



**SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

**Weston Brinkley** (Position #3 – University), Chair • **Sarah Rehder** (Position #4 – Hydrologist), Vice-chair  
**Julia Michalak** (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • **Elby Jones** (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist - ISA)  
**Stuart Niven** (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • **Michael Walton** (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)  
**Joshua Morris** (Position #7 – NGO) • **David Moehring** (Position #8 – Development) • **Blake Voorhees** (Position # 9 – Realtor)  
**Elena Arakaki** (Position #10 – Get Engaged) • **Jessica Hernandez** (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*

**Meeting notes**

July 14, 2021, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Via Webex call  
(206) 207-1700  
Meeting number: 1463 76 4323  
Meeting password: 1234

*In-person meetings are not being held at this time due to the pandemic. Meeting participation is limited to access by joining the meeting through a computer or telephone conference line.*

**Attending**

Commissioners

Weston Brinkley - Chair  
Sarah Rehder - Vice-Chair  
Jessica Hernandez  
Julia Michalak  
David Moehring  
Josh Morris  
Stuart Niven  
Shari Selch  
Blake Voorhees  
Jessica Jones  
Elby Jones

Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE

Guests

Toby Thaler – CM Pedersen’s Office

Absent- Excused

Michael Walton  
Elena Arakaki

Public

Steve Zemke

**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 at 3:02 and provided a land acknowledgement.

**Public comment:**

Steve Zemke commented that there was a Land Use and Neighborhoods Committee meeting this morning, reminded members that they can provide comment at these meetings and provided comments on tree canopy goals and tree regulations update progress.

**Chair, Committees, and Coordinator report:**

Patti reported a recent increase in letters received related to tree regulations, updated on the briefing that she and SDCI gave to Council's LUN Committee this morning, and provided notice that sooty bark disease is a topic of activity among the Core Team and urban forestry staff, with the recent article published in the Seattle Times.

Weston discussed the extreme heat the community has been facing, as a topic that the Commission will be covering more as this continues.

**Green New Deal thank you letter:**

Sarah provided a summary of the draft letter she prepared. Jessica Hernandez provided suggestions on language so that it is less extractive, more supportive, and helps to develop a relationship with the GND team, valuing lived experience over scientific and technical knowledge. Commissioners worked to improve the language by incorporating this feedback, and worked on additional edits.

**Action: A motion to adopt the letter as amended was made, seconded and approved**

**SPU restoration work thank you letter:**

Sarah provided a summary of the draft letter she prepared and called out two areas she specifically wanted to work on editing. Commissioners worked on edits to the letter.

**Action: A motion to adopt the letter as amended was made, seconded and approved.**

**Yesler Terrace Planned Action Ordinance continued discussion:**

Commissioners discussed Weston's draft letter related to the presentation from SHA. The letter includes recommendations on community engagement and questions the Commission would like more information on. Commissioners worked on edits to the letter, but did not get to a point of finalizing the letter. Stuart would like to get more information on the replacement trees and the volume of canopy expected to be provided with them.

**Action: A motion to table the letter and revisit at the next meeting was made, seconded and approved.**

**Seattle/King County heat islands study briefing:**

Jana Dilly from SPU provided this presentation. She outlined the heat impacts the community is currently seeing, the extent of the impacts as they are increasing in recent years, and the inequities of these impacts across the community. This joint project started a few years ago to study and map the temperatures in our urban area. Jana outlined the details of the methodology and the results, and also covered expected next steps to mitigate impacts. The city has applied for a FEMA hazard mitigation grant, and the city and the county have tree planting programs that contribute to this mitigation. In addition to providing trees for planting, the Trees for Neighborhoods program also includes plans for door-to-door outreach in underserved neighborhoods in order to improve the program.

Questions on the presentation included discussion on the supply and demand of the Trees for Neighborhoods program and how to get them into neighborhoods needing more canopy given some challenges of depaving,

etc. David commented that this makes it very clear the difference that trees can make and suggested spreading that important message.

**Commission Debrief on Presentation:**

Sarah brought up this issue and Weston requested: Paved residential areas - put a pin in to revisit this topic/question

**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>**

**Public comment:**

Steve Zemke commented that the Yesler Terrace topic will be on the LUN Committee meeting agenda for July 28. Also, regarding the potential for a fee-in-lieu program in Seattle, he noted that Portland's per-inch fee for tree removal has raised more than \$2 million dollars so far that goes toward tree plantings and increasing canopy.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 PM.

**Meeting Chat:**

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:17 PM

SHA Yeslar Terrace Tree Policy will be voted on at next Land Use and Neighborhoods meeting 4th Wed of month.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:26 PM

They discussed this today at the Land Use and Neighborhood Committee Tier 1 trees required a 10:1 replacement. Tier 2 are 1 for 1 replacement. They changed the road access ab

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:29 PM

They changed the road access and are saving 3 trees that were to be removed.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:31 PM

Strauss is proposing an amendment that the two trees removed would be 3 to 1.

from Dilley, Jana to everyone: 4:46 PM

<https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/climate/documents/2021-summary-report-heat-watch-seattle-king-county.pdf>

from Dilley, Jana to everyone: 4:46 PM

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=84709c65c08a40bbb47d0723ef1c797a&extent=-13604644.7965%2C6019787.1095%2C-13561266.7829%2C6046616.5065%2C102100>

from Dilley, Jana to everyone: 4:51 PM

Trees for Neighborhoods link: <http://www.seattle.gov/trees/planting-and-care/trees-for-neighborhoods>

from Joshua Morris | Seattle Audubon to everyone: 5:02 PM

Thanks, Jana!

from Blake Voorhees to everyone: 5:02 PM

Thank you, Jana!

**Public input: (see next page and posted notes):**

**From:** Rosa Vissers <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 7, 2021 8:56 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

As recent record temperatures have demonstrated, the climate crisis is real. Trees are a buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas. I am seeing trees disappear almost every week in my neighborhood (upper Fremont) as developers build new buildings.

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 12 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as "a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns." Include street trees in groves.
- Add "Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to

maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages.”

- Add “All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can’t be removed.”
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to “TREE PROTECTION”. Remove references to “Exceptional Trees” only and change to “Trees”. e.g., change “Exceptional Tree Protection Areas” to “Tree Protection Areas”.
- SECTION 4. Add “The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle’s Equity and Environment Initiative.”
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director’s Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT’s registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor’s license to ensure they have workers’ compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest. Let’s try to keep our city green and cool.

Rosa Vissers  
[rosavissers@gmail.com](mailto:rosavissers@gmail.com)  
4265B Linden Ave N  
Seattle , Washington 98103

**From:** Howard Kuo <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 8, 2021 7:10 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI’s Director’s Rule 13-2020

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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Howard Kuo

[howard.c.kuo@gmail.com](mailto:howard.c.kuo@gmail.com)

Linden Ave N, 4265B

Seattle, Washington 98103

**From:** Vivian Korneliussen <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 8, 2021 10:32 PM

**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI’s Director’s Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

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Adopt Director's Rule 13-2020 now, with the amendments proposed by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission which would significantly increase the urgently needed protection for trees in Seattle for Exceptional and Significant Trees. Why has the draft rule not been adopted yet?  
Let adopt Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, Director's Rule 13-2020 now!  
Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Vivian Korneliussen  
[gagrizzly72@yahoo.com](mailto:gagrizzly72@yahoo.com)

917 N 178th St  
Shoreline , Washington 98133

**From:** Kara Lucca <kara@luccafamily.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 9, 2021 8:12 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please end the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

We all suffered in the recent record temperatures, and your action is needed to help with the climate crisis. Trees are a buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas.

I urge you to please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

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Thank you for protecting our precious, vital urban forest.

Kara Lucca

[kara@luccafamily.org](mailto:kara@luccafamily.org)

3933 SW Ida Street

Seattle, Washington 98136

**From:** Christine Cave <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Friday, July 9, 2021 4:46 PM

**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Christine Cave

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

735 N 72nd

Seattle, Washington 98103

**From:** Nancy Penrose <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Friday, July 9, 2021 9:10 PM

**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

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End the Delay and ensure that Seattle lives up to its name as the Emerald City!

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- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as "a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns." Include street trees in groves.
- Add "Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages."
- Add "All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can't be removed."
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to "TREE PROTECTION". Remove references to "Exceptional Trees" only and change to "Trees". e.g., change "Exceptional Tree Protection Areas" to "Tree Protection Areas".
- SECTION 4. Add "The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle's Equity and Environment Initiative."
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require "one or more trees" to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director's Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT's registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor's license to ensure they have workers' compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Nancy Penrose

[mue.rose@gmail.com](mailto:mue.rose@gmail.com)

2402 E Olive Street

Seattle, Washington 98122

**From:** Angela Ginorio <ginorio@uw.edu>

**Sent:** Friday, July 9, 2021 11:28 PM

**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

As recent record temperatures have demonstrated, the climate crisis is real. Trees are a buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas. With no air conditioning, the tree canopy in my house kept the inside temperature in my house at 86F maximum.

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 12 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
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designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city.”

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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Angela Ginorio

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

12540 - 8th Ave NW

Seattle, Washington 98177

**From:** Angela Ginorio <ginorio@uw.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 9, 2021 11:30 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

It's time to end the delay by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on presenting the Seattle City Council with an updated draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance. Over the last 12 years, the City Council has repeatedly asked SDCI for an updated workable and effective ordinance draft to consider and it is obvious SDCI is not responding as requested. In its recent Resolution 31902, the Council gave specific issues for SDCI to address.

If SDCI cannot respond in a timely manner, please remove tree and urban forestry protection from their Department. As the City Auditor proposed in 2009, transfer tree and urban forestry oversight and authority to the Office of Sustainability and the Environment. SDCI has a conflict of interest in tree oversight – their priority mission has been to help developers build, not protect trees. Years of inaction on effective oversight and protection of trees by SDCI demands that a separate entity like OSE take over the city's responsibility to protect and enhance our urban forest.

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.

Angela Ginorio

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

12540 - 8th Ave NW

Seattle, Washington 98177

**From:** Lynda Emel <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, July 9, 2021 3:51 PM

**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

As recent record temperatures have demonstrated, the climate crisis is real and arriving sooner than we thought. Trees are a valuable buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas. In addition to public health benefits, it is known that trees provide mental health benefits to city dwellers. Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay, by adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 12 years ago and is very much overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process

- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be considered a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as "a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns." Street trees should also be considered in the definitions of groves.
- Add "Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages."
- Add "All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can't be removed."
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to "TREE PROTECTION". Remove references to "Exceptional Trees" only and change to "Trees". e.g., change "Exceptional Tree Protection Areas" to "Tree Protection Areas".
- SECTION 4. Add "The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle's Equity and Environment Initiative."
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require "one or more trees" to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director's Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT's registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have

a WA State contractor's license to ensure they have workers' compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

I would add that the city should also consider some kind incentives for developers to maintain existing trees as part of developments, such as tax breaks or relaxing some zoning or development requirements. Carrots may work better than sticks to get developers take a those few extra steps to maintain trees, rather than clear cut sites. Developers of single family homes or townhomes should also be required to inform the new owners that they are responsible for watering and maintaining newly planted street trees. Far too many of these new trees go unwatered during their first summer, causing tree mortality.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Lynda Emel

[lyndae2@yahoo.com](mailto:lyndae2@yahoo.com)

5702 26th Ave NW

Seattle, Washington 98107

**From:** Amy Tracy <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Sunday, July 11, 2021 11:24 AM

**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

As recent record temperatures have demonstrated, the climate crisis is real. Trees are a buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas.

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certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Amy Tracy

[AmyTracy3@gmail.com](mailto:AmyTracy3@gmail.com)

781 East Creekwood Lane #12G

Murray, Utah 84107

**From:** Barbara Bernard <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Sunday, July 11, 2021 8:09 PM

**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Barbara Bernard  
[barbara\\_bernard@yahoo.com](mailto:barbara_bernard@yahoo.com)  
3213 W. Wheeler St. #401  
Seattle, Washington 98199

**From:** Linda Clifton <lclifton1@mindspring.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 11, 2021 9:55 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Trees make a city more livable. Preserving trees and adding trees to every neighborhood are imperatives for health and for support of all residents of Seattle regardless of economic status, race or ethnicity. Meanwhile, development is threatening our tree canopy. And, as recent record temperatures have demonstrated, the climate crisis is real. Trees are a buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas.

To address these issues, please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

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Thank you for protecting our urban forest, and our diverse communities.

Linda Clifton

[lclifton1@mindspring.com](mailto:lclifton1@mindspring.com)

4462 Whitman Ave N- Upper

Seattle , Washington 98103

**From:** Kathryn Gardow <kathryn@gardow.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2021 6:17 AM

**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI’s Director’s Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

It's time! Climate change is upon us. As recent record temperatures have demonstrated, the climate crisis is real. Trees are a buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas.

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

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- Add "All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can't be removed."
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to "TREE PROTECTION". Remove references to "Exceptional Trees" only and change to "Trees". e.g., change "Exceptional Tree Protection Areas" to "Tree Protection Areas".

- SECTION 4. Add “The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle’s Equity and Environment Initiative.”
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director’s Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT’s registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor’s license to ensure they have workers’ compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

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**From:** heidi calyxsite.com <[heidi@calyxsite.com](mailto:heidi@calyxsite.com)>  
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**Subject:** Comments on updates to the City's Tree Ordinance

July 13, 2021

**Updates regarding the City of Seattle’s Tree Ordinance Updates- Comments**

**Read and use factual analysis in your work and ensure your staff understands these issues:**

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/06/30/opinion/environmental-inequity-trees-critical-infrastructure.html>  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/tree-shade-low-income-hot-weather/2021/07/09/508193f4-de8e-11eb-b507-697762d090dd\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/tree-shade-low-income-hot-weather/2021/07/09/508193f4-de8e-11eb-b507-697762d090dd_story.html)  
<https://kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/constantine/news/release/2021/June/23-heat-mapping-results.aspx>  
<https://www.invw.org/2018/04/23/seattle-minorities-shorter-on-tree-canopy-city-study-shows/>  
<https://seattlemag.com/news-and-features/struggle-save-seattle%E2%80%99s-urban-trees-face-development>  
<https://www.epa.gov/heatislands/using-trees-and-vegetation-reduce-heat-islands>  
<https://www.climate.gov/news-features/event-tracker/astounding-heat-obliterates-all-time-records-across-pacific-northwest>

Dear Mr. Torgelson and City Council:

We have watched engagement theatre regarding updating Seattle's tree ordinance for far too long. Communities have waited and waited, only to be met with a laundry list of excuses, delays, checking in with yet another community when you already have conducted extensive (sort of) outreach for the Urban Forestry Management Plan late last year.

**Your failure to act makes you complicit in worsening community health in Seattle.**

The recent heat wave/dome over the Pacific NW promises to return and become a constant companion due to climate change. Seattle ranks very high on the Heat Island Index and all you need to do is drive into a nicely foliated neighborhood to feel and see the temperature drop by at least 10 degrees F. South end neighborhoods have no such luck- they are under canopied while we permit rapaciously clear-cutting what left of it (like Kubota Gardens).

**The Seattle Urban Forestry Commission has been making recommendations to the Mayor and Seattle City Council for the last TEN YEARS.** When the Seattle City Council passed the Mandatory Housing Affordability Ordinance, they [passed an accompanying resolution](#) detailing 8 areas that should be considered in an updated tree ordinance. In June the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission provided the Seattle City Council with a [revised draft](#) of the Council's most recent proposal from last year (last paragraph courtesy of Don't Clearcut Seattle).

**This is what you must do:**

1. Transfer responsibility for tree regulations and policies to the Office of Sustainability and Environment and create a cross departmental team where tree retention and health are a primary goal. SDCI's charge is to permit construction and its fees are generated by doing so. We all know this is an outrageous conflict of interest, only matched by one other city in the United States.
2. Work with the City to analyze urban forestry and its implications for Environmental Justice. Community advocates have already met a few of your exceptional practitioners to discuss this issue.

3. Change the Exceptional tree rule so it protects mature trees of a certain diameter DBH- all mature trees require protection, not just “best in class.”
4. Enact a moratorium on ALL mature tree removal until an ordinance is passed and there is evidence that SDCI has sufficient enforcement capacity and is actually enforcing its tree regulations.

**5. Enact the tree ordinance recommended by the Urban Forestry Commission and do it NOW.**

6. Commission an analysis by an outside contractor to assess how many trees have been permitted removed during the last year. The estimate is 3,000-4,000/annually and not all of those are hazardous. Include in the analysis how many development/redevelopment sites conducted a site analysis in which alternatives were explored.

We cannot fathom why enacting this ordinance is taking so long. We will have to rename our City from the Emerald City to “shitty black six-packs lining pockets.”

It is your responsibility to the residents of Seattle and to our well-being to enact the ordinance and take other aggressive measures.

Sincerely,  
Heidi Siegelbaum

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