



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 8, 2016

TO: Bellevue Park & Community Services Board

FROM: Dan DeWald, Park Resource Manager
Rick Bailey, Forest Management Supervisor

SUBJECT: Airfield Park Forest Management Project

In October of 2014, the City Manager's office received a letter from a resident adjacent to Airfield Park concerning the condition of several trees located on City property within falling distance of their property. Park staff immediately met with the neighbor and followed through with an inspection of the trees in question. Seven trees, infected with root rot, were flagged for immediate removal due to the time of year and the concern for fall wind storms. All neighbors, in the immediate vicinity, were notified of the initial tree work by Park Rangers who walked the neighborhood, knocked on doors and put door hangers with a letter explaining the tree removal.

After the initial field work and tree removal, a thorough inventory and inspection of all the trees located in and adjacent to the immediate area of infection was conducted. The inspection revealed that naturally-occurring root rot pathogens were affecting the health and stability of the Douglas-fir trees located within this particular area of forest at Airfield Park. Park trees showing signs of infection were marked, and a plan was developed to remove the trees and replant the site with disease-resistant species. Neighbors were notified of the forest management project by park staff who again walked the neighborhood, talked to residents about the project and left door hangers with a letter explaining the project with a copy of the plan. In addition, signage was placed on the recreational trail that bisects the site explaining the project and providing staff contact information for residents and/or trail users who wanted additional information.

The second phase of tree removal took place in May of 2015. Selected trees were felled and removed from the site. This work was followed up with chipping of debris and site preparation in June of 2015. The site work was completed with the planting of western white pine, western red cedar and native shrubs in the fall of 2015. Both white pine and western red cedar are resistant to root rot. The forest management actions taken by staff are consistent with recognized practices for dealing with root rot infections in western Washington.



May 8, 2015

Dear Park Neighbor,

We are sending this notice to update you on the root-rot infected trees on City property near your residence. In October of 2014, we felled seven trees that showed significant signs of root infection in this area. Since that time, we have inventoried and analyzed the root rot infection in the remaining forest stand.

Naturally occurring root rot pathogens are affecting the health and stability of the native Douglas-fir trees in this public natural area. In order to protect the safety of the park site neighbors, trail users and improve the health of the forest, the attached plan has been developed to remove and replace selected trees with disease resistant species. The tree removal, initial site cleanup and preparation for planting will take place between May 18 and June 1, 2015. Selected trees will be felled and removed from the site – the work is expected to take 2 to 3 days maximum. The trail will be closed intermittently during this work time.

In June we will do additional site work including chipping of selected woody debris and preparation of the site for planting in October/November of 2015. The site will be planted with western white pine, western red cedar and native shrubs. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Dan DeWald or Jim Bennett at 425-452-6855.

You can find more information on the management approach for root rot in Pacific Northwest forest stands at:

- <http://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/fir-douglas-and-true-laminated-root-rot>
- <http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/forestryext/foresthealth/notes/laminatedrootrot.htm>
- <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/wildlife/decid/landDSpecies/Laminated%20root%20rot.html>

Thank you for your patience and cooperation,

Dan DeWald
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Upcoming Airfield Park Forest Management Project Expect Temporary Closures

Between May 18 and June 1, 2015



***Bellevue Parks &
Community Services***

Questions:

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Or

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