

Dewald, Shane

From: Donohue, Patrick
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2011 10:40 AM
To: Debra Alderman
Cc: Dewald, Shane
Subject: RE: Street tree removal plan for Bell street

Good morning Debra,

Thank you for your interest in the Bell Street Park project.

Removal of the existing trees is not something the City takes lightly. Parks did an extensive review of the existing trees with in the four blocks of the proposed Bell Street Park and determined the following:

1. All of the existing 46 tree pits are undersized which have retarded some of the trees growth (flowering pears (Pyrus calleryana) east of 3rd)
2. All of the existing tree pits contained poor soils and in some cases lacked proper drainage.
3. The hedge maples (Acer campestre) in the block from 1st to 2nd and to a much lesser extent from 2 to 3rd have root structures which have heaved the sidewalk or are planted in such a manner as to make it difficult (expensive) to create the curb less/woonerf park which is one the key elements in bases of design for this project.
4. All of the existing trees on the north side of the Bell Street Park are located to close to the existing building and key underground infrastructure which again compromised the proposed curb less/woonerf design.
5. All of the existing trees have approximately 1/2 of their expected life left which would mean that in 15 years +/- the City would have to remove and replace these trees at a considerable greater expense that if the proposed removal takes place as an element of the Park construction project.

There will be a total of 105 new trees plants as part of the fully funded 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy project. Large ceremonial trees are proposed for the south side of the corridor with grove type trees on the north side. As the Public Notice stated Parks is proposing to remove these trees as part of the permitting process and can only move forward with the removal when the permit is issued for construction. The proposed design calls for replacing the existing 46 trees with the following species:

1. Dura Heat River Birch - Growth Rate: Fast growing to 40'
2. Tulip Tree - Growth Rate: Fast growing to 50''
3. Yarwood London Plane - Growth Rate: Fast to 60'
4. Quaking Aspen - Growth Rate: Rapid to 40'

The Bell Street web site is located at http://seattle.gov/parks/projects/bell_street/boulevard_park.htm . On this web is a link to the planting plan for the proposed Park for your review. Again, thank you for your interest

in the Bell Street Park project. Please give me a call if you need any additional information.

With warmest regards,

Patrick Donohue
Seattle Parks
206.684.9286

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-----Original Message-----

From: Debra Alderman [<mailto:dalderman@antioch.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2011 12:28 PM
To: Donohue, Patrick
Subject: Street tree removal plan for Bell street

Dear Patrick,

Last week I was walking to the bus stop from my work at Antioch University Seattle to 4th and Bell. I noticed that most of the trees between 6th and 3rd on Bell Street are wearing signs saying they are slated for removal! The sign says there will be a significant cost to remove the trees, but that other trees will be planted along Bell street in their place. This announcement disturbs me because a) these trees look perfectly healthy and attractive. b) they are not so large that they are damaging sidewalks, etc. 3) what a waste of money and perfectly good trees! It will take years to grow nice large trees like these. What is the city thinking? I'm aware that there's a plan to beautify this neighborhood, particularly Bell Street. My worry is that with all the budget cutbacks, the city is going to cut down these trees and then run out of money for the project. We'll wind up having a barren, treeless street... even more blighted than its present state.

I hope that, as the manager of the project, you are thinking carefully about the big picture. I personally believe most of the trees we've got should be preserved and incorporated into the future beautification project.

I know that others here at Antioch are also concerned about this project, and it would be great if there were a way we could be updated. If there's a website or if you have updates you could send me to share with employees and students here, I'd appreciate it.

Regards,
Debra Alderman

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Debra Alderman, MA Ed.
Director of Continuing Education
Antioch University Seattle
2326 6th Ave.
Seattle, WA 98121
Phone: 206-268-4118
Fax: 206-268-4115
email: dalderman@antioch.edu

Dewald, Shane

From: Donohue, Patrick
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2011 7:08 AM
To: seattlejanice@msn.com
Cc: Dewald, Shane
Subject: RE: Our Trees

Good morning Ms. Hill,

Thank you for your interest in the Bell Street Park project.

Removal of the existing trees is not something the City takes lightly. Parks did an extensive review of the existing trees within the four blocks of the proposed Bell Street Park and determined the following:

1. All of the existing 46 tree pits are undersized which have retarded some of the trees growth (flowering pears (*Pyrus calleryana*) east of 3rd and there is no practical way to increase the size of these existing tree pits given the conflicts with the existing underground infrastructure
2. All of the existing tree pits contained poor soils and in some cases lacked proper drainage. As with the above condition there is no practical way to correct this issue. (Your idea of building enclosures with soils up over the trees is impractical as trees roots need to be uncovered where they emerge from the ground to form their trunks to allow the roots to breath.
3. The hedge maples (*Acer campestre*) in the block from 1st to 2nd and to a much lesser extent from 2 to 3rd have root structures which have heaved the sidewalk (please look at the trees in front of the Copper Gate) or are planted in such a manner as to make it difficult (expensive) to create the curb less/woonerf park which is one the key elements in bases of design for this project.
4. All of the existing trees on the north side of the Bell Street Park are located to close to the existing building and key underground infrastructure which again compromised the proposed curb less/woonerf design.
5. All of the existing trees have approximately 1/2 of their expected life left which would mean that in 15 years +/- the City would have to remove and replace these trees at a considerable greater expense that if the proposed removal takes place as an element of the Park construction project.

There will be a total of 105 new trees plants as part of the fully funded 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy project. Large "civic" trees are proposed for the south side of the corridor with grove type trees on the north side. As the Public Notice stated Parks is proposing to remove these trees as part of the permitting process and can only move forward with the removal when the permit is issued for construction. The proposed design calls for replacing the existing 46 trees with the following species:

1. Dura Heat River Birch - Growth Rate: Fast growing to 40'
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The Bell Street web site is located at http://seattle.gov/parks/projects/bell_street/boulevard_park.htm . On this web is a link to the planting plan for the proposed Park for your review. Again, thank you for your interest in the Bell Street Park project. Please give me a call if you need any additional information.

With warmest regards,

Patrick Donohue
Seattle Parks
206.684.9286

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From: seattlejanice@msn.com [<mailto:seattlejanice@msn.com>]
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 9:31 PM
To: Donohue, Patrick
Subject: Our Trees



I'm writing on behalf of our beautiful trees on Bell Street. We have excellent trees that will provide shade from the heat in the summer and oxygen for all of us. There is nothing wrong with these great trees and as a resident @ 106 Bell Street since May 2003, I cannot see anything but waste in removing the trees we already have. If you think you need to spend \$161,000.00 lets make it productive and not destructive, not to mention heartbreaking, for our neighborhood.

I say build brick enclosures around the trees and plant beautiful rose bushes or flowering plants and greenery to add to their already beautiful stature. Trees take a long time to grow and to think they would needlessly be destroyed is amazing to me.

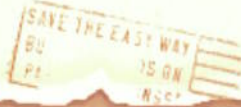
I heard it has something to do with the roots causing damage to the sidewalks. I DO NOT believe that as you can see the difference in the north side sidewalk of Bell Street and the South side sidewalk, it simply makes no sense.

PLEASE DON'T HURT OUR TREES!!!! Please let us keep our trees. You don't need to do anything but feed them!

The front of our building has only 1 tree with your sign on it for removal. We don't want this and I think I'm speaking for pretty much all the residents who live here at the Dorothy Day House!

Thank you for the chance to speak and we'll be waiting to hear some good news soon.

Sincerely,
Janice Hill and Renji(my little buddy) he's a doggy!



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Dewald, Shane

From: Donohue, Patrick
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2011 7:50 AM
To: evanehrr
Cc: Dewald, Shane
Subject: RE: trees on Bell st.

Good morning,

Thank you for your interest in the Bell Street Park project.

Removal of the existing trees on Bell Street is not something the City takes lightly. Parks did an extensive review of the existing trees within the four blocks of the proposed Bell Street Park and determined the following:

1. All of the existing 46 tree pits are undersized which have retarded some of the trees growth (flowering pears (*Pyrus calleryana*) east of 3rd and there is no practical way to increase the size of these existing tree pits given the conflicts with the existing underground infrastructure
2. All of the existing tree pits contained poor soils and in some cases lacked proper drainage. As with the above condition there is no practical way to correct this issue.
3. The hedge maples (*Acer campestre*) in the block from 1st to 2nd and to a much lesser extent from 2 to 3rd have root structures which have heaved the sidewalk (please look at the trees in front of the Copper Gate) or are planted in such a manner as to make it difficult (expensive) to create the curb less/woonerf park which is one the key elements in bases of design for this project. Additionally these trees have globe shaped canopies with dense branch structures and leaves which are hard to make would with street and proper pedestrian lighting.
4. All of the existing trees on the north side of the Bell Street Park are located to close to the existing building and key underground infrastructure which again compromised the proposed curb less/woonerf design.
5. All of the existing trees have approximately 1/2 of their expected life left which would mean that in 15 to 18 years +/- the City would have to remove and replace these trees at a considerable greater expense that if the proposed removal takes place as an element of the Park construction project.

There will be a total of 105 new trees plants as part of the fully funded 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy project. Large "civic" trees are proposed for the south side of the corridor with grove type trees on the north side. As the Public Notice stated Parks is proposing to remove these trees as part of the permitting process and can only move forward with the removal when the permit is issued for construction. The proposed design calls for replacing the existing 46 trees with the following species:

1. Dura Heat River Birch - Growth Rate: Fast growing to 40' (North Side of the Bell)
2. Tulip Tree - Growth Rate: Fast growing to 50' (South Side of the Bell)
3. Yarwood London Plane - Growth Rate: Fast to 60' (South Side of the Bell)
4. Quaking Aspen - Growth Rate: Rapid to 40' (North Side of the Bell)

The Bell Street web site is located at http://seattle.gov/parks/projects/bell_street/boulevard_park.htm . On this web is a link to the planting plan for the proposed Park for your review. Again, thank you for your interest in the Bell Street Park project. Please give me a call if you need any additional information.

With warmest regards,

Patrick Donohue
Seattle Parks
206.684.9286

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From: evanehrr [<mailto:evanehrr@aol.com>]

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 8:23 PM

To: Donohue, Patrick

Subject: trees on Bell st.

I am outraged about our trees going to be cut down and replaced. I don't want nothing to happen to our tree in front of 106 Bell St. There is nothing wrong with that tree. The roots are not lifting up our sidewalks and this tree is producing green leaves. In fact all the trees on Bell St between 2nd and 1st are all very green and healthy looking. But our tree in front of Dorothy Day House offers our building a lot of shade during the sunny days. We plant flowers around the tree and have put up a wire fence around the cinder blocks surrounding it. So please help us in saving at least this tree from removal. Plus I have seen the trees that are used for replacement and they are very small and offer no shade . We are very upset over this matter. Please respond with a suggestion on how we can save our tree. Thank you for listening to my voice on this matter

Dewald, Shane

From: Donohue, Patrick
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2011 8:02 AM
To: Sunny E.
Cc: Dewald, Shane
Subject: RE: Save Our Trees

Good morning Ellas,

Thank you for your interest in the Bell Street Park project.

Removal of the existing trees on Bell Street is not something the City takes lightly. Parks did an extensive review of the existing trees within the four blocks of the proposed Bell Street Park and determined the following:

1. All of the existing 46 tree pits are undersized which have retarded some of the trees growth (flowering pears (Pyrus calleryana) east of 3rd and there is no practical way to increase the size of these existing tree pits given the conflicts with the existing underground infrastructure
2. All of the existing tree pits contained poor soils and in some cases lacked proper drainage. As with the above condition there is no practical way to correct this issue.
3. The hedge maples (Acer campestre) in the block from 1st to 2nd and to a much lesser extent from 2 to 3rd have root structures which have heaved the sidewalk (please look at the trees in front of the Copper Gate) or are planted in such a manner as to make it difficult (expensive) to create the curb less/woonerf park which is one the key elements in bases of design for this project. Additionally, these trees have globe shaped canopies with dense branch structures and leaves which are hard to make work with street and proper pedestrian lighting.
4. All of the existing trees on the north side of the Bell Street Park are located to close to the existing building and key underground infrastructure which again compromised the proposed curb less/woonerf design.
5. All of the existing trees have approximately 1/2 of their expected life left which would mean that in 15 to 18 years +/- the City would have to remove and replace these trees at a considerable greater expense that if the proposed removal takes place as an element of the Park construction project.

There will be a total of 105 new trees plants as part of the fully funded 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy project. Large "civic" trees are proposed for the south side of the corridor with grove type trees on the north side. As the Public Notice stated Parks is proposing to remove these trees as part of the permitting process and can only move forward with the removal when the permit is issued for construction. The proposed design calls for replacing the existing 46 trees with the following species:

1. Dura Heat River Birch - Growth Rate: Fast growing to 40' (North Side of the Bell)
2. Tulip Tree - Growth Rate: Fast growing to 50' (South Side of the Bell)
3. Yarwood London Plane - Growth Rate: Fast to 60' (South Side of the Bell)
4. Quaking Aspen - Growth Rate: Rapid to 40' (North Side of the Bell)

The Bell Street web site is located at http://seattle.gov/parks/projects/bell_street/boulevard_park.htm . On this web is a link to the planting plan for the proposed Park for your review. Again, thank you for your interest in the Bell Street Park project. Please give me a call if you need any additional information.

With warmest regards,

Patrick Donohue
Seattle Parks
206.684.9286

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From: Sunny E. [<mailto:rachel4sunny@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, May 08, 2011 3:13 AM
To: Donohue, Patrick
Subject: Save Our Trees

Dear Mr. Donohue:

Right now I am attempting to find the right words to express dismay of the fate of our trees. They provide shade, home to numerous birds, and are downright beautiful. These trees give our neighborhood a setting of nature in the middle of downtown. I lived in Belltown close to 12 years, and the trees are a part of my life. I hate to see concrete after concrete, but love to look at nature outside my front door. The trees do not break the sidewalks, but the Nasqually earthquake was to blame for the sidewalk break-up. If the trees are cut down and replaced by ugly commercial trees, Bell Street would look like another city street, instead of a beautiful block. The park would look a lot better with the existing trees - more countrified and beautiful. Please look at the photo attachment and see how beautiful these trees make Belltown appear. Can you please reconsider and build the park around these gorgeous trees, Mr. Donohue? The residents and businesses would really appreciate it. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sunny Elias,
Belltown Resident since June 21, 1999

Dewald, Shane

From: Donohue, Patrick
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2011 11:48 AM
To: Dewald, Shane
Subject: FW: Bell Street Tree Removal

Late arriving comments.

Patrick

From: Chris McEliece [<mailto:chrism@expeditions.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 9:41 AM
To: Donohue, Patrick
Subject: Bell Street Tree Removal

I'm not sure it makes sense to remove ALL of the trees currently on Bell street- have there been considerations for other alternatives? Even if mature trees are purchased (at great expense I'm sure), they still will be nowhere as full and large as the current trees. Has partial removal been considered? Phased removal of a few trees at a time?

It seems awfully hasty to go around chopping down fully grown healthy trees, and I think the reasoning must be examined.

Regards,

Chris McEliece

Purchasing Manager

www.expeditions.com

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Suite 700
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Phone- 206.403.1534

Cell- 425.761.8100

Fax- 206-403-1501

chrism@expeditions.com

Dewald, Shane

From: Donohue, Patrick
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2011 11:48 AM
To: Dewald, Shane
Subject: FW: Tree removal on Bell St.

Late arriving comments.

Patrick

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth Sheets [<mailto:lizartseattle@me.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 11:46 AM
To: Donohue, Patrick
Subject: Tree removal on Bell St.

I understand that the city is proposing the removal & replacement of trees on Bell St. I have lived in my apartment on Bell & 4th since moving to Seattle from Minnesota 8 years ago. I moved into this building in Belltown because of the courtyard garden & the tree canopy outside my window. I especially love Bell Street in the spring when all the trees up and down the road are flowering, & then, when the leaves come on, the petals drift across the sidewalks in the breeze. Those trees provide needed shade to the buildings. We don't have air conditioning, & we don't need it, in part because of those trees. I understand that trees, from time to time in a city, need to be replaced. To me, it makes more sense to do this replacement incrementally, replacing, perhaps, every other tree along the street, and once those are sufficiently established, take out the others, & replace them. I am, in any case, not happy with the plan. Could you maybe just replace the trees on the side of the street where the proposed park will be situated, & leave the existing trees on the other side alone? I will truly miss the beauty & restfulness those trees provide in this harsh environment I call home.

Elizabeth Sheets
Resident
Bell & 4th

Sent from my iPod

Dewald, Shane

From: Donohue, Patrick
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2011 11:49 AM
To: Dewald, Shane
Subject: FW: Bell Street Park and Trees Info

Late arriving comments.

Patrick

From: RICHANNE OLSON [<mailto:richanne214@msn.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 4:29 PM
To: conceptoneapts@gmail.com; Donohue, Patrick
Subject: RE: Bell Street Park and Trees Info

Hello Patrick,

I have been a resident of Belltown for 14 years and in spite of the ongoing problems, I love my neighborhood. We have a great assortment of restaurants and shops, which I frequent often. But I have to say, I'm a little concerned that these businesses will move away if the city doesn't do something to control the criminal activity that goes on round the clock. I truly believe that the Bell St. Park project will only enhance drug dealing and provide a nice place for the homeless and street people to use as a place to sleep and urinate.

Over the years, I have participated in many community functions and meetings regarding the safety of our small businesses, residents and visitors in Belltown. The Bell Street Park project is a waste of money, especially in these trying times when the money could be put to better use. **We do not need a park on Bell St., let alone a park that requires removal of existing trees, only to put 105 different trees in to create a canopy.** As you well know, Bell St. is "crack central" and residents along with businesses have been fighting to clean up this problem for years. So, why on God's green earth do you want to give the drug dealers and street people a nice, comfy, beautiful place to hang out at?

The removal of the pay phone outside of Sam's Grocery, the removal of the bus bench on 2nd between Bell St. & Blanchard, neighborhood walks with Sergeant Brotherton and the replacement of the "drug" park for a dog park has not deterred a single drug dealer or street person.....these folks are not going away. Therefore, residents are not going to utilize the park when they have to share it with criminals and fear for their safety, especially if you add trees that will create a canopy.....a canopy of trees will shut out the sun, leaving the park dark and scary; a perfect place for criminal activity.

So, my vote is "NO".....don't remove the existing trees, don't put in 105 trees to create a canopy, don't put in a park on Bell St.

Thanks,

Richanne Olson
2600 2nd Ave. #212
Seattle WA 98121

Date: Wed, 11 May 2011 09:23:18 -0700
Subject: Bell Street Park and Trees Info
From: conceptoneapts@gmail.com

To:

Below is a link to an interesting article about the Bell Street Park and the trees that they want to remove along Bell Street.

<http://www.belltownpeople.com/2011/05/10/bell-street-tree-removal>

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Not ashamed of the Gospel. Not ashamed of Jesus Christ.

<https://hewhoovercomes.wordpress.com/>

Dewald, Shane

From: Donohue, Patrick
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 3:30 PM
To: Lara Branigan
Subject: RE: Bell Street tree removal
Attachments: L2-06 PLANT.PDF; L2-08 PLANT.PDF; L2-00 PLANT.PDF; L2-02 PLANT.PDF; L2-04 PLANT.PDF; L2-00 PLANT.PDF

Lara,

Thank you for your interest in the Bell Street Park project.

Attached please find the 50% CD/60% SIP Landscape Sheets (PDF) from the Bell Street Park project contract documents. These drawings illustrate the proposed tree replacement plan. Be advised that the current selection of tree types is a working list with the final tree selection to be completed and approved by the Parks Arborist in the next month or so. Size (height) and caliper will not be reduced and are subject to be increased depending on the final tree selections.

Removal of the existing trees is not something the City takes lightly. Parks did an extensive review of the existing trees and determined the following:

1. All of the existing 46 tree pits are undersized which have retarded some of the trees growth (flowering pears (*Pyrus calleryana*).east of 3rd)
2. All of the existing tree pits contained poor soils and in some cases lacked proper drainage
3. The hedge maples (*Acer campestre*) in the block from 1st to 2nd and to a lesser extent from 2 to 3rd have root structures which have heaved the sidewalk making it difficult to create the curb less/woonerf park which is one the elements in bases of design for this project
4. All of the existing trees on the north side of the Bell Street Park are located to close to the existing building to fit with the new design scheme.

I can't really talk about growth rates as the final tree selection has not been make but the current tree list growth rates are as follows:

1. Dura Heat River Birch - Growth Rate: Fast growing to 40'
2. Tulip Tree - Growth Rate: Fast growing to 50"
3. Yarwood London Plane - Growth Rate: Fast to 60'
4. Quaking Aspen - Growth Rate: Rapid to 40'

As the final Contract Documents are not complete the Schematic/Design Development drawings are currently posted the project web site. I'm currently working on placing a link to the 50% CD's on the project web site.

Again, thank you for your interest in the Bell Street Park project. Please give me a call if you need any additional information.

With warmest regards,

Patrick Donohue
Seattle Parks
206.684.9286 - Desk
206.419.6810 - Mobile

"Creating community through people, parks and programs"

From: Lara Branigan [<mailto:LBranch@stockandassociates.com>]

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 12:00 PM

To: Donohue, Patrick

Subject: Bell Street tree removal

Could you please provide further information regarding the removal of trees on Bell Street;

Why are the existing trees being removed?

What species and caliper will the replacement trees be?

How many years will it be until they are the size/canopy spread of the existing trees?

The project website does not appear to include up to date plans or meeting notes; how can we see the final design?

Thank you -

Lara Branigan, AIA, NCARB

LEED Accredited Professional

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Dewald, Shane

From: Donohue, Patrick
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 10:11 AM
To: Elise Oras
Cc: Dewald, Shane; Potter, Dewey; Hammerstad, Joelle; O'Connor, Karen
Subject: RE: Trees in Belltown

Elise,

Thank you for your support of the Bell Street Park project.

With warmest regards,

Patrick Donohue
Seattle Parks
206.684.9286 - Desk
206.419.6810 - Mobile

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www.seattle.gov/parks

From: elise.oras@gmail.com [<mailto:elise.oras@gmail.com>] **On Behalf Of** Elise Oras
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 10:00 AM
To: Donohue, Patrick
Subject: Trees in Belltown

Hi Patrick,

There has been a little fuss in Belltown about the trees being removed (mostly by uninformed people, I'd imagine) and I feel that maybe people might be writing you to save them.

I just wanted to write you and say that I support plan to remove/replace and move forward with the current project.

<http://belltownpeople.com/2011/05/10/bell-street-tree-removal#comments>

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Elise Oras
elise@eliseoras.com
206-552-8122 (mobile)

Chat  Google Talk: elise.oras

