Tree Replacement Ratios Used by Other Jurisdictions v2

The Council version of the draft Tree Ordinance contains a complicated process for calculating the number of replacement trees required when trees are removed. It is tied to the permit requirements which are based on canopy cover goals for the various land use types (single family, commercial, etc.).

The SUFC has discussed the difficulty of using canopy cover goals on a parcel by parcel basis for determining if trees can be removed and for determining how many replacement trees would be required. SUFC has recommended simplifying not only the permit process but the mechanism for tree replacement by creating a table showing the number/category of tree being removed and a number of trees required for replacement.

To get an understanding of how other jurisdictions determine tree replacement the following table presents information from several jurisdictions. Not that some jurisdictions use tree caliper, while others use ratios based on the size/category of the tree removed. This is not an exhaustive list, but is intended to provide information on a range of tree replacement requirements.

Jurisdiction	Tree Category Being Removed	Tree Replacement Ratios
Issaquah		1 tree for every 6 inches caliper removed
Shoreline	Conifer 8" dbh	1 tree
	Non-conifers 12" dbh	1 tree
	Larger trees	1 additional tree for each 3 inches dbh
Mercer Island	Less than 10 " dbh	1 tree
	10-24 " dbh	2 trees
	24-36" dbh	3 trees
	More than 36" dbh	6 trees
Sammamish	Landmark tree (32"+)	3 trees
	Heritage tree	2 trees
	Significant tree (8 " conifer, 12 " decid)	1 tree
Portland	Nuisance, dead, dying, dangerous, w/in10' of bldg.	1 tree
	Less than 20" dbh (up to 4 trees/yr	1 tree
	20" and larger (up to 4 trees/yr)	Inch for inch
	12" and larger more than 4 trees/yr	Inch for inch
Bothell	8" dbh	3 trees
	Larger than 8"	1 additional tree for every 2" over 8"
Tukwila	Small canopy tree (up to 500 ft^2 canopy removed)	1 tree
	Medium canopy tree (501-1000 ft^2 canopy removed)	2 trees
	Large canopy tree (greater than 1001 ft^2 canopy removed)	3 trees