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From: [melanie](#)

Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 10:02:41 PM

To: [City Council](#)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tree Codes and 5th Ave NE Sidewalk design, Council March 21 meeting

Sensitivity: Normal

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To the Shoreline City Council,

I have been a resident of Shoreline for over 30 years. One of the features of Shoreline that drew me here was the number of large trees and the tree canopy.

Tragically, we have lost many of these trees over time to the many development projects around the city which are logging the canopy.

In this time of Climate Crisis it is imperative to act boldly and swiftly to save the trees we have.

In most cases, the original trees will be replaced by either buildings or replacement trees which are typically:

- Mostly non-native and small trees
- Deciduous (leafless in winter)
- Seldom live more than a decade before requiring replacement
- Demand an unending cycle of high maintenance at taxpayer expense

Council members please vote to support the trees we have left:

- **Vote for approval** of the definition of a 6" dbh significant tree
- **Vote that a permit** is required for removal of every tree over 24" dbh(*this relates to all tree codes*)
- **Vote to deny Director authority** to waive and reduce retention of trees on construction sites
- **Vote to deny Director authority** to reduce replacement trees on construction sites

Requiring a permit:

- Affords the opportunity for the city to provide homeowner education and training about the health and value of their trees
- Allows the city to assure only qualified arborists are doing removals of large trees

We should act now to save majestic, mature, evergreen trees that do the work of retaining carbon, supporting wildlife habitat, improving air and water quality, and mitigating stormwater runoff and urban heat island effects that are increasing in Shoreline.

This does not mean we need to hold back progress or growth of Shoreline. It is about balancing the natural beauty present in Shoreline with new housing and services.

In regards to 5th Ave NE Trees Sidewalk Design– See options below from NW arborists;

Raise sidewalks above tree roots for the 17 trees in good and fair condition.

We have particular concern for the 46" dbh and 36" dbh Western Red Cedars at 5th Ave NE and 178th; both 100' high; 80 years.

1. Sonotubes
2. Pin-Pilings
3. Perma Trak (Installed by WSDOT along Dayton Ave N)

Additional suggestions to consider:

- Reduce the widths of sidewalks, bike lanes, and buffer lanes on the west side to accommodate trees/tree roots
- Cut-out of sidewalk, down to ADA approved 4' around the trees to save tree roots
- "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 5th and NE 178th.
- Discuss options with a street architect with the direction to save trees or a civil engineer experienced in saving trees.

Thank you for listening to and addressing the concerns of so many Shoreline citizens,

Melanie Whitaker-Greyell