

Dear Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission,

Thank you for the information you have sent me regarding the proposed changes to area around Powell and 33rd Ave. I live at 3646 SE 33rd Ave, 97202.

I am not at all opposed to the proposed changes in land use and think that filling in existing city areas makes a lot more sense than expanding ever outward. My comments/concerns are regarding my love of trees, especially the great, old trees like the ones in older neighborhoods and in NW Portland.....and really all over Portland. I am grateful on a daily basis for the vision of those who planted those trees so long ago. My hope is that the city planners will provide for the possibility of more old and grand trees in the future by building into the infrastructure large enough spaces for a tree to become large as those old Portland trees have become. In fact, I am impressed at how small the spaces are that so many large old trees seem to be thriving in, so it doesn't take that much space to begin with. I hope that the planners will provide spaces at least that large as they build and improve on various areas in Portland. It would be a profound disappointment to me if they provided the smallest tree wells they could get away with, thinking that they would plant only small-scale trees in them in their effort to use that space for buildings and other infrastructure.

Trees, large and grand ones that can live to a significantly old age, are the real soul and spirit of a place. Without them, a city would suffer a poverty of spirit and inspiration to its inhabitants. I admire Portland's trees on a daily basis and don't take them at all for granted. They are part of why I love living here. Without them, Portland would be just another depressing city cut off from the grandeur of the natural world.

I really think that a city can be judged by the grandeur of its trees--they speak uniquely to the vision and imagination of those who built and live there, and promote in the population a sensitivity and desire to maintain a livable environment. When people find inspiration where they live, crime and indifference to the environment decrease. Grand city trees provide such inspiration even to those who may not realize as consciously as others the role the trees play in their daily life. And lest I be misunderstood, I am not only speaking of the need for trees in parks, but am speaking of the street trees just as much.

It is my hope that you will all be sensitive to the space you provide for trees as you move forward with your plans for this and all areas of Portland under development. The space you provide for trees is one and the same as the space you provide for the spirit and imagination of all Portlanders.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments,

Sincerely,
Kirsten Davis
Kirsten Davis <isabeast@gmail.com>