

## Pollie McCloskey

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**From:** Luanne Brown <luanne.brown@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2022 12:11 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Save Trees in MUR-70' Zones; Council agenda item on 9/12/22

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Shoreline. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Mayor Scully and the Shoreline City Council,

Although I am a resident of Lake Forest Park, I frequent many Shoreline stores and restaurants. Plus, I use service providers located in your city. Lake Forest Park and Shoreline are more than neighbors. We are part of the same broader community—and we share the same ecosystem.

The requests of Shoreline citizens working so diligently to save their trees are entirely reasonable.

But it's evident from the letter from Jake McKinstry of Spectrum Development Solutions that this company is unwilling to concede an inch of ground or a dollar in profit to benefit the future of Shoreline's complex ecosystem. I find their tone threatening and unacceptable.

While I don't object to businesses profiting, why should Spectrum's right to profit take precedence over the right to a healthy environment?

Once again, as is the tradition in our American capitalistic society, profit is poised to win out. It is this attitude that has brought our global ecosystem to its metaphorical knees. The City of Shoreline should and could be a hero—not a villain—in the battle to cool down our region.

The City of Shoreline could say, "Let's find a way for trees and buildings to coexist and benefit each other.," and use its collective imagination to find a better way for actual progress to take place.

Trees are the beating heart of our PNW environment. They cool our alarmingly warm surfaces. They absorb ground water. Can asphalt and concrete do that? They help purify our increasingly polluted air. The value of these services is immeasurable.

Additionally, they improve the community's aesthetics. These huge dense blocks of buildings will seem cold and harsh without the comfort of trees surrounding them. Who wants to walk down a street where little or no shade can be found from our increasingly glaring sun in the summer and our harsher weather in the winter?

Trees are significant allies in the fight to stem the tide of climate change. Why are we allowing policies which kill our allies? Do we not stand the risk of succumbing to this battle ourselves if we do not protect them as the first line of defense they are?

I call upon all involved in this issue to take a step back and reconsider the possibility of a more equitable approach.

Profit cannot be the rod we use to measure the viability of this plan. Profit should not doom the future of our children and grandchildren.

Already, 2000 trees have been lost, with 1000 more expected to fall if these policies go forward. Once this precedent exists, it will be used to destroy even more trees.

Think of what Shoreline will be like in 100 years.

Please, engage your hearts—feel some compassion for these trees.

Engage your minds—be creative in finding more equitable and just solutions.

Act boldly—for the future of your city and the planet.

And if you're not willing to do any of the above, the very least you could do is to grant the modest requests put forth by those residents of your own city who speak so passionately in defense of your trees.

Sincerely,

Luanne C. Brown

Lake Forest Park, WA

Author, **Once in a Pink Moon: The Frog Tale Trilogy - Book 1**

*A retelling of the Frog Prince Tale set against the backdrop of climate change in the PNW.*

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Luanne Brown