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Shelter Homes  
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Hello Roy,

Here is the tree protection plan you requested for the property located at **2675 74<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Mercer Island, 98040.**

**Tree Protection:**

The tree in question is a **33" DBH Western Red Cedar tree** with a **17'** physical drip line radius. The builder would like to add on to the existing deck while retaining the tree. It appears from measuring off existing deck the new deck will come to within **9'** of the tree.

The trees critical root zone (CRZ) is typically **50%** of the trees drip line. For a Cedar tree it is ideal to protect the tree one foot per inch of diameter but this is not a typical construction build in which there would be a significant amount of excavation. In this case the builder will only be placing concrete piers for the footing of the deck. The impact to the tree from this type of construction will be minor if not negligible.

The protection fence should be **6'** tall bright, orange protective fencing. It should be constructed at **8' from the trunk** out to the protection limits. (Measure off the bark)

Below I have added some general tree protection measures tailored to this particular circumstance.

## Notes

The property owner may want to have the tree “**crown cleaned**” after the new addition on the existing home there will be more targets closer to the tree.

Below I have shown on a scale of 1-10 (1 worst/10 best) the general condition of the tree in question.

**Roots and Root Crown: 8**

**Trunk: 7**

**Crown and Branches: 8**

## Methodology

My report is based on **level 1** assessment. This means that no specialty tools/devices were used or needed to complete the assessments. (*i.e. resistograph, soil probing, air spade, etc*)

I used a long, skinny welding rod to probe the attachments and any areas in the root crown that appear to be problematic. I did not note any significant decay in any of these areas.

I also used binoculars to inspect the crown of the tree.

## Tree Protection Guidelines/Measures

- If roots need to be pruned, they should be cut with pruning saws, made flush with the side of the trench.
- Tree should be watered at least twice a week if construction is to take place during hot summer months.
- Control soil moisture within the protected area. Prevent flooding of the soil, and protect root areas from leachate, cement, oil, fuel, and all other contaminants.
- Do not store materials potentially harmful to tree roots within **5'** of protected areas. These include, but are not limited to: petroleum products, cement and concrete materials, cement additives, lime, paint coatings, waterproofing gents, form coatings, detergents, acids, and cleaning agents.
- Mycorrhizal treatments may be added to the soil to increase the tree root's ability to uptake water and nutrients, improving its chances of withstanding environmental stress.

## **Proper “Side Trimming” Guidelines:**

The property owner may need to do some clearance pruning/trimming after the new structure is complete. The reason for this is the new structure will be fairly close to the trees branches.

When doing this sort of pruning it is always best when possible to cut the branch back to the branch collar, often called a “collar cut”. This will allow the cut to callus over and develop good wound wood around the cut.

If it is not possible to make “collar cuts” on the encroaching branches try to cut them back to a good, healthy leader that is at least half the diameter of the branch you are reducing.

The trimming/pruning work should be performed according to **ANSI 700** standards and performed by a licensed, bonded, and insured tree company/service. It is preferable to have a certified arborist carry out the work to be performed, but this is not always possible/practical.

It is ideal to use an aerial lift truck to perform the pruning but this is not always possible. If the tree company does need to climb the tree, spurless climbing methods are preferred.

Thank you,

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