

## Weil, Kimberly

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**From:** Collin Van Slyke <collin@nwecological.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2019 10:27 AM  
**To:** Weil, Kimberly  
**Cc:** Ali Taysi; Molly Porter  
**Subject:** Shorewood Herons

Kim,

In response to your questions regarding how the nest tree data from the 2018 heron colony report may affect the buffer associated with the project proposal, I'd like to share my findings. The colony is on an expansion trend and a total of 7 new nest trees were documented in 2018. Two of these trees are located east-southeast of the nest trees documented in past monitoring years.

I imported the 2018 nest tree data into GIS and overlaid the proposed site plan. I placed a 197ft buffer around the 2018 nest trees and found the buffer extends slightly further into the proposed building area on Lot 3 than had been accounted for in the current proposal. Using a 197ft buffer from the 2018 nest trees, the building area would result in an additional 800 sf of buffer encroachment. The building area would encroach a maximum of 25ft further into the buffer than previously accounted for. The building area would now be located 150ft away from the nearest nest tree.

Despite the increase of buffer encroachment, the anticipated functional impacts are generally consistent with those identified in the Jan 2019 Mitigation Plan prepared by NES. The Post Point herons continue to nest exclusively in the red alder trees located along the base of the bluff. The building area on Lot 3 is confined to the top of the bluff, where no red alders exist. The primary concern is the visual/sound buffer between the building area and nest trees would now be up to 25 feet narrower.

The Mitigation Plan may need to be revised to incorporate the newest and best available science. The revised plan will increase both the buffer averaging and the buffer enhancement areas to be commensurate with the increase in buffer encroachment. We believe the increased mitigation measures will provide protection for the heron colony while retaining the site plan and building areas of the current proposal.

Please provide any feedback you may have so that we may work to prepare a plan the city will support.

Thank you,

Collin Van Slyke  
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