

**Archived:** Monday, April 6, 2020 11:40:11 AM

**From:** [agenda comments](#) [agenda comments](#)

**Sent:** Monday, April 6, 2020 11:38:01 AM

**To:** [agenda comments](#) [agenda comments](#)

**Subject:** FW: 1) Agenda comment: FW: [EXTERNAL] Public statement 3-23-20

**Response requested:** No

**Sensitivity:** Normal

**Attachments:**

[Shoreline-City-Council-Statement-3-23-20.pdf](#) 

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**From:** Rebecca Jones <[rebjones@rebjones.com](mailto:rebjones@rebjones.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 8:31 PM

**To:** City Council <[Council@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:Council@shorelinewa.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public statement 3-23-20

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Dear City Council Members:

I was asked to follow up to this email address with a written version of my statement today. This document includes references to sources from my statement.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Jones

March 23, 2020

Shoreline City Council Meeting: Public Comment

Dear Shoreline City Council Members,

My name is Rebecca Jones in Shoreline supporting Save Shoreline Trees. Thank you for this opportunity to send my written statement from today's meeting.

My mom is 74 and a Shoreline resident and, like many others, has struggled with the concept that she should stay home at this time. Late last week as she was walking up to her church for a prayer group she tripped and broke her nose on the sidewalk. With a swollen and very colorful face, she is now finally taking staying home seriously.

In time, a broken nose will heal, but it won't be like it was before the break. I tell you this story not to shock, but because I see a parallel to the discussion about the tree canopy. The impact of removing our large conifer trees has lasting effects that our community may eventually heal from, but not in our lifetime.<sup>1</sup>

Our large conifer trees are not burdens to be bulldozed, but are established and cost efficient assets to our city, our community and its members.

Annually, each 30" in diameter conifer provides an estimate of \$224 in overall benefits. Including filtering storm water, energy conservation, increasing property value and air quality, reducing natural gas use and CO2 emissions. The 133 trees that have been previously discussed provide almost \$30,000 (\$29,792) in *annual* benefit to our community with approximately 60-100 years more time to be of service to us. If we were to take into account a conservative 40 years of service left, these 133 trees will provide almost \$1.2 million dollars (\$1,191,680) in benefits at today's value.

Our giant trees surrounding well-traveled Dayton Avenue help filter the gasoline, oil and other pollutants that effect our community members and properties. Annually, *each tree* will intercept over 4,000 gallons of storm water runoff and will *reduce* atmospheric carbon by 580 pounds. To put this into perspective, an average car commuter *produces* 11,000 pounds of atmospheric carbon per year.<sup>2</sup>

These are just a few of the benefits that *each* large conifer in our canopy provides our community. Currently, the trade-offs offered for removing even one of these assets does not give our community the same immediate benefits. In fact, these benefits will be denied for at least 21% of adult community members because these benefits will not be equitably replaced in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup> This begs the question, how can we leverage and retain what has already been established?

We find ourselves in a unique time in history. A time that shows us how we are all connected and asks us to rethink previously held ways of doing things and find new solutions.

A spotlight of opportunity is shining for all involved to set a new standard of excellence when approaching projects that are in areas with large conifer trees. Now is the time to pivot. To be a thought leader and a pioneer in how to preserve these silent powerhouse assets while also building within a community. Now is the time to be a leader and show others how to build alongside our conifers rather than through.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Jones

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<sup>1</sup> According to worldpopulationreview.com, in 2020 Shoreline has a total population of 56,752 with approximately 31% 30 or under.

According to worldpopulationreview.com, in 2020 Shoreline has a population of 45,353 adults with 9,849 of them being senior citizens.

<sup>2</sup> Stats provided are from the National Tree Benefit Calculator using a 30" Douglas Fir for the Shoreline, WA area.