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## Notice of Decision: Street Tree Removals at 508 N 36th St

1 message

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**DOT\_SeattleTrees** <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>  
To: DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>

Mon, Jun 22, 2026 at 3:18 PM

Thank you for sharing your concerns about the proposed tree removals at 508 N 36th St. We understand these trees are important to the neighborhood and appreciate the feedback we have received.

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) Urban Forestry reviewed a development proposal at [508 N 36th St](#). As part of that review, we assessed how the planned work would affect six street trees in the right of way – the public land between the curb and the adjacent property line. We determine that these trees cannot be retained without causing severe damage that would make them unlikely to survive construction or remain safe long term. As a result, we approved their removal.

We understand these trees are valued by neighbors and contribute to the environmental health of the neighborhood. We carefully reviewed whether they could be retained before approving their removal.

As part of our review, we evaluated whether the trees could remain healthy and safe through and after construction. Based on the extent of canopy and root impacts, as well as the condition of some of the trees, we determined that removal was the only feasible option.

SDOT only approves street tree removal when a tree cannot survive planned work or poses a safety risk.

The project is also required to plant 15 replacement street trees and improve planting conditions throughout the site to help restore tree canopy and maintain the long-term benefits that street trees provide.

### Three Red Maples on N 36th St

These three trees would lose too much of their canopy and roots to remain healthy.

- About half of each tree's branches and leaves would need to be pruned to provide clearance for the new building at the lot line.
- The trees already have a lopsided, V-shaped canopy from past pruning around the power lines running through them. Additional pruning would leave them severely unbalanced, with growth only on the street side.
- The project requires cutting roots in three places: for the underground support wall, the new sidewalk and the new utility connections.

Together, these canopy and root losses make survival through construction very unlikely.

### Two Cedars on Evanston Ave N

Both cedars are already under stress, and the new work would cause further harm.

- One cedar has significant dieback in its crown, meaning parts of the upper tree are no longer alive.
- The other cedar has existing root damage from prior impacts.
- New stormwater planters, foundation excavation and sidewalk work would cut into both trees' root zones.

Given their current condition and the added root loss, these trees cannot be retained.

## Ash Tree on Dayton Ave N

We initially planned to retain this tree, but a recent root inspection revealed insufficient root structure to tolerate additional soil disturbance within its critical root zone.

- The new sidewalk would cut through the tree's shallow roots.
- Because the tree already leans toward the street, that root loss would make it unstable.

Because the tree already leans toward the street, the loss of those roots would make it structurally unstable and increase the risk of failure. For public safety, we approved its removal.

## Replacement Trees

Seattle's street tree rules require new trees to be planted whenever SDOT approves a removal. Replacement trees help maintain the shade, cleaner air and other benefits that street trees provide to the neighborhood. While replacement trees cannot immediately replace the canopy provided by mature trees, they will grow over time and help restore shade, air quality benefits and neighborhood tree canopy.

As part of the right-of-way improvements, the development will plant new street trees along all three frontages:

- Evanston Ave N: 5 yellowwood trees.
- N 36th St: 6 'Vanessa' Persian ironwood trees.
- Dayton Ave N: 3 katsura trees and 1 additional tree, species to be confirmed.

The project will also reconfigure the sidewalk planting strip, amend existing soil, install an automatic irrigation system and plant shrubs and groundcovers. The property owner is responsible for planting and maintaining the replacement trees so they can become established and continue providing long-term environmental and neighborhood benefits.

## Director's Review Request

Anyone may request a review of a permit decision. If you would like to request a review, this must be sent as a written request to the Director of the Seattle Department of Transportation within 10 calendar days of the date of this decision ([SMC 15.04.112](#)). The request must identify the decision for which the reconsideration is requested, the grounds for objecting to the decision based on City standards, and the specific remedy being proposed. The Director's decision is final. The request for review may be mailed to the address below:

Director of Transportation  
Seattle Department of Transportation  
700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3800  
PO Box 34996  
Seattle, WA 98124-4996

OR emailed to [dot\\_directors\\_office@seattle.gov](mailto:dot_directors_office@seattle.gov) and with a 'cc to include <mailto:publicspace@seattle.gov> and [DOT\\_LA@seattle.gov](mailto:DOT_LA@seattle.gov).

## Questions

If you have questions about this decision, or would like to request this document in an alternate format, please contact SDOT Urban Forestry at 206-684-8733 or [DOT\\_LA@seattle.gov](mailto:DOT_LA@seattle.gov).  
[mailto:DOT\\_LA@seattle.gov](mailto:DOT_LA@seattle.gov)

Thank you,



LORCAN FRENCH, PLA, ISA Certified Arborist®

Permit Manager, Urban Forestry

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