

From: Michael Abramson
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 5:07 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
Cc: mvcsp-discuss
Subject: RE: Plymouth Street to Space Park Way Realignment

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

prc@mountainview.gov

Dear Parks and Recreation Commission and Urban Forestry Board:

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning (MVCSP) and Green Spaces Mountain View appreciate the opportunity to comment on the tree replacement plan for Plymouth Street to Space Park Way Realignment project:

It is very sad to see so many beautiful mature trees slated for removal for a traffic improvement project. There are more heritage trees on this site than in most of Mountain View parks! They are very valuable and are called "heritage trees" for a reason.

We would recommend Mountain View to rearrange this plan to save the trees or at least some of them. The very least you could do is to replace these trees with species comparable in size, beauty, and canopy. We understand that Redwoods are not doing well in a drought, but there are other evergreen conifers (pines or firs) that grow fast and can do quite well.

Instead, the project proposes replacing huge heritage redwoods with small trees, almost shrubs, such as Laurus Nobilis and Chinese Fringe. We don't consider this an adequate replacement, even if it is in 5:1 ratio.

Finally, for good canopy coverage, trees need to be planted on both sides of the sidewalks as well as at the intersections, and trees adjacent to bikeways and/or walkways need to not be cone-dropping, dripping, or low hanging to avoid interference with pedestrian passage.

More generally, please plant more trees around all sidewalks and walking paths in city parks. Mountain View spends a lot of water to irrigate large lawns in city parks, and this water would be much better used for growing our canopy.

Sincerely,

Michael Abramson for MVCSP
Bruce England for GreenSpacesMV