

SEATTLEU

Campus Trees Briefing

Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

May 11, 2016

Campus Overview

- Founded 1891
- 48 acre campus
- 55% open space
- Fifteen significant campus lawns and gardens



Landscape Practices

- Designated a Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary in 1989
- Designated as a Wildlife Habitat in 2007
- Landscape is managed without pesticides since 1986
- Committed to the use of native drought tolerant plants and minimal irrigation
- Gardens planted with edibles



Tree Inventory

Environmental Impact Statement prepared as part of MIMP process
June 2008

- Full Tree Inventory performed
- Report on Eighteen Trees of Noteworthy Importance
- Four groups of trees potentially meet the criteria of “grove”
- No City of Seattle Class AAA-1 Heritage trees on or near campus
- No formally designated “exceptional trees” on campus
- No records of existing rare plants or high quality ecosystems on or near campus.





MIMP Requirements

DPD Condition: Construction related impacts to trees may be substantial; therefore approval is conditioned on meeting the mitigation measures in FEIS Section 3.2.4

FEIS 3.2.4 requires the following mitigation measures for construction:

Siting of construction “would attempt to avoid significant trees and groves.

Trees that must be removed for projects shall be replaced consistent with SMC 25.11 and the adopted Director’s Rule.

SMC 25.11.090 states that exceptional trees and trees over 2 ft in diameter that are removed in association with development shall be replaced by one or more trees, as approved by the City. No tree replacement shall be required if the tree is hazardous, unhealthy or relocated to another suitable planting site approved by the City.



Street Trees



Two maples - *Acer rubrum* 'Doric'

One Norwegian Sunset Maple - *Acer truncatum* x *A. platanoides* 'keithsform'

Per Bill Ames site visit all are healthy; some pruning is recommended.

Power lines do run through the canopies so it is possible SCL may perform extensive pruning in the future.

Site Trees

Arborist's Report
Commissioned April
2016
Identified nine
significant trees on site:

six grey poplars -
Populus Canescens

three black locust -
Robinia pseudoacacia



Tree Condition

Poplars: usual longevity is 50-70 years
Trees 1-3 are estimated at 80 years
Trees 4-6 are estimated at 40-50 years

Observed crown die-back, embedded bark, and internal decay

Recommendation: trees are not “high retention value” trees and are in or nearing end-of-life “mortality spiral.”



Tree Condition

Black Locust:

Trees 7-9 mature, multiple trunks

Tree 9 has been heavily pruned

Observed leaning trunks “over over-extended lateral branches”

Recommendation: trees are not “high retention value” trees

Bill Ames noted “numerous point of decay” on tree 9 adjacent to the ROW and asked that it be removed.





Proposed Plan

The project proposes removal of all site trees and retention of the street trees.

Site trees over 24" in diameter per Arborist's report:

Tree 1: Poplar – 42" diameter, over mature, top decline

Tree 2: Poplar – 40" diameter, over mature, top decline

Tree 3: Poplar – 40" diameter, over mature, top decline

Tree 9: Locust – 13, 25, 24" trunks, recently pruned, poor form

Due to the health of the large trees, replacement is not required by SMC 25.11. Madison Court will be redeveloped into a pedestrian mall with associated landscape improvements.