

## Fused Elements Native Tree Stewardship Plan

2/27/24

The Fused Elements project vision is to incorporate the development of a new construction home with the homeowner's intent to preserve the native character and original vegetation of the surrounding area. In fact, the name of the project, "Fused Elements" is reflective of the owner's desire to fuse the landscape with an enjoyable contemporary house design.

In that spirit, wherever feasible, the homeowners are preserving the maximum tree canopy, and enhancing green spaces with low canopy cover. \*This is also consistent with the city code recognizing "the value of protecting, enhancing and maintaining trees while balancing the community goal of reasonable enjoyment and use of private property by the homeowners."

Similarly, the homeowners are also trying to preserve the upper meadow which has existed since the 1930's, before Mercer Island was incorporated.

In our revised plan, we have worked with Tree Solutions to save an additional 6 Trees that we originally thought would have to be removed. That reduces the replacement number from 77 to 71. In addition, our new plan has the homeowner planting an additional 31 trees.

In total, we are now replacing 31 trees. 29 of these are natives. We feel that we are replacing the maximum number of trees that can realistically thrive in these locations given the arborists recommendation to avoid disturbing and planting on the steep slope as well as our desire to preserve and protect the extensive native woodlands, so that the entire landscape and the newly planted trees can thrive over time in the available space.

Along with planting these additional trees, we will take the following significant additional steps to restore the following critical tree areas (currently filled with invasive plants or asphalt) and transform them into thriving woodland areas that incorporate native vegetation:

1. Restore and replant the neglected native understory at the east entry of the property with native ferns and shrubs (1800 sq ft).
2. Restore the native understory (on lot 39) by replacing invasives with native trees and ferns where possible.
3. Replace the west-facing asphalt driveway near the waterfront with native watershed planting beds and lawn. (1650 sq ft)

### 19.10.070-Tree Replacement

4.Reduction. The city arborist may reduce the number of replacement trees as follows: where other measures mitigate the tree loss by restoring the tree canopy coverage and its associated benefits are considered to be effective and consistent with the purposes of this chapter. The city arborist may consider, but is not limited to, the following measures:

- a. Replacement of hazardous, undesired, or short-lived trees with healthy new trees that have a greater chance of long-term survival;
- b. Restoration of critical tree areas with native vegetation; and
- c. Protection of small trees to provide for successional stages of tree canopy.

\*These measures are consistent and recommended measures as approved by King County and are consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

This plan of tree replacement and critical area tree restoration is also consistent with the letter and intent of section 19.10.005-Purpose:

- Adding native trees and preserving the existing understory also follows the code requirements of protecting, enhancing and maintaining trees as key community values expressed in the Mercer Island comprehensive plan.
- Storage of carbon and providing climate benefits, improve surface water and air quality, benefit Lake Washington, enhance habitat for salmon and other wildlife, reduce polluted stormwater runoff in communities and waterways, reducing noise pollution and recognizing this "...should be balanced with the other community goals of reasonable enjoyment and use of private property by the property owner...".
- The homeowners will provide a maintenance plan to sustain these areas and ensure the health of the local environment.



