

Response for : Malatesta Public Comment Letter dated January 2024

Ron Malatesta is concerned about the dangers of trees 2&3 as detailed in the original comment letter dated 2023. Below is an expert for a memo prepared by Tom Quigley the arborist for this project. I have also included the full copy of the memo for the Malatesta's records.

The invasive ivy was removed and both trees were climbed to perform inspections of the old topping cuts. The neighbor to the immediate east came out and shared with us that he had lived in the home for 50 years and that the trees had been topped prior to that. While he had submitted information related to a large limb falling from the trees, I believe I understood him to say that the particular incident had occurred many years ago. The following two photos were taken February 29, 2024. They show that the topping cuts have completely 'healed' over with no decaying wood or decay column present. There were no other obvious conditions that would indicate the presence of decay. While in Tree #2, we removed an 8" diameter limb that had grown to become a co-dominant stem that appeared unsightly. We also removed three limbs that were over-weighted and hung precariously downward from Tree #3. No climbing or limb removal was done above about 30' in the trees.

City arborist John Kenney also indicated that I should suggest an alternate species to the planned planting of Western Red Cedar trees in the backyard of the subject property. I have reviewed plan set A1.1 and agree that replacing four(4) of the four Western Red Cedar trees with Vine maple will make for happier uphill neighbors and will provide a better planting pallet, long-term.

ARBORIST Memo

Report Date:
March 3, 2024

Prepared for:
Jamie Buchan
Buchan Homes

Site Address:
3036 67th Avenue SE
Mercer Island, WA

Prepared by:
Tom Quigley
Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ)

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OLYMPIC
NURSERY, INC. 

Please reference the initial arborist report for the above referenced property, said report dated October 11, 2022.

I visited the February 29, 2024 to re-assess Tree #2, after invasive ivy was removed, together with a further assessment of Tree #3, in light of comments from City arborist John Kenney and from neighboring property owners.

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The rope in this photo is climbing gear. The photo shows the old topping cut that has since healed over.

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This report was prepared by Thomas Quigley, International Society of Arboriculture, TRAQ certified, expiration July 2024.