

Arborist Report

Tree Assessment

**Puyallup School District – Sparks Stadium Parking Lot
Addition Project**

7th Ave. SW Puyallup, WA 98371

Prepared for:

**Lester Gerstmann, Asst. Director of Construction
Management.**

Prepared by:

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January 27, 2026

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Summary

There are three significant trees in the vicinity of this project. They are all healthy and viable for retention.

Introduction

Background and History

I was contacted by Mr. Lester Gerstmann to provide a tree risk assessment for the Puyallup School District Support Campus Sparks Stadium Parking Lot Addition project. The property was located on 7th Ave SW, between 5th St. SW and 7th St. SW in Puyallup, WA. He explained to me that the school district was proposing to create an addition to the existing parking lot. The project was being permitted through the City of Puyallup and they were requiring a tree risk assessment arborist report as part of the permit application. Some landscaping and trees would have to be removed to connect the two properties.

I was provided with aerial photos of the site showing the tree locations and the proposed parking lot layout.

Assignment

My assignment was to:

- Assess the three trees shown on the aerial photo. Number, measure, tag, and identify the trees.
- Provide an arborist report that notes the condition and viability of the trees. Note any trees that are in poor condition now that would be a hazard (high risk) to the proposed development.

Methodology

I examined the trees using the standard visual tree assessment method, as outlined in the *Tree Risk Assessment Manual* published by the International Society of Arboriculture. This is considered a Level 2 Basic Tree Risk Assessment. All of my observations were made from ground level. I did not climb the trees, drill into the trees or excavate any soil from around them.

The tree risk assessment methodology is based on three factors:

- How likely is the tree (or a tree part) to fail?

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- How likely is the tree (or tree part) to hit a target of value when it fails?
 - How likely is the tree (or tree part) to damage or injure the target if it hits it?

Tree structure, as well as health, plays a role in the risk determination. The proximity of a target of value is also considered. The presence of people and the duration of that presence (occupancy) is also factored in to the risk level determination.

Tree risk is categorized as Low, Moderate, High or Extreme. A normal healthy tree is generally considered low risk, because it is not likely to fail. It is the presence of defects in the tree that increases the likelihood of failure. If no one would be harmed or nothing of value would be damaged by the tree failure, it is also considered low risk. A tree that is likely to fail, but is unlikely to strike a target, is not a high risk tree.

Most trees are either Low Risk or Moderate Risk and are not considered Hazard Trees. However, a property owner's tolerance for risk may be low and a tree of Moderate Risk may be out of their comfort zone. In such cases, removal of the tree should be sought through other permitted means, not hazard tree removal. The definition of a Hazard Tree varies by jurisdiction.

Tree diameter measurements are taken at 4.5' above ground. This is known as Diameter at Breast Height – DBH. I used a diameter tape for this measurement. I used metal tags for tagging and numbering the trees. I used a clinometer to measure their height and a rubber mallet to sound their trunks

Purpose and Use of this Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the tree information I gathered from my site visit and inspection for the purposes of generating a report to meet the permit requirements of the City of Puyallup. This report is for the sole use of my client and may not be reproduced, used in any way, or disseminated in any form without prior consent of the client and Alan Haywood – Arborist & Horticulturist, LLC.

Observations

I visited the site on January 8, 2026. It was a flat area abutting 7th Ave SW on the south and a paved parking lot on the west. The majority of the area was lawn with the trees being on the north edge in a mulched bed. There was a chain-link fence on the west and north borders of the area that continued to the parking lot.

The three trees were a Norway maple, Colorado spruce and a Port Orford cedar. The details of the trees are as follows:

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1. Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) – DBH – 25”, CS (Crown spread) – 55’, Height – 50’, Live crown ratio (LCR) - 90%. The tree was in good condition structurally and appeared to be in good health. Being out of leaf, it is a little difficult to accurately assess its health. The trunk forked into two leaders at 6’ at a wide angle with no bark inclusion. I consider this tree to be viable and a **Low Risk** of failure.
 2. Colorado spruce (*Picea pungens*) – DBH - 26”, CS – 27’, Ht. – 70’, LCR 80%. The lower 75% of the crown is thin and the upper 25% is dense. The trunk forks at around 50’ and it appears to be a narrow fork with a bark inclusion. It was difficult to tell with the branches screening my view of the trunk. The top of the tree was rounded, which could be due to top dieback and regrowth of new multiple tops from lower branches. This is a common occurrence due to white pine beetle (*Pissodes strobi*) feeding on the spruce. The thinning of the lower crown is likely due to feeding by the green spruce aphid (*Elatobium abietinum*,) another common pest of spruce trees in the Pacific Northwest. There is some English ivy (*Hedera helix*) growing up trunk This tree appears to be in good health with some structural issues. I consider it to be viable and I rate it as a Moderate Risk for failure, but a Low Risk for striking a target, which makes it a **Low Risk** tree overall.
 3. Port Orford cedar (or Lawson’s cypress or white cedar) – (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) – DBH -29”, 25” and 11”, CS – 36’, Ht.- 80’, LCR – 80%. There is a bark inclusion between the two larger trunks. The 29” trunk forks into multiple trunks at 8’ and 10’ with multiple bark inclusions. I counted nine trunks total. Its crown is dense and health is good. Its structure is fair, due to the multiple trunks and bark inclusions. I consider this to be a viable tree and rate it as a Moderate Risk for failure and a Low Risk for striking a target, making it a **Low Risk** tree.

A fourth tree is located in-between trees 2 and 3. It is an 11” DBH Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). It is not considered a significant tree by City of Puyallup code and was not assessed.

Conclusion

All three of these trees are considered viable candidates for retention.

The information in this report is based on my site visit and inspection completed on January 8, 2026 and the plans for the project that I have reviewed. I attest that all of the information within this report is accurate, to the best of my knowledge. It does not provide any guarantees or implications that conditions of the trees on the site won’t change over time. All trees eventually fail and even sound, healthy trees fail during severe weather events. Construction activities can also damage trees and lead to their failure. Care should be taken to protect these trees during construction activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to you with this project. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this report or if you have any further need for my services.

Sincerely,

Alan Haywood – Arborist & Horticulturist, LLC.

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