

Thomas Boyce
12227 Huckleberry Lane
Arlington WA 98223

5/5/2017

To : Mercer Island Planning

Re: Arborist Report for Johan Valentin Property
4346 E. Mercer Way Mercer Island WA

I was contacted in my capacity as an ISA Certified Arborist by Johan Valentin to identify and assess the trees on his property prior to new home construction. The assessment addresses the impact of the excavation for house construction and stream preservation.

There are three (2,3,4) large Douglas Firs (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) at the western edge of the area to be excavated for the new home. These trees are all leaning but appear to be well rooted with no visible trunk rot. Although healthy, these Fir tree's roots would be greatly compromised by any excavation for the garage and driveway. Any considerable loss of the larger roots that are crucial for stability would increase the possibility for failure. The three Fir trees should be removed.

On the north edge of the property is a year round stream that flows into Lake Washington. The stream is going to be slightly rerouted as it goes underground to accommodate the new construction. There are many trees growing parallel to the northern property line and the stream. The underground portion of the stream is not deep but will require excavation around existing tree roots when rerouting. I recommend only hand digging in the stream area to prevent damage to any significant roots. Tunneling around or under roots is encouraged. Any roots that need to be cut should be done cleanly with a sharp saw. This will allow the roots to regrow properly. In addition, a mature Vine Maple, not on the plan, will have to be removed to allow for construction. All remaining trees and shrubs along the stream should be pruned according to species requirements prior to construction to avoid any mechanical damage.

There are several dying trees that should be removed on the northern border. The senescent Flowering Plum (22,23) with trunk rot and severe crown die back should be removed . The Birch (27) has crown die back and should be removed.

Growing parallel and close to the southeast property line there are two over mature Poplars (20,21) and five Pines that should be removed. Poplars are a very fast growing species with a short life span. Trees of this size and age constantly shed spear-like branches. There is visible die back in the crowns of these trees in decline. The Poplars pose a safety and liability risk to both property owners.

The five Pines (15-19) with trunk lean are growing into the southern neighbor's property . These were planted as landscape trees and are failing to thrive. There is minimal growth on the north side of the Pines. Several have multiple tops. These trees are heavily weighted to the one side slowly pulling the trees to the south. The Pines should be removed before they become more of a nuisance as they continue to fail.

Thomas Boyce

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Boyce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

ISA Certified Arborist PN 6183A

ISA Tree Risk Assessor 290

Tboyce75@hotmail.com

Species	DBH (inches)	Dripline (radius)
1. Redwood	20	20ft.
2. Douglas Fir	26	20ft.
3. Douglas Fir	26	20ft.
4. Douglas Fir	30	20ft.
5. Leyland Cypress	6	5ft.
6. Leyland Cypress	6	5ft.
7. Leyland Cypress	6	5ft.
8. Birch	10	15ft.
9. Birch	10	15ft.
10. Birch	10	15ft.
11. Birch	6	15ft.
12. Cedar	10	15ft.
13. Cedar	14	12ft.
14. Cedar	10	12ft.
15. Pine	18	10ft. avg.
16. Pine	16	10ft. avg.
17. Pine	18	10ft. avg.
18. Pine	16	10ft. avg.
19. Pine	12	10ft. avg.
20. Poplar	24	15ft.
21. Poplar	18	15ft.
22. Fl. Plum	6	15ft.
23. Fl. Plum	10	15ft.
24. Fl. Plum	8	15ft.
25. Fl. Plum	8	15ft.
26. Birch	10	15ft.
27. Birch	10	15ft.
28. Birch	16	15ft.

Recommended Tree Removal for Valentin Property

2. Douglas Fir

3. Douglas Fir

4. Douglas Fir

15. Pine

16. Pine

17. Pine

18. Pine

19. Pine

20. Poplar

21. Poplar

22. Fl. Plum

23. Fl. Plum

27. Birch