

A Note about Tree Removal at Howard Park

The new, community-designed Howard Park requires a significant amount of tree removal. We've already relocated approximately two dozen trees and plan to save as many as we can - our builders are actually contractually obligated to do as such. There are three main reasons for the removals. 1. To make way for the relocated and expanded features including the community center, ice pond/trail, interactive water feature, event lawn, and universally accessible playground. 2. To address flooding issues and to accommodate natural storm water management, the entire park grade will be raised (many of the existing trees wouldn't survive this grade change as they'd be buried too deep). 3. Some of the trees are diseased or reaching the end of their natural life.

We take tree health, tree canopy coverage, and tree diversity very seriously here in the city. As a matter of fact, we've been certified as a Tree City USA for 21 years in the running. Our City Arborist and his team work tirelessly to keep our tree canopy safe and productive. They're constantly employing new technology and are working with our Ecological Advocacy Committee to introduce good policy & decisions. Sometimes, our tree goals must be balanced with other redevelopment goals, but in the end we'll have 30% MORE trees in Howard Park, a thoughtful shade design, newly introduced bio-diverse areas, and better storm water management. The result will be a more ecologically sound and user-friendly park for the entire region to enjoy!

