

Memorandum

To: Megan McKay
From: Benjamin Mark – American Forest Management
Date: 2/9/2022
Re: Site Work Near Retained Trees at the ‘Mercer Island Mixed Use’ Project

2885 78TH AVE SE.
MERCER ISLAND, WA

Greetings,

At your request, I reviewed your site plans to evaluate the proposed impacts within the ‘drip line’ of one tree intended to be retained on the north side of the property. The drip line is the area directly below the tree’s branches or canopy.

The impacted tree is identified as #207 in the arborist report for this project prepared on January 16, 2020. That document described the condition of all trees on the site and expected impacts to them resulting from the planned construction.

If recommended tree protection measures are adhered to throughout all phases of development, the subject tree is likely to remain viable throughout the construction depicted on the proposed plans.

Observations of Subject Tree

TREE #207 is a ‘Large’ London plane (*Platanus x. acerifolia*) growing near the north property line. This tree has a 23.1 inch DBH and is located near, or possibly on the property line and has large surface roots which are disrupting the walkway and steps immediately to its west. The plan is to remove the existing concrete stairs on the subject property and leave the brick path (right of blue line in photo below) which is on the neighbor’s property in place. No new concrete stairs or ramp is proposed, rather an expansion of the landscape bed.

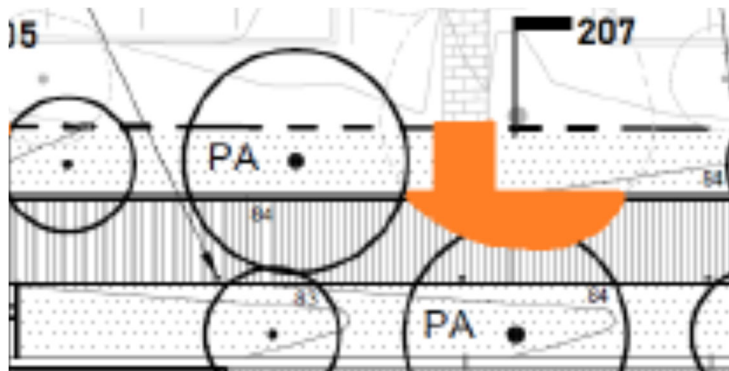


Lower trunk of Tree #207. Note concrete step to be removed and brick path to remain.

Discussion

London plane trees typically demonstrate relatively good tolerance of construction related impacts. However, existing physiological defects and site changes can combine to destabilize a tree.

A six-foot-wide planting area is proposed along the majority of the north property line. Ground disturbance in this area including any trenching for utilities, or compaction caused by heavy equipment traffic or materials storage shall be prohibited in this area. Approximately 60 square feet of pavement removal is proposed within the drip line of Tree #207 as shown in orange on the diagram below.



Construction activity is not recommended within a tree's drip line. If disturbance within a retained tree's drip line is required, the best management practices outlined below should be closely adhered to. Any work within the drip line should be supervised by the project arborist.

Recommendations

- Tree protection fencing shall be erected around retained trees and positioned as shown on the attached prior to moving any heavy equipment on site. Doing this will set clearing limits and avoid compaction of soils within root zones of retained trees. Further soil compaction or root disturbance within the drip lines should be avoided to prevent unnecessary damage to the root system.
- Concrete or pavement to be removed from within the driplines of retained trees shall be broken into manageable pieces and removed by hand.
- All work near retained trees must avoid contact from excavator arms or any other equipment with the trunks or branches.
- Any roots that become damaged or broken by heavy equipment must be cut clean with a reciprocating saw to promote occlusion of the wound.
- Any roots which are exposed during demolition or construction should be regularly irrigated to prevent them from drying out until they can be recovered with soil.
- All soil within the planting area around these trees must be amended with 3-5 inches of natural mulch material such as compost or finely shredded limbs also known as 'arborist chips.'
- Monitor the trees for changes in health or structure. Have the trees re-assessed once development activity has finished.

Mercer Island Mixed Use Project

Limiting Conditions

There is no warranty suggested for any of the trees subject to this report. Weather, latent tree conditions, and future human-caused activities could cause physiologic changes and deteriorating tree condition. Over time, deteriorating tree conditions may appear and there may be conditions not now visible which could cause tree failure. This report or the verbal comments made at the site in no way warrant the structural stability or long-term condition of any tree, but represent my opinion based on the observations made.

Nearly all trees in any condition standing within reach of improvements or human use areas represent hazards that could lead to damage or injury.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Mark", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Benjamin Mark
ISA Certified Arborist #PN-6976A
ISA Qualified Tree Risk Assessor (TRAQ)