ARBORIST REPORT

Date:
December 9, 2021

Prepared for:
Dale & Candy Bretschneider

Site Address:
8141 SE 44th St.
Mercer Island, WA

Prepared by:
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NARRATIVE

Scope of Work
You have asked me to review the tree protection measures that are needed to provide protection for certain trees at the above referenced site, as may be associated with a proposed residential addition. You provided a surveyed site plan referenced as A1, with my arborist revision date 12/9/2021. The proposed addition does not require any trees to be removed.

Methodology
The methods and techniques used for this assessment are as outlined in *Tree Risk Assessment* by Julian Dunster and as adopted by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). Additional standards, practices and specifications are as detailed in *ANSI Standard A300 (Part 9)-2017 Tree Risk Assessment a. Tree Failure*. The end goal of most assessments is to provide the owner or manager of the tree(s) with factual information, enabling them to make decisions about the management of the tree(s). For this particular assessment, I used a Level II Assessment that includes inspection of the root collar, lower trunk, and canopy of the trees as can be seen from the ground. Basic assessment does not include climbing the tree or excavation of soils to inspect root structure or condition.

I measured each tree for its Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), an industry standard of measuring trees at 4.5' above grade. I completed a Tree Inventory and Assessment spreadsheet that details each tree by Reference Number, Species, Common Name, Size (DBH), Dripline, Condition, with Comments. Condition is rated on a scale of Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent and considers overall vigor and structure. The trees were not tagged with a physical tag but are referenced as Tree #1 – Tree #12 and are easy to distinguish one from another by referencing their relative location to other site features and structures.

Findings and Observations
I visited the site December 2nd, 2021. There are ten (10) trees located on-site and an additional two (2) trees located in the right-of-way. The following trees are noteworthy.

Tree #1 and #2 are large Coast Redwood. These trees should have no construction impacts and they are completely contained within a large planting area surrounded by a circular driveway and street. This large planting area will be encircled with tree protection fencing just to assure that construction equipment or materials are not staged there.

Tree #3 will be protected from the nearby excess soils storage area by the use of protective fencing.

Tree #4 is a 29.6" DBH Western Red Cedar that will have tree protection at its dripline radius on it's western side. The proposed limits of disturbance (LOD) will be very close to the tree protection fence in this area. It does not appear that any limbs of this tree will need to be removed to provide building clearance. See additional Considerations below.

Tree #5 is a 30.0" Red Alder that is in Poor condition with multiple failed upper canopy stems. The proposed excavation will not intrude into the dripline of this tree. While this assessment did not specifically include risk assessment, this tree should be assessed for risk as it may pertain to the proposed new addition. The tree is in moderate decline.

Tree #10 is 10.7" DBH Alpine Fir that is dead. It is on the survey and is included in the attached Tree Inventory. This tree has been permitted for removal but was not yet removed at the time of this assessment. The Mercer Island Permit number is 2110-205.

The remainder of the on-site trees are well outside of the proposed work zone.

Considerations

While no trees will need to be removed, Tree #4 will have excavation at it's dripline on its western side, or about 15' from the center of the tree. The remainder of the dripline radius is undisturbed native soils and will not be impacted by proposed construction activity. While on-site I noted a small excavated pit near the dripline radius of this tree. The pit was apparently excavated for the purpose of soil sampling. The pit was approximately 24" deep and 15" wide. The sides of the bit revealed very small roots (1/4" diameter) that are most likely from the cedar tree. See Photo below. Further proposed excavation will probably impact similar roots. The tree appears vigorous and will likely generate new fine roots to compensate for those that might be severed.

The following mitigation measures should be undertaken and monitored.

- Tree protection shall be as detailed on the site plan.
- Arborist wood chips or the equivalent should be placed 3-4" deep on the bare soils near Tree #4 as soon as reasonable following excavation.

Conclusions

Of primary concern is the protection of the roots from Tree #4. I believe that the tree protection measures for this tree, as detailed, will work well to assure the least amount of root system impacts.

15” wide by 24” deep pit reveals small cedar roots near surface.

This report was prepared by Thomas Quigley, ISA certified arborist PN0655A. Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ) by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).