

RECEIVED ON: January 19, 2024

From: [Cassandra Pairis](#)
To: [Rigo Garcia](#)
Subject: Please don't remove the trees
Date: Friday, January 19, 2024 9:15:51 AM

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I was heartbroken to see that the city council has approved the removal of all 113 mature beautiful trees along Greenleaf Ave.

I was born and raised in Whittier and those trees are an integral part of my best memories. I have ran under those trees during various running events or just on my own, I have sat next to those trees during the Whittier Christmas parades, I have heard all the birds singing as I walked up and down Greenleaf, I walked from Whittier High and we would almost run to get to the shade provided by these trees, these trees have also brought much shade when parking on Greenleaf not to mention cooling the area during heatwaves.

Whittier was always my favorite place growing up compared to other cities I visited and will always be home but as time has gone on it looks less and less like "home" and more "sterile/cookie cutter", I miss the "Ye olde Towne" I grew up with. I get progress and keeping up with the changes but to remove these trees would destroy the charm of Whittier, the attraction that brings film makers to our town. How can we be Tree City USA when our trees are removed, that I believe gave us that title. I attached below from the city website as a reminder:

"Whittier is especially proud of our urban forest. Designated for more than 30 years as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation, our urban forest improves air quality, energy conservation and storm water attenuation... and it's beautiful!"

I understand if some of the trees are causing damage or if a professional arborist says a tree is sick and should be removed for safety reasons but to remove them all is just heartbreaking to image. I understand they would be replaced but the years they took to become this beautiful won't fill the void they will leave. I really hope you reconsider this, maybe the council members need to go walk Greenleaf and remember why those beautiful trees are there. They are part of the community just as the Whittier Hills are.

Thank you for hearing my thoughts on this matter,
Cassandra Pairis

Alumni of Longfellow, Dexter, Whittier High School and Rio Hondo College.