



Kurt Fickeisen  
13024 37th Ave. NE  
Seattle, WA 98125  
(206) 841-3158  
kurtfick@gmail.com

Steve Crane  
S M Crane General Contractor  
19741 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE  
Lake Forest Park, WA 98155

September 18, 2019

Dear Mr. Crane,

Property located at 4611 NE 178<sup>th</sup> Street in Lake Forest Park Washington contains a single-family home and is currently under development. Mature trees are present on the property and the adjacent 17586 Ballinger Way NE property. Questions regarding impacts of excavation on or near these trees arose.

Over five days between September 11 and 17<sup>th</sup> of 2019 Kurt Fickeisen from Symbiosis Tree Care came to the 4611 and adjacent property to observe excavation under the canopies of a Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), black locust (*Robinia pseudoacasia*), and a small codominant western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*).

This report provides information on observations made

- During vector truck excavation under tree canopies and descriptions of exposed roots and root pruning requirements
- After completion of excavation and during gravel and soil backfilling

Based on this project, recommendation for tree retention and protection are provided. Please see Assumptions and Limitations for this report (Assumptions and Limitations).

## Summary

Excavation under the canopies of four trees on or adjacent to property at 4611 NE 178<sup>th</sup> Street in Lake Forest Park Washington was observed between September 11 and 17<sup>th</sup> of 2019. After excavation concluded the area was backfilled with gravel and soil.

The Douglas fir on 4611-Property appears to retain fair to good condition.

Other trees on 17586-Property have suffered moderate to significant damage and should be monitored.

Soil where excavation and backfilling took place should be covered with a 4-inches depth of woodchips. In addition, trees adjacent to the 4611-Property will require future inspection due to work on or near trees.

## Observations

On September 11th, 2019 vector truck excavation took place under the canopies of four trees (Figure-1, Photo-1). The following trees are within the area of excavation

- 52-inch diameter Douglas fir (Located on 4611-Property)
- 26.5-inch diameter black locust which is codominant at grade level (Located on 17586-Property)
- 22.5-inch diameter big leaf maple (Located on 17586-Property)
- Small and codominant western red cedar (Located on 17586-Property)

## Excavation and Roots

During excavation small diameter black locust roots were encountered and cut (Photo-2).

The following structural roots were encountered

- Two 6-inch diameter black locust roots (Photo-3, Photo-4)
- Two 6-inch diameter big leaf maple roots and one 8-inch Douglas fir root (Photo-5, Photo-6)

Black locust roots were within 2-feet of space required for the new sewer line. These roots were cut or damaged during work as illustrated in Photo-4. Damages to these roots appear significant.

Structural roots connected to the big leaf maple and Douglas fir roots suffered damage (Photo-5, Photo-6)

- Damages to big leaf maples roots appear moderate to significant.
- Damages to Douglas fir roots appear minor

## Soil Backfilling

After excavation concluded, new sewer lines were set in place (Photo-6) and gravel was placed on soil and the material was added until sewer pipes were buried (Photo-7).

Once pipe and gravel installation concluded, excavated areas were filled with soil until soil depth reached a level similar or identical to the preexisting property grade level.

## Conclusion

The Douglas fir on 4611-Property appears in fair to good condition at the conclusion of excavation required for new sewer line installation

- If residents of the 4611-Property notice new or unexpected defects an additional inspection may be necessary

Other trees on 17586-Property may have suffered moderate to significant damage and should be monitored for the next three years.

Structural roots attached to these trees provide support based on tension forces and tree canopies overhang the 17586-House. This may add to risk in the future.

## Recommendations

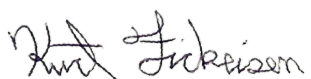
Since roots of trees on 17586-Property may have suffered root damage, 4-inches of arborist chips or compost should be placed on soil under tree canopies.

New woodchips will add organic matter to soil and improve overall tree health. The chips will also improve health of the Douglas fir on 4611-Property.

**Trees with trunks on 17586-Property should be evaluated for condition and risk in two years or in the fall of 2021** unless property owners observe unexpected defects or concerns.

If you have questions about the contents of this report contact Symbiosis Tree Care.

Sincerely



Kurt Fickeisen

International Society of Arboriculture™ (ISA) Certified Arborist # RM-451A

ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified

American Society of Consulting Arborists Registered Consulting Arborists© # 472



*asca* AMERICAN SOCIETY of  
CONSULTING ARBORISTS



**Figure-1**

King County iMAP Aerial Image



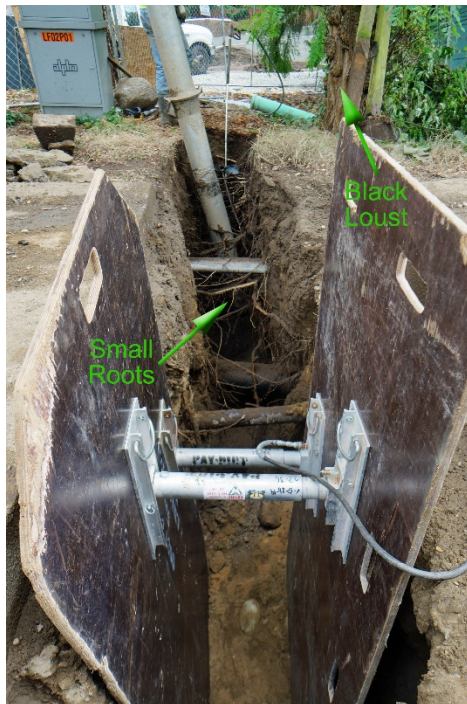
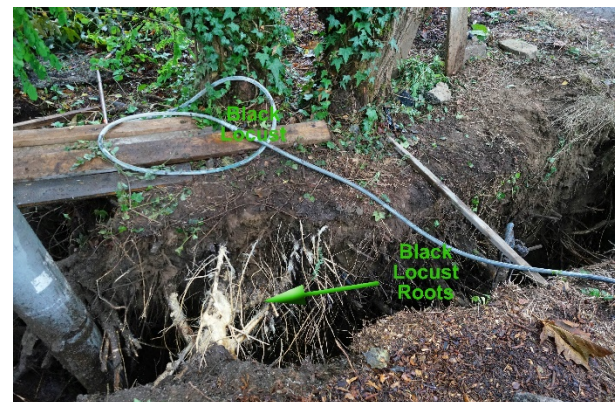
**Photo-1****Photo-2****Photo-3****Photo-4**



Photo-5



Photo-6



Photo-7



Photo-8





## Assumptions and Limitations

### **ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITING CONDITIONS**

Kurt Fickeisen

International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist #RM 451A

ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification

American Society of Consulting Arborists Registered Consulting Arborist #472

Owner Symbiosis Tree Care LLC

1. Any legal description provided to the consultant is assumed to be correct. Any titles and ownerships to any property are assumed to be good and marketable. No responsibility is assumed for matters legal in character.
2. All existing liens, encumbrances, and assessments, if any, have been disregarded (unless otherwise noted), and the trees are evaluated as though free and clear, under responsible ownership and competent management. It is assumed that no violations of applicable governmental regulations have occurred.
3. Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data has been verified insofar as possible, however, Symbiosis Tree Care can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information.
4. Symbiosis Tree Care shall not be required to give testimony or to attend court by reason of this report unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made, including payment of an additional fee for such services as described in our fee schedule and contract of engagement.
5. Loss or alteration of any part of this report invalidates the entire report.
6. This report shall be used for its intended purpose only and by the parties to whom it is addressed. Possession of this report does not include the right of publication.
7. Neither all or any part of the contents of this report, nor copy thereof, shall be conveyed by anyone, including the client, to the public through advertising, public relations, news, sales, or other media, without the prior expressed written or verbal consent of Symbiosis Tree Care.
8. This report and any values expressed herein represent the opinion of Symbiosis Tree Care. Our fee is in no way contingent upon any specified value, a result or occurrence of a subsequent event, nor upon any finding to be reported.
9. Sketches, diagrams, graphs, and photographs in this report, being intended as visual aids, are not necessarily to scale and should not be construed as engineering or architectural reports or surveys.
10. Unless expressed otherwise: 1) information contained in this report covers only those items that were examined and reflects the condition of those items at the time of inspection, and 2) the inspection is limited to visual examination of accessible items without dissection, excavation, probing, or coring.
11. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied that problems or deficiencies of the tree or other plant or property in question may not arise in the future.
12. The right is reserved to adjust tree valuations, if additional relevant information is made available.