

Tuesday, June 06, 2023

Stony Creek Holiday Tree Location

As the primary persons responsible for the procurement, decoration, activity coordination and tree removal for 30 years we have a strong personal attachment to and investment in the tradition of a Holiday Tree located on the triangle across from the WWML. We are therefore dismayed by the possibility that the tree will be relocated to Madeira park. We are also doubtful that planting a live tree in Madeira Park is a viable and prudent decision. Listed below are our reasons for keeping the tree in its current location as well as our concerns regarding the proposed move.

**REASONS FOR MAINTAINING CUT TREE PLACEMENT IN THE TRIANGLE ACROSS FROM WWML**

- Tradition
  - The tree has been located on the Veterans Green for roughly 80 years
- Visibility
  - The tree will be visible to more people
    - It greets everyone as they pass through the underpass
    - It's visible to library staff and patrons throughout the holiday season
- It's temporary
  - It requires no year round maintenance or care
  - It won't outgrow our ability to decorate it with ladders
- Safety
  - We've never had a safety issue
  - We've always had either police or fire personnel overseeing traffic and pedestrian interactions
- Ease of decoration
  - We can buy fir trees which have soft needles and are easier to decorate.

**REASONS NOT TO RELOCATE THE TREE AND PLANT A LIVE TREE**

- Cost
  - Estimates for tree planting are \$2,000
  - This is a recurring cost because the tree will outgrow the space quickly and will need replacement
- Growth rate and location
  - The tree will grow approximate 1 ft. or more per year and will quickly outgrow its location
  - The diameter of the tree will be between 1/3 and 1/2 the height of the tree
  - The tree will occupy space currently used by beachgoers and picnickers
  - It will block the view of the water from the street and sidewalk
- Nuisance/risk of dying
  - Spruce is the recommended species
  - There's a high risk of the tree dying because of salt exposure
  - Spruce needles are VERY sharp and needles which blow from the tree will be scattered in the grass creating a risk of sticking in children's feet.

**For the above mentioned reasons we implore you NOT to relocate the Holiday tree to Madeira Park.**

Respectfully,  
Sue Ruocco  
Phil Brencher

