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**Independent arborist report contradicts city's estimated tree impact
on Summit Avenue project**

(Saint Paul, MN) An independent arborist report released by the citizen group, Save Our Street (SOS), projects that the number of trees along Summit Avenue impacted by the City of Saint Paul's road construction projects related to the regional trail plan is much higher than city's estimates. The arborists, Chad Giblin and Manuel Jordan, used data collected on-site on Summit Avenue to produce their findings. For this reason, SOS supporters want the City of Saint Paul to pass a comprehensive Tree Preservation Ordinance BEFORE any more plans are made for a regional trail or street reconstruction. Cities all over the region have passed measures that protect trees, reduce unnecessary tree removal, and enforce tree protection steps when construction around trees is necessary.

SOS hired two certified independent arborists, Giblin, and Jordan, to evaluate the proposed Summit Avenue Regional Trail (SART) plan last July. Given the early date, their report does not

consider the 90% plan, which calls for curb lines moving into green boulevards and medians on 60% of Summit Avenue, impacting hundreds more mature trees on the west end.

SOS has shared the following:

- Key Findings in the Arborist Report, along with a chart and two maps
- A link to the full report of the arborist findings, including their methodology.
- A link to all the corresponding maps and charts to their report

Key Findings - Arborist Report

SOS hired Independent arborists in July 2022. They were asked to analyze the Impact of planned construction on Summit Avenue. In addition, they were asked to select a sample, representative sections for review. The analysis was done on-site, and trees were inspected visually from the ground. The impacts included those from construction activity at the curbside and the reconstruction of driveways, carriage walks, and sidewalks. Three sections, including 194 public trees and five private trees, were chosen.

- **Section 1 – Saratoga St. S. to Albert St. N.- Lexington-Hamline/Macalester-Groveland neighborhood**
 - Impact from Mill & Overlay – 67 trees
- **Section 2 – Lexington Parkway S. to Victoria St. N. – Summit Hill neighborhood**
 - Impact from full reconstruction – 97 trees
- **Section 3 – Virginia St. to Nina St. – Cathedral Hill neighborhood**
 - Impact from full reconstruction – 35 trees

The Impact from mill and overlay was minimal. However, the complete reconstruction analysis of Sections 2 & 3, part of Saint Paul Parks & Recreation’s plan, showed that 60.6% of the trees would be severely impacted, defined as ‘unlikely to recover’ from the construction activity. Extrapolating this analysis against the whole length of Summit Ave, a total of 1,561 trees (pg. 117 – 90% plan) estimates that 950 trees would be severely impacted.

[Link to full independent arborist report](#)

[Link to corresponding maps and charts](#)

[Link to video dissecting one aspect of tree impact at corners](#)

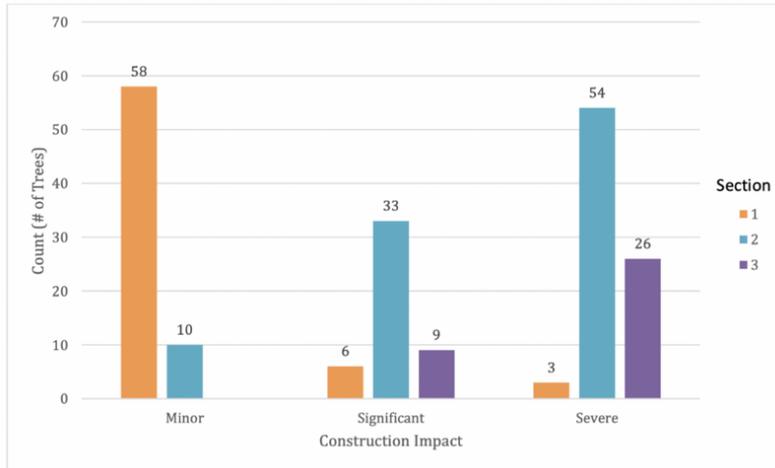
(MORE)

Arborist Contact Information

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Manuel Jordan
 Heritage Shade Tree 763-717-9366 manuel@heritageshadetree.com

Tree impact by section:



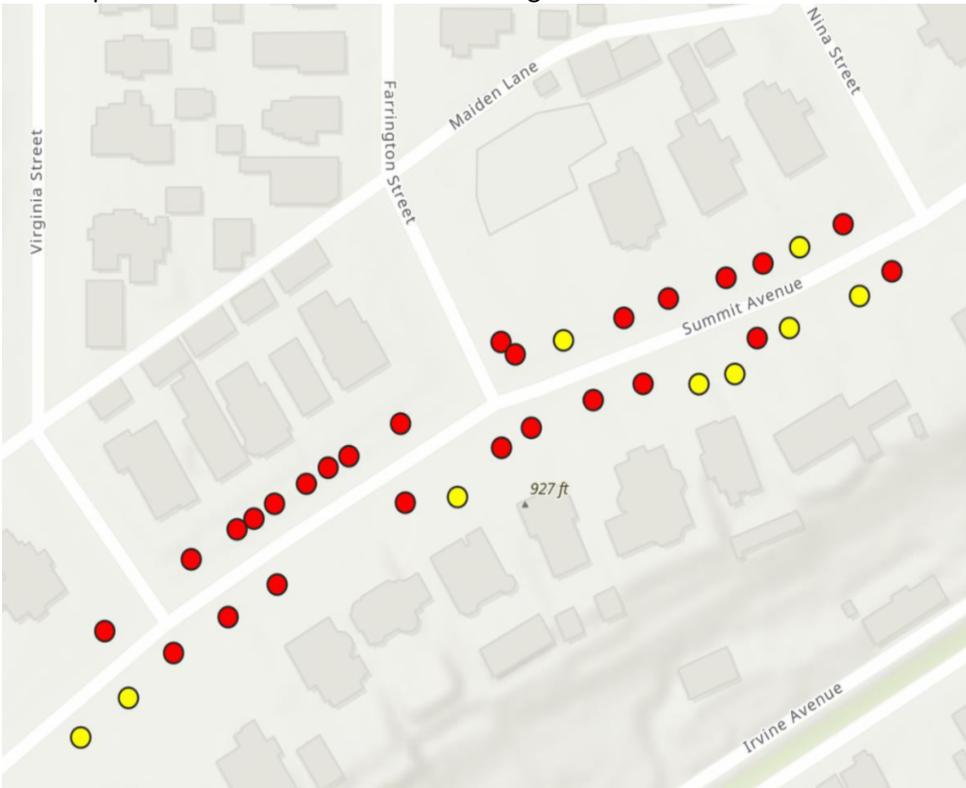
Summit Avenue between Lexington Parkway and Victoria Street



Impact ● Significant
 ● Minor ● Severe

(MORE)

Tree impact on Summit Avenue between Virginia Street and Nina Street



A look back on what created Summit Avenue

Summit Avenue brings tremendous value to Saint Paul and the region as a tourist and visitor destination, an urban oasis for area residents, and an important factor in combating climate change. In addition, the community-made Summit Avenue one of the best-preserved historic streets in the country. It began in 1915 when residents lobbied the Minnesota legislature to pass a statute allowing Saint Paul to designate Summit Avenue as a residential district free of commercial businesses. Further, in the 1920s, Summit Avenue property owners from Lexington Parkway to Mississippi River donated parcels of their front lawns to create the grassy, tree-lined boulevards we associate with Summit Avenue.

These efforts helped Summit Avenue retain its quieter, tree-lined park-like qualities for more than a century. And to further preserve the avenue and its admired architecture, the entire length of Summit Avenue earned the distinction of belonging to **two national historic districts**:

- Historic Hill District
- West Summit Avenue Historic District

About SOS (Save Our Street)

Save Our Street is a citizen group that seeks to educate and advocate for preserving the historic streetscape of Summit Avenue as a treasured St. Paul destination and a safe, tree-lined, multi-modal corridor for generations to come. <https://www.savesummitavenue.org>