

# Tree Protections Update

Photo by John Skelton



Seattle Department of  
Construction & Inspections



Seattle  
Office of Sustainability  
& Environment

Urban Forestry Commission

October 13, 2021

# TODAY'S PRESENTATION

## Tree Protections Update - Progress Made

- Outreach – Concurrent Processes
  - Focus Group Listening Sessions
  - DON Community Liaisons Engagement
- Tree Tracking, Code Compliance Update

## Next steps

# Tree Protections Update

## OUTREACH – FOCUS GROUPS

### JULY – AUGUST 2021

- Facilitated a series of 6 virtual sessions with key stakeholder groups, including:
  - Homeowners, builders
  - Environmental groups, community organizations
  - tree service providers, real estate agents
- Groups ranging from 2-9 participants
- Structured conversation allowed for individual experiences as well as group conversation
- Currently reviewing feedback to identify themes and will prepare a summary report



# Tree Protections Update

## BIPOC OUTREACH – UNDERWAY

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### JULY – OCTOBER 2021

- Trained DON's Community Liaisons (CLs); conducted CL orientation
- Prepared and translated outreach materials
- Tailored engagement – Sept
- Summary reports from DON CLs – early/mid Oct
- Summary of feedback received during outreach will be posted online once finalized in Oct/Nov



# Tree Protections Update

## KEY TOPICS

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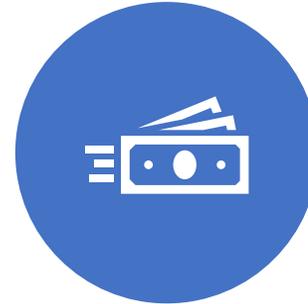
Both outreach processes focus on:



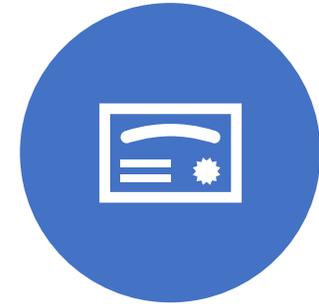
PROTECTING  
EXCEPTIONAL  
TREES



SIGNIFICANT  
TREES AND  
PERMITTING  
SYSTEMS



VOLUNTARY  
PAYMENT-IN-  
LIEU  
ALTERNATIVES



ARBORIST  
QUALIFICATIONS,  
REGISTRATION

# TREE TRACKING, CODE COMPLIANCE UPDATE

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## Summary of Recent Tree Tracking Actions

- GIS analysts are making significant progress
- Data entered is supporting staff to monitor canopy coverage
- Will support data-driven decisions

## Code Compliance Update

- SDCI has levied penalties ranging \$10,000 - \$99,000 under triple penalty provision for illegal tree removal, annually over last 3 years
- Mid-year 2021: penalties total approx. \$70,000

# Tree Protections Update

## NEXT STEPS

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### September/October

- Conclude public outreach, including BIPOC engagement
- Complete Racial Equity analysis
- Data analysis and other technical work
- Develop initial recommendations
- Identify potential implementation and enforcement needs

### November/December

- Target to issue SEPA Decision before end of year



# QUESTIONS?

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[www.seattle.gov/sdci](http://www.seattle.gov/sdci)

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