



Stride bus rapid transit

October 2024

Transit and trees:

Sound Transit's tree and vegetation landscape program

When managing trees in areas where construction occurs, Sound Transit aims to enhance the area and maintain a healthy, sustainable urban forest. 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 consider the number of trees to overall tree canopy.

We know trees are important

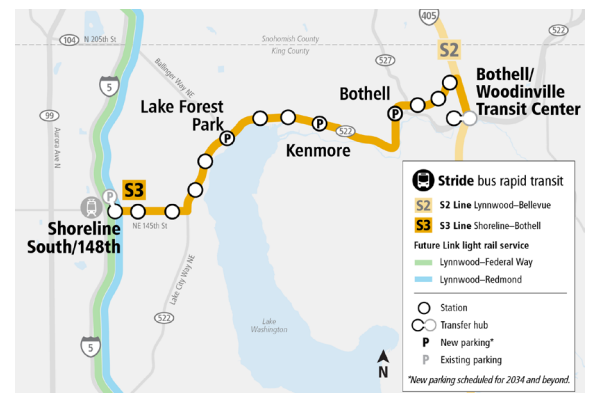
Sound Transit has worked to retain as many of the area's trees as possible, while still meeting the project needs. We have heard from local communities how important trees are to the people in the area. With this understanding in mind, Sound Transit continues to coordinate with cities, community groups, 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. Sound Transit will plant trees along the corridor, which will quickly restore much of the canopy that was removed during construction. 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.

About Stride Bus Rapid Transit

Sound Transit's Stride Bus Rapid Transit 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. The Stride S3 Line will provide service between Shoreline and Bothell.



We do things right

Our certified arborist maintains and monitors tree health during construction





Crews provide root zone aeration to increase plant access to oxygen and nutrients during construction

Stability inspections of trees are done to ensure safety near construction areas



Sound Transit and our contractors will comply with each city's codes and requirements to protect and minimize damage to trees and vegetation. Additionally, we 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	 X-SMALL less than 6" Diameter	 SMALL 6 to less than 12" Diameter	 MEDIUM 12 to less than 24" Diameter	 LARGE 24" Diameter and greater
Seattle	10	31	17	1
Shoreline	3	35	13	10
Lake Forest Park	35	190	116	46
Kenmore	3	8	0	0
Bothell	25	35	12	1

Please note these quantities include dead trees.

Trees and the S3 Line

Before construction the Stride S3 Line, Sound Transit evaluated current tree conditions and assessed 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 included changing sidewalk and driveway design in specific places along the corridor. During construction, Sound Transit contractors will remove approximately 591 trees, 62 fewer trees than the original estimate.

All other trees will be safeguarded to ensure their longevity. Protective fencing around the tree protection root zone will provide supplemental irrigation for impacted trees, and specialized techniques will 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 to restore the canopy where it was lost. When all is done, The Stride S3 Line will feature beautiful plant and tree life.