

Archived: Friday, March 18, 2022 3:32:12 PM

From: [Kathleen Russell](#)

Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2022 7:26:35 PM

To: [City Council](#)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Suggestions to save trees on 5th Ave NE

Response requested: Yes

Sensitivity: Normal

Attachments:

[22 Mar 7 City Council on 5th NE Profile.pdf](#); [5th Ave NE - trees to be removed.xlsx](#); [Sequoia - Green Lake.jpg](#);

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### 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Trees Sidewalk Design (additional to prior letter dated 3/17/22)

Attachments:

1. Boni Biery's letter to Council dated March 7
2. List of trees to be removed. There are five (5) trees in "good" condition.
3. Photo of Sequoia at the north end of Green Lake: no roots in or under a decades-old heavily compacted gavel path.

Photo and quote by John Hushagen, arborist and Shoreline resident, very familiar with the Cedars on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NE: *"I see this pattern repeatedly. Often tree roots under compacted asphalt do not thrive so the Western red cedars are surviving from roots to the west, north and south."*

Suggestions from NW arborists we have talked with in the past week:

- 1) [sonotubes](#)
- 2) [pin-pilings](#)
- 3) [PermaTrak](#) (installed by WSDOT along Dayton Ave N)

Additional suggestions:

- Reduce the widths of sidewalks, bike lanes, and buffer lanes on the west side to accommodate trees/tree roots (see Boni Biery's letter 3/7/22)
- Cut-out of sidewalk, down to ADA approved 4' around the trees to save tree roots and eliminate "walls" (*see photo below*)
- "Permeable" sidewalk is actually worse than concrete as this product is "super thick" and has deeper installation with more root damage
- ADA sidewalk minimum is 4' width. Change configuration on west: 4' sidewalk, 4' bike lane, 1' buffer; East side: change buffer on east side to 1'; 4' bike lane, 6' sidewalk. The above configuration would save 6'. Eliminate wall at 5<sup>th</sup> and NE 178<sup>th</sup>.
- Discuss options with a street architect with the direction to save trees or a civil engineer experienced in saving trees.



New sidewalk at 3rd Ave N and Roy St,  
routed around trees

Submitted by Kathleen Russell  
Save Shoreline Trees/Communications  
March 17,2022

March 7, 2022

RE: Smart Design for 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Sidewalks

Dear Council Members,

Thanks you for holding the construction contract to revisit the road design for 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. I implore you to direct the City Engineer to revisit the road “profile” to accommodate the survival of the large evergreens along the street for the benefit of all. There is a win – win design if only the council has the courage to insist upon it.

## Section View Lavout (30% Design)

5th Avenue NE  
Typical Roadway Section  
(Looking North)



6 5 2 10 10 2 5 6 = 46 ft

Reduce proposed widths

4 4 1 10 10 1 4 4 = 38 ft

- 4 ft sidewalk meets ADA (which may not even apply since the grade is so steep)
- 4 ft bike lane is wider than what is in use now south of N 175<sup>th</sup> on 5<sup>th</sup> NE
- 1 ft of buffer is 1 foot more than there is now and will add 1 ft of safety

These changes would provide an additional 8 ft ( $46 - 38 = 8$ ) of space to shift the course of the roadway away from trees to protect and preserve them. It might even avoid the considerable expense of creating a concrete wall if the trees were left in place to continue to enhance the sidewalk. Where trees/roots are at risk use an elevated sidewalk section to provide an additional 4 ft of root protection on either/or both sides of the profile. If this were done the 17 trees currently doomed for removal it could:

- Save most/all of the trees
- Save the city construction costs
- Keep the neighbors happy

Please give use this opportunity to demonstrate that Shoreline really will work to protect its canopy of mature, climate moderating trees.

always,

Boni Biery

Tree Tag	Tree name	DBH	Height	Condition
101	<i>Austrian pine</i>	15" dbh	40' high	Fair
102	<i>Douglas fir</i>	14" dbh	45' high	Fair
103	<i>Douglas fir</i>	20" dbh	70' high	Good
104	<i>Western hemlock</i>	23" dbh	45' high	Fair
105	<i>Douglas fir</i>	7" dbh	45' high	Fair
106	<i>Douglas fir</i>	9" dbh	45' high	Fair
107	<i>Douglas fir</i>	17" dbh	50' high	Good
111	<i>Douglas fir</i>	11" dbh	45' high	Fair
114	<i>Western red cedar</i>	46" dbh	100' high	Good
115	<i>Western red cedar</i>	5" dbh	14' high	Good
116	<i>Western red cedar</i>	6" dbh	20' high	Poor
117	<i>Western red cedar</i>	36" dbh	100' high	Good
125	<i>Douglas fir</i>	20" dbh	75' high	Fair
126	<i>Western white pine</i>	7" dbh	25' high	Poor
127	<i>Douglas fir</i>	27" dbh	60' high	Fair
239	<i>Douglas fir</i>	12" dbh	55' high	Poor
240	<i>Douglas fir</i>	8" dbh	50' high	Poor
241	<i>Douglas fir</i>	20" dbh	70' high	Poor
242	<i>Norway spruce</i>	15" dbh	100' high	Poor
243	<i>Norway spruce</i>	10" dbh	100' high	Fair
244	<i>Norway spruce</i>	7" dbh	100' high	Fair
245	<i>Norway spruce</i>	20" dbh	100' high	Fair
246	<i>Norway spruce</i>	18" dbh	100' high	Fair

Sources:

Identity of trees from Laura Reiter, Project Manager 2/11/22

Tree information: Watershed Company, July 2020, Tree Table pages 1-3

Conclusion:

23 trees: condition: 5 "good"; 12 "fair"; 6 "poor"

We subtracted the 6 trees in poor condition from the total trees to be removed = 17 trees.

Public ROW trees; private trees:

"100" numbers are public trees (15); "200" numbers are private trees (8)

Public ROW trees are tagged with aluminum tags at eye level

Date: 2/11/22

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