

**From:** [Claudia Turner](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [Eben Pobee](#); [Chris Roberts](#); [Laura Mork](#); [Keith Scully](#); [Betsy Robertson](#); [Doris McConnell](#); [John Ramsdell](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 11/21/2022 Biennial Budget Amendments 2 & 3; a Richmond Highlands street tree story  
**Date:** Friday, November 18, 2022 2:49:54 PM

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I am writing to encourage you to approve Amendment 2, to fund an Urban Tree Canopy Study in 2023. This accelerated approach is the wiser option as it will result in more accurate information and put Shoreline's tree canopy studies on a tighter schedule.

In addition, please approve Amendment 3. Shoreline's Street Tree inventory needs to be completed. The sooner the better, as heat islands are increasing in number and size. Once this inventory is complete, Council will have the opportunity to mandate desperately needed street tree planting & preservation in heat islands. This must include providing essential funding for watering and maintenance.

I live in Richmond Highlands not far from the Shorewood HS area heat island (one of Shoreline's hottest, according to a map). Of the many Paper Bark maple street trees that were planted after school construction along Fremont Ave N and N.170th St, the vast majority are spindly, stunted and dying. Primarily this is due to a lack of watering. (I have heard of neighbors so concerned about the trees that they hand water). Some have damaged trunks from mowers and string trimmers. At least two trees on N. 170th have been severely vandalized (cut). With stumps remaining, they are a hazard. This has been reported to SeeClickFix.

Add to this street tree problem the 14 trees vandalized (cut down) in Shorewood's west school parking lot a few years back, yet never replaced by the school district.

<https://www.shorelineareanews.com/2019/02/vandalism-at-shorewood.html>

The sidewalks along here are wide and inviting and on a good day you'll see a steady stream of walkers, but on a hot day it becomes unbearable and is largely devoid of people until early evening. It's missing the protective effects of street trees. Instead we have unattractive trees that even after 9 years, are unable to provide shade.

In order for Shoreline to truly be walkable, especially in heat island neighborhoods such as mine, the City must include more provisions for planting and protection of street trees.

Thank you,  
Claudia Turner, Richmond Highlands  
Save Shoreline Trees

