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September 18, 2020

Deer Run Home Owners  
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Dear Deer Run Home Owners:

Thank you for having me evaluate four trees in a Native Growth Protection Area (NGPA) your community manages for risk posed to nearby homes. To assess the trees addressed in this memo I combined my field experience and education with current accepted practices as defined by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).

I completed my site visit and a Level 2 Assessment of these trees on September 16, 2020. All levels of tree assessment are explained in an attachment to this report. The Site Map shows the approximate locations of the trees discussed below.

Tools I used to make this assessment are limited to mallet, trowel, binoculars, compass and diameter tape unless otherwise noted. In the field I stapled silver numbered tags to the west side of tree trunks for identification correlation with notes below. A visual tree assessment and other methods are only conclusive for the day of inspection and do not guarantee that conditions will remain the same in the future.

I evaluated four trees (Photos 1-2) growing in part of a NGPA east of two homes on Gustaf St. NE. The area around where these trees grow is densely forested with a variety of native trees and vegetation.

### **Trees east of 2170 Gustaf St. NE**

Tree **249** Red alder (*Alnus rubra*) ~19" DBH (Diameter at Breast Height)

This tree stands downhill from the other two trees in this area. Its lower trunk leans and is bowed significantly to the northwest. It is in average condition and somewhat protected by other trees in the area.

The target in the event of a lower trunk failure is the back yard – this is a moderate possibility. It is possible that this type of failure could cause parts of the tree to reach the home but it is unlikely this tree will increase in health or vigor.

- Choose to monitor this tree or remove to a short stump.
- If the tree is removed, do not remove the stump.

Tree **248** Red alder (*Alnus rubra*) ~16" DBH

This tree leans to the west towards the back yard. It has a slightly serpentine trunk which could cause it to move in a more unpredictable direction in a wind event. Overall, this tree is in early decline. It poses a low risk of failure but its height is within range of the home.

- Choose to monitor this tree or remove to a short stump.
- If the tree is removed, do not remove the stump.

Tree **247** Bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) ~18" DBH

This tree is in early decline but very stable at its base. It poses a low risk of trunk failure and a moderately low risk of branch failure.

- No work is recommended for this tree at this time.

**Tree east of 2172 Gustaf St. NE**

Tree **250** Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*) ~15"

This tree is nearly dead with much of its upper trunk and branches very brittle and unstable (Photo 3). Failure of dead tree parts would likely impact the fence or backyard of the home. There is a high possibility of failure with a significant consequence.

- Remove this tree to a short stump and remove the debris from the area.
- Leave the stump intact.

In this case, the NGPA is also considered a Critical Area by the City of Poulsbo. Poulsbo's municipal code states:

"H. Where a threat to human life or property is demonstrated, the director may allow removal of danger or hazard trees within a critical area or its buffer, subject to the following criteria:

1. Tree removal is the minimum necessary to balance protection of the critical area and its buffer with the protection of life and property;
2. The critical area or its buffer shall be replanted as determined by the director. The director shall coordinate review with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife as determined necessary to assure habitat protection. The director may require the applicant to consult with a professional forester or a certified arborist prior to tree removal. Danger tree abatement may be achieved by felling or topping the tree. Habitat needs may require leaving the fallen tree in the riparian corridor or maintaining a high stump."

The functions the four trees provide include some canopy coverage and slope water uptake. In this case, if any of the living alders are removed, their stumps will likely regrow new sprouts. The nearly dead alder may not regrow as vigorously but may put out some shoots from its stump. Since the nearby trees also provide these functions and there will likely be some regrowth from trees if they are shortened, tree work will not totally remove the functions the trees provide to the NGPA.

Due to the density of the surrounding trees and vegetation to the four trees, the areas nearby them are not well suited for planting new trees though some areas downhill of the trees recommended for removal may well be. Species suited for this general area include Vine maple (*Acer circinatum*) or Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*).

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All work recommended above should occur within six months of this report.

Thank you very much for working with me to address your arboricultural concerns.



*Katy Bigelow*  
*Board Master Certified Arborist*  
*PNW ISA member # PN-6039B*  
*Tree Risk Assessment Qualified*  
*Registered Consulting Arborist® #490*

### **Levels of Tree Assessment**

**LEVEL 1:** The Level 1 assessment is a visual assessment from a specified perspective of an individual tree or a population of trees near specified targets to identify obvious defects or specified conditions. A limited visual assessment typically focuses on identifying trees with an imminent and/or probable likelihood of failure.

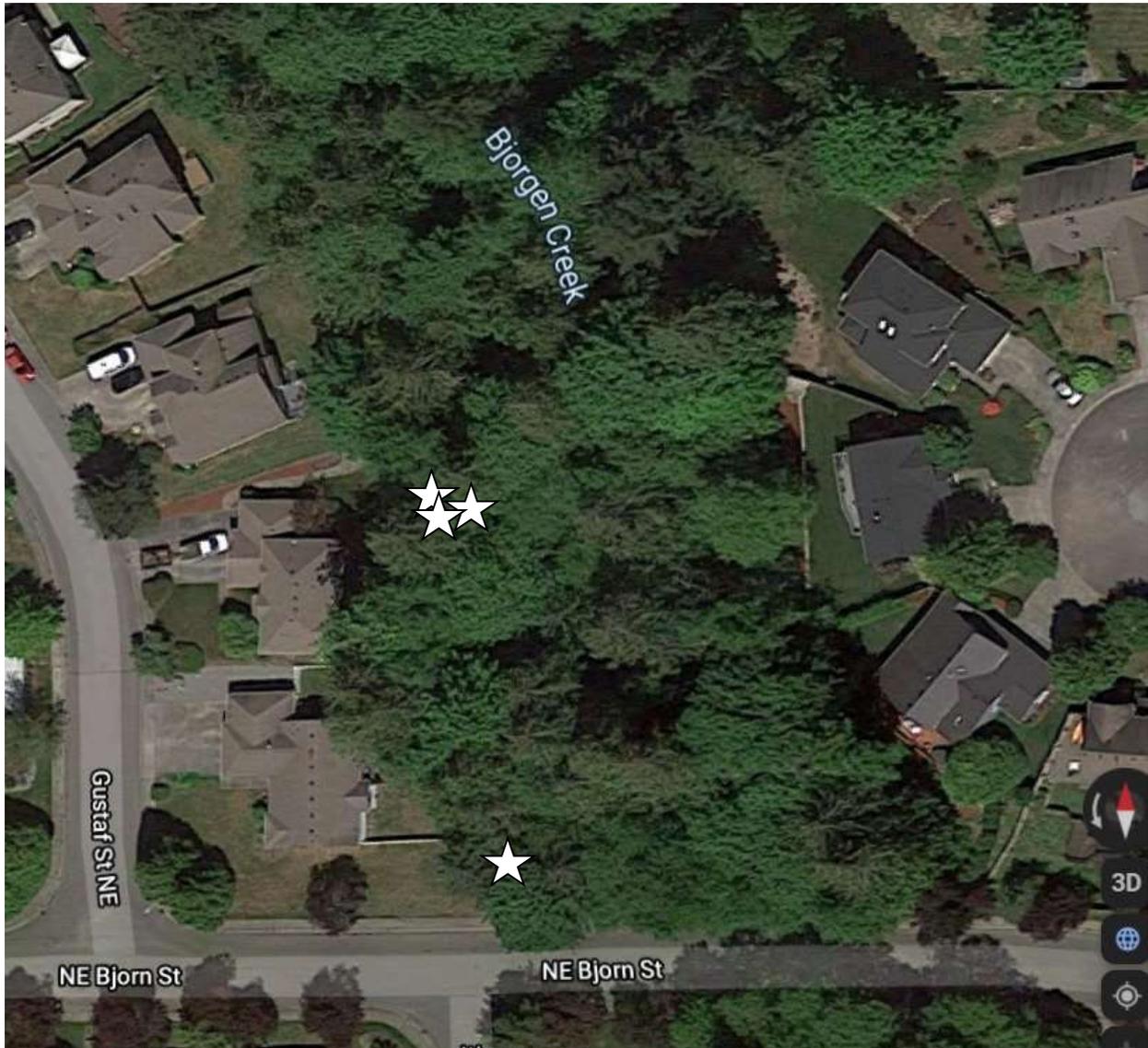
Limited visual assessments are the fastest but least thorough means of assessment and are intended primarily for large populations of trees.

**LEVEL 2:** This is a basic assessment completing a detailed visual inspection of a tree and surrounding site, and a synthesis of the information collected. This assessment requires that a tree risk assessor walk completely around the tree—looking at the site, buttress roots, trunk, and branches.

A basic assessment may include the use of simple tools to gain additional information about the tree or defects. Basic is the standard assessment that is performed by arborists in response to a client's request for tree risk assessment. Simple tools may be used for measuring the tree and acquiring more information about the tree or defects. However, the use of these tools is not mandatory unless specified in the Scope of Work.

**LEVEL 3:** Advanced assessments are performed to provide detailed information about specific tree parts, defects, targets, or site conditions. They are usually conducted in conjunction with or after a basic assessment if the tree risk assessor needs additional information and the client approves the additional service. Specialized equipment, data collection and analysis, and/or expertise are usually required for advanced assessments. These assessments are therefore generally more time intensive and more expensive.

### Site Map



**Approximate locations of the four trees shown by white stars.**

**Photos**



**Photo 1:** Location of Trees 247, 248, 249.

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**Photo 2:** Base of Tree 249.

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**Photo 3:** Dead top of Tree 250.

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### **Assumptions, Limiting Conditions and General Waiver**

I, Katy Bigelow, certify that:

I have personally inspected the tree(s) and or the property referred to in this report;

I have no current or prospective financial or other interest in the vegetation or the property which is the subject of this report and have no personal interest or bias in favor of or against any of the involved parties or their respective position(s), if any;

The analysis, opinions and conclusions stated herein are the product of my independent professional judgment and based on current scientific procedures and facts, and the foregoing report was prepared according to commercially reasonable and generally accepted arboricultural standards and practices for the Pacific Northwest and Puget Sound areas;

The information included in this report covers only those trees that were examined and reflects the condition of the trees as of the time and date of inspection;

This report and the opinions expressed herein are not intended, nor should they be construed, as any type of warranty or guarantee regarding the condition of the subject trees in the future;

Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (“CC&Rs”) may restrict the number, type and height of vegetation on the subject property, and I have made no investigation regarding whether the property is subject to such CC&Rs; and

To the best of my knowledge and belief, all statements and information in this report are true and correct and information provided by others is assumed to be true and correct.

I am not an attorney or engineer. This report does not cover these areas of expertise and represents advice only of arboricultural nature. Without limiting the generality of the preceding sentence, it is specifically understood that nothing contained in this report is intended as legal advice, or advice or opinions regarding soil stability or zoning laws, and this report should not be relied upon to take the place of such advice.



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