

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE](#)
Subject: comment for tonight's meeting. Tree's on Washington
Date: Thursday, September 8, 2022 5:27:15 PM
Attachments: [Washington trees recently removed.pdf](#)

Warning: This email originated from outside the City of Albany. Think before you click!

Dear PROSC Commision members,

I'm writing about the trees on Washington that have been tagged for removal.

To put this into context, there have already been 6 very large trees removed from this block since last year. The entire character of this street has been badly diminished. I've attached some pictures to show the results of those recent removals.

I asked an arborist to come look at the trees to give me a second opinion. **The arborist concluded that these trees on Washington Ave tagged for removal could be kept safely with maintenance.** Given the very short time frame and holoiday weekend, I haven't been able to get a written report yet.

His take was that the eastern most tree had some structural issues (some rot in trunk, though not diseased). **The arborist said the structural issue with the eastern-most tree could be mitigated with some cables** (that would cable the three big branches that grow out of the trunk together to support each other with a ring in the middle) and that would solve the threat of any significant failures. He says he does that routinely in these situations for his clients.

The arborist said that the western-most tree doesn't have structural issues and doesn't need to be removed, though the arborist suggested that it should be trimmed and cared for to prevent limbs from falling. The arborist said that if you don't trim and care for any trees, they will all have limbs break eventually. (My understanding is that the last time the City did any maintenance for these trees was in 2018).

The arborist noted that the western most tree certainly didn't need to be removed just because the other tree might be removed. The western-most tree is structurally balanced, so would not suffer from exposure.

Each individual removal may be justified, but taken together what's happening is the destruction of the canopy and the overall character of the neighborhood. I'm worried that the larger benefits for the community are not being given full consideration. ***Please see attached PDF for pictures of before and after recent removal.***

The city of Albany developed a Climate Action Plan with a lot of community input. Saving and growing the tree canopy was a central part of that plan as it is the most cost effective form of adaptation for the urban heat island effect. There has also been talk of a master tree plan that hasn't been developed yet.

I would urge you to give deep consideration to how large trees can be preserved and cared for,

at least until there can be a Master tree plan in place with community input. The question that must be asked is what would it take to keep these trees. We've already removed so many on this block, perhaps we should focus on using resources to keep the trees.

Also, I would note that tonight is back to school night for myself and many of my neighbors who wanted to attend tonight's meeting. **The notice was just put up two weeks ago so I would also request, out of courtesy to the community who cares, that any vote for these trees be postponed** so that folks can hear tonight's report (recorded) and give informed input at the next meeting.