

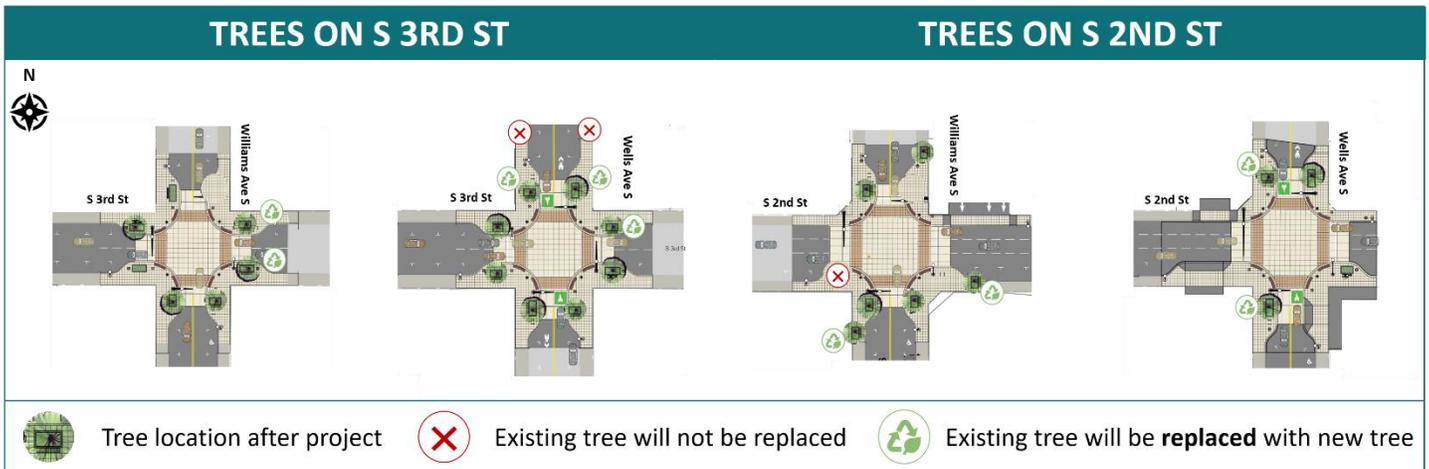
Wells Ave S and Williams Ave S Conversion Project

Landscaping plan contributes to a welcoming downtown

The Wells-Williams Conversion Project converts Wells Ave S and Williams Ave S from one-way to two-way operation, thereby improving connectivity and access in downtown Renton making it a more vibrant and livable area. This project includes utility improvements that address current use and support future development needs in the downtown core.

New trees on Wells Ave S and Williams Ave S at S 2nd St and S 3rd St

At the four downtown intersections reconstructed as part of this project, we plan to remove 12 trees and plant at least 22 new ones. The design seeks to maximize the number of trees at each intersection while avoiding conflicts with underground utilities, which are harmful to both trees and utilities. Street trees are being removed and replaced for many reasons, including to accommodate new utilities, make sidewalks more accessible, improve visibility at intersections and because of the tree's age or health.



Why replace trees?

- Some trees have to be replaced due to age or conflicts with utilities. Relocating mature trees is very expensive.
- Newly planted trees will thrive and provide lasting benefit to the future upgraded downtown.
- Replacement tree types are selected based on what's appropriate for their location.
- In order to keep urban forests sustainable, we remove trees near the end of their useful lives and plant new ones, to ensure continuity of our urban forest for the next generation.



Scarlett Sentinel Maple



Spring Flurry Serviceberry

Replacement tree varieties (photos of mature trees, replacement trees will be smaller).

Questions about construction?

Visit www.rentonwa.gov/ww

Call 425-363-1007

Email wellswilliams@rentonwa.gov

如果您需要此信息翻譯成中文 請電郵 wellswilliams@rentonwa.gov
 Si necesita traducir esta información al español, correo electrónico wellswilliams@rentonwa.gov.
 Nếu quý vị cần thông tin này chuyển ngữ sang tiếng Việt xin gửi đến
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CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

July 2020

Replacing the tree in front of Common Ground Coffee & Cupcakes

In response to community input, we temporarily paused removal of the tree on the northeast corner of S 3rd St and Wells Ave S. We worked with a certified arborist and the project designers to re-examine if we could maintain the existing tree instead of replacing it. Based on the following criteria, we confirmed that it is **necessary to remove and replace the tree for several reasons.**

Unlikely to survive construction

- Root loss during construction would jeopardize the health and stability of the tree.
- Installing the new stormwater main next to the tree would likely sever nearly half of the tree's roots, increasing the risk to nearby pedestrians, customers and buildings.

Limited alternatives

- S 3rd St is narrow, which makes it impossible to find other locations for the utilities.
- Alternative utility installation methods are not feasible and would likely still jeopardize the health of the tree.

Transplanting is not feasible

- The success rate for transplanting a tree of this size and age is very low and would be very expensive.
- Transplanting would disrupt and potentially damage significant utilities nearby, including SPU's water lines.

Near the end of its lifespan

- Urban trees generally have a shorter lifespan due to limited growth space for the upper canopy and low soil volume and quality.
- Even without construction, the tree would likely be healthy and structurally safe for only around five more years.



Tree in front of Common Ground Coffee & Cupcake

More trees on the horizon!

We plan to plant more trees downtown this year in connection to other City projects and efforts, including through the Downtown Streetscape project and Parks Department.



New trees will benefit downtown for years to come

Newly planted trees will thrive and provide lasting benefit to the future upgraded downtown.

Small, but mighty

Did you know that planting smaller trees actually increases their viability and leads to longer-lasting, healthier trees? Planting larger trees slows overall plant growth, leading to smaller trees over time. Trees rely on roots for growth, so the ratio of roots-to-size is important. A larger tree will invest more time in root growth, while a smaller tree can achieve an ideal ratio more quickly – leading to faster, larger growth over the same period.

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