte. It feels like the Power company is rushing this tree cutting project through in the middle of the night (middle of summer vacation), with not opportunity for citizens to object.

Sincerely

Vicente Perez 3

 8-21-15



**Subject:** Rescinding authorization for Seattle City Light to remove Interurban Trail trees  
**From:** John Moscariello <mosco305@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 8/23/2015 8:29 PM  
**To:** bernie.ziemianek@seattle.gov  
**BCC:** lance\_young@yahoo.com

Dear Mr. Ziemianek:

I am contacting you to let you know that my wife and I would like to **rescind our signed Tree Removal Notification** for the trees on the Interurban Trail behind our house at 15020 Linden Ave N. We feel that we were not provided all the information we needed to make an informed decision and were not provided all of the options available to us in regards to these trees. I want to make sure you clearly hear our request that we do not approve the removal of a large maple tree behind our property. When discussing this tree with Glen Allen from Seattle City Light he implied that we had no real choice and that Seattle City Light owned the decision on what would be done with this tree. This seems to be in stark contrast to an established agreement we recently learned about through our neighbors. It was signed on April 17, 2012 by Phil West and clearly states that Seattle City Light will not remove trees along the Interurban train unless the tree is a hazard or an abutting property owner makes a request. Once again, we do not give our permission to remove this tree, never actually requested for it to be removed, and do not wish this tree altered unless absolutely required to remove a hazard.

Here is some additional background about our specific situation. On Wednesday, August 19, 2015, Glen Allen from Seattle City Light stopped by our house and spoke with my wife. He discussed Seattle City Light's desire to prune a large maple on our property and completely remove a different large maple tree. My wife voiced objection to any trees being removed. During this visit Glen did not mention anything about the agreement from 2012 and indicated that this tree was city property. He clearly implied that we had no say on whether or not the tree would ultimately be removed.

Both my wife and I were very dismayed to hear we were in danger of losing some of the beautiful trees that are part of the view from our house. We are new to the Westminster Triangle neighborhood. The trees in the community - and our view of them - were a large factor in deciding to purchase this house. After talking to my wife on the evening of the 19th, I immediately called Glen and left a message. I then followed up on Thursday afternoon and we had a long conversation. I expressed my strong desire not to remove the maple tree, but Glen

once again implied that we did not have options in this. He indicated the only two options were to completely remove the tree or to significantly "re-top" the tree. He stated that after re-topping, the tree would be so severely cut they would likely choose to remove it later anyway. While Glen was polite and listened to my concerns on the phone, he never brought up the agreement our neighbors have since informed us about. I specifically asked if we had the authority to tell Seattle City Light not to remove or re-top the tree and he said that we did not. After this conversation, my wife and I did not think we had any options and we reluctantly signed the tree removal form.

We felt pushed into signing the tree removal form and now that we've learned about the agreement from 2012 to protect trees from this exact situation, we feel especially duped. We want to rescind our tree removal authorization and ask that Seattle City Light respect our wishes to keep the 28 inch maple intact, or do minimal pruning in order to avoid power lines.

Thank you for your time and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

John Moscariello

15020 Linden Ave N

Shoreline, WA 98133

Ph: (206) 605-4837

Email: [mosco305@gmail.com](mailto:mosco305@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Seattle City Light plan to cut trees along Interurban Trail in Shoreline

**From:** Ed Harkness <harkness01@gmail.com>

**Date:** 8/23/2015 1:45 PM

**To:** City Council <council@shorelinewa.gov>, lance\_young@yahoo.com

Dear members of the Shoreline City Council,

My wife and I are long time residents of the city of Shoreline and live one block from a section of the Interurban Trail that connects 145<sup>th</sup> to 155<sup>th</sup>. As avid trail users for cycling, walking and picking blackberries in late summer, we have recently learned that Seattle City Light plans a major tree cutting along this section, to begin, we're told, in September, now just over a week away.

We oppose the tree-cutting plan for the following reasons:

First, the plan appears to violate an agreement reached five years ago following a petition drive to preserve the trees on the west side of the 145<sup>th</sup>-155<sup>th</sup> portion of the trail. The agreement between Shoreline citizens and Seattle City Light was that trees would be pruned every four years, that a tree would be cut only in the case where it posed a hazard or when a tree abutting a property owner made a request for tree removal.

Second, the trees offer much-needed shade for trail users and habitat for local birds. Stripping the trail of its trees would greatly reduce both shade and habitat.

Third, the trees provide for local neighbors a sound buffer from the noise of traffic on Aurora Avenue. Further, there's an aesthetic element to consider as well. The trees create a park-like ambiance that offers visual relief from the strip malls, car dealerships other businesses that line Aurora, parallel to and just two blocks to the east of the trail.

Fourth, in addition to the aesthetic value, it is common knowledge that trees reduce pollution—and that is surely something we all agree upon and desire, especially in urban and heavily-trafficked areas like ours along the Aurora Corridor. Moreover, a recent study by University of Chicago researchers suggests a strong correlation between physical and mental health and the number of trees in an urban area. To read more about the study, go to <http://tinyurl.com/q25su9d>.

In sum, the trail and its trees between 145<sup>th</sup> and 155<sup>th</sup> offer a welcome boost to the quality of life in our wooded Westminster Triangle enclave, hemmed in as we are by major streets and commercial zones. Cutting the trees would significantly diminish that quality of life.

Finally, at the very least, we believe the plan to cut the trees should be postponed so that we and our neighbors can learn more about what led Seattle City Light to renege on the agreement of five years ago to trim rather than cut the trees (except in the instances noted above). The suddenness of this decision to cut, the fact neighbors were not adequately notified about the plan (there appears to be no information about the plan on the SCL website) deeply concerns us.

Please consider our request that Seattle City Light reverse their decision to cut the trees on the Interurban Trail—or at minimum delay the plan, one that we regard as detrimental not only to our immediate neighborhood but to all who love the trail and use it regularly.

Sincerely,

Ed and Linda Harkness

14903 Linden N.

Shoreline, WA 98133

206-367-6574

[harkness01@gmail.com](mailto:harkness01@gmail.com), [linharkness@gmail.com](mailto:linharkness@gmail.com)

cc: Lance Young, Interurban Trail Tree Preservation Society

Ed Harkness

<http://www.edharkness.com/>

[http://www.pleasureboatstudio.com/Books/Ed\\_Harkness.html](http://www.pleasureboatstudio.com/Books/Ed_Harkness.html)

<http://www.splitlipmagazine.com/#!12-ed-harkness-interview/cfcx>

----- Original Message -----

From: Tina Cohen <tina@tinacohen.com>  
To: Lance Young <director@outingclub.org>  
Date: August 23, 2015 at 6:30 PM  
Subject: Trees near power lines & risk assessment

Arborists Comments on  
30" Maple tagged for removal  
as a hazard.

Hi Lance,

This email includes background on tree risk, but no need to explain all the details to the city council, it's more for your information. I've attached the current worksheet used for evaluating and determining risk ratings. You can see the specific terms.

The most recent, best practices method for risk assessment is taught in the ISA's **TRAQ** course, which grants arborists the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification. This is a non-numerical system. So if there's a report on file that assigns a number as a risk rating, they've used an outdated method. Arborists now use the risk ratings Low, Moderate, High, and Extreme to a particular target.

'Hazard' is a situation or condition that could likely lead to a loss, personal injury, in other words, it is the likely source of harm such as a broken branch. 'Risk' is the combination of the likelihood of tree failure occurring and affecting a target, and the severity of the associated consequences. Thus we no longer refer to the evaluation process as a 'hazard' assessment, rather it's a risk assessment. But code hasn't caught up so the term 'hazard tree' is still in use.

Tree risk can be categorized into two major groups: conflicts (example, being in the way of power lines) and structural (examples, breaking or uprooting). The steps in the TRAQ method can be used for either type of risk.

The TRAQ textbook's introduction states:

- Trees provide a wide variety of benefits to society.
- Trees are living organisms and naturally lose branches or fall.
- The risk to human safety is extremely low. (this comment is based on statistical records)
- Tree owners should take a balanced and proportionate approach to tree safety management. There should be a balance between the risk that a tree poses and the benefits that individuals and communities derive from trees.

The Preface states: Risk assessment should not be used as an excuse to remove trees that are healthy and low risk. (However the maple would not be considered healthy because of past abusive pruning and evidence of root heaving)

Regarding the 30.1-inch DBH Bigleaf maple, At this time the tree is too short to impact the power lines, so the most likely risk rating for this target is Low. The risk to pedestrians and bikes on the trail is also Low because they are passing through the area. If people might picnic beneath the tree, the risk rating would be Moderate. Remedial pruning would reduce the rating to Low, called its residual risk rating.

LIMITS: I did a visual inspection only, this is not a final Risk Assessment. The intent is to provide an alternative City Light's assessment stating it's 'hazardous'.

Tina Cohen, ISA Certified Arborist #PN0245A  
Northwest Arborvitae  
206-789-3283

ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified  
Member American Society of Consulting Arborists  
Registered Consulting Arborist #473  
<http://www.tinacohen.com/>

August 24, 2015

Dear Shoreline City Council:

Regarding recent decisions to cut trees along the Interurban Trail and bike path north of 145th, please consider the following: Surely you are aware of the catastrophic destruction of forest canopy in Eastern

Washington. Yesterday our own sky was heavenly laden with the smoke of these life threatening wild fires causing the evacuation of entire towns, essentially as a result from the ongoing affects of climate change. We need our trees and need to maintain the efforts to keep our tree

canopies. The Shoreline City Council should stand by what has been agreed to by the hard work from citizen advocates and others who worked out a plan to maintain the

trees. Seattle City Light should honor the agreement as worked out and do what they can to preserve the trees along the Interurban Trail. Shoreline City council should not allow this new decision by Seattle City Light to cut the trees, but instead abide by the original agreement, or at the very least postpone any action until all aspects can be discussed regarding these serious issues.

→ Please read <sup>the</sup> ~~this~~ article *link sent in a recent email* below and keep in mind the importance of new findings regarding urban trees and why we should go all out to preserve them.

↑ I quote: "Trees are also the planet's heat shield. They keep the concrete and asphalt of cities and suburbs 10 or more degrees cooler and protect our skin from the sun's harsh UV rays." Unquote. Quoted from Why Trees Matter by Jim Robbins. A link to full article was provided in an email today.

Thank you,

Nancy Morris

(OVER)

## WHY TREES MATTER:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/12/opinion/why-trees-matter.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/12/opinion/why-trees-matter.html?_r=0)

"TREES are on the front lines of our changing climate. And when the oldest trees in the world suddenly start dying, it's time to pay attention. North America's ancient alpine bristlecone forests are falling victim to a voracious beetle and an Asian fungus. In Texas, a [prolonged drought](#) killed more than five million urban shade trees last year and an additional half-billion trees in parks and forests. In the Amazon, two severe droughts have killed billions more. The common factor has been hotter, drier weather. We have underestimated the importance of trees. They are not merely pleasant sources of shade but a potentially major answer to some of our most pressing environmental problems. . . ."

08/24/2015

Dear Shoreline City Council.

Since so much of our tree canopy is threatened by the coming change, I strongly encourage the Council to do whatever they can to stop unnecessary tree removal along the Inter Urban Trail.

Please support us in stopping Seattle City Light from cutting non-hazardous trees, no matter how small, at least until the community has the opportunity to sit down and negotiate with City Light.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lorn Richey". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop on the left side and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lorn Richey, Shoreline