

Attachments: Shoreline Sidewalks and Trees.docx ;
From: [Janet Way](#)
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 2:31:43 PM
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Jessica Simulcik Smith](#); [Debbie Tarry](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Subject: Sidewalks and Trees #8(a) Discussion and Update on the Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program and 2018 Voter Approved New Sidewalk Program
Sensitivity: Normal
Archived: Monday, February 7, 2022 2:46:40 PM

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Dear Mayor and Council,

Please review the attached letter for tonight's meeting.

Thank you.

Janet Way
SPS



940 NE 147th St
Shoreline, WA 98155

February 7, 2022

Mayor of Shoreline and City Council

17500 Midvale Ave N

Shoreline, WA 98155

Council@shorelinewa.gov

Subject: Sidewalks and Trees #8(a) Discussion and Update on the Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program and 2018 Voter Approved New Sidewalk Program

Dear Mayor Scully and Council:

We are writing with regard to the Council Discussion Item "*Discussion and Update on the Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program and 2018 Voter Approved New Sidewalk Program.*"

We do not believe that building sidewalks as proposed should necessarily mean that trees that are in the path of such sidewalks should necessarily be sacrificed. Furthermore, we believe the City Council should direct staff to do everything possible to avoid destroying the trees that are in the path. We strongly suspect that in the 2018 Voter Proposition, which narrowly passed, voters most likely did not realize it would lead to the loss of potentially hundreds of significant existing street trees.

Your staff report on this item clearly shows the interest and desire of the City to protect trees, but in actual implementation, how much will the staff and Council carry out the actual desires of the community to protect its tree canopy?

Please scroll down and review the examples provided of tree protections already accomplished by Shoreline.

Benefits of Trees

As we have written to you many times, Shoreline's trees (featured in our City logo) are extremely valuable and important to residents. Many residents report that our "Trees" was one of the most important reasons they moved here. Most of our streets do not have sidewalks and large trees have grown up and provide incredible services such as, oxygen, CO2 reduction, shade and Heat Island Effect mitigation, stormwater reduction, wildlife habitat, and of course beauty. In a recent poll last year by NW Progressive Institute, Voters in Seattle were shown to overwhelmingly support protection of trees as one of their top issues when analyzing candidates.

<https://www.nwprogressive.org/weblog/2021/12/second-set-of-seattle-tree-protection-poll-findings-affirms-voters-value-urban-forests.html>



Shoreline Voter Approved Sidewalks

The two currently planned sidewalk projects, one on Fifth Ave NE and the other on 20th Ave NW, are examples of how the City of Shoreline could make adjustments in the proposed designs to prevent loss of the trees that are now being proposed for destruction. These project designs could easily be adjusted to accommodate adjacent trees and avoid cutting them.

As we hope you'll recall, Shoreline actually has quite a long record of sidewalk projects that use alternative designs to either save adjacent trees or design projects that would allow for successful planting of thousands of street trees.

We are highlighting a few existing Shoreline Sidewalk Alternative Projects here:

1. Recently Shoreline worked in coordination with experts at WSDOT on the Dayton Ave N project to build a remarkable raised sidewalk that protected dozens of huge trees along the street to provide Transit access.



2. In 2009 Shoreline required this construction of the sidewalk adjacent to the new Southwoods Park on NE 150th. It included a section of pervious pavement and worked around existing trees and also included new plantings of native Dogwood Trees.



- 3.

The 17th Ave Natural Drainage project provided several blocks of Low Impact Development design which enhanced the neighborhood.





4. The Ronald Bog restoration included an ADA approved gravel pathway.

5. Last but clearly not least is the Aurora Phase II + III, which included the Hybrid Design approved by Council and in agreement with businesses for a huge Natural Drainage system including the largest usage of Silva Cells in State History to protect the 900 trees planted.

<https://www.deeproot.com/blog/blog-entries/aurora-shoreline-bioretenion-planter-case-study/>



These examples and many more have been accomplished by the City of Shoreline with Council approval.

We ask that Council direct staff to create options to protect the trees along the two latest sidewalk projects with ALTERNATIVES which may reduce the width of the sidewalks planned or other creative solutions and work with the community in the future for similar options to protect our valuable Tree Canopy resource. This would better fulfill the Council and Comprehensive Plan Goals to protect our Urban Forest.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Way
Shoreline Preservation Society