TREES FOR ALL

Becoming Better Stewards of Seattle's Urban Forest

Councilmember Rob Johnson

The Problem

Managing Trees is Complex

Nine different city departments manage trees, and it's often confusing as to who does what and when a permit is needed. And there's a need for better data to account for changes to our tree canopy.

Lack of Environmental Equity

Wealthy, white neighborhoods are more likely to have tree-lined streets than poor neighborhoods or neighborhoods of color.

The Solution

Councilmember Johnson's proposed framework would create stronger stewardship of the trees we have, allow our canopy to keep pace with growth and greater density, and plant more trees in neighborhoods that lack them: poor areas and communities of color.

Benefits

A Cleaner Environment

Improved water quality and cleaner air

A More Resilient Environment

A more robust ecosystem responsive to climate change

A More Beautiful City

Increased natural beauty & better connection to nature

A Healthier City

Better mental & physical health for everyone

A More Equitable City

More trees will be planted in areas without them

How It Works

STEP 1
Create a One-Stop Online Portal for Tree Permits

A new citywide website would be created for tree permits, making it simple for the public to get what they need.

STEP 2
Require a Permit for Cutting Down Trees

Any tree over 12" in diameter or trees designated to have special value would requite a permit for removal.

STEP 3
Plant a New Tree(s) Somewhere Else

You can replace the lost canopy by planting a new tree(s) on your property or nearby.

OR

STEP 3
Pay into a "Tree Offset" Fund

If you don't want to replace the tree onsite, you can pay an in lieu fee and the city will plant tree(s) elsewhere.

Get Involved

Become a Tree Ambassador

Volunteer to become a steward of Seattle's trees!

Plant a FREE Tree

Contact Trees for Neighborhoods to increase the canopy in your own yard

Track the Process

The first conversation will be at the City Council on 5/16 @ 9:30am

More Information

seattle.gov/trees