

Tanoa Trees

The hot summer days without rain have emphasized the poor condition of the trees by the Albertson's Shopping center in the hundred year flood easement. Contrast these trees with the transplanted ponderosas at the Lifecare Center that have been taken care of by watering and spraying and it's very apparent which ones will survive.

The neglected trees which are now clinging only to their new growth, were once part of a beautiful rolling meadow that always caught your eye as you drove by on the way to the post office and the north Evergreen shopping areas. Known as the Alf Means property, it was sold to the Tanoa Development and about 3 years ago and all were removed to provide room for the shopping center.

The developers of the center were farsighted and community minded and decided to save as many trees as possible. In addition, the county planning commission asked them to develop a people path on the sides of the flood plain area. The flood plain area which lies next to the shopping center was also a rolling meadow full of wild flowers but was carved out to provide for the possibility of a 100 year flood. The developers of the shopping center, the Tanoa Corporation, initially planted trees to border the people path which was to be a concrete path connecting all areas of Evergreen for hikers and bikers.

Two hundred trees were subsequently moved into the flood plain area. While the shopping center was being built, the trees were sprayed and watered. After the center was built, many of the trees were then moved back to landscape the area but died when the watering system was not properly used. The trees left in the flood plain area were left to fend for themselves and the result is that some have died and the rest look as if they are barely making it, with much dieback of the needles.

Now the question - Who's responsible? And do they, whoever they are, want to lose the remainder of the trees. Without spraying and in their present condition they are highly susceptible to the Ips and Mountain Pine Beetle. Without water, during the hot season, they will continue to lose strength and look even more scraggly. Is it the responsibility of the Tanoa Homeowners Association or does the Shopping Center bear the burden of taking care of the trees. Or are they on their own; the trees which will survive will be those which can absorb the most runoff water and can avoid the onslaught of the Beetle.

While the shopping center prospers and more homes are built to support it, it would be a shame to see the trees which are the historical backbone of the area; die one by one each year.

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