



Stride bus rapid transit

January 2024

Transit and trees: Sound Transit's tree and vegetation landscape program

Sound Transit's Stride BRT system creates new options for the public to avoid driving in gridlocked traffic. This system will offer reliable, timely, and sustainable bus rapid transit along the I-405 and SR 522 corridors, with direct connections to Link Light Rail and local bus routes. Construction of the Stride S3 line along SR 522 will involve removing some trees as our crews widen the roadway. Sound Transit will replace trees and vegetation based on each jurisdiction's requirements. These requirements are based on factors ranging from number of trees to overall tree canopy.

Community and Stakeholder engagement

Sound Transit has worked to retain as many of the area's trees as possible, while still meeting the project needs. We have heard from local communities how important trees are to the people in the area. With this understanding in mind, Sound Transit continues to coordinate with cities, community groups, and property owners along the SR 522 corridor to minimize tree removal and create future opportunities for tree planting and replacement.

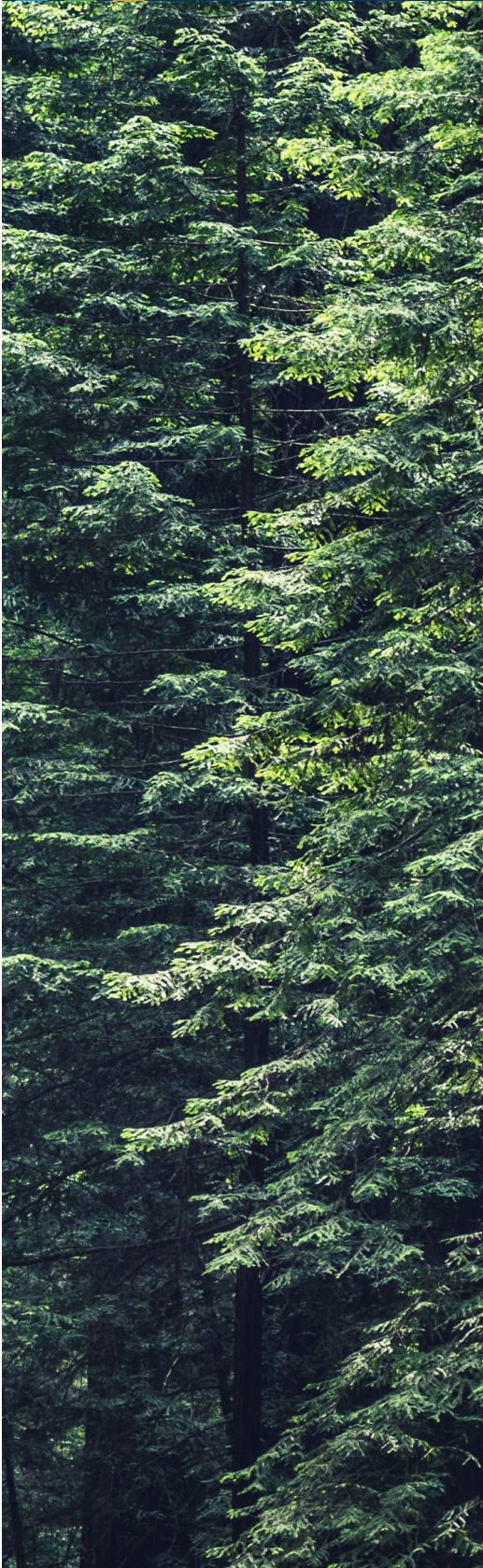
What to expect

When construction begins, our contractors will remove only those trees that have been identified as incompatible with the Stride S3 Project. Crews will also remove invasive and overgrown plant life, such as ivy and blackberries, to restore a healthier environment along the corridor. The final landscaping designs will feature a mix of native and non-native plant species. This allows us to select the best plant species with the spaces available with minimum disruption to the environment. Sound Transit will also plant trees along the corridor, which will quickly restore much of the tree canopy removed during construction.

Sustainability at Sound Transit

The entire transit system expansion will reduce greenhouse gas emissions annually by 793,000 metric tons. This is equal to:

- › Sequestering the carbon equivalent to growing more than 20.5 million tree seedlings for 10 years.
- › Burning more than 89 million gallons of gasoline.
- › Powering the electricity for more than 117,000 homes annually.



Trees being removed



Sound Transit will comply with each city's codes and requirements to protect and minimize damage to trees and vegetation. Additionally, our contractors follow best practices established by the International Society of Arboriculture. Our certified arborists work with construction crews to preserve healthy trees by minimizing negative effects in tree protection zones, which are areas where trees are vulnerable. They will help establish tree protection boundaries; advise on root and canopy impacts in areas of utility, wall, sidewalk, and road installation; and provide pruning where needed to prevent tree damage. Additionally, certified arborists will continue to monitor tree health during construction activities.

Tree Removals by Category				
City	less than 6" Diameter	6 to less than 12" Diameter	12 to less than 24" Diameter	24" Diameter and greater
Seattle/Shoreline	10 3	30 32	17 13	1 10
Lake Forest Park	33	191	125	50
Kenmore	3	8	0	0
Bothell	24	38	14	1

Trees around Stride

When it comes to managing trees alongside development, we work with a goal to enhance the area and maintain a healthy, sustainable urban forest. We evaluate current tree conditions and assess their ability to withstand the potential effects from the project. Additionally, our project staff researched alternative solutions to reduce the overall number of tree removals. These strategies include changing sidewalk and driveway design in specific places along the corridor.

During construction, Sound Transit contractors will remove approximately 603 trees. This total is down approximately 50 trees since the original estimate. All other trees shall be protected to ensure their longevity. We will use protective fencing around the tree protection root zone, provide supplemental irrigation for impacted trees, and employ specialized techniques to minimize root and canopy disturbance. When construction nears completion, replanting will begin. Our project team has planned carefully to ensure the right tree is planted in the right place and to restore the canopy where it was lost. When all is done, S3 corridor will feature beautiful plant and tree life in the area.