

2ND AND 4TH STREETS PEDESTRIAN AND STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT FACT SHEET – SEPTEMBER 2007

The 2nd and 4th Streets Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvements Project calls for the removal of only 23 broadleaf trees. The criteria for removal included but were not limited to internal decay; extensive root pruning; poor canopy structure; damaged canopies from oversized vehicles; design factors and trees which are too large for relocation. Of the 153 ficus trees on 2nd and 4th Streets, only 23 of them will be removed, amounting to less than 15% of the streets' total canopy coverage.

The following photos will illustrate specific examples of some of the trees that were identified for removal due to structural damage to their trunks and primary limbs as well as those with poor root systems or those that have been extensively root pruned leaving a negative impact on their stability.

There is no corrective pruning treatment for the trees with damaged stems. The photos below show an example of one tree that has been repeatedly injured by busses. The photo on the left gives an overview of the tree. The photo on the right shows the extent of the damage to the trunk. There is no "cure" for this condition. The tree will continue to grow out over the edge of the curb, creating a continual hazard for busses that use this bus stop.



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Corrective pruning treatments for trees with damage to their primary limbs can only be accomplished through extensive pruning which would create off-balanced trees which in essence would increase maintenance requirements as well as risk exposure to the public. The photos below show one example of a tree that has a large split in a primary leader. The portion of the canopy that is circled in the photo at left shows the amount of canopy that would need be removed in order to remove the large cracked limb.



The photo at left shows another example of a tree identified for removal due to a large wound to the main stem. This wound (shown in the close up below) will eventually render the canopy of the tree unstable as a result of decay.



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Several of the trees were identified with decay at the base of the trunk or in the root zone of the trees. Decay is an irreversible process and there is no treatment for decay. Trees with root systems that are experiencing decay due to repeated root pruning will not only decline in health they are structurally unstable. The photo at left shows an injured trunk that is in a state of decay. Note that there are a minimal amount of surface roots as well. This tree is potentially unstable and has a risk of failure. If left in place the risk will increase over time as the decay process continues to weaken the stability of the tree. The photo at right shows a different tree with a minimal amount of surface roots. This is because this tree has had a large portion of its roots removed as a result of previous sidewalk repairs.



The photo at right shows a tree with a good trunk flare, adequate buttress roots and no injuries to the base of the trunk that could lead to decay.



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Other trees were identified for removal in order to meet the lighting requirements of the overall design, while some trees were identified for removal because they are too large to relocate.

Policy 2.6 of the Community Forest Management Plan calls for the conservation of significant public trees and to consider their transplanting when developing plans and designs for major public improvement projects such as the 2nd & 4th Streets project. In order to achieve the goals for which a major public improvement project is intended, existing public trees may be impacted. In these cases it is the City's priority to conserve these trees through transplanting. During the design phase of this project, the design team identified trees affected by the project, which could be relocated. The following factors were considered:

- The existing size of the tree.
- Underground and overhead utilities.
- The appraised value of the tree in relation to the cost of relocating the tree.
- The available size of growspace for the rootball of the relocated tree.
- How the tree is to be transported.
- How the tree can be maneuvered into the site once it gets there.
- Long term and short term maintenance and irrigation requirements of the tree.
- Chances of survival relocation.

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