

**Archived:** Monday, June 1, 2020 11:01:05 AM

**From:** [Boni Biery](#)

**Sent:** Sunday, May 31, 2020 8:24:02 PM

**To:** [City Council](#); [Park Board](#); [Lea Bonebrake](#); [Eric Friedli](#)

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Jun 1, 2020 Agenda Item 9 - Public Comment

**Response requested:** No

**Sensitivity:** Normal

**Attachments:**

[20 Jun 1 - City Council.pdf](#) 

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Please see attached.

always,  
Boni Biery

June 1, 2020

Regarding: Council Agenda Item 9 “Discussing the Project Status and Progress for the N 148<sup>th</sup> Street Non-Motorized Bridge Project

Dear City Council,

In regards to item 9a on the agenda for June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 I would like request the City to give the significant trees the due consideration they deserve when designing the N 148<sup>th</sup> Street pedestrian crossing from the west side of the freeway to the Transit Station on the east side of it. They are living green infrastructure and should be considered to be as important as the hardscape.

Shoreline is very quickly becoming a sterile place to live. I, for one, don't want to live a much smaller model of New York City. The one “claim to fame” that Shoreline has is the tree canopy that used to shelter all: the homes, the people, the birds and small animals. Now those big, native trees, most of them evergreen are being scraped away like the unwanted peas on a kid's dinner plate. We NEED those trees as much as they need us.

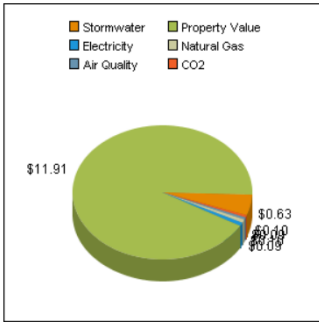
No matter how many replacement trees are planted there is a problem. First, they are young and will take years to offer valuable carbon sequestration, air and water filtration, and energy savings that come from summer sun and winter wind protections. Secondly, replacement trees are usually small at maturity to accommodate the tight spaces where they will be planted. One flowering pear, or Gingko, should never be counted 1 for 1 as equal to Shore pine, Douglas fir or even the little Cascara. I encourage you to consider the following:

Please note that this 2” Gingko “Magyar” planted in a multi-family area will return a benefit of \$13.00 at its current size and \$11.91 of that is property value. If it survives to reach maturity of about 45' it will provide \$49 annually and will be bare-branched all winter long.

# National Tree Benefit Calculator

Beta


Overall Benefits | Storm Water | Property Value | Energy | Air Quality | CO2 | About the Model



**Breakdown of your tree's benefits**  
Click on one of the tabs above for more detail

This **2 inch Ginkgo** provides overall benefits of: **\$13** every year.

While some functional benefits of trees are well documented, others are difficult to quantify (e.g., human social and communal health). Trees' specific geography, climate, and interactions with humans and infrastructure is highly variable and makes precise calculations that much more difficult. Given these complexities, the results presented here should be considered initial approximations—a general accounting of the benefits produced by urban street-side plantings.



Ginkgo  
Ginkgo biloba

Benefits of trees do not account for the costs associated with trees' long-term care and maintenance.

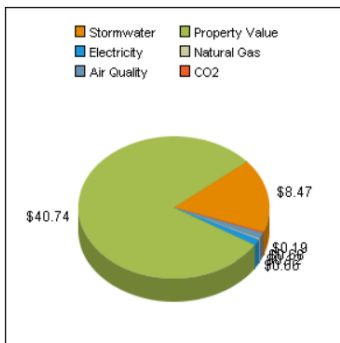
If this tree is cared for and grows to 7 inches, it will provide **\$49** in annual benefits.

Now how about a small, existing, “insignificant”, Douglas fir of just 4 inches in the same circumstance on a multi-family property?

# National Tree Benefit Calculator

Beta


Overall Benefits | Storm Water | Property Value | Energy | Air Quality | CO2 | About the Model



**Breakdown of your tree's benefits**  
Click on one of the tabs above for more detail

This **6 inch Douglas fir** provides overall benefits of: **\$51** every year.

While some functional benefits of trees are well documented, others are difficult to quantify (e.g., human social and communal health). Trees' specific geography, climate, and interactions with humans and infrastructure is highly variable and makes precise calculations that much more difficult. Given these complexities, the results presented here should be considered initial approximations—a general accounting of the benefits produced by urban street-side plantings.



Douglas fir  
Pseudotsuga menziesii

Benefits of trees do not account for the costs associated with trees' long-term care and maintenance.

If this tree is cared for and grows to 11 inches, it will provide **\$89** in annual benefits.

This “insignificant” tree, already established and growing returns **over three times the benefits right off the bat**. And, over time, will more than double the yearly benefits. Plus, if left to its own devices, will grow to far exceed 100’, stay green all winter and live up to 500 years! It just makes sense to do everything possible to hang-on to these City assets!

As you already know, the Shoreline Code regarding protection of trees on private property currently allow a homeowner to remove up to 9, or some cases more, significant trees in a 3-year period. I have to wonder just how many homes actually have 9 significant trees? With the code as it is, homeowners could legally denude the city of nearly every privately owned tree in less than a decade. Additionally, there are no removal restrictions on development of commercial properties which virtually guarantees they will be logged-off for any timber value. This makes every single, established, publicly owned tree monumentally important whether it is considered to be “significant or not.” In a very few short years, they may be all that remains of Shoreline’s once lovely and healthy canopy.

I would like to see every possible tree in this area saved; not just the significant trees, but those which are anything more than the minimum replanting size. A healthy, established tree, even a small one is far better to have than one that may or may not survive the planting process. Additionally, it would be great to enhance the area with additional native species to provide habitat for wildlife. How many acres of understory were scraped away along with all the trees for Sound Transit? This needs to be restored as quickly as possible. The birds are dealing with the ways in which climate change is impacting their migration patterns and timing. They have evolved to arrive in a place along the flyway when there is plant and insect food available for them. Without a rich, and diverse canopy and understory we stand to lose them as well.

Please do all within your power to preserve what we have, then enrich it as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Boni Biery