

From: [Brad Ryan](#)
To: [Steve Burnham](#)
Cc: [Tyson Ames](#)
Subject: FW: [External Email] Cottonwood Inspections
Date: Monday, April 29, 2024 9:05:30 AM

Steve

Could you please provide this to the Park and Rec Committee for their meeting.

Thank You

Brad A. Ryan
Skagway Manager
Municipality of Skagway
P.O. Box 415, Skagway, AK 99840
(Phone) 907-612-1788
manager@skagway.org

From: Tyson Ames <t.ames@skagway.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 9:04 AM
To: Brad Ryan <manager@skagway.org>
Subject: Fwd: [External Email] Cottonwood Inspections

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Philip England <[REDACTED]>
Date: April 25, 2024 at 7:13:39 AM AKDT
To: Tyson Ames <t.ames@skagway.org>
Subject: [External Email] Cottonwood Inspections

[ATTENTION: This Email was received from outside the Municipality]

Hi Tyson, I wanted to reach out and give you my inspection report of the cottonwood trees along the RV park and ice rink here in Skagway. Upon inspection I noticed many unhealthy, damaged, and diseased trees within the stand along the RV park. Many trees are causing damage to the fences and garden bed wall as their root systems are beginning to swell above the ground and push the

wall/fences upward. There are multiple large dead limbs within the stand, (a few are broken and suspended within the canopy) and many trees with apparent damage and decay to the bases of their stems. There are trees with bark inclusions of very large, heavy, hard leaning stems.

(Bark inclusions can result in cracked trunks and broken trees. There are three examples of inclusions below. The photo with no inclusion is shown for comparison. Branches with no inclusions are better attached to the trunk than branches with inclusions.)

Multiple trees sprouted so close together that they're now rubbing through each others cambium layers when the wind blows. And I know it blows a lot here. Both stand show many signs of becoming a problem for the city in the future.

Cottonwood trees are heavy due to their high turgidity and they catch a lot of wind due to their large sprawling canopies that are oftentimes a mixture of excurrent and recurrent growth. Cottonwood trees' high turgidity often leads to water cracks and cavities that expand and contract with freeze/thaw cycles and can lead to failure as a result. While cottonwood trees may be very prevalent in the Skagway area, and they may offer some beauty to the urban landscape, they can be very dangerous when unmanaged and many towns in the United States have passed ordinances eradicating them from the urban landscape. Cottonwood trees are also one of the most dangerous trees to remove due to the weakness of the wood from such rapid growth. The larger the trees get, the more dangerous they are to remove and the more dangerous they are to the general public. Which leads to my next point. When considering whether a tree is a candidate for being removed, I always weigh the probability of failure along with the consequences of failure to make a recommendation. It's my recommendation that these trees be removed. The utility lines, road, school, rv park, ice rink, vehicles, and people who may be in the area are all fairly drastic consequences, and the probability of failure is also fairly drastic due to the many reasons I've listed above. I've personally witnessed a lot of destruction caused by trees over the last 12 years, and I would hate to see something bad happen as a result of these trees coming down in a storm, especially given their proximity to the school. If you have any more questions, or would like to pass this email along to anyone who would like to read it, please feel free.

Phil England

Certified Utility Arborist

Bright Side Tree Service LLC