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Urban Forestry Commission has the following suggestion for the current update to the Seattle Right-of-way Improvement Manual. We suggest the following change to improve newly planted street trees by developers. We would like you to consider these specific changes:

Insert the following new section into the document (currently at page 41):

6.1.7d Tree Soil Volume and Canopy Space

Proposed street trees require an appropriate soil volume to provide for a healthy root zone for each tree maturity. Space to develop vertically is also necessary for the street tree to remain healthy. Tree species selection should reflect an appropriate accommodation of soil volume and air space to allow the tree to reach and maintain its health into maturity. Refer to the City of Seattle's Street Tree Manual.

[This addition is intended to call attention to the specific needs of healthy long-lived street trees.]

We believe that this change would allow for development review to require appropriate soil volume for new street tree plantings. It would also increase consideration for the needs of street trees and lead to a healthier and longer-lived urban forest. Please let us know if questions or concerns arise when exploring the following suggestions. Thank you