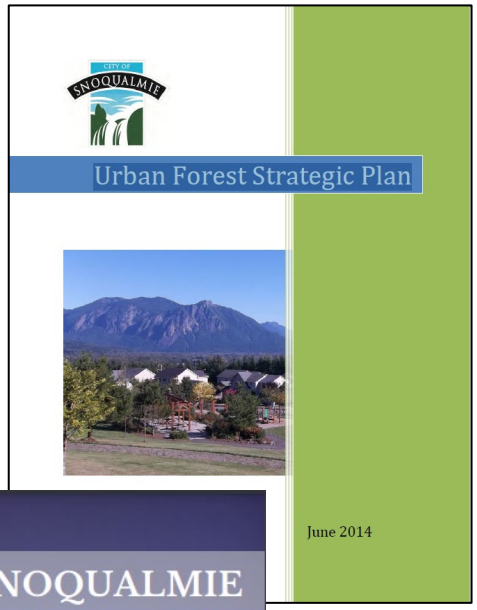
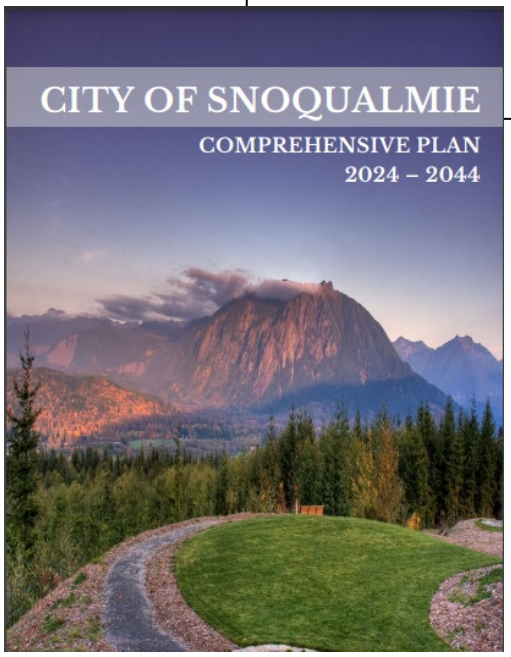
Urban Forest Improvements Program

&

2026 Street Tree Replacement Project

Why do we have this program?





"Promote tree planting, preservation, and maintenance on public and private lands to enhance the city's beauty, environmental health, wildlife habitat, and to take advantage of the economic value contributed by urban forests."

"Policy P&R – 7.4: "Plant street trees on all new streets and ensure street trees are prioritized in improvement plans for existing city streets…"

What problem are we solving?

- 110 Streets in SR1 **do not have sufficient soil volume or drainage** in the planter strip to support healthy tree growth.
- This has led to slow rates of tree growth, early death, sidewalk damage and trees uprooting in storms.
- If we do nothing, canopy cover on Snoqualmie Ridge will decrease as trees fail, resulting in a loss of benefits including:
    - Stormwater retention
    - Property values
    - Energy costs

Hindsight: *Had we been here 20 years ago*

- The soils within Snoqualmie Ridge (SR1) planter strips ***would be specified to meet fundamental requirements***
- **Each tree** should have 300 cubic feet of soil to provide:
  - -High rates of growth
  - -Extended lifespan
  - -Minimal storm failures
  - -Minimal infrastructure conflicts
- **Proper drainage installation** would be prioritized knowing that glacial-till soils create glacial-till bathtubs
- **We would have planted suitable tree species** to increase their environmental, economic and social Services.

What we have done so far

1. A **street tree replacement priority criteria** for Snoqualmie Ridge (SR1) was developed to determine where resources should be used first.

2. Engineering specifications and designs, and program cost estimates were developed.

3. The **Urban Forest Improvements Capital Program** was started in 2020 – funded by the Stormwater Utility.

4. 4 streets in SR1 have been replaced since 2020

We are constantly working on program effectiveness with every individual project.

Updated Program Criteria in 2026

We have learned new things from experience on the ground and updated the criteria accordingly:

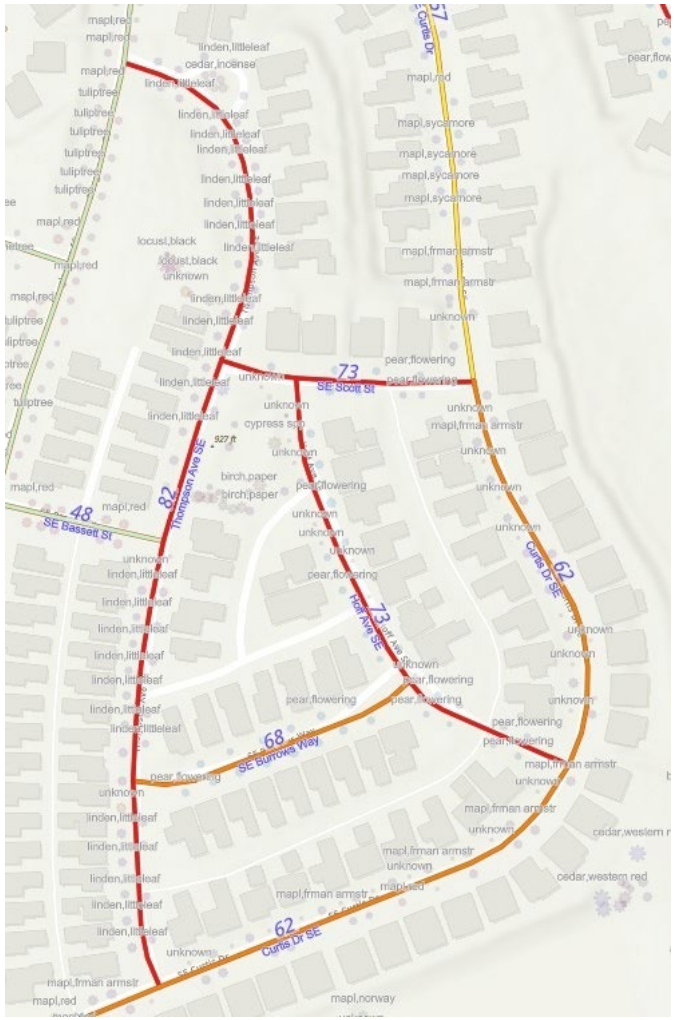
1) Multiple problematic species per street scored higher due to additive nature of rubric

2) Residents let us know that negative aspects of certain tree species were undervalued **(aphids)**

3) Existing canopy cover in surrounding area was not considered in the original assessment

4) Data was not updated to reflect many new empty sites from storm failures/sidewalk conflicts

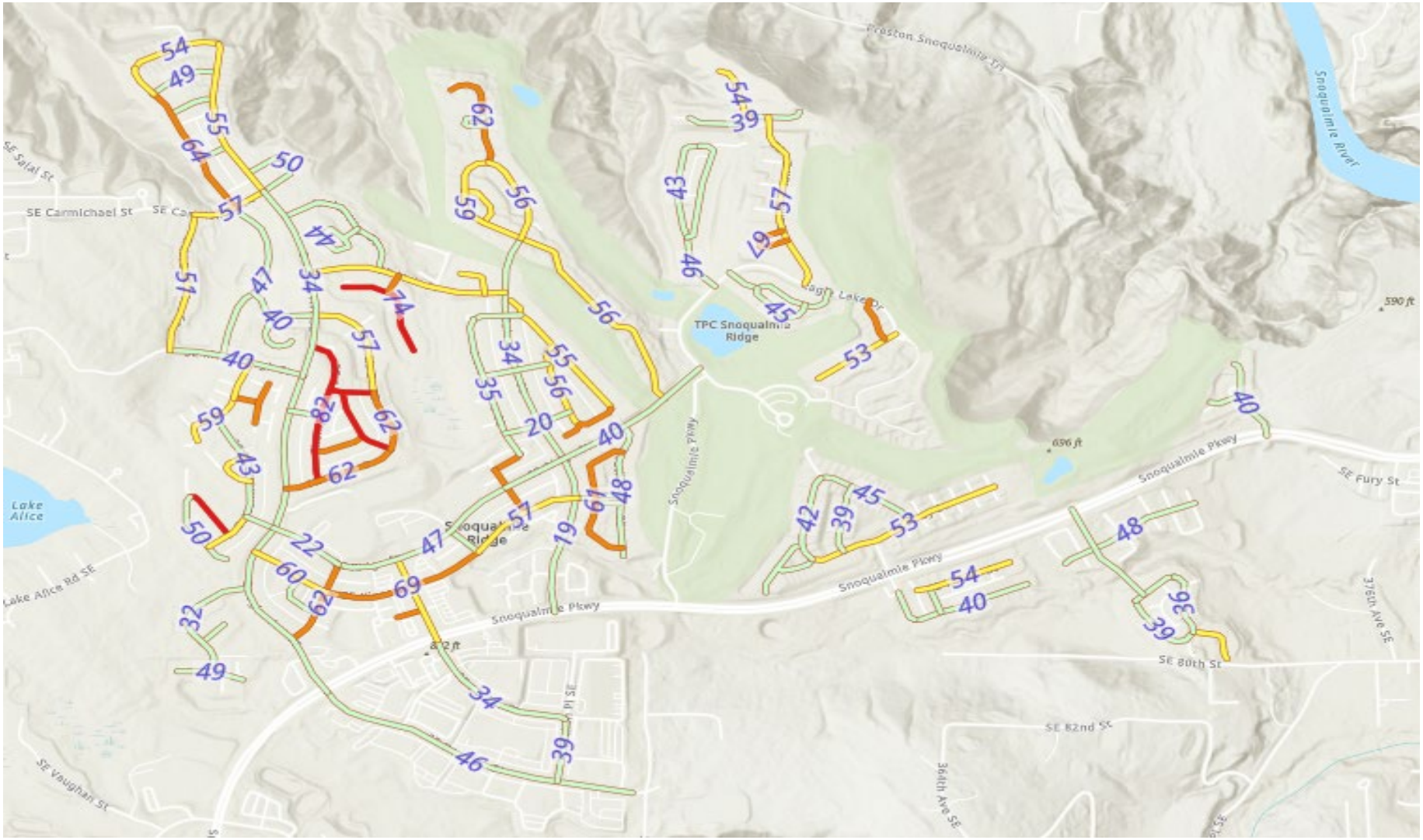
Updated Prioritization in 2026



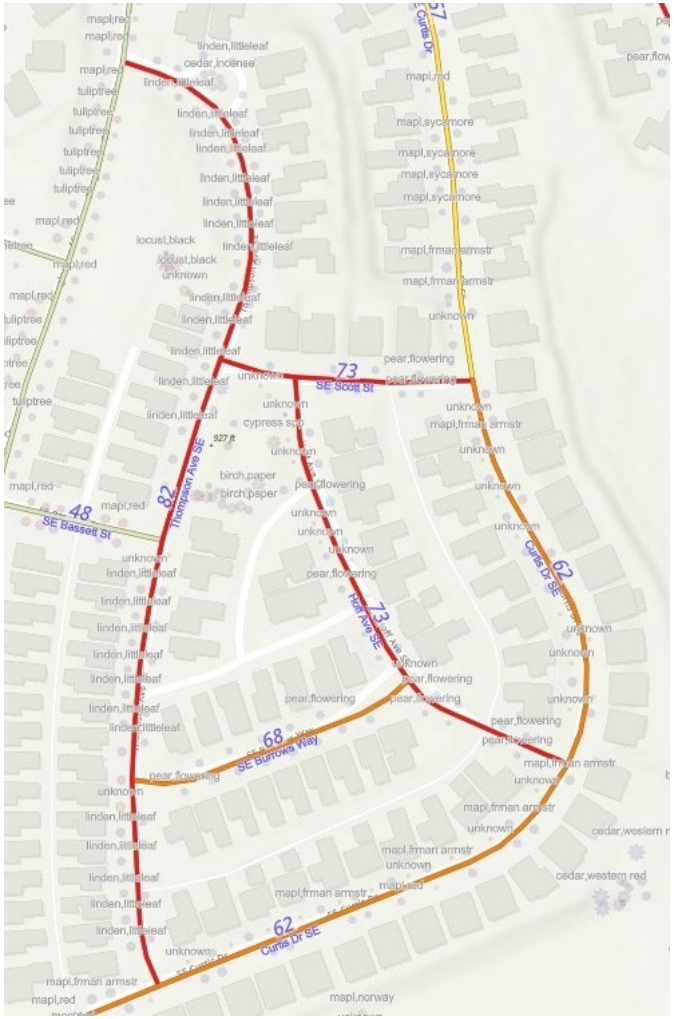
Driven by 3 questions/factors:

- **Existing Tree Quality**
  - Which trees are worth keeping for now?
- **Infrastructure Damage**
  - Which trees are causing expensive repairs and replacement of gray infrastructure?
- **Urban Tree Canopy Coverage – the lack thereof…**
  - Where can improvements have the most impact?

Updated Priority for SRI Replacements



Planned Project for 2026



Thompson Avenue
Score of 82 = Priority 1

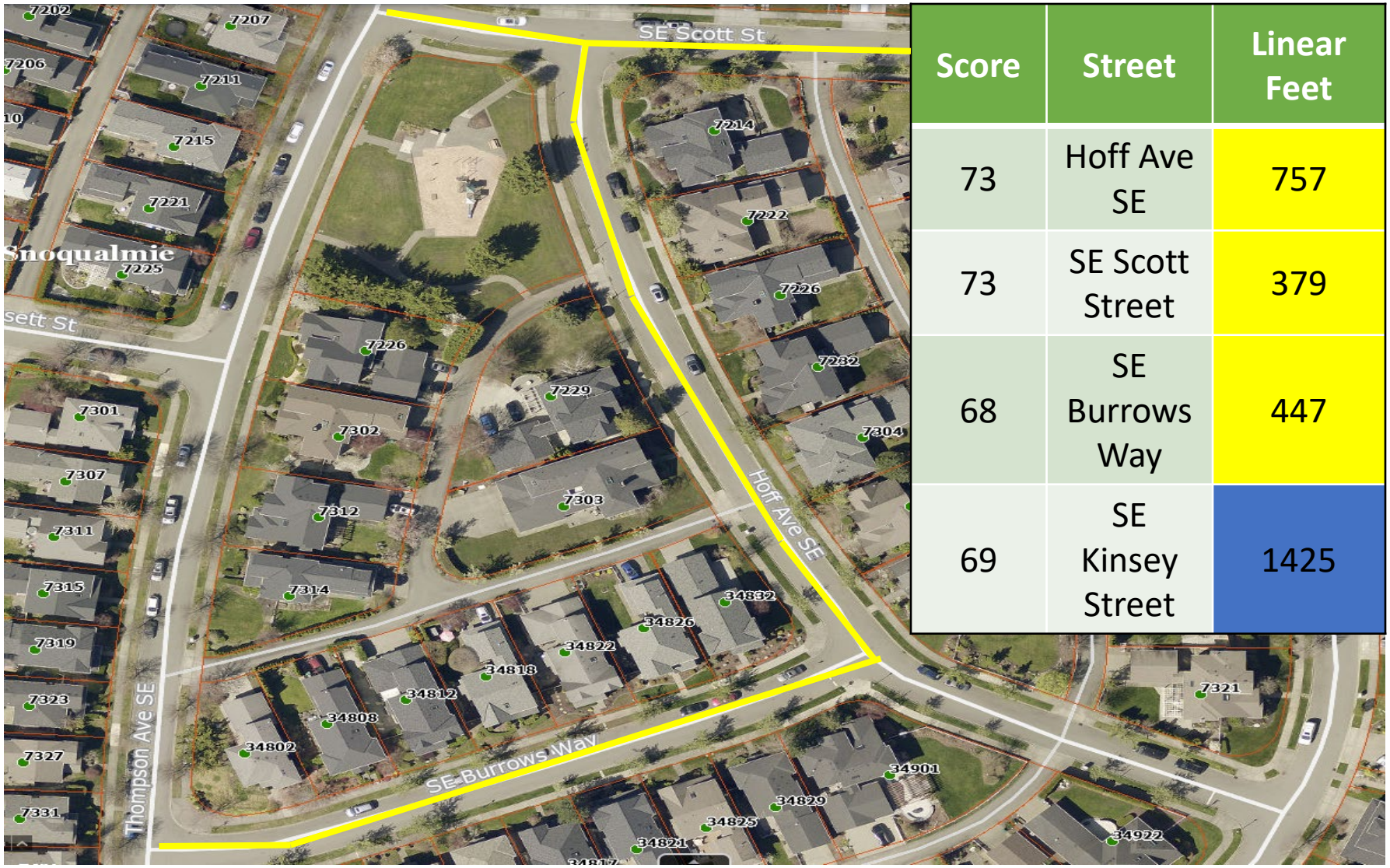
The Plan:

- 1500 linear feet of planter strip improvements.
- 60 – 80 new trees
- Fix poor drainage
- Repair sidewalk damage
- Increase tree canopy coverage
- **END** the Aphid issues on Thompson

Projects Planned for 2026 - 2032

Total Replacement Score	Street	Date	Approximately 1500 Linear Feet per Project
82	Thompson Ave SE	*2026*	1497
77	Raven Ave SE	*2028*	521
74	Rhododendron Ave SE	*2028*	1045
73	Hoff Ave SE	*2030*	757
73	SE Scott Street	*2030*	379
68	SE Burrows Way	*2030*	447
69	SE Kinsey Street	*2032*	1425

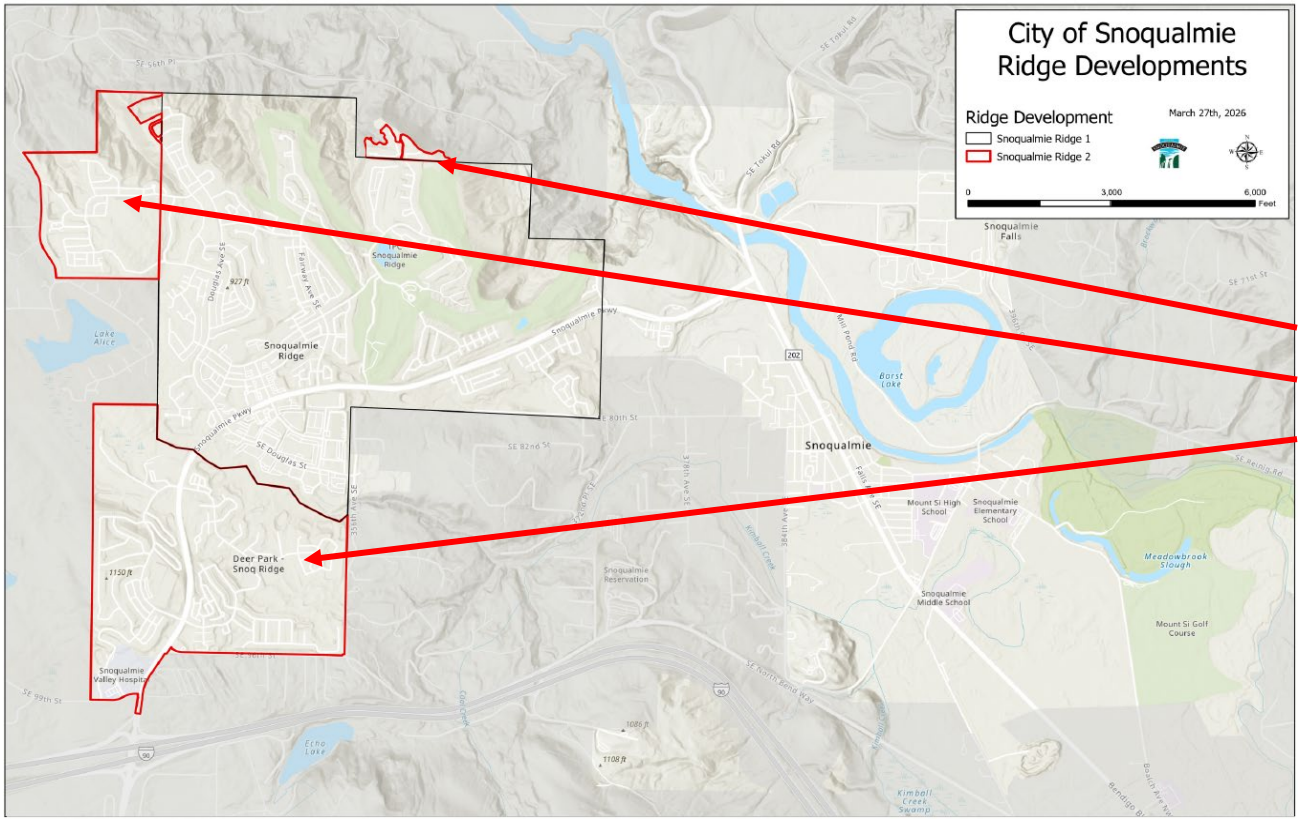
Ordinal Vs. Proximal



Score	Street	Linear Feet
73	Hoff Ave SE	757
73	SE Scott Street	379
68	SE Burrows Way	447
69	SE Kinsey Street	1425

What about SR II?

SR II landscape standards are superior to SR I: The soils are better, trees will live longer, and can be replaced by our own staff at less cost than SR I trees **without extensive soil improvement**



Trees will be replaced annually, based on priority/available resources.

Thank you for your time and support!