

Dear Urban Forestry Board,

I am a resident of Eaves Creekside by Avalon at 151 Calderon Ave, Mountain View, 94041 and a Ph.D. student in the Doerr School of Sustainability at Stanford University. Last week, I noticed the signs attached to the heritage trees at the back of the apartment complex indicating they were marked for removal which have prompted this letter and appeal of this decision. I am appealing the decision to remove these trees for three reasons: first, the trees provide essential shade to a community space that is crucial for resident well-being, relaxation, and outdoor enjoyment. Second, because these trees are an essential part of the local ecosystem. Third, there are plenty of other spaces in the apartment complex that could be used to increase housing which would not require cutting down trees or reducing resident green space.

Specifically, I am appealing the decision to remove the following 8 trees:

- London Plane (Tree #1)
- London Plane (Tree #2)
- London Plane (Tree #3)
- Camphor (Tree #4)
- London Plane (Tree #5)
- Camphor (Tree #6)
- Camphor (Tree #7)
- Camphor (Tree #8)

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Removing these trees will destroy natural sources of shade and take away valuable areas for residents to enjoy the outdoors and walk their dogs. Removing these trees will significantly reduce the usable community space and strain our other communal resources even more.

In addition, London Plane trees have been found to be "one of the most efficient trees for removing small particulate pollutants in urban areas, with up to 21.8% of air pollution removed" according to Air Pollution Removal by trees in public green spaces in Strasbourg city, France by W. Selmi, in *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1618866716301571>.

Eaves Creekside claims to be "Eco-friendly" and a "Green Community" (from their website), but the destruction of these trees, some of which are no doubt close to, or more than, 100 years old, goes in direct conflict with this self-proclaimed title.

The nature and qualities of these trees as Heritage trees, including their maturity, aesthetic qualities, particularly their canopies, provide significant screening of the community area. Shade provided by these trees is necessary for enjoyment of the outdoor space since the sun would be very strong without them. In their shade, there are picnic tables and charcoal grills that would not be pleasant to use in full direct sun. The shade provided by these trees is also necessary for the vehicles, which park under their shade (as you can see from one of the attached photos. people preferentially park under the trees for shade). In addition, the area in which these trees are being removed is immediately next to the Stevens Creek. These tree roots provided much needed anchorage to avoid even more soil degradation and erosion.

which will even more significantly affect the ecosystem not just of our community but of Stevens Creek as well. That particular part of the embankment has seen significant erosion over the last couple of years and removing these trees would only speed this process.

There have been many tree removals in the apartment complex over the last 5 years that I have lived here, with no replacement once any tree has been cut down. There are ways for the apartment complex to increase available housing and apartments by adding a floor to any of the current buildings. The town homes built on the same block in the last 5 years, have 3 floors, and there's no reason why additional housing could not be added in that fashion. There are several single-story buildings that could also have a second floor added. In addition, part of the leasing office space could be converted into new apartments. There is precedence for Eaves Creekside converting existing spaces into apartments as they have done this for parts of the gym, the clubhouse, and other storage spaces in the apartment complex. New apartments could also be built above the leasing office.

I have received significant community support to appeal the decision to tear down these trees. The Eaves Creekside community joined together and created a GoFundMe and raised the amount necessary to appeal this decision by the Urban Forestry Board in an incredibly short period of time. Various members of the community donated, expressed support by sharing the GoFundMe, liking the post in the community Facebook page, and left words of support in comments, including one anonymous resident who wrote:

"The decision to remove communal backyard and protected trees eliminates essential spaces for pets to walk and children to play, with no alternative provided anywhere [else]...These actions constitute a serious degradation of the living conditions that we were promised and [pay] for."

Other residents expressed:

"[I am] very disappointed about this development"

"Stop the greed. What about the well-being and safety of the residents?"

"The greenery helps my mood so much and I typically pass by there every day, [it] will definitely be a mental health hit if they really tear down all those trees!"

"The magnificent heritage trees impress and solace me, a 98-year-old whom in my twenty-five year tenancy has had ample opportunities to witness not only their growth but more importantly the range of benefits they give me and the other tenants: improved air quality, essential wildlife habitats, shade from the blistering sun, shelter from the gusty winds, reduction of noise pollution from the nearby car traffic and protection from soil erosion after each rain, thus allowing me to frequently use the nearby available grassy area with picnic tables and grills as I gather with family and friends. The area where the heritage trees are located serves as my haven in nature, a necessity to protect and heal me from the tragedies in my life as well as the current-day chaos in this region and throughout the world as seen in the media. The heritage tree area builds community, a much-needed safe, comfortable, welcoming physical space for all."

Sincerely,
Rebecca Green
09/17/2025



cars parked under shade of trees to be removed



shaded picnic tables and grills that would be in strong direct sun without the heritage trees



One of the trees to be removed is basically two trees with two large trunks that provide shade to parked cars. Another angle of the picnic table shaded by the trees



Significant shade provided by the trees for parked cars



Shade is essential to the use of the outdoor space and many of the heritage trees are very close to the Stevens creek.



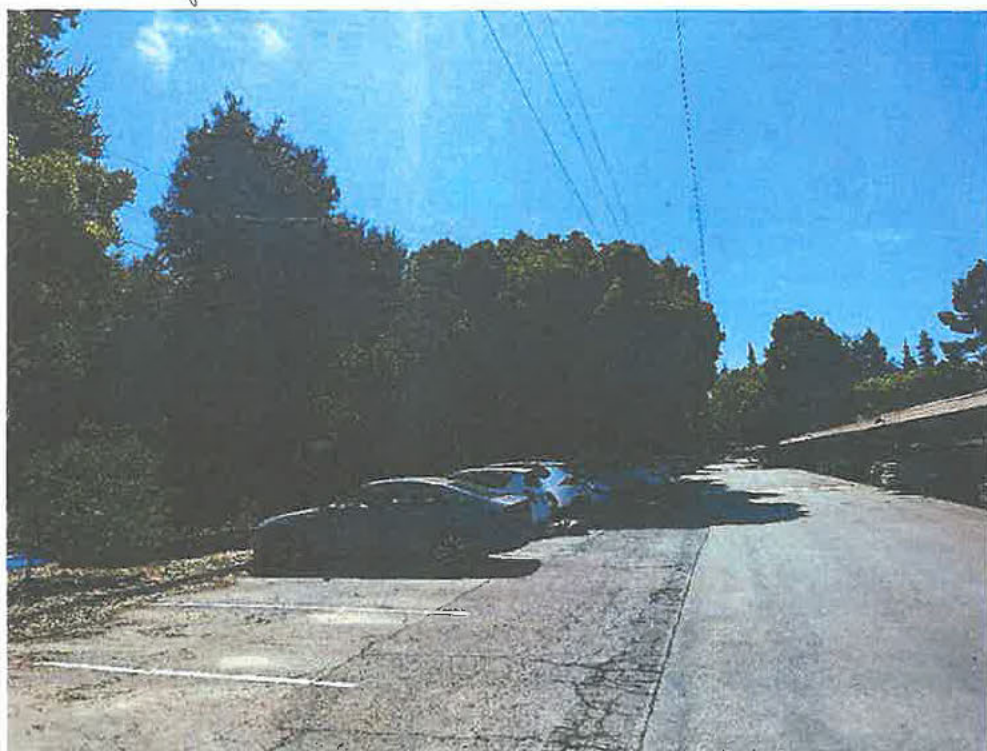
The London Plane trees are important not just for shade but also for their efficiency in removal of air pollution which is particularly important because of Early's proximity to highway 85. These trees also provide important sound pollution mitigation.

Photo attachments:



Very large heritage tree which provides shade to the picnic tables and grills

Shade is essential to the use of this outdoor space



Cars preferentially park under the trees for shade. Full sun spots are often empty.



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Miscellaneous Fee
Collection ScheduleName Rebecca Grekin Date 09.18.25Address [REDACTED]

ACCOUNT

020012-42715 Sales of maps, pamphlets, codes, ordinances,
charters, publications. Precise Plans, agendas,
minutes. Council reports, copies, faxes (DOCFEE)020012-42799 Heritage Tree Appeal (TREEAP)
151 Calderon Av.325.00020012-42715 Sales of City Code and Code Supplements
Subscription (CTYSUB)710100-22150 Elections—Deposit for Printing of Candidate's
Statement (CANDST)

020038-42715 Elections—Precinct Maps (ELCMAP)

020012-43643 Sales of City Souvenirs (SOUVEN)

211215-42799 Zoning Appeal to Council—CDD (ZONEPP)

020012-42799 Other Appeal to Council ()

020012-43623 Building Attendant and Rental Fee (CCATTN)

710100-22171 Security Deposit

020012-43643 Sales of Souvenirs (Clerk Store)

SUBTOTAL 325.00

TAX

TOTAL 325.00

City Of Mountain View

Date: 09/18/25 MGA /MG18/CD1
Time: 13:58:09 Receipt No: 577187

Account No: REBECCA GREKIN

Beginning Balance 0.00
HERITAGE TREE APPEAL -325.00
Ending Balance -325.00

CREDIT CARD Amount -325.00

Payment 325.00
Change 0.00

151 CALDERON #263

Thank You And Have A Nice Day

NOTE: After payment of the above charges at the Finance and Administrative Services Department,
please return this receipt to the City Clerk's Office.

Issued by:

Melissa Garcia

Receipt No:

577187

CC-01A1 Rev-08-10-21