

## SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Weston Brinkley (Position #3 – University), Chair • Steve Zemke (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist), Vice-Chair  
Sarah Rehder (Position #4 – Hydrologist) • Stuart Niven (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA)  
Michael Walton (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)  
Joshua Morris (Position #7 – NGO) • Steven Fry (Position #8 – Development)  
Neeyati Johnson (Position #10 – Get Engaged) • Whit Bouton (Position #11 – Environmental Justice)  
Jessica Jones (Position # 12 – Public Health) • Shari Selch (Position # 13 – Community/Neighborhood)

*The Urban Forestry Commission was established to advise the Mayor and City Council concerning the establishment of policy and regulations governing the protection, management, and conservation of trees and vegetation in the City of Seattle*

**November 6, 2019**

### Meeting Notes

Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 2750 (27<sup>th</sup> floor)  
700 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle

#### Attending

##### Commissioners

Weston Brinkley – Chair  
Steve Zemke - Chair  
Whit Bouton  
Steven Fry  
Neeyati Johnson  
Elby Jones (non-voting)  
Jessica Jones  
Josh Morris  
Sarah Rehder  
Shari Selch  
Blake Voorhees (non-voting)

##### Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE  
Patti Bakker - SPR  
Donnie Grabowski - SPR

##### Public

Jose Narvaja

##### Absent- Excused

Stuart Niven  
Michael Walton

**NOTE: Meeting notes are not exhaustive. For more details, listen to the digital recording of the meeting at: <http://www.seattle.gov/urbanforestrycommission/meetingdocs.htm>**

#### Call to order

Weston called the meeting to order and invited Elby Jones, the new appointee awaiting confirmation to Position #2, to introduce herself.

#### Public comment

None

#### Adoption of October 2 and October 9 meeting notes

**ACTION: A motion to approve the October 2 meeting notes as amended was made, seconded, and approved.**

**ACTION: A motion to approve the October 9 meeting notes as written was made, seconded, and approved.**

**Green Seattle Partnership – Donnie Grabowski and Patti Bakker**

Donnie presented the budget overview of the Green Seattle Partnership. She presented the 2019 adopted budget. She mentioned that for the 2019 budget SPR moved funds from the Capital Budget to the Operating Budgets.

UFC question: If the Parks District works on six-year cycles how does it work when changes are made before the cycle has gone by? Did the Parks Levy Oversight Committee get briefed on this specific change?

Answer: the budget can be adjusted on an annual basis and yes, the committee was briefed on the budget. The department identified efficiencies that resulted in an \$880,000 reduction in the General Fund. The General Fund was reduced, and \$1.4 M were moved from the Parks District to the GF to backfill.

UFC question/comment: to clarify, the natural area crew works on natural areas such as the GSP and the tree crew works on trees citywide, correct?

Answer: yes

2019 program accomplishments:

- 54,233 plants installed
- 176,727 plants watered
- 31 acres phase enrolled
- 47,036 volunteer hours
- 25,256 professional crew hours

The program is still on track to meet the 2025 goal to restore 2,500 acres. There is a Statement of Legislative Intent issued by Council for the program to respond to by June 2020. Staff will drill down on what's needed to finish restoring acres to comply with the program goal.

UFC question/comment:

You mention that there were efficiencies that caused the reduction; now there is consideration to bring back capital funding; and there is going to be an assessment... all those statements seem contradictory. There is concern of the program losing momentum.

Answer: the SLI will help get clarity on resources needed.

UFC question/comment: The program was evaluated for the strategic plan update in 2017. What changed in one year that lead to the decision to change allocation of funds in 2018?

Answer: the SLI will bring clarity.

To hear the details of the discussion visit the meeting digital recording:

<http://www.seattle.gov/urbanforestrycommission/meetingdocuments>

UFC question/comment: The strategic plan briefing in 2017 stated that challenging acres were coming up and that the program needed to ramp up capital budget. So, the changes made to the budget for 2019 were surprising to the UFC.

Answer: Probably the UFC can be briefed on budget in years to come. So, the UFC is more informed. The program did take a big cut \$880K in 2019.

The UFC discussed a letter of response to the Mayor regarding GSP funding levels. The group will review, discuss, and possibly adopt next week.

**UFC letters to discuss – move to next meeting**

- Resolution 31902
- Hazardous tree
- SDCI TIPs feedback

**Public comment**

None

**New Business**

None

**Adjourn**

**Public input:**

**(see next page and posted notes)**

**From:** Judy Akalaitis <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 09, 2019 9:26 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Dear Mayor Durkin & All,

Reading your latest tweet, Mayor Durkin, "Climate change is one of the gravest threats we face. In the face of our federal government's failure to act, cities like Seattle must lead the way on climate. That's why I am in Copenhagen, Denmark to participate in the @c40cities Mayors World Summit."

I believe that you can make a larger impact on local climate by taking a trip around Seattle with me. I will show you sites on which majestic Cedars, Doug Firs and other large and significant trees once shaded the area and cleaned the air and are now clearcut lots on which developers will make their millions --- not by building low income housing, but by building houses and townhouses where ONLY THE WEALTHY - can afford to live.

Rather than take a flight to Copenhagen, I can take you around Seattle and show you sights where businesses licensed by you, are cutting down large, exceptional and significant trees

WITHOUT permits. When you return to Seattle, I would love to join you in learning why tree companies operate with such lawlessness in taking down large, significant and exceptional trees. If such lawlessness continues, will you return to another world summit of mayors, knowing that Seattle is losing its tree canopy at an alarming rate which is a major contributor to climate change?

I'm a mom who has become aware of the lack of strong laws for our trees by watching the rapid cutting of trees all around the city. I am nothing other than shocked that a tree company can, and will, remove massive trees without a permit. I am further shocked that I can witness giant Western Red Cedars, for example, being taken down and when I call SDCI's complaint line nothing happens.

Mayor Durkan and Councilmembers, trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents. Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.

4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development.
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle. This is extremely important!!
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

A DIRECT IMPACT on SEATTLE'S CLIMATE can be made with your rapid action to preserve what large, exceptional trees that remain in our city as well as strengthening Seattle's tree ordinance. Just imagine the local impact that you can make AND you will have something to talk about at the next 40 cities mayors world summit! Don't be a doormat to developers! Be a strong mayor! You can do it, all of you! Be strong, be leaders, and save our climate by saving our trees!

Sincerely,  
Judy Akalaitis

Judy Akalaitis  
[judy@akalaitis.net](mailto:judy@akalaitis.net)  
3116 NE 84th St  
Seattle, Washington 98115-4718

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**From:** robert gensley <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 09, 2019 9:31 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

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7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all

Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.

8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

robert gensley

[rtreater@msn.com](mailto:rtreater@msn.com)

1119 ne 43 st, 101

seattle, Washington 98105

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**From:** Joshua Morton <[info@sg.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 10, 2019 7:11 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** AIS Northwest urges the city of Seattle to update its Tree Protection Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

The following resolution was adopted by our organization.

Organization Resolution in Support of the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission's Draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance

WHEREAS Seattle is losing not only its biggest trees, but much more of its green cover, as developers frequently scrape properties clean of trees to maximize their buildable area; and  
WHEREAS Seattle has failed to require developers to replace all "exceptional" trees and trees over 24" DBH (diameter at 54" high) as prescribed by SMC 25.11.090; and  
WHEREAS Seattle, unlike Portland and other major cities, has not instituted a permit system to govern tree removal on developed property or property being developed, but relies instead on a complaint-based system that is applicable only to already-developed property and does not protect trees even there; and  
WHEREAS the Seattle City Council voted in 2009, and again by Resolution 31870 in March 2019, to support an updating of its Tree Protection Ordinance; and

WHEREAS the City concluded, in its 2017 Tree Regulations Research Report, that “Current code is not supporting tree protection” and that “we are losing exceptional trees (and groves) in general”; and

WHEREAS Seattle’s trees and urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure that (a) reduces air pollution, stormwater runoff, and climate change impacts like heat-island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife, and (b) is important for the physical and mental health of Seattle residents: and

WHEREAS the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission has drafted, at the suggestion of several City Council members, an updated Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance consistent with the eight recommendations specified by the Council in Section 6 of its Resolution 31870, which would:

a. increase protections for Seattle trees and tree canopy volume by requiring, in each land-use zone in the city, a permit for removal and replacement of any tree over 6” DBH, whether on developed property or property being developed;

b. require two-week on-site posting of tree removal and replacement applications (as SDOT already requires);

c. require on-site tree replacement equivalent, in 25 years, to the tree canopy volume removed, or payment of a fee into a Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund for planting and 5-year maintenance of trees elsewhere in the city;

d. retain current protections for exceptional trees and reduce the definitional upper threshold for exceptional trees to 24” DBH;

e. allow no more than two significant non-exceptional trees to be removed over 3 years on developed property;

f. require registration of all tree services providers with the city;

g. track all significant tree loss and replacement; and

h. provide adequate funds to administer and enforce the ordinance.



Therefore, be it resolved that, in recognition of the environmental importance of trees and the urgent need to update and strengthen Seattle's current ordinance, we urge the Seattle City Council to enact, and the Mayor to sign and enforce, the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission's June 14, 2019 draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance.

Resolution adopted by AIS Northwest, Joshua Morton , Owner

Joshua Morton

[jumavm@yahoo.com](mailto:jumavm@yahoo.com)

2603 Bridgeport way west suite c

University Place, Washington 98467

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**From:** Kjersten Gmeiner <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2019 11:10 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please introduce and pass a strong tree ordinance!

Our neighborhoods in north sSeattle are being clearcut for development (north Seattle).

This needs to be fixed NOW before the big old trees are gone (irreplaceable!)

PLEASE ACT NOW.

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of

trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
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4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Kjersten Gmeiner

[gmeiner.k@gmail.com](mailto:gmeiner.k@gmail.com)

12051 14th NE

Seattle, Washington 98125

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**From:** Tahoma Doyon <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2019 1:26 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** More trees please

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle is beautiful because of the green landscape. If growth is going to continue we should make sure our canopy is increasing with it. Please do what you can. Thank you.

Tahoma Doyon

[tahomarealty@outlook.com](mailto:tahomarealty@outlook.com)

9030 4th Ave NW

Seattle, Washington 98117

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**From:** Gordon Wood <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2019 3:02 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Gordon Wood

[transhuman@earthlink.net](mailto:transhuman@earthlink.net)

906 Lake Washington Blvd S

Seattle, Washington 98144-3314

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**From:** Rose Yu <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2019 4:08 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Dear Seattle Leaders,

As a neighbor in the Leschi / Central area, I have seen rapid development of multi-unit homes and I am pro density. However, one of the key components of the vitality of a neighborhood is having tree canopies to gather under and socialize with neighbors. Plus it is inadequate to replace a 100 year old tree with a sapling that typically does its first few years as the owner doesn't adequately water the tree.

Lower income neighborhoods in the development zones are disproportionately impacted. You don't see people cutting down 100 year old trees in Madison Park or other areas that remain only single family homes.

I understand developers have to make money but they are underestimating the value of mature trees. Also in terms of energy conservation they provide needed shade to keep the sun out during our long summers.

Below is the standard text that I support.

—

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8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Rose Yu

[rosehyu@me.com](mailto:rosehyu@me.com)

2806 S Dearborn St

Seattle, Washington 98144

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**From:** Brian Smale <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2019 4:49 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle’s Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.

8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Brian Smale

[brian@briansmale.com](mailto:brian@briansmale.com)

52451 21st Avenue NE

Seattle, Washington 98105

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**From:** Karen Lambka <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2019 5:26 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Save our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation



- (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6” and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
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Karen Lambka

[klambka@hotmail.com](mailto:klambka@hotmail.com)

5509 NE 63rd St

Seattle, Washington 98115

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**From:** Robert Huskey <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2019 5:49 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Update Seattle’s Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Trees, the green and the canopy are an essential part of Seattle's character and charm. I'm very much for progress but we have to be clear about what that means. One thing it Doesn't mean it destroying that character with stupid, lazy, ill-considered, unsustainable and ugly architecture of the fashion du jour. A barren artificial Seattle of the future would be a true tragedy when we are starting with so many riches. A very clear and obvious distinction between desirable and undesirable neighborhoods is the amount of Green; Trees in particular. So development that does not include Significant canopy is literally turning desirable areas into undesirable ones. Further, regarding climate change and sustainability, We would be idiotic to ignore the benefits of trees in the city in mitigating possible effects of climate change in our area. Don't let Seattle's desirability be the engine of its demise. More Trees, not fewer.

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Robert Huskey

[bob@saturndesign.com](mailto:bob@saturndesign.com)

11th Ave NE

Seattle, Washington 98105

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**From:** Kathy McAuliffe <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2019 6:18 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of

trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
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7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Kathy McAuliffe

[kmtiels@aol.com](mailto:kmtiels@aol.com)

555 NE 81st St.

Seattle, Washington 98115

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**From:** Samantha Beadel <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Friday, October 11, 2019 7:04 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

There was the most beautiful huge heritage cedar in a parking lot near my house. I was devastated - along with my neighbors - to wake up one more to see the poor thing chopped down to a stump. And yet right now that owner is building a lot full of crappy townhouses. How many fewer townhomes could they have let go out of their proforma to save such a beautiful specimen? And they don't even appear to be suffering any consequences.

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being

removed on undeveloped lots.

4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Samantha Beadel

[sabeadel@hotmail.com](mailto:sabeadel@hotmail.com)

842 NE Ravenna Blvd

Seattle, Washington 98115

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**From:** Talis Abolins <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Saturday, October 12, 2019 10:35 AM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please Update Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Talis Abolins

[talis.abolins@gmail.com](mailto:talis.abolins@gmail.com)

2827 31st Avenue South

Seattle, Washington 98144

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**From:** De Lise Frampton Hartzell <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Saturday, October 12, 2019 12:26 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Trees keep us oxygenated. This is destroying our lives.

De Lise Frampton Hartzell  
[delisehartzell@live.com](mailto:delisehartzell@live.com)  
6528 40th Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115

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**From:** Deborah Davis <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 12, 2019 2:11 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Deborah Davis

[davis122@gmail.com](mailto:davis122@gmail.com)

7715 1st Ave NE

SEATTLE, Washington 98115

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**From:** Vera Trainer <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Saturday, October 12, 2019 2:25 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all

Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.

8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Vera Trainer

[vera.l.trainer@noaa.gov](mailto:vera.l.trainer@noaa.gov)

5767 28th Ave NE

Seattle, Washington 98105

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**From:** Carol Haffar <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Saturday, October 12, 2019 2:47 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Save our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I'm sure you've read the recommended tree ordinance in detail. I haven't but don't discount my voice.

There are trees being removed NOW on 145th and 1st. It's a crime to remove stands of old trees.

Seattle will soon have reduced its truly natural environments of heritage tree canopy, open space, open sky, fresh air, and orca-friendly water to a point where there will be little left to enjoy for people of all ages and incomes. To simply go outside for refreshment, to enjoy the majesty of nature, is absolutely essential for those of us who know how precious a resource the natural environment of a region is.

While Seattle expands with development and growth I'm disappointed by the faux-natural environments I see designed into our city. This is NOT the same as having the trees that once thrived here, emblematic of the majesty of nature and the respect we owe to her.

The powerful in our city are allowing the natural gifts of our region to be squandered. I'm aghast thinking of how our city will feel to it's residents after environmental quality continues to degrade. Instead, the very highest priority in Seattle must be our environment health.

Carol Haffar

[c.haffar@hotmail.com](mailto:c.haffar@hotmail.com)

6201 25th Ave NE

Seattle, Washington 98115

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**From:** Barbara O'Brien <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 12, 2019 3:17 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Update Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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7. Expand SDOT’s existing tree service provider’s registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Barbara O'Brien

[bgobrien@comcast.net](mailto:bgobrien@comcast.net)

7316 - 50th Ave NE

Seattle, Washington 98115-6130

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**From:** charles williams <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Saturday, October 12, 2019 3:32 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all

Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.

8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

charles williams

[chuckwilliams1@mac.com](mailto:chuckwilliams1@mac.com)

7850 E. Green Lake Dr. N., #102

Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** Robert Blumenthal <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Saturday, October 12, 2019 4:31 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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  8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Robert Blumenthal

[rblument@comcast.net](mailto:rblument@comcast.net)

2812 NE 62nd St.

Seattle, Washington 98115

---

**From:** Addie Augsburger <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 12, 2019 5:08 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Update Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Addie Augsburger

[addieaugsburger@gmail.com](mailto:addieaugsburger@gmail.com)

5611 15th Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98105

---

**From:** Colleen Tufts <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 12, 2019 5:11 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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Colleen Tufts

[tuftscolleen@gmail.com](mailto:tuftscolleen@gmail.com)

5611 15th Ave NE

Seattle, Washington 98105

---

**From:** Sandra Wheeler <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Saturday, October 12, 2019 5:35 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Save our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Sandra Wheeler

[sandracwheeler@gmail.com](mailto:sandracwheeler@gmail.com)

201 E Boston Street #2200

Seattle, Washington 98102

**From:** Viviana Bompadre <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 12, 2019 6:39 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits

and to track changes in the tree canopy.

6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Viviana Bompadre

[viviana\\_b@icloud.com](mailto:viviana_b@icloud.com)

4222 NE 72nd St

Seattle , Washington 98115

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**From:** Carol Stewart <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 12, 2019 6:44 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

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7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Why do we have to state the obvious about protecting our tree canopy. I vote!

Carol Stewart

[crl.stewart@gmail.com](mailto:crl.stewart@gmail.com)

7841 56th Place NE

Seattle , Washington 98115

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**From:** Jeanne Eisenberg <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Saturday, October 12, 2019 8:01 PM



**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

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6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.

7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Jeanne Eisenberg  
[jeannemickey@gmail.com](mailto:jeannemickey@gmail.com)  
6803 52nd St  
Seattle, Washington 98115

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**From:** Stephen Merlino <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 12, 2019 8:59 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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7. Expand SDOT’s existing tree service provider’s registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Stephen Merlino

[stephenmerlino@hotmail.com](mailto:stephenmerlino@hotmail.com)

6119 Brooklyn NE

Seattle, Washington 98115

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**From:** Mike Cvitkovic <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 13, 2019 11:06 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Update Seattle’s Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all

Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.

8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Mike Cvitkovic

[cvit4@msn.com](mailto:cvit4@msn.com)

1422 n 46th st

Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** Shira Rosen <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 13, 2019 11:11 AM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

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- private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
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  7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
  8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Shira Rosen

[rosenshira@gmail.com](mailto:rosenshira@gmail.com)

1022 NE 96th St

Seattle, Washington 98115

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**From:** Mary Jeppesen <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 13, 2019 3:38 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

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8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Mary Jeppesen  
[jeppesen.mary@gmail.com](mailto:jeppesen.mary@gmail.com)  
4320 NE 57TH ST  
SEATTLE, Washington 981052246

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**From:** Judi Jones <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 14, 2019 3:14 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Stop allowing  
quity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended by the Seattle Urban  
Forestry Commission.

nt Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle  
Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter  
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3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for  
Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being  
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4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot



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5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
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8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Judi Jones

[jjinseattle@me.com](mailto:jjinseattle@me.com)

4616 25th Ave NE #484

Seattle, Washington 98105

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**From:** murphy.patricia@live.com <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 14, 2019 7:42 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Update Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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[murphy.patricia@live.com](mailto:murphy.patricia@live.com)

8835 Burke Ave N

Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** Mary Schlater <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 14, 2019 9:09 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Weak Tree Ordinance, More Trees Indiscriminately Cut

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

It seems like there's a new lot every week where mature significant trees are cut, not just one but multiple. This time at the border of the City of Seattle and Shoreline at NE 145th and 1st Ave NE. No apparent attempt was made to save these trees. Where is the accountability with SDCI? It certainly appears that you are delaying dealing with strengthening this tree ordinance to benefit developers not the people who live in the city of Seattle. Our canopy will be significantly reduced by next year when you say you are going to start looking at the ordinance. It's just unbelievably negligent. You have been delaying this process of protecting our trees for at least 10 years. I know you could get a better tree ordinance passed much sooner and yet you continue to put this on the back burner and we won't stand for it.

Please consider an expedited new tree ordinance. The Urban Forest Commission has a draft ready. Further study of that ordinance is not needed. You've been doing only that for 10 years!

Respectfully,  
Mary Schlater

Mary Schlater  
[mschlater7108@gmail.com](mailto:mschlater7108@gmail.com)  
12003 23rd Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98125

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**From:** Jen Blume <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2019 2:57 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Jen Blume  
[jenblume10@hotmail.com](mailto:jenblume10@hotmail.com)  
3131 Ne 83rd St  
Seattle, Washington 98115

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**From:** Steven Wells <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2019 9:34 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I'm very concerned about the continuing slaughter of Seattle's big trees. Large trees take decades to grow and yet it takes only a few hours to destroy them. Something is out of balance here. Large trees are irreplaceable in our lifetimes. We must plan for our children's futures by establishing a greener, more tree covered Seattle.

I worked as a volunteer with the city a few years ago helping to inventory the trees in the Rainier Beach neighborhood. I was shocked at the absence of large trees there. It's a working class neighborhood for the most part and these areas usually have fewer large trees than more affluent neighborhoods. This has to change. The city must do more to plant large growing trees in lower income neighborhoods, both for the well-being of those that live there, and for the health of the tree canopy for the city as a whole.

It seems that one arm of the city government is trying desperately to maintain and increase our tree canopy, while another arm of the city government is working madly to take them down. This disconnect is crazy! Who is in charge of all this? I'd say the City Council has a large voice in this arena. Why isn't the Council taking more positive steps towards creating a greater tree canopy here? Why aren't the different departments of the city working together

instead of at cross purposes? It's sloppy government and it's devastating to our big trees, and our community as a whole.

At the same time the Council is also allowing unscrupulous developers to ravage the mature trees we have already. Profits before trees is a bad idea and always will be. You can't trust people who stand to make big bucks cutting down trees to plant McMansions we don't need or want. They'll always choose the money over the trees. They need to be strongly regulated and in some cases stopped completely from cutting down these big trees. There should be big fines for irresponsible and illegal cutting as well.

Trees provide benefits that money simply can't buy. Money won't shade our homes or create oases of green that hold the water in the soil when it rains. Money can't replace a 60 foot Douglas fir that some rich fool has cut down so they can have better views. They rarely face stiff consequences for their illegal and reprehensible behavior. Big fines, and even jail time might stop them and make them think twice about killing these trees. But big money talks and trees go down to their greedy and selfish desires. This must change.

It's time for the City Council to step up and take a leadership role in preserving our heritage and other large and significant trees. Why isn't there more outrage in the Council over this travesty? It's like the Council is deaf to the cries of the trees and those of us who love them and know we need them far more than they need us. Get a grip on reality folks and do your jobs! It seems to me that the rich developers have far more sway over our city policies than is right, like it is all over our nation at the present time. Why do we have to play along here in "liberal" Seattle? Why can't we forge a comprehensive path to increase sustainability and urban forests for all? It seems much more egalitarian and helps all the people of the city, not just the rich ones who can afford to have big trees on their big lots.

Speaking of big lots - it used to be that a lot had to be left with at least a majority of the ground as space for trees and other plantings. We need that now. Why has it changed to allow people to plant houses that cover whole lots leaving no room for big trees at all, sometimes not even small ones? This is nuts and the zoning laws need to be reviewed and changed to stop this insane practice. We must allow more room to plant big trees on properties that have the room for them. Anything less is an abdication of the Council's responsibility to safeguard our city's environments for the long term, not for just a quick buck.

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6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

It's time for the City Council to get off your butts and do something about this. How would you feel if they cut down the big tree in your own yard? Not too good I'd guess. So why do you allow it to happen to the people in other neighborhoods? The effects of your inaction will be felt long after you're all dust in the ground. Do you really want to leave our fine city bereft of trees for your children, their children and on down the line? I doubt it, and they certainly won't thank you - they'll blame you for your foolishness.

I still believe that you have good intentions and want to keep our city green and beautiful. So prove me right and get it together. Act on the deep knowing of your higher natures. It's past time to do your jobs and pass a revised city-wide Tree Protection Ordinance. Anything less is just empty talk. Act Now!!

Steven Wells

[stevenjwells@earthlink.net](mailto:stevenjwells@earthlink.net)

9249 1st Ave NW

Seattle, Washington 98117

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**From:** Rachel LaRoche <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2019 2:21 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of



trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Rachel LaRoche

[rachel.laroche@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.laroche@gmail.com)

10011 21st Ave NE

Seattle, Washington 98125

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**From:** david wood <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 16, 2019 4:09 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
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5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.

7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

david wood

[morbrew3@gmail.com](mailto:morbrew3@gmail.com)

154 NE 194th St

Shoreline, Washington 98155

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**From:** alberto villanueva <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 16, 2019 5:32 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6” and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
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5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT’s existing tree service provider’s registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

alberto villanueva

[alberto\\_v@comcast.net](mailto:alberto_v@comcast.net)

14804 INTERLAKE AVE N

SHORELINE, Washington 98133

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**From:** Peter Martynowych <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 16, 2019 10:06 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
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4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all

Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.

8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Peter Martynowych

[pjmarty@comcast.net](mailto:pjmarty@comcast.net)

9740 46th Ave NE

Seattle, Washington 98115

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**From:** Stuart Niven <panorarbor@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, October 18, 2019 12:17 PM

**To:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>

**Cc:** SCI\_Code\_Compliance <SCI\_Code\_Compliance@seattle.gov>; DOT\_LA <DOT\_LA@seattle.gov>; O'Brien, Mike <Mike.O'Brien@seattle.gov>; Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; Pacheco, Abel <Abel.Pacheco@seattle.gov>; Juarez, Debora <Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov>; Jessica Dixon-Horton <bardjess@msn.com>; Barbara Bernard via Magnolia Tree Keepers - All messages <Magnolia-tree-keepers\_all@googlegroups.com>; seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net; Steve ZemkeSAVEOURTREES <stevezemke@msn.com>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; Abridged recipients <tree-ordinance-legal@googlegroups.com>; Annie Thoe <neighborhoodtreekeepers@gmail.com>; PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Daniel <Daniel.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>; Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>; Emery, Chanda <Chanda.Emery@Seattle.gov>; LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Holmes, Peter <Peter.Holmes@seattle.gov>; Humphries, Paul <Paul.Humphries@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Record Number: 005294-19PA - 536 N 67th Street - Exceptional Western Red Cedar removed without permit

**CAUTION: External Email**

Thank you David for raising our attention to this situation and for providing the evidence of the recent removal. According to documents in the online portal, I can find no evidence of an arborist report documenting the tree as a 'hazard' and through looking back on Google Street view the tree is clearly on site as recently as May 2019.

There are photos in the SDCI inspector's 'Site Photos' that clearly show the remaining stump that due to the colour of the heart wood, it is evidence of the recent removal (see <https://cosaccela.seattle.gov/Portal/Cap/CapDetail.aspx?Module=DPDPermits&TabName=DPDPermits&capID1=19SCI&capID2=00000&capID3=18142&agencyCode=SEATTLE>)

Presuming this was carried out under the instruction of the current owner of the property, please find them in violation of DR2008-16 and fine them accordingly for the removal of a healthy, clearly 'exceptional' native Western red cedar.

We cannot continue to allow property owners / developers remove healthy trees like this, simply for the future development of sites. If the protocol of the SMC 25.11 and DR2008-11 was followed here, this tree would be protected and retained, but unlike some trees that are being removed due to weakness in the current tree ordinance, this tree was simply removed illegally.

Please review this and act accordingly. I will submit a complaint to SDCI as the system requires before the stump is removed and the site razed.

Thank you and kind regards,

Stuart Niven, BA(Hons)  
*PanorArborist*

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**From:** Beverly Crocker <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 18, 2019 9:45 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Beverly Crocker

[beverly.canada@gmail.com](mailto:beverly.canada@gmail.com)

5540 37th Ave NE

Seattle, Washington 98105

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**From:** Melanie Kay Moser <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 19, 2019 8:26 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

CAUTION: External Email



Sandra Pinto de Bader,

The Birch Bark Borer beetle is already destroying the Birch tree of Seattle, and it saddens me to think that residents don't realize their shady spot will be gone eventually. And NOW to realize developments can scrape a lot clean of healthy trees, infuriates me.

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.

7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Melanie Kay Moser

[melaniekay@me.com](mailto:melaniekay@me.com)

5719, NE 65th Street

Seattle, Washington 98115-7823

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**From:** Martin Westerman <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 20, 2019 8:38 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Seattle Green Spaces Coalition urges the city of Seattle to update its Tree Protection Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

The following resolution was adopted by our organization.

Organization Resolution in Support of the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission's Draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance

WHEREAS Seattle is losing not only its biggest trees, but much more of its green cover, as developers frequently scrape properties clean of trees to maximize their buildable area; and

WHEREAS Seattle has failed to require developers to replace all "exceptional" trees and trees over 24" DBH (diameter at 54" high) as prescribed by SMC 25.11.090; and

WHEREAS Seattle, unlike Portland and other major cities, has not instituted a permit system to govern tree removal on developed property or property being developed, but relies instead on a complaint-based system that is applicable only to already-developed property and does not protect trees even there; and

WHEREAS the Seattle City Council voted in 2009, and again by Resolution 31870 in March

2019, to support an updating of its Tree Protection Ordinance; and

WHEREAS the City concluded, in its 2017 Tree Regulations Research Report, that “Current code is not supporting tree protection” and that “we are losing exceptional trees (and groves) in general”; and

WHEREAS Seattle’s trees and urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure that (a) reduces air pollution, stormwater runoff, and climate change impacts like heat-island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife, and (b) is important for the physical and mental health of Seattle residents; and

WHEREAS the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission has drafted, at the suggestion of several City Council members, an updated Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance consistent with the eight recommendations specified by the Council in Section 6 of its Resolution 31870, which would:

a. increase protections for Seattle trees and tree canopy volume by requiring, in each land-use zone in the city, a permit for removal and replacement of any tree over 6” DBH, whether on developed property or property being developed;

b. require two-week on-site posting of tree removal and replacement applications (as SDOT already requires);

c. require on-site tree replacement equivalent, in 25 years, to the tree canopy volume removed, or payment of a fee into a Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund for planting and 5-year maintenance of trees elsewhere in the city;

d. retain current protections for exceptional trees and reduce the definitional upper threshold for exceptional trees to 24” DBH;

e. allow no more than two significant non-exceptional trees to be removed over 3 years on developed property;

f. require registration of all tree services providers with the city;

g. track all significant tree loss and replacement; and

h. provide adequate funds to administer and enforce the ordinance.

Therefore, be it resolved that, in recognition of the environmental importance of trees and the urgent need to update and strengthen Seattle's current ordinance, we urge the Seattle City Council to enact, and the Mayor to sign and enforce, the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission's June 14, 2019 draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance.

Resolution adopted by Seattle Green Spaces Coalition, Martin Westerman, Co-Director

Martin Westerman

[info@seattlegreenspacescoalition.org](mailto:info@seattlegreenspacescoalition.org)

9361 47th Ave. S.W.

Seattle, Washington 98136

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**From:** Matthew Weatherford <[info@sg.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 20, 2019 9:08 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 4-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 1 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Matthew Weatherford

[matt.weatherford@pobox.com](mailto:matt.weatherford@pobox.com)

2312 NE 113th St

Seattle, Woj. Łódzkie 91825

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**From:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 20, 2019 12:26 AM

**To:** PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>; SCI\_Code\_Compliance <SCI\_Code\_Compliance@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; DOT\_LA <DOT\_LA@seattle.gov>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Timber!!! Clearing at 3826 Meridian Ave N for ADU (SDCI #6718865)

**CAUTION: External Email**

Seattle Dept of Const & Inspections:

Seattle has issued a permit for 3826 Meridian Ave N to "Establish use as and construct new single family residence with attached garage & ADU, per plan."

What plan might that be? Those plans show existing building and existing trees to remain.

Moreover, why was the large tree (photos attached) removed last week given that the healthy tree was within the lot's required front-yard setback area - which should have been undisturbed.

Of this 114 by 40 Foot lot, the issued permit indicates "Total Disturbed Area: 3270 square feet."\* That means that almost three-quarters (72%) of the lot's 4560 sq ft area is being disturbed on a property that should have no more than 1685 sq feet of lot coverage (1000+15% of lot area). Something is amiss and the inspector should issue a fine if code-protected trees are being removed at a whim.

*This looks like yet another example of why Seattle needs better enforcement and a stronger tree ordinance.*

Codes Reviewed by SDCI's Eddie Buker on September 12, 2019 states that: "This project has been reviewed for conformance with the applicable development standards of the Land Use Code."

Corrections

"1. ADU owner occupancy covenant: For your information. The ADU covenant was not recorded, however due to a recent change in ADU code, the owner occupancy covenant is no longer required.

2. ADU square footage. Per SMC 23.44.041, ADUs are limited to 1000 sq ft."

Original comment was "Please provide an ADU diagram showing which portions are counted toward the stated 708 sq ft. If required ADU parking is provided in a garage, the portion of garage needs to be included in ADU square footage."

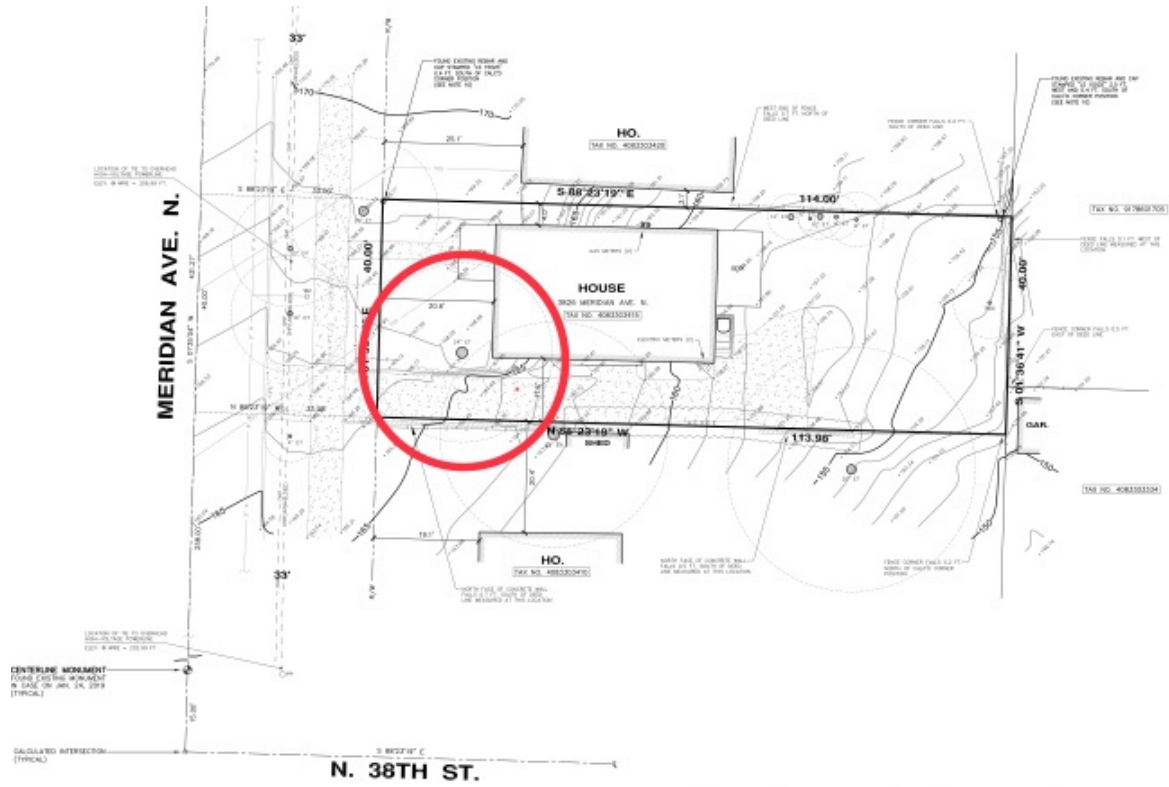
Latest comment was "Due to a recent change (8/8/19) in ADU regulations, required parking for ADUs is no longer required. If you would like to not provide ADU parking on site, please contact me directly for more information on how to revise the permit application."

Will the new house be 2,500 sq feet or less as also required by the new code, or is the SDCI planner allowing them both a larger than allowed house AND a 1000 sq ft ADU?

There does not appear to be even an arborist report or a permit for the large front yard tree that was removed. We believe the City did not know. The caliper of the trunk appears to be well over the 30-inch DBH trunk size threshold for most trees like this.

David Moehring  
for TreePAC

\*(not clear what "New Impervious Surface: 510 SF" and "New Plus Replaced Impervious Surface: 2528" means...)



**TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY**  
**3826 MERIDIAN AVE. N.**

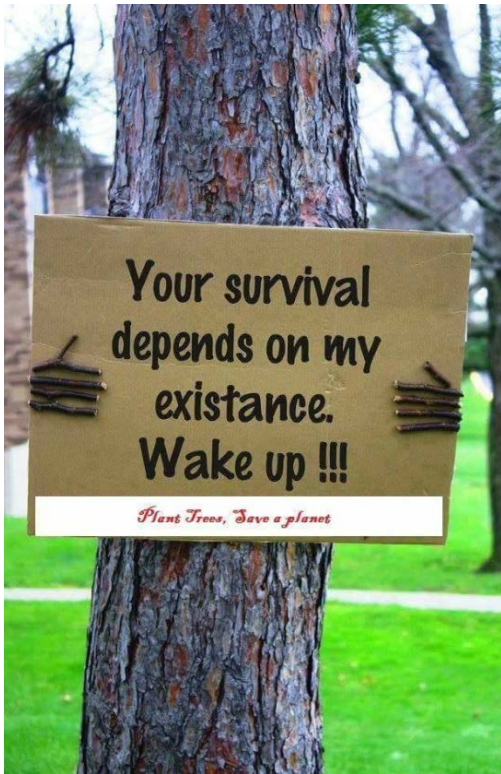
**CHADWICK WINTERS**  
 LAND SURVEYING AND M.







<a href="#">Record Snapshot</a>	212 KB	06/28/19	<a href="#">6718865-CN</a>	Construction Permit
<a href="#">Preliminary Assessment Report</a>	70 KB	03/07/19	<a href="#">001007-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
<a href="#">Preliminary Assessment Report</a>	70 KB	03/07/19	<a href="#">001007-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
<a href="#">Change of Applicant Request</a>	12 KB	03/05/19	<a href="#">001007-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
<a href="#">Site Photos</a>	48 MB	03/04/19	<a href="#">001007-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
<a href="#">Map</a>	202 KB	02/20/19	<a href="#">001007-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
<a href="#">Site Plan</a>	202 KB	02/20/19	<a href="#">001007-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application



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From: David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
Sent: Sunday, October 20, 2019 8:45 AM  
To: O'Brien, Mike <Mike.O'Brien@seattle.gov>; PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>; Pacheco, Abel <Abel.Pacheco@seattle.gov>  
Cc: neighborhoodtreekeepers@gmail.com; seattle-tree-ordinance-working-grouplists.riseup.net <seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net>; treepac\_seattle@lists.riseup.net; Carolyn Rodenberg <carolyn@1sustainableplanet.org>; Lynn Fitz-Hugh <lynn.fitzhugh@earthlink.net>; Jessica Dixon-Horton <bardjess@msn.com>; Anne Siems <annesiemsart@gmail.com>; bscg\_katzenberger@outlook.com; Kaplan, Martin <mhk@martinhenrykaplan.com>; sabrosio@comcast.net; ediebirk@gmail.com; carriefrankenburg@gmail.com; chuckaross@gmail.com; BetsyLRoss@gmail.com; sarahconeill@gmail.com; dihong.shao@dhsengineers.com; sdeforest@foxrothschild.com; llsnider2000@yahoo.com; Kim@Kim-Mulligan.com; mblums@gmail.com; judi@writeguru.com; astanko@comcast.net; carldahlman1@comcast.net; brgovmail@rulifson.com; patti.loesche@gmail.com; bspinazze@sbcglobal.net; 'Barbara Bernard' via Magnolia Tree Keepers - All messages <Magnolia-tree-keepers\_all@googlegroups.com>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
Subject: Oct 1 massive tree removed before DADU application 3 days later

CAUTION: External Email

Yet another example that Seattle residents have been deceived and why a stronger tree ordinance and stronger enforcement are long overdue:

536 N 67TH ST

On Oct 1st 2019, TreePAC reported a massive tree in the process of being removed without a permit or any sign of a development. No reaction from the city except 'not my problem'.

Surprise, what shows up at the Department of Construction and Inspections just 3 days later after the tree chopping on October 4th is an DADU application along with several parking spaces being including within the area where the once massive environmental workhorse stood. In fact, the Department's recent EDMS record now clearly shows the stump of the removed casualty.

Primary Applicant: Akasha Whoolery has done many of these projects in the city of Seattle. Is this okay for our City stewards to look the other way? How will this be remedied for urban heat island, carbon sequestration, and natural habitats/pathways?

This is an embarrassment.

David Moehring  
TreePAC Board member



Per <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/>

Check out the Record 005294-19PA:

Preliminary Assessment Report Land Use Pre-Application	136 KB	10/17/19	005294-19PA	Building &
Site Photos Application	36 MB	10/11/19	005294-19PA	Building & Land Use Pre-
PASV Authorization Letter Land Use Pre-Application	18 KB	10/08/19	005294-19PA	Building &
PASV Authorization Letter Land Use Pre-Application	18 KB	10/08/19	005294-19PA	Building &
PASV Authorization Letter Land Use Pre-Application	18 KB	10/08/19	005294-19PA	Building &
Site Plan	105 KB	10/04/19		



**From:** michael graham <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2019 7:05 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Hello,

I wanted to express my concern for our carbon emissions. We need to keep as many trees as possible!

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.

4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

michael graham

[michael.x.graham@gmail.com](mailto:michael.x.graham@gmail.com)

4218 stone way n

Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** Tricia Di Bernardo <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2019 11:08 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of

trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

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6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Tricia Di Bernardo

[triciadibernardo@gmail.com](mailto:triciadibernardo@gmail.com)

47th Ave sw

Seattle, Washington 98126

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**From:** Elena Naskova <[info@sg.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2019 5:09 AM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
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4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.



7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Elena Naskova

[elenagnaskova@gmail.com](mailto:elenagnaskova@gmail.com)

5201 erskine way sw

seattle, Washington 98136

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**From:** Leslie Wakefield <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2019 7:35 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation

- (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6” and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
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  4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
  5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
  6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
  7. Expand SDOT’s existing tree service provider’s registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
  8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Leslie Wakefield

[ette@uw.edu](mailto:ette@uw.edu)

2142 Sixth Ave West

Seattle, Washington 98119

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**From:** Suzanne Grant <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2019 7:10 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I support the Urban Forestry's recommendations regarding the Tree Ordinance. !!  
Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

An exceptional Tulip Tree in my neighborhood is planned to be cut down by Alex Mason, developer, and has been approved by SDCI since he can't build as much as he wants to on the site. This is a travesty! Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
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4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all

Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.

8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Suzanne Grant

[suzgrant206@gmail.com](mailto:suzgrant206@gmail.com)

2723 4th Ave W

Seattle , Washington 98119

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**From:** Colleen Weinstein <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2019 8:17 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Save our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

It is essential that City council adopt the proposed tree ordinance from the Urban Forestry Commission in early 2020. Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

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6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT’s existing tree service provider’s registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Colleen Weinstein  
[colleen@dyggin.com](mailto:colleen@dyggin.com)  
4112 NE 103rd pl  
Seattle , Washington 98125

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**From:** Elaine Hickman <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 21, 2019 10:15 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all

Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.

8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Elaine Hickman

[elaine.hickman@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.hickman@gmail.com)

520 N. 120th St.

Seattle, Washington 98133

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**From:** Toby Thaler <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2019 9:00 AM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Save our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please fund the maximum amount for maintaining Seattle's urban forest.

We are losing trees faster than they are growing.

thanks

tt

===form===

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

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7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Toby Thaler

[toby@louploup.net](mailto:toby@louploup.net)

4212 Baker NW

Seattle, Washington 98107

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**From:** Rose Yu <rosehyu@me.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2019 3:35 PM



**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Keep our mature trees

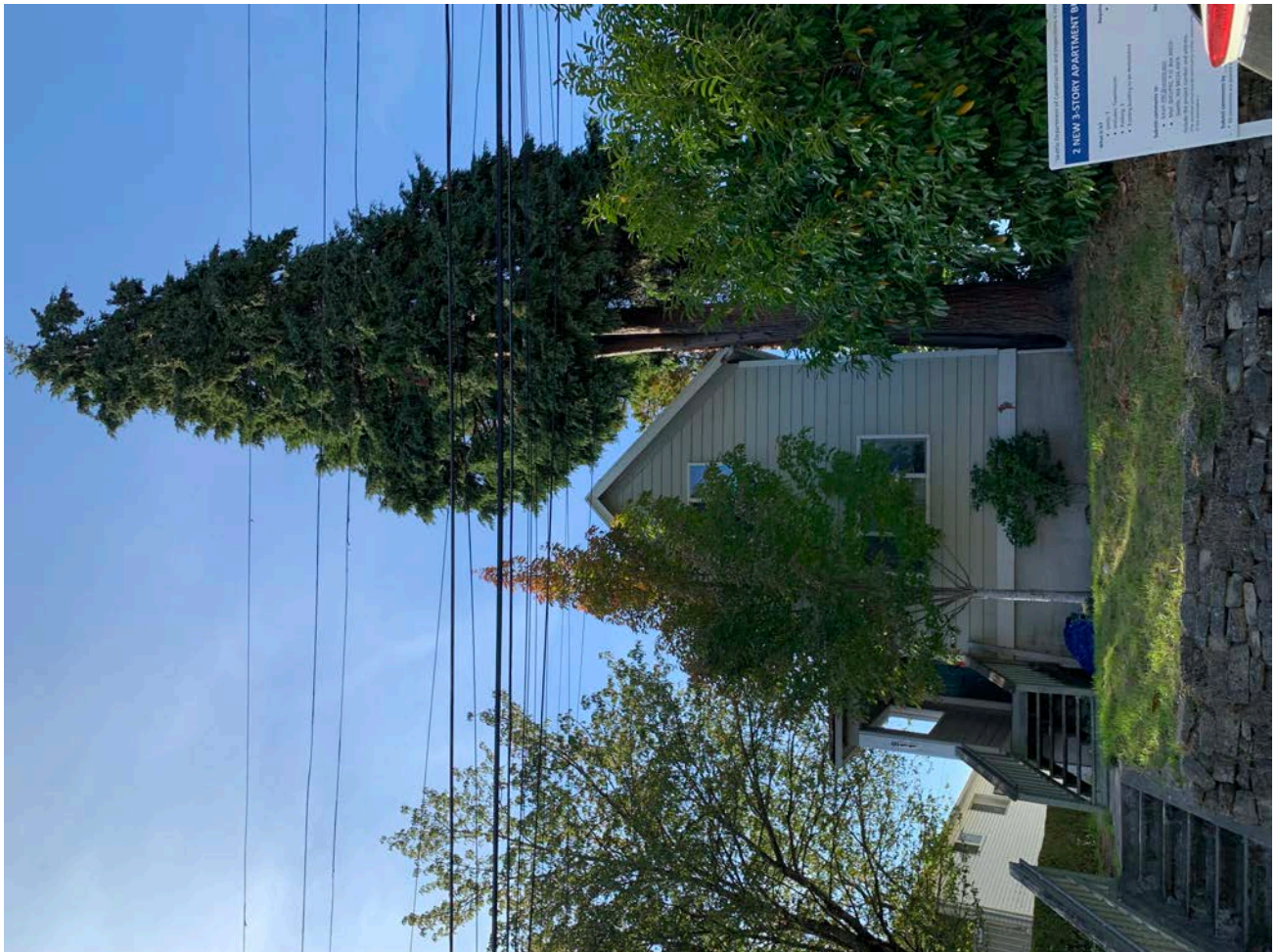
CAUTION: External Email

Hello,

Here is a beautiful tree that is slated to be chopped. I gave feedback when they asked for it but to no avail.

If you do a search in my area I bet you'd see lots of them have been cut down or will be cut down.

Pls help. Thanks.





Rose Yu

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** David Pike <[info@sg.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2019 2:48 AM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water

runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

David Pike

[davidpikeisawesome@gmail.com](mailto:davidpikeisawesome@gmail.com)

3516 Northeast 130th Street  
Seattle, Washington 98125

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**From:** Annie Thoe <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2019 8:18 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please Vote YES today for providing money for Natural Capital Assessment today. We need to provide a budget provide money for Natural Capital Assessment. In a time of dire climate crisis we need to protect our tree resources more than ever and should make sure we have funds. Assessing our trees is critical if we intend to have a decent tree protection, maintenance and stewardship plan for the city. No more delays! We need our trees more than ever— with illegal cutting, clear-cutting and with rapid development. Neighborhoods have 80% of our mature trees. Particularly as we build without mandatory enforcement or demands for tree replacements or planning new parks near giant developments with no trees. Without funds, there is no hope for a green, livable Seattle and we will be responsible for more air and water pollution, flooding noise, rising temperatures for future generations.

Thank you so much for working for a healthier, more vibrant future in Seattle.

All the best,  
Annie Thoe

Annie Thoe  
[annie@sensingvitality.com](mailto:annie@sensingvitality.com)  
2201 NE 120th St  
Seattle, Washington 98125

**From:** Melinda Mueller <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2019 9:53 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I am a long-time resident of Ballard. All over my neighborhood, I see trees being lost to development, and I have no confidence they are being replaced elsewhere. On my block, two small houses are now abandoned because of a coming multi-plex development. There are a dozen trees on the two lots, including some quite mature ones. The development plan shows virtually edge-to-edge building and parking, so there's no space for trees of significant size.

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Melinda Mueller

[mueller.melinda@gmail.com](mailto:mueller.melinda@gmail.com)

7704 16th AVE NW

Seattle, Washington 98117

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**From:** Deanne Marie <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2019 10:02 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Deanne Marie

[elmerdeanne@gmail.com](mailto:elmerdeanne@gmail.com)

11045 8th Ave NE #505

Seattle, Washington 98125

**From:** Cynthia Rose <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2019 10:20 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please do the tree assessment!!!

It is vital to the greenness of our city!!!

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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outside development

5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Cynthia Rose

[crise1453@gmail.com](mailto:crise1453@gmail.com)

11557 23rd ave ne

Seattle, Washington 98125

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**From:** Jenny Estep <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2019 10:53 AM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please Update Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I have noticed that many of the large cedar and hemlock trees in my neighborhood are dying, including many of the trees at Calvary Cemetery. One of our neighbor's cedars fell into our yard last year, narrowly missing out house.

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

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8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Jenny Estep

[jenflandy@hotmail.com](mailto:jenflandy@hotmail.com)

5210 35th Ave NE

Seattle , Washington 98105

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**From:** Celia Topalian <[info@sg.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2019 5:36 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please Update Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Since moving to District 6, into a house with a lot devoid of trees, I have planted 11 parking strip trees (corner lot), and 5 yard trees. Because of location restrictions I suspect that none of these trees will reach the height needed for bird habitat and effective shade. I am aware that Seattle's parking strip trees are protected, in that they cannot be removed unless they show evidence of disease, and that trim work is to be provided by certified arborists. I also notice that developers of multi-family sites aren't held to the same standards as residential homeowners. Within a few blocks of my house, on a corner lot on Greenwood, 5 LARGE healthy trees were removed from the parking strips. Of course, they will be replaced, but how long will it take for them to reach the height of the trees removed? 30 years? Further, Seattle's lot coverage limits aren't what they used to be which was roughly 30% of the lot. Does the lot include the sidewalk? and parking strip, and part of the street? Why is this information so hard to get from the city?

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Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on

- private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
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  6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
  7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
  8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Celia Topalian

[celiatsmith@yahoo.com](mailto:celiatsmith@yahoo.com)

6518 DAYTON AVE N

SEATTLE, Washington 98103

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**From:** Kim Sather <[info@sg.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 23, 2019 8:42 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please Update Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water

runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Kim Sather

[kimsather8@gmail.com](mailto:kimsather8@gmail.com)

11524 36th Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98125

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**From:** Kjersten Gmeiner <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 23, 2019 8:32 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** National Organization for Women Seattle Chapter urges the city of Seattle to update its Tree Protection Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

The following resolution was adopted by our organization.

Organization Resolution in Support of the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission's Draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance

WHEREAS Seattle is losing not only its biggest trees, but much more of its green cover, as developers frequently scrape properties clean of trees to maximize their buildable area; and  
WHEREAS Seattle has failed to require developers to replace all "exceptional" trees and trees over 24" DBH (diameter at 54" high) as prescribed by SMC 25.11.090; and  
WHEREAS Seattle, unlike Portland and other major cities, has not instituted a permit system to govern tree removal on developed property or property being developed, but relies instead on a complaint-based system that is applicable only to already-developed property and does not protect trees even there; and  
WHEREAS the Seattle City Council voted in 2009, and again by Resolution 31870 in March 2019, to support an updating of its Tree Protection Ordinance; and  
WHEREAS the City concluded, in its 2017 Tree Regulations Research Report, that "Current code is not supporting tree protection" and that "we are losing exceptional trees (and groves) in general"; and  
WHEREAS Seattle's trees and urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure that (a) reduces air pollution, stormwater runoff, and climate change impacts like heat-island effects,

while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife, and (b) is important for the physical and mental health of Seattle residents: and

WHEREAS the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission has drafted, at the suggestion of several City Council members, an updated Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance consistent with the eight recommendations specified by the Council in Section 6 of its Resolution 31870, which would:

a. increase protections for Seattle trees and tree canopy volume by requiring, in each land-use zone in the city, a permit for removal and replacement of any tree over 6" DBH, whether on developed property or property being developed;

b. require two-week on-site posting of tree removal and replacement applications (as SDOT already requires);

c. require on-site tree replacement equivalent, in 25 years, to the tree canopy volume removed, or payment of a fee into a Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund for planting and 5-year maintenance of trees elsewhere in the city;

d. retain current protections for exceptional trees and reduce the definitional upper threshold for exceptional trees to 24" DBH;

e. allow no more than two significant non-exceptional trees to be removed over 3 years on developed property;

f. require registration of all tree services providers with the city;

g. track all significant tree loss and replacement; and

h. provide adequate funds to administer and enforce the ordinance.

Therefore, be it resolved that, in recognition of the environmental importance of trees and the urgent need to update and strengthen Seattle's current ordinance, we urge the Seattle City Council to enact, and the Mayor to sign and enforce, the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission's June 14, 2019 draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance.

Resolution adopted by National Organization for Women Seattle Chapter, Kjersten Gmeiner,  
President

Kjersten Gmeiner  
[gmeiner.k@gmail.com](mailto:gmeiner.k@gmail.com)  
12051 14th Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98125

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**From:** Bill Bronecke <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 24, 2019 10:23 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation



- (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6” and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
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  4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
  5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
  6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
  7. Expand SDOT’s existing tree service provider’s registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
  8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Bill Bronecke

[billb3646@gmail.com](mailto:billb3646@gmail.com)

3646 12th Ave West

Seattle, Washington 98119

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**From:** Stuart Niven <panorarbor@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 23, 2019 9:55 AM

**To:** Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>; LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>; Gonzalez, Lorena <Lorena.Gonzalez@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; Juarez, Debora <Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov>; Mosqueda, Teresa <Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov>; O'Brien, Mike <Mike.O'Brien@seattle.gov>; Pacheco, Abel <Abel.Pacheco@seattle.gov>; Sawant, Kshama <Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov>; Holmes, Peter <Peter.Holmes@seattle.gov>; Pederson, Art <Art.Pederson@seattle.gov>; Humphries, Paul <Paul.Humphries@seattle.gov>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Emery, Chanda <Chanda.Emery@Seattle.gov>; PRC

<PRC@seattle.gov>; SCI\_Code\_Compliance <SCI\_Code\_Compliance@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** David Moehring <Dmoehring@consultant.com>; Steve Zemke <stevezemke@msn.com>; Annie Thoe <neighborhoodtreekeepers@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Another illegal tree removal but 'No Violation' according to SDCI - HZW Investigation (Housing, Zoning, Weeds) (3124017) 6517 Ravenna AVE NE

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear all who can have an effect on the tree codes in Seattle,

I have just received yet another notification of the closure of my complaint for illegal tree removals, with the response of 'No Violation' despite there being NO PERMITS on file for removal, NO PLANS for development and NO HAZARD trees on site.

I reported the illegal tree cutting after hearing about it from neighbours locally. I complained with "Unpermitted removal of at least 6 trees over 6" DBH, and it looks as though at least another 6 trees larger than 6" DBH are marked for removal, including 'Exceptional' trees, one of 89" DBH Lombardii poplar tree. I have photographs of the stumps and have measured all of the trees as of Saturday Sept 21st. Due to the nature of the site as it is, I do not believe the company removing the trees is a licensed tree service, so L&I should be contacted also. Some trees may be SDOT trees."

Shantel McEachin was the SDCI inspector who has bizarrely found there to be NO VIOLATION, despite the removal of more than at least 6 trees larger than 6" DSH, which was the case when I first saw the site and took measurements and photographs for proof. Since then, more trees have been removed, leaving only a couple of trees left on the sight, but they look to be next on the list, given the way the site looks currently.

How can this be a 'No Violation' complaint when there has been logs, branches, woodchips, and stumps still visible from the time I made my complaint almost one month ago? If this is not a development site, which according to the lack of documents on the online portal, then this is a blatant violation of SMC 25.11 as more than 3 Significant Trees have been removed in one year, and some of the trees are 'Exceptional' and they likely would have been considered a grove as there seems to have been numerous cherry trees and maples with touching canopies.

I have attached some photographs for additional evidence, and would appreciate a response with a detailed explanation as to why this illegal removal yet again is being found as 'No Violation'.

What is the point in a Tree Protection Code when the Department managing it at ignoring it, or simply have inspectors that do not understand it, or care about it?

Again, I remain highly disappointment in SDCI and the City of Seattle, in their apparent disregard for the care of trees.

Thank you and kind regards,

Stuart Niven, BA(Hons)  
*PanorArborist*

**From:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 27, 2019 4:07 PM

**To:** PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>; DOT\_LA <DOT\_LA@seattle.gov>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** seattle-tree-ordinance-working-grouplists.riseup.net <seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net>; McElroy, Shanyanika <Shanyanika.McElroy@seattle.gov>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; neighborhoodtreekeepers@gmail.com

**Subject:** Clearcutting Tree Grove abutting Kubota Garden (9666 51st Ave S)

**Importance:** High

**CAUTION: External Email**

Thank you for allowing public comment on the **9666 51st Ave S**. With at **least 50 requests to [PRC@seattle.gov](mailto:PRC@seattle.gov)**, please hold a public meeting to review the environmental and landuse issues of the proposed clear-cutting of a large wooded lot bordering Kubota Gardens.

This is yet another reason why Seattle needs a stronger tree ordinance.



Parcel 7131300100; Owned by Amerinor Holding, Lot area 62,726 sq ft

**FACTS:**

- A tribe sent in a public comment asking that the dam be removed to protect the fish population. Besides the dam on this property, there are 4 other dams, all within 200 feet of each other, 2 up stream and 2 downstream, and on Parks property.

- Another Correction letter requires the plans be revised to indicate the abutting Kubota Gardens Natural Area. The current version merely says there is a park within 100'.
- About 6 years ago another project on the southern boundary of Kubota Garden sought a 29 unit project on 5 acres in a wetland buffer on the upstream edge of the garden on S 55th St.. Fortunately, Seattle Parks purchased the 5 acres from them for \$5 million.

We know of lot subdivisions within Single-Family zone, but since when does SDCI allow selling 9 homes on one 62,726 sq ft lot within a SF-7200 zone? Is the owners at Amerinor Holding looking for a contract rezoned from SF-7200 to LR1 in order to allow multiple family dwellings on this lot? Will any of these nine homes be set aside as affordable housing? Is Seattle that desperate to take away more park-like land in lieu of redeveloping run-down existing properties that have no adjacency to a Seattle nature habitat?

It was my understanding that in order to build nine market-rate and unaffordable homes on this deep lot that a subdivision of a lot should be pursued instead on the proposed unit lots. Please review carefully the code sections that are applicable to single-family zones compared to multifamily zones. See that plans of the project that referenced SMC 23.22.062:

<http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/GetDocument.aspx?id=3341073>

This was sent in this Streams report :

<http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/GetDocument.aspx?id=3318786>

- **SUMMARY OF POINTS FOR THE PUBLIC MEETING IF CALLED FOR BY AT LEAST 50 PEOPLE:**
- This 900' long X 100' wide parcel that crosses Mapes Creek & a Category 4 wetland.
- The September 16th, 2019 Site Plan Cycle 8 for MUP 3018093 shows this project I have been monitoring for a long time has been reactivated.
- This unbuilt natural site is zoned SF7200, but the 9 unit lots in the 1.44 acre site are only 4,000 sq ft. Since when is the 75/80 lot division rule ignored for lots like this?
- A 1-31-19 Corrections letter from Parks asks if the applicant considered a deed to the city for the creek area on the east side of the site. They would like to own it as done adjacent to this lot. Why is the City willing to accept a Conservation Easement?
- Parcel F is part of separate lot that appears to be shelved in the current application. Parcel F was previously included in a design that did not have adequate driveway turn radius's for fire trucks, due to the narrow 100' width of the majority of the site.
- What enforcement is being pursued by SDCI on the existing tree grove and two Exceptional trees? The plans only mention 1 of the Exceptional Trees, and does NOT mention the Grove, but they are not close to each other. Both Exceptional trees are extra large, and thus are deal-breakers in the existing design. Each of the trees would cost an entire lot to save.

To quote the Arborist Report, the forest is so dense that plotting the trees on the plan 'presents real problems'. So does that warrant the arborist to avoid plotting any trees?

David Moehring  
TreePAC and concerned Seattle resident.

Let's build a community by following the Codes.

---

**From:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 27, 2019 6:38 PM

**To:** Sharon LeVine <sweetumsseattle@yahoo.com>; Ivy Tabbara <ivyarai@gmail.com>; ecmishaol.com <ecmish@aol.com>; reed lyons <ardvarkeng@gmail.com>; Suzanne Grant <suzanne@grantharper.net>

**Cc:** Shannon Standish <shannons@twist-design.com>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Final autumn for healthy Exceptional tulip tree on 2813 4th Ave West ?

**CAUTION: External Email**

Neighbors of the Exceptional tulip tree,

After seeing this, there is no doubt that Seattle needs a stronger tree ordinance and enforcement. Thank you neighbors for the challenge!





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**From:** Jane Rockhold <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 27, 2019 8:36 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration of this highly important matter.

Jane Rockhold

Jane Rockhold

[jmrockhold@gmail.com](mailto:jmrockhold@gmail.com)

12051 14th Ave NE

Seattle, Washington 98125

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**From:** Jennifer Nelson <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2019 4:38 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot



outside development

5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Jennifer Nelson

[JennNel@comcast.net](mailto:JennNel@comcast.net)

12216 North Park Ave N

Seattle, Washington 98133-8027

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**From:** Rebecca Kelley <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2019 6:51 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Update Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I'll leave the opening paragraph. But please read on.

"Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents."

I have had personal involvement in trying to save a forest on two large lots, specifically Project #3028516, 11340 23rd Ave NE. After the initial public input, the project was put on hold, and the double lot was replatted, allowing even denser development in the forested

zone. A tree survey was completed (using the original platting) which called for leaving trees along the access driveway. Not adequate.

It is my opinion that a re-write of the Tree Ordinance is vital and it needs to have significant "teeth." The proposed ordinance allows for more transparency, it allows limited protection for smaller trees. This is all good. But: Make the fines hurt. New homes in NE Seattle are now north of one million dollars. Cut an exceptional tree? Half a million.

Draconian? Yes. But I propose every developer pre-pay into an escrow account, ensuring they can cover Tree Protection violations. And the City holds those accounts for XX years, until it's proven that: a) no protected trees were removed XX years after development; and b) any contiguous property owners with exceptional trees are compensated if the development ruins the property owner's root ball. Period. No subsequent damage/dying. Damage.

I also call for the City of Seattle to do an Environmental Impact Statement based on watersheds, similar to what was required of Commercial Forest owners when they wanted to avoid "clearcut by clearcut" EIS following Boldt II.

We (as a City) need to honor the Urban Bird Treaty. We need to pay attention to our own, city-developed maps for unstable slopes (a Seattle Shallow Landslide Hazard Map by Edwin L. Harp, John A. Michael, and William T. Laprade).

And we need to end the idiocy that the only way to "ease" the housing shortage is to cut down forests, which only exist in the NE part of the City. Stupid. And false.

Rebecca Kelley

[rkelley@halcyon.com](mailto:rkelley@halcyon.com)

2327 NE 115th St.

Seattle, Washington 98125

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**From:** R Kelley <[rkelley@halcyon.com](mailto:rkelley@halcyon.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2019 7:16 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Tree protection

CAUTION: External Email

I have written the following via Save Our Trees.

I originally contacted the Urban Forestry Commission re: **Project # 3028516; 11340 23rd Ave. NE.**

Please enter the following as part of your public record:

I have had personal involvement in trying to save a forest on two large lots, specifically Project #3028516, 11340 23rd Ave NE. After the initial public input, the project was put on hold, and the double lot was replatted, allowing even denser development in the forested zone. A tree survey was completed (using the original platting) which called for leaving trees along the access driveway. Not adequate.

It is my opinion that a re-write of the Tree Ordinance is vital and it needs to have significant "teeth." The proposed ordinance allows for more transparency, it allows limited protection for smaller trees. This is all good. But: Make the fines hurt. New homes in NE Seattle are now north of one million dollars. Cut an exceptional tree? Half a million.

Draconian? Yes. But I propose every developer pre-pay into an escrow account, ensuring they can cover Tree Protection violations. And the City holds those accounts for XX years, until it's proven that: a) no protected trees were removed XX years after development; and b) any contiguous property owners with exceptional trees are compensated if the development ruins the property owner's root ball. Period. No subsequent damage/dying. Damage.

I also call for the City of Seattle to do an Environmental Impact Statement based on watersheds, similar to what was required of Commercial Forest owners when they wanted to avoid "clearcut by clearcut" EIS following Boldt II.

We (as a City) need to honor the Urban Bird Treaty. We need to pay attention to our own, city-developed maps for unstable slopes (a Seattle Shallow Landslide Hazard Map by Edwin L. Harp, John A. Michael, and William T. Laprade).

And we need to end the idiocy that the only way to "ease" the housing shortage is to cut down forests, which only exist in the NE part of the City. Stupid. And false.

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**From:** Abigail Jarret <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2019 7:51 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** We Need More Trees Now!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I am writing to inform you of an increasing concern that has become apparent in my own Northeast Seattle neighborhood. The once-Emerald City is losing its trees. In the few blocks around my home, dozens of trees have been removed in the past few months alone. These include a whole street of old and beautiful trees bordering Roosevelt High School. In all cases, these trees were tagged by the city for removal. However, I see no efforts made to replant trees. All that is left are empty spaces.

Now more than ever, this city needs its tree canopy. Before any settlers arrived on this land, the entire area that is now Seattle was an old-growth forest. It is our responsibility to restore that forest as much as we are able, while still maintaining our growing and vibrant city. There is no reason why we cannot have both. What it takes is commitment from the city government, and investment in protecting our existing trees and planting new ones. This is what people would like to see our tax money doing. Plant new trees and reap the benefits now, and later.

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.

2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

I hope you will take this into consideration as you plan for the future. Without trees our city is nothing special. With trees, we are truly a beacon for the future and a place of beauty for the present.

Respectfully,  
Abigail Jarret

Abigail Jarret  
[parisamante@gmail.com](mailto:parisamante@gmail.com)  
7037 18th Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115

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**From:** Deborah Stewart <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2019 8:35 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

The mayor and city council must protect our city's trees as well as its citizens because they are an essential part of a livable city. Replacing trees lost to development is extremely important during this growth period.

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
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4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.

6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Deborah Stewart

[dstewart98109@icloud.com](mailto:dstewart98109@icloud.com)

7501 GREENWOOD AVE N, Unit 301

SEATTLE, Washington 98103-4641

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**From:** John Lombard <[info@sg.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2019 9:50 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** Update the Tree Ordinance!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle needs trees--not just in its parks, greenbelts, and natural areas, but in its neighborhoods, where we spend most of our lives. Trees are compatible with growth and development--at a regional scale, where we depend on people voluntarily choosing to live in denser urban areas to protect rural areas and natural systems, trees are part of the quality of life that can attract people to city living. They are part of what attracts me to my northeast Seattle neighborhood, where Thornton Creek, its tributaries, and their protected riparian areas provide a natural character to our community.

The City Council passed the current tree ordinance as a temporary measure a decade ago. It's long past time for the Council to pass a stronger, more effective ordinance--and you've got a good model for it right now, recommended by the City's own Urban Forestry Commission. It is important to pass it, but at least as important to provide the resources to enforce it, and to

direct new planting efforts to parts of the City that have long been neglected, out of environmental justice and simple equity. Please act!

John Lombard

[jlombardwriter@gmail.com](mailto:jlombardwriter@gmail.com)

10724 8th Ave NE, Apt 6

Seattle, Washington 98125

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**From:** Michael Oxman <michaeloxman@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2019 10:10 AM

**To:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>; PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>; DOT\_LA <DOT\_LA@seattle.gov>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** seattle-tree-ordinance-working-grouplists.riseup.net <seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net>; McElroy, Shanyanika <Shanyanika.McElroy@seattle.gov>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; neighborhoodtreekeepers@gmail.com

**Subject:** Re: Clearcutting Tree Grove abutting Kubota Garden (9666 51st Ave S)

**CAUTION: External Email**

The rear 400' of the lot is a creek, thus, unbuildable.

They must want credit for the unbuildable portion to cram in more undersized lots in the subdivision.

At the least, we want the 2 exceptional trees saved, which would require fewer lots to set back the driplines 50' from the construction envelope.

On October 27, 2019 at 4:07 PM David Moehring <[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)> wrote:

Thank you for allowing public comment on the **9666 51st Ave S**. With at **least 50 requests to** [PRC@seattle.gov](mailto:PRC@seattle.gov), please hold a public meeting to review the environmental and landuse issues of the proposed clear-cutting of a large wooded lot bordering Kubota Gardens.

This is yet another reason why Seattle needs a stronger tree ordinance.





Parcel 7131300100; Owned by Amerinor Holding, Lot area 62,726 sq ft

FACTS:

- A tribe sent in a public comment asking that the dam be removed to protect the fish population. Besides the dam on this property, there are 4 other dams, all within 200 feet of each other, 2 up stream and 2 downstream, and on Parks property.
- Another Correction letter requires the plans be revised to indicate the abutting Kubota Gardens Natural Area. The current version merely says there is a park within 100'.
- About 6 years ago another project on the southern boundary of Kubota Garden sought a 29 unit project on 5 acres in a wetland buffer on the upstream edge of the garden on S 55th St.. Fortunelty, Seattle Parks purchased the 5 acres from them for \$5 million.

We know of lot subdivisions within Single-Family zone, but since when does SDCI allow selling 9 homes on one 62,726 sq ft lot within a SF-7200 zone? Is the owners at Amerinor Holding looking for a contract rezone from SF-7200 to LR1 in order to allow multiple family dwellings on this lot? Will any of these nine homes be set aside as affordable housing? Is Seattle that desperate to take away more park-like land in lieu of redeveloping run-down existing properties that have no adjacency to a Seattle nature habitat?

It was my understanding that in order to build nine market-rate and unaffordable homes on this deep lot that a subdivision of a lot should be pursued instead on the proposed unit lots. Please review carefully the code sections that are applicable to single-family zones compared to multifamily zones. See that plans of the project that referenced SMC 23.22.062:

<http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/GetDocument.aspx?id=3341073>

This was sent in this Streams report :

<http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/GetDocument.aspx?id=3318786>

- **SUMMARY OF POINTS FOR THE PUBLIC MEETING IF CALLED FOR BY AT LEAST 50 PEOPLE:**

- This 900' long X 100' wide parcel that crosses Mapes Creek & a Category 4 wetland.
- The September 16th, 2019 Site Plan Cycle 8 for MUP 3018093 shows this project I have been monitoring for a long time has been reactivated.
- This unbuilt natural site is zoned SF7200, but the 9 unit lots in the 1.44 acre site are only 4,000 sq ft. Since when is the 75/80 lot division rule ignored for lots like this?
- A 1-31-19 Corrections letter from Parks asks if the applicant considered a deed to the city for the creek area on the east side of the site. They would like to own it as done adjacent to this lot. Why is the City willing to accept a Conservation Easement?
- Parcel F is part of separate lot that appears to be shelved in the current application. Parcel F was previously included in a design that did not have adequate driveway turn radius's for fire trucks, due to the narrow 100' width of the majority of the site.
- What enforcement is being pursued by SDCI on the existig tree grove and two Exceptional trees? The plans only mention 1 of the Exceptional Trees, and does NOT mention the Grove, but they are not close to each other. Both Exceptional trees are extra large, and thus are deal-breakers in the existing design. Each of the trees would cost an entire lot to save.

To quote the Arborist Report, the forest is so dense that plotting the trees on the plan 'presents real problems'. So does that warrant the arborist to avoid plotting any trees?

David Moehring  
TreePAC and concerned Seattle resident.

Let's build a community by following the Codes.

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**From:** Andrew Grueter <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2019 4:00 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's forests are nearly all gone. We are lucky by comparison to have some remnants, and we must not let property developers and uninformed residents remove the last of our life support systems.

Healthy forests provide clean water, clean air, crucial wildlife habitat, food resources, mental health benefits, carbon sequestration, property value increases, and more.

Allowing the last of our trees to be swept out of the way for another bezos project, or another real estate mogul is inexcusable.

Additionally, I'd advocate for stronger protections than this proposal does, especially easily enforceable consequences for permittees and perpetrators such as fines, property seizure, and stronger mitigation requirements.

Andrew Grueter

[subetius@gmail.com](mailto:subetius@gmail.com)

4041 50th ave sw

Seattle, Washington 98116

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From: David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 5:44 PM  
To: Stuart Niven <panorarbor@gmail.com>  
Cc: reed lyons <ardvarkeng@gmail.com>; Sharon LeVine <sweetumsseattle@yahoo.com>;  
Ivy Tabbara <ivyarai@gmail.com>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra  
<Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Suzanne Grant <suzanne@grantharper.net>;  
Shannon Standish <shannons@twist-design.com>; ecmishaol.com <ecmish@aol.com>  
Subject: Re: Final autumn for healthy Exceptional tulip tree on 2813 4th Ave West ?

CAUTION: External Email

Ha! Who are those blokes or Sheilas?

So the public records we recently received showing about 7000 trees lost since 2003 might turn some heads more than images of this glorious tulip tree? (I glanced at the spreadsheet very quickly !)

Genocide might be a strong term to use here... but it seems like there is a lack of transparency.

Sent using the mail.com mail app

On 10/28/19 at 6:49 AM, Stuart Niven wrote:

> But we have been told by those more important and powerful than us  
> lowly types, that there is 'no cumulative negative effect to the  
> environment by removing this tree' so we should not worry ourselves  
> with such trivial issues as tree protection.  
>  
> Thank you and kind regards,  
>  
> Stuart Niven, BA(Hons)

> \*PanorArborist\*  
> ISA Certified Arborist PN-7245A & Tree Risk Assessment Qualification  
> (TRAQ) Arborist on Seattle's Urban Forestry Commission  
> [www.panorarbor.com](http://www.panorarbor.com)  
> Tel/Text: 206 501 9659  
> WA Lic# PANORL\*852P1  
> <<https://secure.lni.wa.gov/verify/Results.aspx#%7B%22firstSearch%22%3A%22searchCat%22%3A%22Name%22%2C%22searchText%22%3A%22panorarbor%22%2C%22Name%22%3A%22panorarbor%22%2C%22pageNumber%22%3A0%2C%22SearchType%22%3A%22SortColumn%22%3A%22Rank%22%2C%22SortOrder%22%3A%22desc%22%2C%22pageSize%22%3A10%2C%22ContractorTypeFilter%22%3A%5B%5D%2C%22SessionID%22%3A%2240n4ujjyzdeziggwv4rntrqp%22%2C%22SAW%22%3A%22%22%7D>>  
>  
>  
>  
> On Sun, Oct 27, 2019 at 6:38 PM David Moehring  
> <[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)>  
> wrote:  
>  
> > Neighbors of the Exceptional tulip tree,  
> >  
> > After seeing this, there is no doubt that Seattle needs a stronger  
> > tree ordinance and enforcement.  
> > Thank you neighbors for the challenge!  
> >  
> >

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**From:** Gina Massoni <[info@sg.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 30, 2019 4:55 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

As Green Seattle Partnership Forest Steward, I urge you to update our tree ordinance. Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of

trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Gina Massoni

[rivergirl@massoni.net](mailto:rivergirl@massoni.net)

4734 38th Ave NE

Seattle , Washington 98105

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**From:** seattleposa@googlegroups.com <seattleposa@googlegroups.com> **On Behalf Of** Michael Oxman

**Sent:** Thursday, October 31, 2019 5:57 PM

**To:** Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; sgsc-

board@googlegroups.com; seattleposa@googlegroups.com; Steve Zemke <stevezemke@msn.com>; Michael Oxman <michaeloxman@comcast.net>; Kevin Orme (via treepac\_seattle Mailing List) <treepac\_seattle@lists.riseup.net>; Annie Thoe <neighborhoodtreekeepers@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** [SeattlePOSA] Cost of tree tracking

**CAUTION: External Email**

Howdy Councilmember Sally Bagshaw,

Thanks for your request for information on how Seattle should allocate it's tree budget.

Here's a 2014 letter from the Urban Forestry Commission.

[http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/UrbanForestryCommission/2014/2014docs/DRAFTDPDReportingLetterTomv2.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3pQd0teP5gyI5e13An1IKfRI8M8i\\_DbA3k0XMkhGnYWQPPloCqA814oxA](http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/UrbanForestryCommission/2014/2014docs/DRAFTDPDReportingLetterTomv2.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3pQd0teP5gyI5e13An1IKfRI8M8i_DbA3k0XMkhGnYWQPPloCqA814oxA)

Before the Urban Forestry Commission wrote this letter, they thought long & hard about how to track the tree population's ebb & flow. They decided the administrative overhead is worth the effort in precise spending on targeted issues such as de-emphasizing removal of hazard trees, and moving towards proactive maintenance.

For example, pruning, de-staking, watering, & mulching during the first few years can DOUBLE tree lifespans. All of these maintenance operations take only a short amount of time, and just a fraction of the resources as tree removal, which can take a full crew a full day for 1 tree.

I believe the staff should be cross-trained as arborists who integrate updating our database with their ordinary duties of inspecting for tree protection, pruning, & removal applications. This cross-training should occur across departments, and a single department should take the lead, as recommended in the 2009 City Auditors report.

The municipal labor union contracts contain restrictive job classifications that need to be amended to allow staff Tree Trimmers, for example, be required to keep records of which trees they work on.

Currently, Tree Trimmers do not have to write anything down, the Crew Chief holds that responsibility, but this task is NOT currently being performed. The Mayor should check with the department heads on this oversight immediately.

There is diffusion of arborist functions across departments. Citizens deserve to know the total budget for all city operations involving urban forestry.

A flow chart of all City of Seattle Urban Forestry staff should be made available to the citizens, so we can know & trust that our ecology is being properly managed. Currently this information is buried in many departments budgets.

For example, Homelessness functions are scattered across departments inside and outside the city in regional efforts, yet deflecting criticism of government inefficiency can't happen without a single budget being presented with ALL functions accounted for.

Here's a list of some of the approximately 25 Seattle city arborists: Know that they don't know what city tree policy is, and that they don't know what each other are doing.

SDOT's Landscape Architect's office, who inspect for Capital Projects; 2-3 arborists.  
SDOT's arborists working on permit applications in the City Arborist office; 5 arborists.  
SDOT's tree crew operations working on tree maintenance; There are supposed to be 9 people, but they have several vacancies. This is unfair, because the Parks District property tax (and before that, the Parks & Green Spaces Levy, and before that, the Pro Parks Levy) and the Move Seattle Levy (and the Bridging Ther Gap Levy prior to that) Property Tax are collecting full rate, as if there were 9 fully staffed tree crew members in each department.

SPU Trees For Seattle (formerly Seattle ReLeaf); 2 arborists.  
SPU non-arborists working on creek trees (Deb Heiden), fish biologists;

Parks arborists on tree crews; The same taxation unfairness exists because Human Resources has NEVER employed the full 9 tree crew members at any one time since the Metropolitan Parks District was created.

Parks non-arborists in Natural Areas & Horticulture divisions, such as ecologists;

Seattle Center; 1 arborist.

Finance & Administrative Services non-arborists;

Office of Sustainability & Environment 1 non-arborist;

Seattle City Light; 1 Arboriculturist, and many ecologists, biologists. Dozens of contracted IBEW electrical union tree trimmers.

Department of Construction and Inspections: 2 arborists, who must inspect about \$5 billion dollars worth of building permit applications. 1 of these arborists was hired only this year! Preposterous! Tree authority should be removed from the duties of Mr. Torgeson's department, which is also in charge of giving out tree removal permits. This is a clear conflict of interest.

As an outsider, I would love to see the full list of Seattle employees engaged in urban forestry management.

I would also like to see the vendor contracts in the budget for tree removal, consulting, and all the nursery contracts for the 30,000 plants purchased by the Parks Department, the 2,000 trees purchased by SPU for the Trees For Neighborhoods program, the 2,000 trees purchased by SDOT as street trees. The employee training costs and the equipment purchased for crews, such as trucks, chippers, stump grinders tractors and other equipment needs to be disclosed in this single urban Forestry budget.

I want to see all the legal costs paid by the city of Seattle for litigating all urban forestry issues, please.

Wow, I'm realizing this request for budget information comes very late in the legislative calendar. However, if the Urban Forestry Commission's 2014 letter (above) had been taken seriously, the executive would have already implemented consolidation of services.

Here is the Seattle Times article about the 2009 tree program audit. <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/seattles-tree-management-needs-revising-the-city-auditor-says/>

Before I go, I wanted to say that TreePac has made a Public Disclosure Request to 3 city departments. We needed the Urban Forestry records so that we could participate in the election and the budget processes, but delays have let that ship sail. Thanks!

Arboreally yours,

Michael Oxman  
Board member, Seattle Urban Forest Stakeholders  
(206) 949-8733

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**From:** Celia Landis <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Friday, November 01, 2019 2:06 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance



Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
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4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all

Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.

8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Celia Landis

[cbjod@aol.com](mailto:cbjod@aol.com)

28th Ave NE

Seattle, Washington 98125

---

**From:** Annie Thoe <neighborhoodtreekeepers@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, November 01, 2019 4:22 PM

**To:** Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Finn Coven, Jessica <Jessica.FinnCoven@seattle.gov>; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Budget needed for added tree protection and writing of new tree protection ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Councilwoman Bagshaw,

Thank you so much for all your work with tree protection and your community service on the Seattle City Council. I am writing to ask Seattle City Council to ensure the Seattle City 2020 budget allocates funding for added tree protection and funding to update our tree protection ordinance with enforcement within DCI.

Here's a list of questions and concerns that we, Neighborhood Treekeepers of Seattle feel need to be addressed by the city with 2020 budget ahead:

**1. What is the chain of command within city staff that is working on updating the tree ordinance (outside of Urban Forestry Commission)?** Currently Seattle has 2-3 arborists which is wholly insufficient and overwhelmed for a city of this size and the rapid loss of mature trees and canopy. Permit review, follow-up for penalties/fines for tree protection enforcement is lacking. In addition to additional Arborists, we need staff allocated with experience in Tree Policy, GIS. and qualifications to enforce the new tree protection ordinance.

**2. How can we speed up our tree protection before we lose more of our mature trees and canopy?** — Why has it taken 10 years for the City Council and Mayor to update our tree ordinance?

With anticipation of “fast-tracking” for development permits, the danger to our tree canopy and environmental resources could be a disaster without more safeguards to track tree protection and replanting with necessary tree protection staff.

**3. How many building permits are not reviewed for trees on-site by city arborists? Can we audit this process to learn to do this better?**

Seattle currently has a mostly "complaint-based" system for protecting trees which is not an effective tree protection ordinance as shown by the recent Tree Regulations Research Project Report. Developers can ask the homeowner to remove the tree before they purchase the property so they don't have to justify cutting down a tree as a hazard. Nor do developers have to replace a tree because it is exceptional. Many homeowners are removing trees before applying for a building permit. We need to set up a tracking system for tree loss.

**4. How is the city tracking and enforcing tree replacement when trees are removed?**

There is no record that the city is enforcing the SMC25.11.090 provision of replacing trees—the city isn't getting money from developers to replace trees that they can't replace on site. We need city employees tracking tree loss and making sure trees are replaced. Budget and staffing is needed to track our tree-loss replacement and retention, permits, fines. The current enforcement and ordinance is overwhelmed with only 2-3 FTE arborists to handle cases. How many staff people will be needed to enter tree loss data, complaints and phone calls regarding tracking tree loss and replacement?

**5. What can we citizens do to help speed up this process of tree protection?**

Cutting our mature trees and groves at this time of climate crisis when we need trees most feels insane. When I asked the foreman who managed a recent clearcut of over 45 exceptional trees what I could do to save our trees told me "I don't like it either. The only way you can stop this and save these trees is by getting a better tree ordinance."

The City Council and Mayor need to act now to save our trees for future generations. We have been writing, calling, attending meetings and working with our neighbors to speed up this process of tree protection. We must address our serious climate problem—the city is getting smoggier, louder without our mature trees to help us. No air filters can replace a living tree that helps us breathe, provides shade, filters water and essential wildlife habitat. The birds, other animal and insects populations are going fast and depend on us for advocating for them, too. If we don't do something now, we can't replace these exceptional trees and habitat in our lifetimes nor will have a healthy, livable city.

Thank you so much for your service to Seattle and stewarding our land.

Sincerely,

Annie Thoe  
206-271-4270  
Neighborhood Treekeepers  
[www.dontclearcutseattle.org](http://www.dontclearcutseattle.org)

---

**From:** Stuart Niven <panorarbor@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Saturday, November 02, 2019 6:40 AM

**To:** Annie Thoe <neighborhoodtreekeepers@gmail.com>

**Cc:** Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra

<Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Finn Coven, Jessica <Jessica.FinnCoven@seattle.gov>; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Budget needed for added tree protection and writing of new tree protection ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Thank you Annie, I second this.

Stuart of PanorArbor

(Please excuse the postcard type sentences. My arborist fingers are not phone faeries!)

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**From:** heidi calyxsite.com <heidi@calyxsite.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, November 03, 2019 9:11 AM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** FW: FW: Tree Code Amendments Update

**CAUTION: External Email**

Hi Sandra

I am submitting this into the record to encourage OSE to look at how other cities address tree RETENTION during development.

Many thanks,  
Heidi

Heidi Siegelbaum

(206) 784-4265

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/heidisiegelbaum>

**From:** Siegelbaum, Heidi <[heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu](mailto:heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu)>

**Sent:** Saturday, November 02, 2019 6:11 PM

**To:** heidi calyxsite.com <[heidi@calyxsite.com](mailto:heidi@calyxsite.com)>

**Subject:** Fw: Tree Code Amendments Update

Heidi Siegelbaum  
Washington Stormwater Center

Stormwater Strategic Initiative Lead Team

Stormwater Program Analyst

(253) 445-4502  
[heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu](mailto:heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu)

Washington Stormwater Center  
Washington State University  
2606 West Pioneer  
Puyallup, WA. 98371

[www.wastormwatercenter.org](http://www.wastormwatercenter.org)

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**From:** City of Kirkland <[kirkland@service.govdelivery.com](mailto:kirkland@service.govdelivery.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 2, 2019 5:13 PM  
**To:** Siegelbaum, Heidi <[heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu](mailto:heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu)>  
**Subject:** Tree Code Amendments Update



## CITY OF KIRKLAND UPDATE: TREE CODE AMENDMENTS UPDATE

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You are subscribed to the **Tree Code Amendments List-Serv** for the City of Kirkland. The [Tree Code Amendments web page](#) has recently been updated and is now available online.

REMINDER: The Planning Commission and Houghton Community Council will hold a joint public hearing on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm at City Hall Council Chambers to receive public comment on the proposed amendments to Kirkland Zoning Code Chapter 95. You are encouraged to attend this hearing to express your views on proposed amendments that will affect city-wide tree removal and tree retention related to development. City staff will be available to answer questions about the code amendments prior to the hearing from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers lobby.

Written comments may be submitted directly to the Planning Commission and/or Houghton Community Council up to 5:00 pm before the hearing in care of Deb Powers, Urban Forester, Kirkland Planning and Building Department. Please refer to Case No. CAM18-00408 and include your name, mailing address and email address.

During the meeting, anyone may speak or submit written comments.

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This email was sent to [heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu](mailto:heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu) using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of the City of Kirkland  
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**From:** Graydon Newman <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 03, 2019 1:08 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Graydon Newman

[graydon.newman@gmail.com](mailto:graydon.newman@gmail.com)

3166 SW Genesee St

Seattle, Washington 98126

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**From:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, November 03, 2019 4:06 PM

**To:** Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; Gonzalez, Lorena <Lorena.Gonzalez@seattle.gov>; Pacheco, Abel <Abel.Pacheco@seattle.gov>; O'Brien, Mike <Mike.O'Brien@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>; kshama.sewant@seattle.gov; Juarez, Debora <Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov>; Mosqueda, Teresa <Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov>;

DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; DOT\_LA <DOT\_LA@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Strauss, Daniel <Daniel.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Chu, Brian <Brian.Chu@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Will Seattle try to match Kirkland's Tree Code Amendments ?

**CAUTION: External Email**

Looking closer, we see that the resolution of the Seattle City Council is a good leap forward - especially when tree removal is being considered. But what about large and Exceptional tree retention?

We need only look across the Lake to Kirkland. Please consider attending their program on November 5th.

Here's a quick list of amendments Kirkland is considering that recognizes that an urban area stripped of mature trees and sufficient space to grow trees does not advance our common cause :

- Limiting tree removals *prior to development* permit application submittal;
- Tree removal allowances that *consider property size*;
- A condition rating system for *trees required to be retained* on development sites;
- Making tree retention decisions early in the *short plat/subdivision design process*;
- A new *Landmark tree designation* with a higher level of protection;
- Specific rules on how trees can be *retained on development sites*.

[https://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/planning/Code\\_Updates/Projects/Tree\\_Code\\_Updates.htm](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/planning/Code_Updates/Projects/Tree_Code_Updates.htm)

Kindly, in the interests of local heat islands and natural habitats with increased density,

David Moehring

**From:** City of Kirkland <[kirkland@service.govdelivery.com](mailto:kirkland@service.govdelivery.com)>

**Subject:** Tree Code Amendments Update



## CITY OF KIRKLAND UPDATE: TREE CODE AMENDMENTS UPDATE

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**From:** Abbie Watts <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 03, 2019 4:28 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Protect Seattle's trees please - Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Trees are vital to our planet and our city. I just finished reading this years Pulitzer prize winning novel, The Overstory and it's about protecting trees and climate change. Trees fulfill so many roles and are essential in cityscapes. In Seattle, poor areas don't have trees. That's sad but more importantly bad for factors as diverse as airquality and human happiness.

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water

runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

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6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Abbie Watts

[abigail.kp.watts@gmail.com](mailto:abigail.kp.watts@gmail.com)

413 Garfield St  
Seattle, Washington 98109

---

**From:** Nicole Corrado <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 04, 2019 6:48 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Nicole Corrado

[ntcorrado@rogers.com](mailto:ntcorrado@rogers.com)

1 Bluejay Way

Toronto, Ontario M5V 2T6

---

From: David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
Sent: Monday, November 04, 2019 8:27 AM  
To: Humphries, Paul <Paul.Humphries@seattle.gov>; PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>  
Cc: Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; Naomi Zurcher <treerap@sprintmail.com>; Finn Coven, Jessica <Jessica.FinnCoven@seattle.gov>; Annie Thoe <neighborhoodtreekeepers@gmail.com>; Pederson, Art <Art.Pederson@seattle.gov>  
Subject: Enforcing tree protections at 3406 and 3412 34th

CAUTION: External Email

Mr. Humphries,

Thank you for practicing what SDCI preaches - that being the Department is the 'steward of Seattle's environment'.

Your comments on the townhouses with row houses development\* at 3406 and 3412 34th Ave W are astute relative to the protection of existing Exceptional trees and tree groves. Too often the city planners do not establish at the onset that designs must work around protected trees.



You have appropriately asked for the retaining existing group of trees at the south end and trees which primarily grow on the property to the south.

Astonishingly, there is no evidence that a Design has been provided here that considered retaining exceptional and protected trees. There is plenty of space on this functionally-related site to do so. The attached pdf from a similar (and smaller) LR1-zoned lot in Ballard demonstrates that architects and arborists have indeed successful collaborated on retaining nature trees when the Department requires them to do so.

As the former councilperson Rob Johnson one suggested, Seattle needs to stand up for mature trees while accommodating increased density.

<http://archive.kuow.org/post/seattle-says-no-more-willy-nilly-cutting-down-trees-private-property>

The message below is a good testament to why this issue is so important in within Seattle urban environment.

David Moehring  
Magnolia Tree Keepers   
TreePAC 

\* Code note: Seattle prohibits development of land with both Rowhouses and townhouses. SMC 23.84A.032.R(20); yet no one objects to the practice of non-authorized contract rezoning from LR1(M) to LR2(M1).

Sent: Friday, November 01, 2019 at 2:22 AM

> > From: "Naomi"  
> > To: "Finn Coven, Jessica" <[Jessica.FinnCoven@seattle.gov](mailto:Jessica.FinnCoven@seattle.gov)>  
> > Cc: "David Moehring" <[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)>  
> > Subject: Re: Keep Seattle Livable!  
> > Dear Jessica:  
> >  
> > Thank you for your summary analysis of Seattle's Tree Protection.  
> >  
> > My biggest issue, from what I can see and the number of trees that are being compromised in various ways, is that not enough is being done to prevent trees from becoming hazard trees in the first place.  
> >  
> > Putting a management focus on hazard trees can very easily play into the hands of developers and agreeable arborists who need the income being offered to evaluate in a certain direction.  
> >  
> > What is missing here is the planning and site preparation requisite to a tree or trees being planted, how we select a tree for that site, how we plant it and facilitate its establishment and then how we protect, preserve and maintain it so that it can actually grow into maturity. There are many proven strategies which can facilitate GROWING a tree into maturity, all of which cost much less than having to come along later and deal with the result of all of the requisite parts and pieces either not being done or being done incorrectly.

> >  
> > A sustainable urban forest ecosystem is front loaded in terms of Standards, Procedures and Best Practices and their resulting costs. But, that investment not only results in a healthy, resilient and viable urban forest resource, it affords an extraordinary quality of life for all residents as a result of the enhanced Ecosystem Services such an Urban Forest is able to deliver.  
> >  
> > That should be the goal of managing the resource, rather than a sole focus on the hazards that, all too often, bad judgment and grossly inadequate planning, management and protection instigate.  
> >  
> > Kind regards  
> > Naomi  
> >  
> > On Oct 31, 2019, at 6:45 PM, Finn Coven, Jessica <[Jessica.FinnCoven@seattle.gov](mailto:Jessica.FinnCoven@seattle.gov)> <<mailto:Jessica.FinnCoven@seattle.gov>>> wrote:  
> >  
> > Dear Naomi,  
> >  
> > Thank you for your email.  
> >  
> > Over the past couple of years, the City of Seattle has been taking steps to improve tree protection.  
> >  
> > In 2016, my office partnered up with the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) to undertake the Tree Regulations Research Project to assess the effectiveness of the interim tree protection regulations and get critical data for us to better understand the issues surrounding tree protection. The project's final report  
<[http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/UrbanForestryCommission/Resources/Final%20Report\\_Tree%20Regulation%20Research%20ProjectPhaseII\\_31MAR2017\\_final.pdf](http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/UrbanForestryCommission/Resources/Final%20Report_Tree%20Regulation%20Research%20ProjectPhaseII_31MAR2017_final.pdf)>  
provided the basis for Mayor Burgess' Executive Order 2017-11  
<<http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/UrbanForestryCommission/2018/2018docs/TreeExecOrder2017-11FINAL.pdf>> on Tree Protection (EO).  
> >  
> > The EO directed City departments to implement measures to increase tree protection. Progress on EO implementation includes:  
> > In 2017, SDCI began a series of updates to their website  
<[http://www.seattle.gov/sdci/codes/codes-we-enforce-\(a-z\)/tree-protection-code](http://www.seattle.gov/sdci/codes/codes-we-enforce-(a-z)/tree-protection-code)>  
including tree protection details and signage specifications to help educate the public and permit applicants about the value of trees and tree protection regulations.  
> > In 2018, SDCI updated Tip 331B - Hazard Tree  
<<http://www.seattle.gov/DPD/Publications/CAM/cam331b.pdf>>, to more clearly determine what trees are to be classified as hazardous; and Tip 242 -Tree Protections in Seattle <<http://www.seattle.gov/DPD/Publications/CAM/cam242.pdf>>, to detail the process for evaluating a tree's risk and the process of completing and submitting a Hazard Tree Removal Application. SDCI also adopted Director's Rule 17-2018  
<<http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/codes/dr/17-2018%20tree.pdf>> - Calculating Tree Valuations and Civil Penalties for Tree Protection Code Violations  
<<http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/codes/dr/17-2018%20tree.pdf>>. This new rule clarifies the methodology of the cost approach used by code enforcement.  
> > This year, SDCI hired two arborists to assist in the review of permit applications for tree removal and enforcement of tree protection violations. SDCI is working with staff from the City's IT department to update the online permit

system to include a tree tracking mechanism that will better assist staff to track tree removal and replanting during different stages of development.

> >

> > My office, as part of our role staffing the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC), has worked to facilitate visits from City Councilmembers Johnson, Bagshaw, and Herbold, to discuss the Commission's recommendations for updates to the tree protection ordinance that was brought forward by Councilmember Johnson in 2018.

> >

> > Earlier this year, City Council expressed their commitment to protect our urban trees as our city continues to grow by adopting a companion resolution (Resolution 3870

<<http://clerk.seattle.gov/search/results?s6=mandatory+housing+affordability&l=200&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESON&Sect3=PLURON&Sect4=AND&Sect5=RESNY&Sect6=HITOFF&d=RESF&p=1&u=%2Fsearch%2Fresolutions&r=1&f=G>> - Section 6) to the Mandatory House Affordability legislation. The resolution is in alignment with UFC recommendations.

> >

> > The Mayor and Council are currently working with the UFC on a timeline to continue this work and produce legislation to update current tree regulations.

> >

> > Thank you again for reaching out.

> >

> > Sincerely,

> > Jessica Finn Coven, Director

> > Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment

> >

> >

> > From: Naomi Zurcher <[info@sg.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org)>

> > <<mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org>>>

> > Sent: Saturday, October 05, 2019 6:40 AM

> > To: Finn Coven, Jessica <[Jessica.FinnCoven@seattle.gov](mailto:Jessica.FinnCoven@seattle.gov)>

> > <<mailto:Jessica.FinnCoven@seattle.gov>>>

> > Subject: Keep Seattle Livable!

> >

> > CAUTION: External Email

> > OSE Director Jessica Finn Coven,

> >

> > As an Urban Forester and a Consulting Arborist, I am concerned with the well-being of the public's trees, regardless of where they are - all trees matter.

> >

> > It has come to my attention that although Seattle has a Tree Protection Ordinance in place, the public's urban trees are being decimated through a lack of enforcement combined with inadequate Best Management Practices and development that does not respect the existing tree resource.

> >

> > None of this is acceptable and all of it is avoidable and preventable.

> >

> > Seattle's Urban Forest is comprised of trees and all their associates including human residents, living together in the built environment. Seattle's trees are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

> >

> > BUT, trees can only provide these critical services IF their needs are respected and accommodated.

> >  
> > Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are not protected during development and are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.  
> >  
> > Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.  
> > Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:  
> >  
> > 1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) - to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.  
> > 2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume - either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.  
> > 3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.  
> > 4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees  
> > in 3 years per lot outside development  
> > 5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.  
> > 6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.  
> > 7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.  
> > 8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.  
> >  
> > Naomi Zurcher  
> > [treerap@sprintmail.com](mailto:treerap@sprintmail.com) <<mailto:treerap@sprintmail.com>>  
> > 161 Columbia Hts  
> > Brooklyn, 11201-2154  
> >  
> >

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**From:** Christie Cave <[info@sg.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 04, 2019 12:12 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Save our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,



Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

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7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Christie Cave  
[cmcave@aol.com](mailto:cmcave@aol.com)  
735 N 72nd  
Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 04, 2019 5:03 PM  
**To:** Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; Sawant, Kshama <Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov>; Gonzalez, Lorena <Lorena.Gonzalez@seattle.gov>; O'Brien, Mike <Mike.O'Brien@seattle.gov>; Pacheco, Abel <Abel.Pacheco@seattle.gov>; Mosqueda, Teresa <Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** Steve Zemke <stevezemke@msn.com>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Strauss, Daniel <Daniel.Strauss@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Hazard tree director rule

**CAUTION: External Email**

**A better tree protection ordinance is needed in Seattle.**

City Arborist or Building Inspectors evaluations of **violations in tree cuttings:**

A March 27, 2017 tree regulation report "*Tree Regulations Research Project - Phase II*" have revealed (chart below, spreadsheet and chart attached) that there are significantly more reporting of violations, yet the number of violations remains low. In 2015, of the 158 reports on tree cuttings, only 32 (or 25%) were considered to be violations. Most of the prior years were about 50% in violation. [This information chart and excel spreadsheet with address locations was recently made available from a public records request.]

**This attached May 12, 2011 "Tip 242 - Tree Protection Regulations in Seattle" document needs to be updated.**

 Updates are needed for '**Developed Land**' on page 2 to enact better tree protections:

"...limited in all lowrise, midrise, and commercial zones and on single-family lots 5,000 square feet in area or larger..."

(is this now "lots 4,000 square feet in area or larger"?)

"No more than three non-exceptional trees six inches in diameter or greater may be removed on a lot in any one-year period."

"No permits are required for removal of trees within these limits."

✂ Clarification is needed for **HAZARD TREES** on page 2:

"Hazard trees are trees designated by a qualified professional that have a combination of structural defects and/or disease which makes it subject to a high probability of failure and are located near potential targets." "If a hazard tree is located in an environmentally critical area, replanting will also be required for removal of a hazard tree."

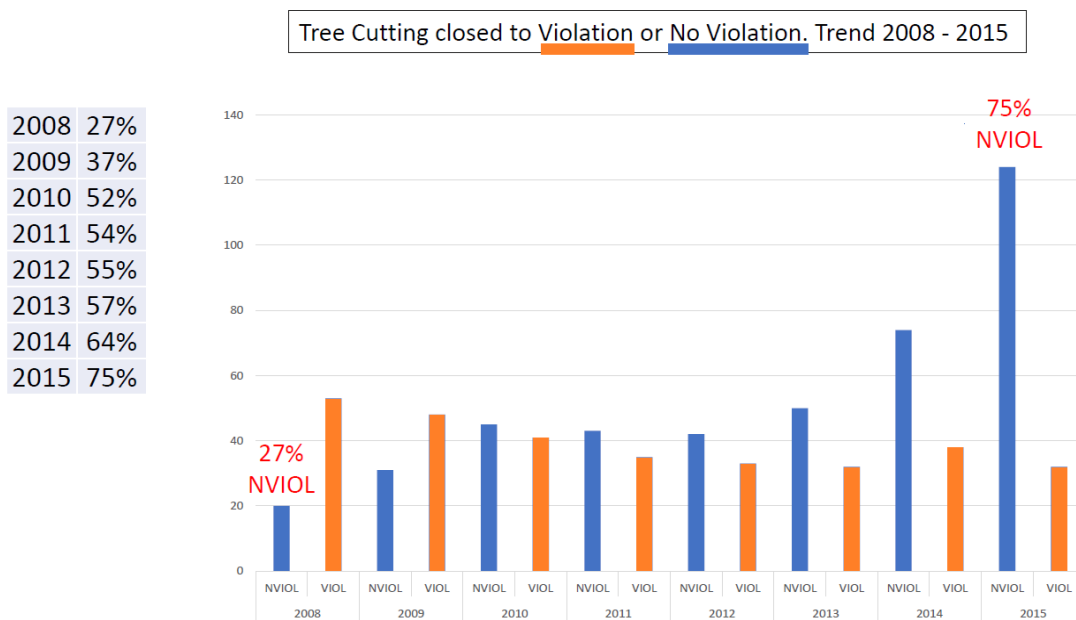
More and more reports are indicating a tree will likely fall on a potential target AFTER a nearby building is demolished or a foundation for a new building is excavated. A healthy tree becoming a hazard after excavating around it? That is reverse thinking, isn't it?

✂ Increased enforcement is needed for "Tree Protection during Development" on page 2:

How often are departures enforced (reduced setbacks, reduced on-site parking, increased height)?

"In general, exceptional trees must be retained unless doing so would prevent a project from meeting the development potential of the zone even after available departures from development standards are considered."

and on page 3: "Protection of other non-exceptional trees over two feet in diameter is optional, but encouraged."



Source file: IW\_tree\_canopy\_ppt\_TreeRegsPhaseIIMarchUpdate\_032717v13FINAL\_installment\_2.pdf; March 27, 2017; "Tree Regulations Research Project –Phase II, Final Findings and Recommendations"

David Moehring  
312-965-0634

**Sent:** Monday, December 03, 2018 at 1:26 PM  
**From:** "David Moehring" <[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)>  
**Cc:** "[seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net](mailto:seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net)" <[seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net](mailto:seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net)>  
**Subject:** Hazard tree director rule  
FYI -SDCI updated Tip 331B, Hazard Trees, was updated to correct the application process.

Date Revised: 11/06/2018

Removal of a hazard tree is allowed in environmentally critical areas (ECAs) when an applicant demonstrates a significant risk exists. This Tip details the process for assessing whether a hazard exists and submitting a Hazard Tree Removal Application.

<http://web6.seattle.gov/DPD/CAMS/CamDetail.aspx?cn=331B>

Also See Tip 331, ECAs: Tree and Vegetation Overview, for more general information about trees in ECAs.

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**From:** Kelliann Lafferty <[info@sg.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 04, 2019 9:08 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

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Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

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6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Kelliann Lafferty

[kell10192@gmail.com](mailto:kell10192@gmail.com)

5508 22nd Ave NW, 5

Seattle, Washington 98107

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From: David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2019 7:51 AM  
To: Houston, Michael <Michael.Houston@seattle.gov>  
Cc: PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>; Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; mbeutjer@msn.com  
Subject: Tree grove removal at City of Seattle DCI Notice #3033703-LU - November 4, 2019

CAUTION: External Email

Please provide the arborist report for 3452 14th Ave W 3033703-LU.

There does not appear to be any report on the Electronic Document Management System. This development site has apparently not been considered for protected trees and the protected tree grove per SMC 25.11.

There is no record of consolidating the allowed FAR into one building rather than 4 separate dwellings. There is no record of design compromises in terms of setbacks and heights to retain existing trees.

David Moehring  
3444B 23rd ave W

Sent using the mail.com mail app

Forwarded email

> From: "Gonzales Cunneutubby, Reta" <[Reta.Gonzales@Seattle.Gov](mailto:Reta.Gonzales@Seattle.Gov)>  
> Date: November 4, 2019 at 9:03 AM  
> To: "Gonzales Cunneutubby, Reta" <[Reta.Gonzales@Seattle.Gov](mailto:Reta.Gonzales@Seattle.Gov)>  
> Subject: City of Seattle DCI Notice #3033703-LU - November 4, 2019  
>  
> Please see attached Notice published on November 4, 2019.  
>  
> DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE.  
>  
> Please contact the planner listed on the attached notice, for any issues, questions, or comments regarding this project.  
>  
> This notice is being sent as you are: an applicant; a board member; a SEPA agency; or a party of record (you attended and signed in at a meeting or emailed/mailed in comments) for this project.  
>  
> Thanks,  
> [[cid:image001.png@01D2DF73.141B6B20](#)]  
> City of Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections<<http://www.seattle.gov/sdci/>>  
> Public Resource Center  
> 700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000  
> PO Box 34019, Seattle, WA 98124-4019  
> [PRC@seattle.gov](mailto:PRC@seattle.gov)<<mailto:PRC@seattle.gov>>  
>  
> [[cid:image002.png@01D2DF73.141B6B20](#)]<<https://www.facebook.com/seattledci>> [[cid:image003.png@01D2DF73.141B6B20](#)]<<https://twitter.com/seattledci>> [[cid:image004.png@01D2DF73.141B6B20](#)]<<http://buildingconnections.seattle.gov/>>  
>  
> "As stewards and regulators of land and buildings, we preserve and enhance the----

---

**From:** Bard Horton <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 05, 2019 6:17 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

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4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits

and to track changes in the tree canopy.

6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Bard Horton

[bardjess@msn.com](mailto:bardjess@msn.com)

328 N 71st St

Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** Kawamura, Jon <Jon.Kawamura@seattle.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 07, 2019 10:45 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Exceptional Tree Experience

Thanks Sandra,

Sorry about it being 2 pages, I tried to keep it short. We really appreciate you taking the time to read about our experience and hope it somehow gives you a little more information about a homeowners perspective on the exceptional tree law.

- Jon

**From:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 07, 2019 10:37 AM  
**To:** Kawamura, Jon <[Jon.Kawamura@seattle.gov](mailto:Jon.Kawamura@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Exceptional Tree Experience

Hi Jon,

I staff the Urban Forestry Commission, so, feel free to send me anything you'd like to share with them.

Thanks,





**Sandra Pinto de Bader**

She/her/hers

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator

City of Seattle, [Office of Sustainability & Environment](#)

206.684.3194 | [Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@seattle.gov)

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Blog](#)



**Seattle Census 2020**

Know Your Rights & Be Counted

[FAQS](#) | [BLOG](#)

**From:** Kawamura, Jon <[Jon.Kawamura@seattle.gov](mailto:Jon.Kawamura@seattle.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, November 07, 2019 10:06 AM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** Exceptional Tree Experience

Sandra,

I have been in communication concerning our experience with the current Exceptional Tree laws with Chandra Emery (Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections) and Art Peterson who is an arborist working in the same group. Art strongly recommended that we share our experiences with the Exceptional Tree laws with the Urban Forestry Commission and City Council. Do you have a contact I could send our story to?

Thanks,

- Jon

Jon and Nora

3669 Interlake Ave N.

Seattle, WA 98103

I am writing to share our experiences as the owners of a single-family home getting ready to sell our house with what has been labeled as an exceptional tree in our backyard. We are hoping that you take our experience with the exceptional tree laws into consideration if the current laws are under discussion for change.

I'd like to give you a little background information on our experience with developers, the cities rezoning to promote greater density on our bloc and the exceptional tree law.

Last year I made the decision to plan on retiring from the City of Seattle (early 2020) so we could move back home to take care of our parents (92, 94 years old). Our neighbors had similar issues and had decided to move as well. Both of our lots are adjacent (3669, 3665) with similar trees. The developer agreed to buy each of our lots for 1.2 million. Even though my neighbor had more tree coverage, the diameter or species of our tree was deemed to

be exceptional by an arborist, so the developer terminated our agreement stating that they didn't want to absorb the risk of investing time going through the city design processes.

Once our 1.2 million agreement was terminated, we were willing to try and work around the tree, so we entered another agreement at 1.05 million (\$150,000 less) with a developer who had a site plan design keeping the tree in place. The tree ended up eliminating an additional unit which made the design financially less desirable, so the developer decided to terminate the deal after a 3-month feasibility period. Now we are faced with trying to sell the house as a private residence with the next-door neighbor's house and the house across the street being torn down (might be tough, not many single-family houses remain on block). We are being quoted a price of \$850k to 900k for a private sale which is \$300k - \$350k less than we would have received initially without the tree.

We did do our due diligence in pursuing options where we kept the tree and were even willing to take \$150k less. One of the problems is that the market in Seattle is in a slight downturn so developers need all the square footage to reduce risk, the rezoning also is a factor. Our street was zoned for high density housing.

#### Observations:

- With such a huge difference in property value due to the exceptional tree, it would make sense for most homeowners to just cut the tree down and face any fine especially if their life circumstances put them in a tough situation. But why make the City of Seattle and the homeowners' adversaries?
- Comparing our lot with our neighbors, cutting down their trees would have a greater environmental impact, but diameter/species rule of a single tree on our lot was the determining factor in our house sale as it was tagged as exceptional. This really is saying that the environmental impact of clearing trees is not as important as an arbitrary ruling based on diameter size and species.
- A house down the street was just torn down and they posted a sign saying that several exceptional trees were taken down. All this is confusing to us because in one case more tree coverage was allowed to be taken down and in the other case several exceptional trees were allowed to be removed. There might be some rule that justified the removal of these trees, but it is confusing to the homeowner.
- Our tree isn't native to the area and was planted by the previous owner of the house. This is not an issue of deforesting; it is an issue of removing a tree that was planted by the homeowner on their own land.
- The way the exceptional tree is written now, if the homeowner makes the mistake of planting a certain species of tree and lets it grow to a certain diameter then the city takes control of the tree but not of any of the ownership maintenance costs and risk. Our tree has had 2 of the 3 main canopy branches break off and land on our deck and carport over the years. The city exceptional tree rule is basically saying that once the tree grows to a certain diameter, control of the tree is handed over to the city, but the city will not absorb any of the maintenance costs or hazardous risks.

The arborist can recommend trimming but that incurs cost and doesn't guarantee safety.

Recommendations to revise exceptional tree laws.

The current exceptional tree law appears to have a hard threshold based on species/diameter. This only encourages homeowners to cut their trees down before they reach the threshold or illegally cut the trees down if the financial impact is large enough. The homeowners negatively impacted by the rule are the ones that didn't know the rule existed. Depending on ignorance of a rule isn't a good way to govern an initiative. It would make more sense to apply a sliding scale cost of removing all trees based on diameter. For instance, removal of a medium size tree would incur a \$2000 fee, a large tree might cost \$10000. Having a lower cost scale for high density zoning should also be considered. This type of tree removal enforcement would have the advantages:

1. The revenue generated from tree removal fees could then fund replanting initiatives.
2. Homeowners would be less apt to become adversaries of the city and illegally cut down exceptional trees.
3. The city would not be liable or responsible for maintaining trees they claim as exceptional.
4. The tree removal policy would be straightforward and easy for homeowners, developers and neighbors to understand.

If there are no changes to the current exceptional tree laws I do think there should be an appeal process for exception tree exemptions in cases where there is severe financial impact and the homeowner has done their due diligence to pursue design options keeping the tree.

Thanks your consideration,

Jon Kawamura

E-Mail: [Jon.Kawamura@Seattle.Gov](mailto:Jon.Kawamura@Seattle.Gov)

Phone: (206) 310-9984

---

**From:** Charna Klein <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, November 07, 2019 9:10 AM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

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