

Gilles Consulting

— Brian K. Gilles —

4 2 5 - 8 2 2 - 4 9 9 4

**PRUNING AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR
TWO HORNBEAMS**

**At:
9224 SE 60th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040**

June 9, 2020

PREPARED FOR:

**Dave Coster, CGR
Customer Service Manager
P.O. Box 306
Woodinville, WA 98072-0306**

PREPARED BY:

GILLES CONSULTING

Brian K. Gilles, Consulting Arborist

ISA Certified Arborist # PN-0260A

ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist # RCA-418

ISA TRAQ Qualified

ISA TRAQ Certified Instructor



fax: 425-822-6314

email: bkgilles@comcast.net

P.O. Box 2366 Kirkland, WA 98083

CONTENTS

ASSIGNMENT.....	3
METHODOLOGY	3
OBSERVATIONS.....	3
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	6
Conclusion	6
Tree Pruning.....	6
WAIVER OF LIABILITY	8

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The two trees are in excellent health and structure. They will be able to tolerate the pruning required to accommodate construction.

ASSIGNMENT

Dave Coster, with Westhill Inc., contracted with Gilles Consulting to evaluate two large trees at 9224 SE 60th Street in Woodinville, Washington. The property is being re-developed, and the City of Mercer Island is requiring a *Pruning Plan* for two large trees that are in the SE 60th Street right-of-way. Specifically, the City requested a pruning plan that will allow equipment, vehicles, and supply deliveries to occur without damaging the trees.

METHODOLOGY

To evaluate the trees, as well as to prepare this report, I drew upon my 30+ years of experience in the field of arboriculture and my formal education in natural resources management, dendrology, forest ecology, plant identification, and plant physiology. I followed the protocol of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) for visual tree assessment. This is a scientifically based process to look at the entire site, surrounding land, and soil, as well as a complete look at the trees themselves.

In examining each tree, I looked at such factors as: size, vigor, canopy and foliage condition, density of needles, injury, insect activity, root damage and root collar health, crown health, evidence of disease-causing bacteria, fungi or virus, dead wood and hanging limbs.

OBSERVATIONS

The two trees are on either side of the front sidewalk and have grown up as a single architectural unit. This is significant in that any action to one of the two will impact the other as well

- Species:
 - Both trees are European Hornbeam, *Carpinus betula*
- Size:
 - Their trunks are both 18.2 inches in diameter.
 - Their canopies have approximately a 56-foot spread.
 - Their canopies and canopy structures act as a single unit.
 - The canopies are approximately 8 feet above the road surface and the yard.

- Foliage:
 - The foliage is dense and lush.
 - The top 15% of the canopy, known as the crown, is healthy.
 - I did not observe any insect infestations nor any pathogenic infections.
- Structures:
 - I did not observe any structural defects.
- Roots:
 - The roots are restricted by the sidewalk and the road surface.

Photo # 1: A 2019 aerial photo taken from the King County Assessor's website. The two trees are these. Note how the canopies look like one tree. They also act as a single unit.



Photo # 2: A panoramic photo of the two trees from the front yard looking to the southwest.



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

- Both trees are in excellent health and structure.
- They have the current health, vigor, internal stored reserves, and wind firmness to tolerate proper pruning for construction clearance.

Tree Pruning

1. Canopy Pruning for Construction Clearance:
 - a. The canopies of the two trees will need to be properly pruned to allow construction clearance.
 - b. The pruning must be done by an International Society of Arboriculture, (ISA) Certified Arborist using current industry standard pruning techniques. (ANSI A300 Pruning Standards and ANSI Z131.1 Safety Standards as well as all OSHA, WISHA, and local standards must be followed.)
 - c. The pruning *must* be done from a lift truck to allow tip pruning and the smallest cuts possible.
 - d. Plant debris can be chipped and utilized on site for the mulch under the trees.
 - e. The canopies should be pruned up to 12 feet above the road surface.
 - i. If proper pruning techniques mean the pruning cuts would raise the canopy to 14 feet above the road surface, this is acceptable based upon the decision of the Certified Arborist.
2. Canopy Pruning for the Yard Side of the Canopies:
 - a. It is not necessary to ‘balance’ the crowns of trees. This is a human need not a tree need.
 - b. However, if the owners desire more sunlight and more clearance above the yard and away from the house, balancing the canopy to be 12 to 14 feet above the yard is very reasonable.
 - c. The trees have the current health, vigor, structural stability, wind-firmness, and internal stored reserves to handle this level of canopy loss.
 - d. All the same measures outlined in section 1 above must be adhered to.

Photo # 3: Looking east from the road at the two trees. The canopy is currently 8 feet above the roadway. It should be properly pruned to be 12 to 14 feet above the driveway.



Prune to 12' – 14'

Currently 8'

Not to scale.

WAIVER OF LIABILITY

There are many conditions affecting a tree's health and stability, which may be present and cannot be ascertained, such as, root rot, previous or unexposed construction damage, internal cracks, stem rot and more which may be hidden. Changes in circumstances and conditions can also cause a rapid deterioration of a tree's health and stability. Adverse weather conditions can dramatically affect the health and safety of a tree in a very short amount of time. While I have used every reasonable means to examine these trees, this evaluation represents my opinion of the tree health at this point in time. These findings do not guarantee future safety nor are they predictions of future events.

The tree evaluation consists of an external visual inspection of an individual tree's root flare, trunk, and canopy from the ground only unless otherwise specified. The inspection may also consist of taking trunk or root soundings for sound comparisons to aid the evaluator in determining the possible extent of decay within a tree. Soundings are only an aid to the evaluation process and do not replace the use of other more sophisticated diagnostic tools for determining the extent of decay within a tree.

As conditions change, it is the responsibility of the property owners to schedule additional site visits by the necessary professionals to ensure that the long-term success of the project is ensured. It is the responsibility of the property owner to obtain all required permits from city, county, state, or federal agencies. It is the responsibility of the property owner to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and permit conditions. If there is a homeowners association, it is the responsibility of the property owner to comply with all Codes, Covenants, and Restrictions (CC&R's) that apply to tree pruning and tree removal.

This tree evaluation is to be used to inform and guide the client in the management of their trees. This in no way implies that the evaluator is responsible for performing recommended actions or using other methods or tools to further determine the extent of internal tree problems without written authorization from the client. Furthermore, the evaluator in no way holds that the opinions and recommendations are the only actions required to insure that the tree will not fail. A second opinion is recommended. The client shall hold the evaluator harmless for any and all injuries or damages incurred if the evaluator's recommendations are not followed or for acts of nature beyond the evaluator's reasonable expectations, such as severe winds, excessive rains, heavy snow loads, etc.

This report and all attachments, enclosures, and references, are confidential and are for the use of the client concerned. They may not be reproduced, used in any way, or disseminated in any form without the prior consent of the client concerned and Gilles Consulting.

Thank you for calling Gilles Consulting for your arboricultural needs.

Sincerely,



Brian K. Gilles, Consulting Arborist
ISA Certified Arborist # PN-0260A
ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist # RCA-418
ISA TRAQ Qualified
ISA TRAQ Certified Instructor