



WOODMONT COUNTRY CLUB

26479 Marine View Drive S • Des Moines, WA 98198

May 5, 2017

City of Des Moines
Attn: Michael Matthias, City Manager
21630 11th Ave S, Suite A
Des Moines, WA 98198

RE: Public Works, Maintenance

Dear Mr. Matthias,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the 132 households that currently make up the Woodmont Country Club, within the city of Des Moines. After holding our first 2017 general member meeting, it became clear to me that the majority of our members are highly concerned with the current state of trees lining Woodmont Beach Road S. What was once a beautiful drive, beloved by many residents, has now become a fearful trek through the ravine.

Several trees have fallen over the roadway within the past 12 months and most recently on the morning of March 14th. Fortunately to this point, cars and pedestrians have narrowly escaped a tragic accident and we are grateful to the City for their fast response in clearing the road. We are constantly reminded of how dangerous this situation really is when we see recent news regarding the father killed in Seward Park, the young teenager killed in an Edmonds park and just yesterday, a mother and child trapped in their car in Yelm – all by fallen trees during windstorms.

The rains have been constant this season and many more trees along Woodmont Beach Road S lean in a very precarious manner. We are concerned about several trees on City of Des Moines property adjacent to the Road. There are trees in this specific area that are approximately 10-20 feet off of the paved roadway that lean at unsafe angles over the road.

Woodmont Beach Drive S is the only access in and out of our community and is used daily, not only by our residents, but also school buses, postal deliveries and visitors to our neighborhood. We are not asking for removal of many trees along the Road, as we understand the importance of providing erosion control and stabilization of slopes, but only those trees that potentially pose a threat.

We believe this area has been visited several times over the past 8 years by City staff to identify hazard trees. The last tree assessment we are aware of, was completed by City staff in 2009. I am requesting that the City revisit this situation in order to identify, trim or responsibly remove hazardous trees. As a community we enjoy and want to protect our healthy trees, but feel that the City has a responsibility to manage these hazard trees and prevent a tragic ending.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rick Devitte
Woodmont Country Club
President

Enclosures:
Edie Staiger Letter to the City
Jim Boyd Letter to the City
Resident Photo of March 14, 2017 Fallen Tree

cc: Woodmont Country Club Members

Resident Photo of March 14, 2017 Fallen Tree

