

Memorandum

To: Edson Gallaudet, Build Urban

From: Benjamin Mark, American Forest Management

Date: 9/9/2020

Re: Tree Assessment at 8720 SE 52nd Place, Mercer island

Greetings Mr. Gallaudet,

On August 26th 2020 at your request, I evaluated the condition of three trees located at 8720 SE 52nd Place in Mercer Island. The trees were to be retained and protected from impacts associated with construction of the new house. An arborist report prepared by American Forest Management on August 7th, 2018 detailed development activity near these trees. Each were rated 'Moderate Risk' due to the possibility of failure and high likelihood of striking the new building causing severe damage. The report recommended a re-evaluation of their condition after two years.

Observations/Discussion

Tree #8409 is a western red cedar with a DBH (trunk diameter at 4.5 feet above grade) of 43.5 inches and an overall height of 104 feet. It shows good foliage color and a full crown. Tree protection fencing is in place 15 feet north of the trunk. The arborist report from 2018 describes excavation and minor root disturbance 22 feet to the east of this tree and adjacent tree #8410.

Tree #8410 is a western hemlock with a 35 inch DBH and an overall height of 100 feet. Tree protection fencing is in place 13 feet to the east of its trunk. It shows healthy vigor with good foliage color and a full crown.

Tree #8251 is a western hemlock with a DBH of 21.2 inches and a height of 84 feet. This tree shows good vigor with a high live crown ratio and a slight lean to south. An infiltration drainage system is installed to the north, and a natural gas line will be installed just outside the dripline 17 feet to the west. The arborist report from 2018 described approximately eight 2-4 inch diameter roots damaged by an excavator eight feet north of its trunk. Some yard waste debris is piled at the base, and some construction materials are piled to the north just outside of the dripline. There is no tree protection fencing between this tree and the construction zone. There is potential for decay originating from the root cuts in 2018 to enter the trunk of the tree. It is possible that this tree could become structurally unstable in the future due to this root disturbance.

Further excavation is necessary to install the gas line north of tree #8251. This excavation should not encroach within 15 feet of the trunk. If it is not possible to maintain at least a 15 foot area of undisturbed soil in each direction of the trunk the tree is likely to be severely impacted. Violating this limit of disturbance would likely create a structurally unstable tree that would not have a long useful life expectancy in that location.

Tree Condition Summary / Recommendations

Each tree detailed in this report show good foliage color and vigor. It is my opinion that they should continue to have a safe useful life expectancy if the following conditions are met.

- Follow all tree protection measures outlined in the arborist report from 2018.
- Tree protection fencing should be installed at the dripline of tree #8251. No further excavation or storage of materials should take place within the fenced area.
- Trees on the property should be reassessed if changes in condition or structure occur.

Planting Summary

I evaluated the planting plan to determine if it met the requirements of MICC 19.10.070 Tree Replacement obligation of 22 native trees. The plan specifies eight vine maple, six Amelanchier and five hybrid dogwoods all at least 1.5 inch caliper spaced at least 10 feet on center. The planting plan also includes 65 native shrubs which replace trees at a 6:1 ratio and 115 native groundcover ferns which replace trees at a 12:1 ratio. This planting specification is equivalent to 39 replacement trees.

Classification	Count	Tree equivalent
Trees	19	19
Shrubs	65 (6:1)	10.8
Ground Cover	115 (12:1)	9.6
		TOTAL REPLACEMENT: 39

Removal of invasive species such as ivy and blackberry from the area around retained trees on the north and west sides of the property will improve the condition of the retained trees and encourage natural regeneration of native species. This work should be accomplished without the use of heavy equipment, and the grade should be covered with 3-4 inches of arbor chip mulch to retain moisture and discourage re-infestation of invasive species.

Please call if you have any questions or need further assistance on this project.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Mark

ISA Certified Arborist #PN-6976A

Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ)

Page 2 September 8, 2020

Site and Tree Location





Page 3 September 8, 2020

Photographs

Image from 2018 showing trench east of trees #8409 and #8410



Image from 2018 showing Tree #8251 with roots torn approximately 8' north of the trunk.



Page 4 September 8, 2020

Closer view of torn roots of Tree #8251 in 2018

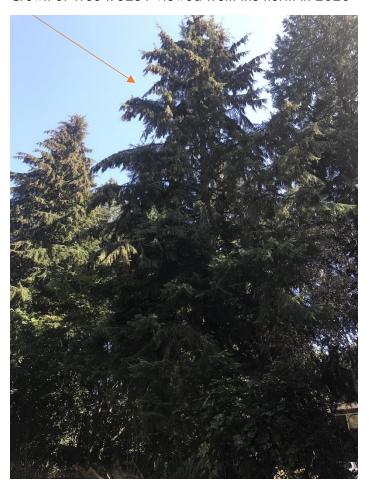


Trunk of Tree #8251 viewed from the east in 2020



Page 5 September 8, 2020

Crown of Tree #8251 viewed from the north in 2020



Shared canopy of #8409 (right) and #8410 (left)



Page 6 September 8, 2020

