



# LAYTON TREE CONSULTING, LLC

## TREES & CONSTRUCTION MEMO

To: Matt Glaser, McCullough Architects  
From: Bob Layton  
CC: Bogdan Maksimchuk, Barcelo Homes  
Date: April 12, 2022  
Re: Tree Protection at 7216 93<sup>rd</sup> Ave SE – Tree #18

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Dear Mr. Glaser,

On Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> per your request, I visited your project site at 7216 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SE on Mercer Island to evaluate the limits of acceptable impacts near Tree #18 to be retained at the back of the proposed new single-family residence. This is a semi-mature bigleaf maple.

The tree protection fencing shown on the initial site plan did not allow appropriate access for new construction. The city wants a minimum of 5-feet of clearance between the tree protection barrier and the new house. Apparently, the cut for the basement/foundation will be deep and require an eco-block wall to support grade during the excavation.

On Friday, a 2-foot-deep trench was air-excavated at 8-feet south of the trunk face of Tree #18 so the presence and size of existing roots could be inspected and ascertained. Eight roots greater than 2-inches in diameter were exposed. The largest root is 4-inches in diameter. There were also 3 – 3-inch diameter roots and 4 - 2-inch. See pictures below. There also a few large roots from the mature English laurel shrubs that cover the area.

Cutting the roots at this location is not recommended. Long-term tree health is likely to be jeopardized. I would be comfortable allowing an 11-foot Limit of Disturbance from the trunk face as shown on the attached diagram. The roots at this distance would be notably smaller than those exposed at 8-feet from the trunk face. I would not expect any consequential impacts on the long-term health or stability of the tree so long as work is carried out diligently and the tree protection recommendations and guidelines as outlined in the arborist report and below are adhered to. This would also afford 6-feet of clearance between the tree protection zone and the new building at the closest distance to the tree.

*It's all about trees.....*

Bigleaf maple is a hardy species and tolerable of the proposed impacts, so long as work is carried out diligently. Protecting the soils within areas that do not need to be disturbed will be important to reduce the overall impacts and stress on the tree. Cover all of these areas with a protective covering of a +/- 6-inch layer of coarse wood chip mulch or hog fuel.

All severed or damaged roots at the excavation limits outside of tree protection areas will be hand-excavated and pruned back to healthy, sound tissue, prior to backfilling or finishing areas. Sound tissue is where the root is undamaged and the bark is completely intact with the root.

To maintain the subject trees in the best condition possible, frequent supplemental irrigation during the dry season of June through September shall be applied to the disturbed outer dripline areas of impacted trees. Keeping the soils moist in these areas will create a favorable environment for new feeder root growth and reduce the degree of stress associated with the site changes and any root disturbance or loss.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need further assistance.

Sincerely,



**Bob Layton**  
Registered Consulting Arborist #670  
ISA Certified Arborist #PN-2714A  
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified

Attachments

Tree #18 Diagram

## Arborist Disclosure Statement

Arborists are tree specialists who use their education, knowledge, training and experience to examine and assess trees, recommend measures to enhance the beauty and health of trees, and attempt to reduce the risks associated with living near trees. Clients may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations of the arborist, or to seek additional advice.

Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the structural failure of a tree. Trees are living organisms that grow, respond to their environment, mature, decline and sometimes fail in ways we do not fully understand. Conditions are often hidden within trees and below ground.

Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy and/or safe under all circumstances, or for a specified period of time. Likewise, remedial treatments, like any medicine, cannot be guaranteed. Treatment, pruning and removal of trees may involve considerations beyond the scope of the arborist's services such as property boundaries, property ownership, site lines, disputes between neighbors, and other issues. Arborists cannot take such considerations into account unless complete and accurate information is disclosed to the arborist. An arborist should then be expected to reasonably rely upon the completeness and accuracy of the information provided.

Trees can be managed, but they cannot be controlled. To live near trees is to accept some degree of risk. The only way to eliminate all risk associated with trees is to eliminate all trees.

Photo Documentation

Root crown of Tree #18 in background



Cluster of 2 to 3-inch roots south of root crown



Cluster of 2 to 3-inch roots southwest of root crown

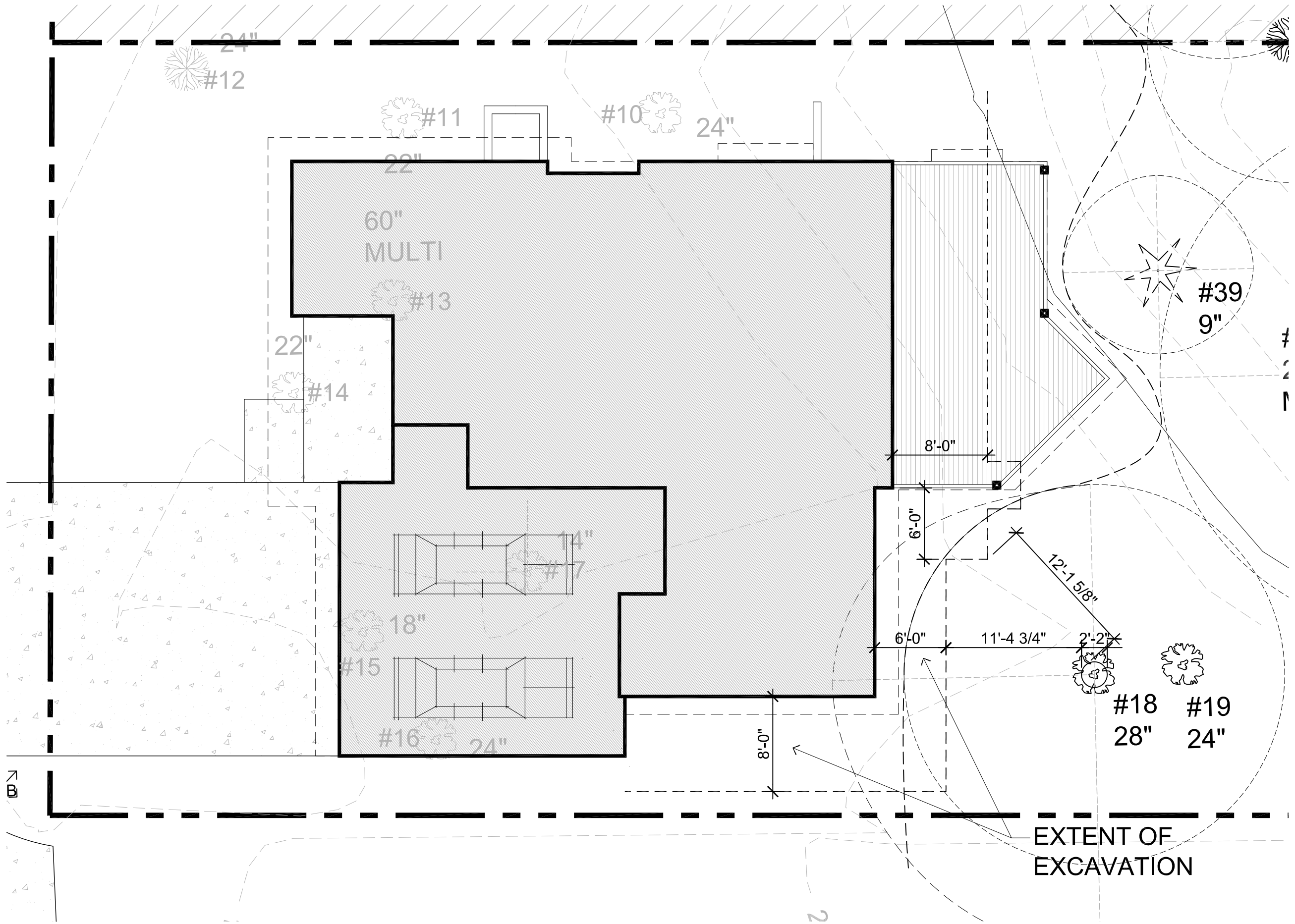


Cluster of 2-inch roots southeast of root crown



Air-excavated trench





EXTENT OF EXCAVATION

2