



ARBORIST REPORT
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From: Andrew Prince, Urban Forestry Specialist

Re: Tree Conditions in Future Bike Skills Area

BACKGROUND: The Northwest area of Deans Children's Park is planned to be re-developed as a bike skills area. A tree assessment was requested following the area survey and before bike course design to determine if there are trees that are not worth retaining and altering course design around due to poor tree conditions or tree risk.

RECOMMENDATION: Trees in this area have been impacted by past adventure playground activities, with damaged from nails, bark removal and compacted soils. Tree removal workers should be made aware of the presence steel nails in some trees. None of the trees in the area pose an unacceptable level of risk at this time.

The smaller trees in the area are mostly native Big Leaf Maple and invasive English Laurel. The Maple are somewhat suppressed by a mature canopy, and many of the smaller trees have defects such as broken tops or trunk wounds. All English Laurel may be removed from the site to make way for bike course construction as it is an invasive species. Many of the smaller diameter Maple trees do not pose unacceptable levels of risk because of their small size and low site occupation, yet their removal would not negatively impact the forest stand. Removing some of the small diameter trees with notable structural defects would mitigate future risk from falling trees or parts of trees, free up light and water resources for remaining trees and make bike course construction easier. The associated survey has several trees marked in red that have the highest level of defects, making them prime candidates for removal.

Dead trees are not captured in the survey. All dead trees in the project site may, and should be removed prior to construction.

The mature trees are generally in good condition and should be retained with efforts made to protect critical root zones from excavation or additional soil build up from jump and trail construction, which may smother roots. A Tree Protection Plan should be created and reviewed by city staff as part of the Bike Skills design process.