

# JONATHAN SPARE

August 29, 2024

Mr. Kenney  
City Arborist  
City of Mercer Island - Community Planning & Development

Re: Building Permit # 2404-165 Partial "Fee in Lieu of" for Replacement Trees

**Dear Mr. Kenney:**

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to request consideration for a fee in lieu of planting for 2 of the required replacement trees on my property located at 8265 SE 61<sup>st</sup> St, Mercer Island. After reviewing the site conditions, receiving input from our geotechnical engineer, and considering your guidance, there is insufficient space available to meet the full tree replacement requirements due to the geologically hazardous nature of the site and failing existing walls without infringing on the reasonable use of the property. The main available area is the lawn area. However, utilizing the lawn for tree locations denies my family the reasonable use of our property as that area serves important functions for the property, including the main recreational area for our young family (3 young kids) and an open space for light into the house.

I also request that the 3 trees include in the watercourse restoration plan count toward the total number of replacement trees required. The area to be restored is currently overrun with bamboo, and while not required, trees would contribute to the restoration plan and would provide the added benefit of replacing the bamboo's privacy screen (the neighbor's master bedroom and bath face my property here).

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. I am happy to provide any additional information or documentation as needed and would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this matter further at your convenience.

Sincerely,



**Jonathan Spare**