

June 8, 2020

To: Shoreline City Council
From: Michael B. Eisenberg
RE: Maintenance of **one-half block area**, east side of 24th Ave NW

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment. My name is Mike Eisenberg and I've happily lived in Shoreline for over 20 years. I wish to address a physical grounds maintenance issue concerning a **one-half block area on the east side of 24th Ave NW from the main arterial, 196th St, in Richmond Beach.**

I raised this issue previously with Mr. Randy Witt, Director of Public Works. I appreciate Mr. Witt's respectful responses, I hope he feels that I have communicated in kind.

Specifically, I wish to formally request that the City add this area to the list of grounds maintenance service areas on a permanent basis. The City of Shoreline has maintained this area for the past two years. Why can't this continue?

I request that the City do this for 3 reasons – safety, public health, and aesthetics.

1. Safety: The ditch is steep with often a few feet of standing water - and sometimes more. When the surrounding vegetation is high – and right now it's over 4 feet and growing – it is dangerous particularly to young children who play in the area as well as adults who may not be familiar with what is there. Pedestrians mostly avoid the overgrown sidewalk choosing to walk in the street. This can be dangerous as many cars turn from the main arterial onto 24th. The overgrowth also completely hides a fire hydrant.
2. Public Health: The overgrown vegetation and ditch hides rats, mice and other animals and hosts mosquitos and other insects that might carry disease.
3. Aesthetics: We've spent millions on beautification elsewhere in the City of Shoreline. This area, frankly, looks horrible.

Mr. Witt informed me via letter that “It is the adjoining property owner's responsibility to maintain the vegetation to not obstruct passage on the sidewalk adjacent to their property.” But this only addresses a small part of the problem. It doesn't seem proper or fair to also expect a property owner to also maintain a deep drainage ditch area in the City.

Shoreline has “a list of streets where the City maintains vegetation.” I asked that this one-half block be added, but was told that it can't be done. Why? And who makes that decision? That's why I'm here – to ask you to reconsider.

We are talking about one-half block that affects a LOT OF PEOPLE. This is not a major undertaking. With proper equipment, it should take 1-2 hours for one person to maintain this area. If done 2 or 3x a year, it's probably about 4 hours of staff time, max.

Nearby, 20th Ave NW is already maintained, so this one-half block could easily be added to the schedule. One-half block – for public safety, health, and beauty. Surely this can be done.

Thank you.



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