CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

MEMORANDUM

Date: 10/14/2025

To: COBI Public Works Department

From: Rob Reed, City Arborist

Subject: Arrow Point Dr NE and Miller Rd NE Tree Risk Assessment

Background:

I met with Mike Bidlencik in the afternoon of October 9th, 2025, to assess a Douglas Fir tree in the public right of way (ROW) near the intersection of Arrow Point Drive Northeast and Miller Road Northeast. The road shoulder was evidently expanded some time ago to make room for a bike lane.

Tree Assessment:

Summary: The tree of interest is a 54.6" DSH, ~150' tall Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) located in the ROW (Figs. 1-4). Its canopy is in good condition; however, its stem likely has substantial internal decay. The tree is rated to have a high overall risk rating and is recommended for removal down to a stump.

Site Conditions: The tree is located within the ROW near the intersection of Arrow Point Drive Northeast and Miller Road Northeast. The paved area within the tree's critical root zone (CRZ), Miller Rd. NE, is moderately trafficked by vehicles. The trailhead for a lightly foot-trafficked walking trail exists on the south side of the tree's stem.

Canopy: The canopy of the tree is in good condition with a few dead branches in the lower whirls – typical for this species at this level of maturity.

Trunk: The tree's trunk (stem) appears to have substantial internal decay. This is evidenced mostly by the presence of fungal conks fruiting from the base of the tree to upwards of 30' up the stem (Fig. 5). The mycosis (fungal infection) is likely caused by Dyer's Polypore (*Phaeolus schweinitzii*) based on the identifying features of the conks (Fig. 6). Resinosis (sap bleeding) is occurring on the stem as well, another indicator of a Dyer's Polypore infection (Fig. 5).

Roots & Root Collar: The roots were not excavated for assessment, but the root collar of the tree was exposed in a small area using a hand trowel. A sounding hammer was used on this exposed area of the root collar and indicators of internal decay were detected by the arborist.

Risk Assessment:

Timeframe: Five years.

Targets: Targets include the roadway itself (constant occupancy), communication lines (constant occupancy), vehicles (occasional-frequent occupancy), and pedestrians (rare occupancy).

Likelihood of Failure: Probable.

Likelihood of Impact: High to targets with constant occupancy.

Consequences of Failure: Significant.

Overall Risk Rating: High.

Mitigation Options:

Feasible Risk Mitigation Options Alternative to Removal: None. Pruning won't noticeably reduce risk and snagging will encourage a hotspot for Dyer's Polypore – affecting surrounding trees.

Recommended Risk Mitigation Option: Removal to a stump.

Residual Risk Rating: Low.

Replanting: Replanting with an understory/forest-edge tree species near the stump to remain is feasible, but not something typically done by the COBI Public Works Department for road edges. I recommend a Pacific Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*).

Discussion/Conclusion:

This tree is recommended for removal as soon as possible. Removal down to a low stump is advised over retaining a habitat snag because the stem is located near an occasionally to frequently used roadway and its retention may encourage a hotspot for Dyer's Polypore to proliferate and affect surrounding trees.

Figures:

Figure 1: Entire Tree

Figure 2: DSH

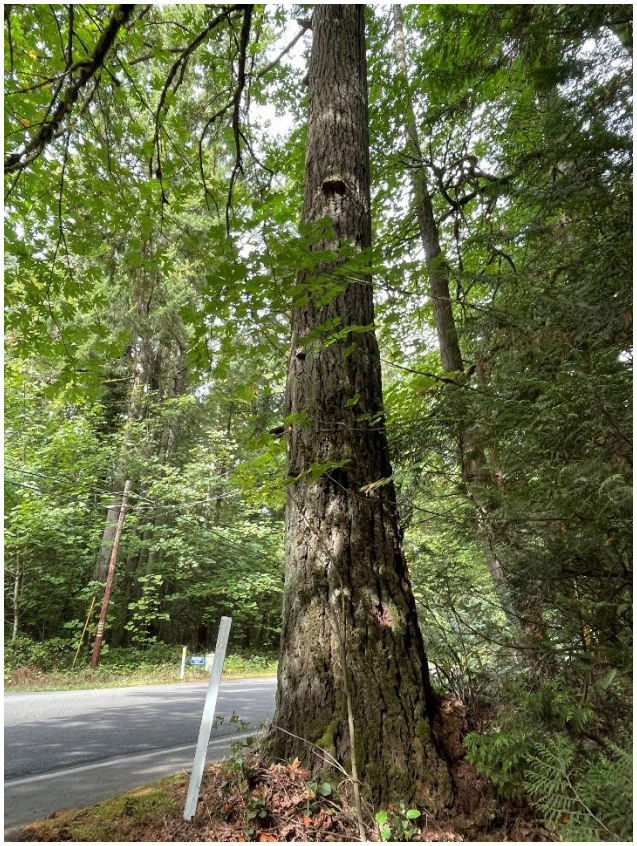

Figure 3: Proximity to Roadway

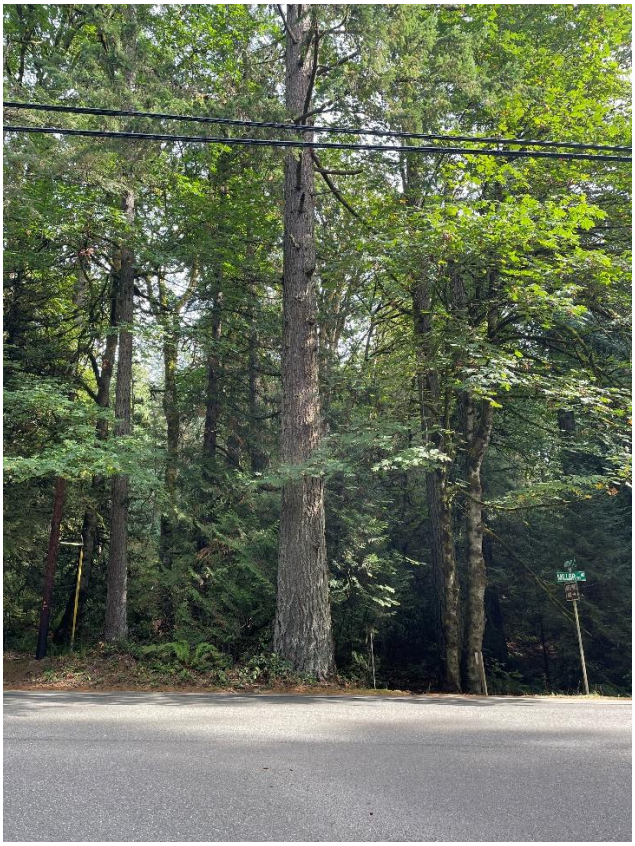

Figure 4: Tree Location

Figure 5: Conks on stem

Figure 6: Conk Undersides

Professional Assumptions and Limitations:

This report summarizes the site characteristics as they were observed on the day of inspection. Only those trees described within the scope of the assignment were assessed. Any provided legal descriptions of the property, including ownership and boundaries, are assumed to be correct.

Declaration of No Conflict of Interest:

As an employee of the City of Bainbridge Island under the title of City Arborist within the Planning and Community Development Department (PCD), I recognize that conflicts of interest may arise when gathering data, determining professional opinions, and reporting them interdepartmentally within the same municipality. I attest that I have no current or prospective financial, personal, or other interest or bias in favor of or against the outcome of this project or its permitting. The ultimate goal of my position is to retain healthy, structurally sound trees to the extent practicable while allowing for the reasonable use of property.

Citations:

Dunster, J. A., Smiley, E. T., Matheny, N. P., & Lilly, S. (2017). Tree risk assessment manual (2nd ed.). International Society of Arboriculture.

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