



**SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

**Julia Michalak** (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist), Co-chair  
**Joshua Morris** (Position #7 – NGO), Co-Chair  
**Joe Sisneros** (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist - ISA) • **Falisha Kurji** (Position #3 – Natural Resource Agency)  
**Becca Neumann** (Position #4 – Hydrologist) • **Stuart Niven** (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA)  
**Hao Liang** (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA) • **David Moehring** (Position # 8 – Development)  
**Blake Voorhees** (Position # 9 – Realtor) • **Laura Keil** (Position #10 – Get Engaged)  
**Jessica Hernandez** (Position #11 – Environmental Justice) • **Jessica Jones** (Position # 12 – Public Health)  
**Lia Hall** (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**

August 24, 2022, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Via Webex call and in-person at the  
Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 1872 (18<sup>th</sup> floor)  
700 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle

(206) 207-1700

Meeting number: 2483 197 7273

Meeting password: 1234

**Attending**

Commissioners

Josh Morris – Co-Chair  
Julia Michalak  
Falisha Kurji  
Stuart Niven  
Hao Liang  
David Moehring  
Laura Keil

Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE

Guests

Toby Thaler

Absent- Excused

Becca Neumann – Co-Chair  
Joe Sisneros  
Blake Voorhees  
Jessica Hernandez  
Jessica Jones  
Lia Hall

Public

Michael Oxman  
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:** Josh called the meeting to order and offered a land acknowledgement.

**Public comment:**

Michael Oxman noted the similarities in the letter the UFC sent on the Comp Plan process with letter submitted by the Seattle Green Spaces Coalition. They included a statement that the Comp Plan include a baseline tree count showing location size and condition and comparing the LiDAR results with on the ground observations. The Natural Resources Assessment was canceled at the start of the pandemic and never funded. SDOT is doing a good job of counting their trees, but there have been varying counts included in that.

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

None

**Seattle canopy cover assessment preliminary results – Patti Bakker, OSE**

Patti provided some background on the canopy cover assessment process and an overview of the preliminary assessment results.

The process used for canopy cover assessment utilizes LiDAR as the main data set. LiDAR data is combined with aerial imagery to give an accurate map of the city that the consultant team can then analyze to tell us a lot of information about our tree canopy.

This round of assessment is our first opportunity for trend analysis, since the baseline was completed in 2016 and this is the first replication of that methodology.

The preliminary data we have includes canopy citywide and by land use type (management unit), and the change in canopy since 2016.

Through this process, we're able to see where canopy grew and where it was lost. The preliminary findings to share today are about the net change in canopy.

Patti noted some of the reasons why trees are important to the community. Trees are critical infrastructure in the city and they are critical to our climate resilience, community health and equity goals. Trees cool down the air during heat events, and if we care for our UF and it's healthy, it will have biodiversity and be more resistant to pests, which in turn helps the city be more climate resilient. Trees improve air quality and physical and mental well-being. And our racial equity goals drive us to increase equitable distribution of urban canopy. There are many more benefits – trees provide habitat, connectivity, access to nature, etc. - this is just a snapshot framing of the importance of trees as part of the city's infrastructure.

Patti also noted that there are many, increasing challenges to our urban forest that are unique to our urban setting and different from what forests in more natural forest settings face. It is hard to be a tree in an urban setting. They are seeing increased impacts from climate change, with hotter, drier summers and increased pests. That increases maintenance costs since the need for watering is greater, and our budgets have seen cuts rather than increases necessary to meet that increased need. Our primarily second-growth urban forest is aging, and trees near the end of their lifespan are more susceptible to pests and disease. And in this urban setting, trees sometimes need to be removed for infrastructure projects and development, and allow for competing uses in right of way and private property. Our trees are more vulnerable, and we need to invest more to help them withstand the challenges.

The first data point learned in the results is that our tree canopy decreased citywide. There was a net loss of 255 acres of canopy.

We don't yet have data to quantify the extent of the ecosystem services lost with the loss of those acres of canopy, but we can consider the scale of what those trees would have provided:

- Hundreds of thousands of pounds of CO<sup>2</sup>/year not sequestered
- Millions of gallons of stormwater runoff not avoided
- Hundreds of acres of shade lost, and millions of gallons of water not transpired to help cool neighborhoods, and
- Hundreds of thousands of pounds of pollutants not absorbed to help clean the air.

So we lost canopy and there's an impact. However, it happened during a time of large growth in the city. That 255 acres of loss equates to a net loss of 1.7% during the 5-year period between 2016-2021. During this time, population grew 8.5%, adding ~58,000 people and ~47,000 housing units. Again, the losses are due to many factors, driven in large part by climate change exacerbated by lack of investment, aging trees, and competing uses.

The city has been doing a lot in the last five years to maintain and grow our urban forest. We stemmed further loss with our actions; just not enough to overcome all the loss. In the final report we'll have a better understanding of how what we've been doing fits in. The conclusion is that we need much bigger investments.

Patti then shared more detail on where we're seeing the greatest canopy losses, and explained a graph showing the total number of acres of tree canopy in each land use type and the number of acres lost and percent loss in each land use type. There were net losses in trees across all the land use types, but the areas with the most impact on our overall canopy losses were Neighborhood Residential and Parks Natural Areas.

Parks Natural Areas comprise over 2,000 acres of our canopy. We lost roughly 122 acres of canopy here, mostly due to aging trees that are more susceptible to drought conditions and pests, and are more likely to come down during weather events. These public lands are important to focus on because natural areas offer substantial environmental benefits, and they need our active management to replant the next generation forest and ensure resilience of these forested areas.

The area that had the next most loss was in Neighborhood Residential. This area makes up roughly 56% of the land in Seattle, so is a critical focus area. Neighborhood Residential also makes up the largest portion of Seattle's tree canopy, by area (over 9,000 acres of our canopy is in Neighborhood Residential). It's also where residents spend much of their time, so canopy here plays an important role in improving air quality and mitigating extreme heat. We lost 77 acres of canopy in this area, but this was less than 1% of the canopy in this zone. The reasons for loss are complex, and include:

- The same climate and tree age pressures that affect our parks natural areas. Aging trees here – especially aging deciduous trees nearing the ends of their lifespans - are also more susceptible to drought conditions and pests, and are more likely to come down during weather events
- Large construction projects for utilities, transportation and other infrastructure, that need to remove trees,
- And the fact that housing grew substantially during this period.

Moving forward with this data then, the areas to focus for the future are:

- Developed parks and natural areas – we have the greatest flexibility and options for increasing canopy in these areas.
- Neighborhood residential – again, this is such a large proportion of the city that protection of trees on these lands will be key to our canopy goals.
- ROW – This is an important, accessible area to work across departments and with residents and businesses to implement innovative methods and creative solutions for accommodating multiple uses.

- And generally across all land use types, protecting and maintaining our existing trees, since mature trees contribute substantial ongoing canopy growth and we would have seen a lot more loss without this growth. Newer trees are important for our long-term forest generation and succession, and for mitigating canopy inequities. But they take years to establish and contribute to our canopy. This all points to the need to invest in protecting and maintaining existing trees.

Patti shared information related to equity in our tree canopy. Many of the priority neighborhoods with low canopy are burdened by other health, economic and social inequities. Patti showed a map of current tree canopy across the City, along with the Office of Planning and Community Development's equity map showing areas of disadvantage in the city, a map based on air quality data, and a map from the 2020 heat study. There is a correlation between areas of low canopy cover and areas of racial and social inequities, lower air quality and higher heat indexes, including parts of Beacon Hill, Georgetown and South Park.

City departments have been focusing efforts in these neighborhoods. For example, SDOT and OSE are increasing planting in Georgetown and South Park, and the Green Seattle Partnership has been prioritizing forest restoration in areas such as Westcrest and the East Duwamish Greenbelt.

The data so far reinforces that our Parks Natural Areas and our Neighborhood Residential areas need help, and that BIPOC and low-income neighborhoods have lower canopy. We are still waiting on additional analyses and data from the consultant, but the city is thinking now about what need to do to build on work the city is already doing and to expand with strategies that will allow us to grow canopy rather than see declines. To reverse the backward slide in canopy, our urban forest strategy needs to include actions across a spectrum, including in maintenance, planting, innovation and engagement.

The next steps in this work include:

- Receiving the detailed assessment analysis that builds on this high level snapshot
- Working with the consultant team to develop the full canopy assessment report
- Developing a tree strategy and investment plan, and
- Pursuing additional local, state and federal funding to scale up investment

Questions from the Commissioners and areas of discussion included:

- Were there any surprises in the data for you?
- What should the goal be for each of the management units?
- Looking more closely at the areas of low canopy, how do we tackle those areas?
- How has the canopy changed in the management units? In particular, would like to know more about why the larger loss happened in parks natural areas.
- Looking back at the 2016 data, were we really at 28% then?
- As we look at the result of recent appeal to the tree protection ordinance, we'll want to know explicitly why some protections are being proposed. The tree loss data the UFC has been asking for will be critical in this also.
- Are there trends that might suggest even greater tree loss in the next five years? Or will the trees recently planted make up for that?
- The losses in the natural areas are concerning, but in those areas there are also opportunities in that easiest land type to work in. For new parks in recent years, what has been the canopy cover included there?
- Will the results tally loss of trees in developed lots compared to loss due to other causes?
- Will the results include information on tree species as well as number?

- Will the Comp Plan incorporate this data?

The September 21 UFC meeting will incorporate the joint meeting with the city's Urban Forestry Interdepartmental Team, and that meeting will focus on canopy cover and equity. A further update with additional canopy cover information we get will be provided at that meeting.

**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:**

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 PM.

**Meeting Chat:**

from Jim Davis to everyone: 4:20 PM

What is difference again between absolute canopy loss (around 8%) and relative canopy loss (1.7%)?

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:29 PM

Will final results tally loss of trees for those lots being developed in each zone compared to loss dues to other causes?

from Michael Oxman to everyone: 4:31 PM

What altitude were remote sensing data photographed from?

from Michael Oxman to everyone: 4:32 PM

How many tree stems are under this 'canopy'?

from D. Moehring Pos 8 to everyone: 4:32 PM

Next steps missing tree loss data from permits during this period (or at least from 2020.)

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:33 PM

Will there be a tally indicating population in each zone and neighborhood and canopy cover to see how many people are facing tree equity concerns?

from woody wheeler to everyone: 4:33 PM

Is it accurate to say that Seattle has 26.3 % tree canopy? Forgive me if you already answered this. I have no audio and can only see the slides.

from Michael Oxman to everyone: 4:33 PM

Which eye level observations on the ground were used to confirm this data ?

from woody wheeler to everyone: 4:34 PM

(I can also read the chat)

from Michael Oxman to everyone: 4:38 PM

Can we use a figure of a typical number of trees per acre, and multiply by the numbers of acres (about 277 acres) denuded?

from woody wheeler to everyone: 4:39 PM

How many acres total does Seattle have, and what percentage of this does 255 acres represent?

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:39 PM

Will there be an analysis of where trees can be planted to increase tree equity to guide city tree planting?

from Stuart Niven to everyone: 4:41 PM

Will the Comp Plan be using this data in its evolution?

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 4:42 PM

53753.54961 acres (more or less)

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 4:44 PM

255 acres is just under 0.5% of land in city (figure excludes water area)

from Jim Davis to everyone: 4:44 PM

Can we look forward to an update to the 2016 study on the 6,338 trees of 30 inches and greater in trunk diameter and the 3, 188 tree groves?

from D. Moehring Pos 8 to everyone: 4:48 PM

Thanks Toby

from Michael Oxman to everyone: 4:48 PM

What is the progress on hiring the consultant for the previously funded Natural Capital Assessment ?

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:49 PM

Trees where people live are more important figure that what's in parks as to people's health.

from D. Moehring Pos 8 to everyone: 4:52 PM

In 2016, the 2016 report indicated 16,084 canopy area / 53,127 city area = 30.3% in 2016 (rather than 28% published). need to see spreadsheet.

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 4:53 PM

Jim Davis, yes, the report will include the question of where the large trees and groves are.

from Michael Oxman to everyone: 4:53 PM

The first canopy survey about 10 years ago used iTree to analyze data from about 220 test plots that were 10th acre apiece.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:55 PM

Thank you Hao that was super helpful

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 5:00 PM

previous analysis was at 8 feet and above

from Hao Liang to everyone: 5:02 PM

Sorry I think I stated it wrong. The three categories of Neighborhood residential, Multi-Family, and Commerical/Mixed Use hold 61.5% CANOPY, not land.

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

**From:** Kaeli Fertal <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 8:55 AM

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

**Subject:** SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

As a regular Transit Rider (I take the E Line from 85th weekly to my office in Pioneer Square) I am very concerned about the removal of these trees. We are already feeling the impacts of the climate crisis as urban heat zones expand risking the physical health of our community. Furthermore, trees and other green spaces are incredibly beneficial to mental wellbeing. I know seeing these beautiful trees in an otherwise grey and lifeless stretch of road make me smile.

I agree with SDOT that the sidewalks here are in desperate need of improvement, but surely there is a way to improve accessibility while also saving these trees? I implore you to revisit your plan to find a better solution—one that has multiple benefits: maintaining green space, valuable shade, and improving accessibility.

Thank you for taking the time to listen and reconsider,

Kaeli

Kaeli Fertal  
[kaelifertal@gmail.com](mailto:kaelifertal@gmail.com)  
8543 Midvale Ave N Apt 503  
Seattle, Washington 98103

**From:** Josh Davis <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 3:17 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

On Aurora Ave. N between 80th-105th has a strip of healthy big Sweetgum trees, some exceptional in size, (one measured in 2008 at 28" diameter), are at great risk of being removed by the City in a sidewalk repair project. Aurora Ave N has too few shade trees already! Please keep these trees so they can continue to benefit all who live, work, shop and visit in the neighborhood.

We beg our City officials to save these Sweetgum trees by utilizing modern design options while rebuilding the sidewalks between 80th-105th, along Aurora Ave N. We know SDOT is concerned the sidewalk is VERY rough in those places, a potential hazard to disabled folks or the less surefooted. But would be great if the City could fix the sidewalks without removing these trees.

Sweetgums are prized across the country as street trees for their resilience, resistance to disease, drought tolerance and beauty. In fact, they are currently recommended by SDOT as an approved street tree! So, we are stunned to find these beautiful shade trees may be removed for sidewalk improvements.

This is not the time to remove any mature trees in the city. Climate change and the urban heat islands formed in bare urban areas are impacting us right now. These shade trees providing cooling on a busy highway and commercial district with too few big trees right now. As shown on the King County urban heat map, removing these trees will expand the hottest part of the urban heat island.

The @seattledot signs alerting the public of this possible removal were ripped down soon after being put up, and we are concerned neighborhood people are not being alerted all these trees could be removed. Please repost these signs so that the public knows what you are considering.

SDOT has already done this in other areas of Seattle. And our neighbors to the north in Shoreline, (@saveshorelinetrees) similarly successfully lobbied its City Council and WDOT to alter the sidewalk design, and thus saved a long row of giant conifers. We can too! It can be done. Save the Aurora Sweetgums!

Josh Davis  
[joshdavis8271@gmail.com](mailto:joshdavis8271@gmail.com)  
8242 Interlake Ave N  
Seattle , Washington 98103

**From:** Catalina Muto <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 3:44 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

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Catalina Muto  
[catalina.j.muto@gmail.com](mailto:catalina.j.muto@gmail.com)  
1701 N 82nd St  
Seattle , Washington 98103

**From:** Sharon Ricci <ricci.sharon@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 4:21 PM

**To:** Morales, Tammy <Tammy.Morales@seattle.gov>; Mosqueda, Teresa <Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov>; Nelson, Sara <Sara.Nelson@seattle.gov>; Girmay.Zahilay@kingcounty.gov; Kimmett, David <david.kimmett@kingcounty.gov>; kccdistrict2@kingcounty.gov; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** rachel.garrett@seattle.gov; Wilson, Katie <Katie.Wilson@seattle.gov>; Sharpley, Jason <Jason.Sharpley@seattle.gov>; TreesForNeighborhoods <TreesForNeighborhoods@seattle.gov>; Johnson, Rick <Rick.Johnson@seattle.gov>; news@seattleemerald.org; community@seattleemerald.org; Lucy Carpenter <friendsofdeadhorse@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Concerns with current Taylor Creek Restoration Project proposal

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear community leaders,

There is immense concern in 98178 over the latest rendition of the Taylor Creek "Restoration" Project being proposed by Seattle Public Utilities, and the extremely narrow view the upcoming "community tour" SPU has offered will provide. Scheduled for Monday 8/22 from 5-6pm the tour will not be taking the community into the trail to review the project design, the hundreds of trees tagged for removal, and the erosion risks doing so pose to the properties that abut the trail from above. The tour will not be sharing data gathered from an environmental engineer independent of SPU. The tour will not be ensuring that every property owner who will be directly put at risk by the scope of this project is in attendance and well informed.

We are a small but wonderful community in Rainier Beach / Lakeridge / Skyway! I have been contributing input to this Taylor Creek project since 2014 when it was overseen by a very different team, with completely different goals. My input was collected through multiple surveys, my email was included in the Listserv, and I reached out to project managers on my own (and cc'd here) several times when communication went silent and no changes were occurring along timelines conveyed to the community. Then silence after 2019. So when an alert came from Friends of Deadhorse Canyon about a meeting at Rainier Beach Community Club on July 13 2022 to listen to SPU's plans for removing hundreds of trees in the park to put in a construction road, I attended and got very worried.

There are far too many concepts being kitchen-sinked into this current Taylor Creek Project revision, and none of them acknowledges our community priorities nor supports the investment residents have been making for many years protecting the canyon terrain and ethically managing the slopes of our properties connecting to the creek basin. The people who live here know that the trees are what's holding up the hillsides! And the dozens of huge, old evergreens and hundreds of deciduous trees are never going to be replenished with a planting project on barren terrain a few years after construction machinery pulls

out. The forest will never recover, the area will have landslides, and the overall temperature of the south end of Seattle will rise significantly.

You, our community leaders, all know that this is not what is supposed to be occurring. So on behalf of my neighbors, my daughter's Campfire troupe, the pups and joggers who run under the canopy, and all the beautiful wild creatures I've witnessed residing & frolicking in these woods during my 16.5 years of home ownership beside this gem of a green space, I beg - PLEASE STOP THIS PROJECT FROM TEARING OUT THE TREES TO PUT IN A ROAD!

Sincere concern and hopefulness,  
Sharon Ricci  
11233 Crestwood Dr S  
Seattle, WA 98178  
206.478.3167

**From:** Meredith Sessions <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 5:41 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

Hi, I'm a landscape architect who lives near Aurora. Today I saw this campaign at my bus stop. I wanted to thank you for looking at improvements along Aurora and urge you to prioritize saving mature trees wherever possible. Aurora can be unpleasant and so hot, but is a big part of so many of our commutes and lives. The mature trees make some parts more bearable. Please consider working with local businesses to find creative solutions, like silva cells and permeable paving. Let's not start over! Let's invest in preserving this valuable green infrastructure.

Thanks,

Meredith Sessions

Meredith Sessions  
[mumumeth@gmail.com](mailto:mumumeth@gmail.com)  
928 North 80th Street  
Seattle, WA, Washington 98103

**From:** Alexis Giannattasio <amghorses@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 5:41 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

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We beg our City officials to save these Sweetgum trees by utilizing modern design options while rebuilding the sidewalks between 80th-105th, along Aurora Ave N. We know SDOT is concerned the sidewalk is VERY rough in those places, a potential hazard to disabled folks or the less surefooted. But would be great if the City could fix the sidewalks without removing these trees.

Sweetgums are prized across the country as street trees for their resilience, resistance to disease, drought tolerance and beauty. In fact, they are currently recommended by SDOT as an approved street tree! So, we are stunned to find these beautiful shade trees may be removed for sidewalk improvements.

This is not the time to remove any mature trees in the city. Climate change and the urban heat islands formed in bare urban areas are impacting us right now. These shade trees providing cooling on a busy highway and commercial district with too few big trees right now. As shown on the King County urban heat map, removing these trees will expand the hottest part of the urban heat island.

The @seattledot signs alerting the public of this possible removal were ripped down soon after being put up, and we are concerned neighborhood people are not being alerted all these trees could be removed. Please repost these signs so that the public knows what you are considering.

SDOT has already done this in other areas of Seattle. And our neighbors to the north in Shoreline, (@saveshorelinetrees) similarly successfully lobbied its City Council and WDOT to alter the sidewalk design, and thus saved a long row of giant conifers. We can too! It can be done. Save the Aurora Sweetgums!

Alexis Giannattasio  
[amghorses@comcast.net](mailto:amghorses@comcast.net)  
9421 Linden Ave  
Seattle , Washington 98103

**From:** Kai Machak <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 7:10 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

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Kai Machak  
[kaimachak1@gmail.com](mailto:kaimachak1@gmail.com)  
725 N 102nd st  
Seattle , Washington 98133

**From:** Nima Kazeminia <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 6:15 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

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Nima Kazeminia  
[nima\\_ka@yahoo.com](mailto:nima_ka@yahoo.com)  
947 N 87th St  
Seattle, Washington 98103

**From:** Zackary Herbst <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 7:42 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

On Aurora Ave. N between 80th-105th has a strip of healthy big Sweetgum trees, some exceptional in size, (one measured in 2008 at 28" diameter), are at great risk of being removed by the City in a sidewalk repair project. Aurora Ave N has too few shade trees already! Please keep these trees so they can continue to benefit all who live, work, shop and visit in the neighborhood.

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Zackary Herbst  
[zmherbst@gmail.com](mailto:zmherbst@gmail.com)  
1129 N 85th St  
Seattle, Washington 98103

**From:** daityn vann <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2022 1:49 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

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daityn vann  
[daitynmv@gmail.com](mailto:daitynmv@gmail.com)  
518 NE 83rd St  
Vancouver, Washington 98665

**From:** Toccoa Davis <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 1:16 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

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Toccoa Davis  
[toccoachaos@gmail.com](mailto:toccoachaos@gmail.com)  
1120 n 93rd st  
Seattle, Washington 98103

**From:** Linda Rozanski <lroz@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 3:54 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,



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Linda Rozanski  
[lroz@comcast.net](mailto:lroz@comcast.net)  
377 W Olympic PI  
Seattle, Washington 98119

**From:** dmoehring@consultant.com <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2022 5:01 PM  
**To:** SCI\_Code\_Compliance <SCI\_Code\_Compliance@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; treesandpeoplepacificwest.com <treesandpeople@pacificwest.com>  
**Subject:** 10829 11th Ave NE tree groves

Cutting large trees without permit :

The construction complaint line was offline on August 21st. Please inspect the following non-permit tree removal in progress Saturday.

I checked the known address of **10829 11TH AVE NE** and all potential permit application addresses from 10817 11TH AVE NE to 10833 11TH AVE NE. However, no applications or permits of any kind appear at the moment.

The property of Wesley Curtis Russell, et. Al. appears to include two adjacent parcels of 10,205 and 7,900 sq ft.. This is a huge money making investment as this was rezoned in 2019 to [Residential Small Lot RSL](#). Unlike typical residential zones limited to one house (+2 ADU) on a lot... RSL may be 1 house per 2,000 sq. ft. of lot area. Tree Groves are protected... and sawing down those trees on August 20 which may not be Exceptional on their own could impact the Tree Grove qualification with touching canopies and minimum 24-inch trunk diameters.

**RSL Zones have no tree planting requirements:** *Just a point system designed to encourage preservation of existing trees and planting of larger trees. How well has that worked in Seattle for the tree canopy cover?*

Compliant [website](#) for SDCI is currently down... so will need to email...

<https://www.seattle.gov/sdci/codes/make%2%A0a-property-or-building-complaint>

Violation Complaint Line at (206) 615-0808

or letter to

Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections

Code Compliance

700 Fifth Ave., Suite 2000

P.O. Box 34019

Seattle, WA 98124-4019

David Moehring

312-965-0634

The truck photo with the license plate uncovered is WA C33633M.

**From:** Harriet Phinney <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 5:59 AM

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

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

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

Please act to update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance. It's been 13 years since the Seattle City Council first urged the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) to update the ordinance. We appreciate the recent enactment by the Seattle City Council and Mayor to adopt registration of Tree Service Providers in the city as a first step. We also appreciate action finally by SDCI to release a more complete draft of an updated Tree Protection Ordinance.

The draft Tree Protection Ordinance is currently under a Hearing Examiner appeal by the Master Builders of King and Snohomish County and six development companies. Their goal is to delay and potentially weaken the ordinance. We believe that Seattle needs to protect its existing trees while planting more trees in underserved areas with low tree canopy to address adverse climate impacts while also increasing affordable housing. It is not a question of one or the other. We need to do both.

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city and people livable and healthy. 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. A robust urban forest is critical for climate resilience and environmental equity.

Seattle's rapid growth and increased density combined with an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed without serious consideration of ways to incorporate more of them in the development. Unless exceptional there is no real effort to save them. And what replacement requirements were in the ordinance since 2001 appears to have seldom been enforced. It is urgent to act now to reduce this continued loss of existing trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity by retaining as many trees as possible and replacing those removed for climate resiliency.

We support the following provisions in SDCI's draft ordinance.

1. Lowering the upper limit for exceptional trees to 24" Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) from 30" DBH.
2. Continuing protection for exceptional trees less than 24" DBH and tree groves and heritage trees
3. Defining any tree 6" DBH and larger that is not exceptional as a significant tree
4. Continuing prohibition on removal of trees 6" DBH and larger on undeveloped lots.
5. Requiring replacement of 12" DBH and larger trees removed by developers
6. Creating an in-lieu fee for developers to replace trees 12" DBH and larger that cannot be replaced on the development site.
7. Requiring in lieu fees be used to replace and maintain newly planted trees
8. Limiting removal of significant trees outside development to those less than 12" DBH
9. Protected trees and replaced trees are covered by a covenant for life of project

Here are key provisions that need to be added to the draft ordinance

1. Expand the existing Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program using the Accela database system to include SDCI to cover all significant trees 6" DBH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require SDCI submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree removal and replacement as required by other City Departments
3. Require 2-week public notice posting, as SDOT does on-site, and add online, of any 6" DBH and larger tree removal and replacement permit requests and keep posted on a lot for 1 week after removal
4. Require that tree replacement numbers increase with the size of the removed tree such that in 25 years or less they will reach equivalent canopy volume lost – either on site or pay a replacement fee that also increases with the size of the tree removed
5. All replacement in lieu fees and fines should go into a dedicated Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund (not SDCI budget or city general fund), that yearly reports on their budget to the City Council and Mayor.
6. Allow the Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants, purchase land, set up covenants and for educational purposes.
7. Require 5-year maintenance of replanted trees
8. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-exceptional trees in 3 years per lot outside development
9. Require developers throughout the total development process to maximize the retention of existing trees with adequate space for trees to grow and survive.
10. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6" DBH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan prior to any building permits being approved.
11. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Industrial, Downtown and Institutions
12. Keep requirement that all 6" DBH and larger trees be on site plans
13. Require tree replacement or in lieu fees by developers for trees removed 1 year prior to property purchase
14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity
15. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance
16. All trees related are protected trees and not subject to removal
17. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, from development sites

Harriet Phinney  
[harriet.phinney@gmail.com](mailto:harriet.phinney@gmail.com)  
6827 17th Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** Perris Petrozzi <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 11:29 AM

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

**Subject:** SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

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Perris Petrozzi

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

9511 ashworth ave n unit b

Seattle , Washington 98103

**From:** Brianna Canning <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 8:32 AM

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

**Subject:** SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

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Brianna Canning  
[bricanning55@hotmail.com](mailto:bricanning55@hotmail.com)  
519 N 104th st  
Seattle, Washington 98133

**From:** Micah Wilson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 2:49 PM

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

**Subject:** SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

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Micah Wilson  
[brutal\\_carpet@hotmail.com](mailto:brutal_carpet@hotmail.com)  
912 n 81st St  
Seattle , Washington 98103

**From:** Jamie Perez <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2022 6:18 PM

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

**Subject:** SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

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Jamie Perez

[jamieahunter5@gmail.com](mailto:jmieahunter5@gmail.com)

13000 Linden Ave N #505

Seattle, Washington 98133



**From:** Shaela Hull <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 1:12 PM

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

**Subject:** SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

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Shaela Hull

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

4203 NE 33rd St

Seattle, Washington 98105

**From:** MICHAEL OXMAN <michaeloxman@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 2:25 PM

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

**Subject:** Urban Forestry Commission Comment

**CAUTION: External Email**

Howdy, Members of the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Please see attached comments on the Comp Plan revisions submitted by the Seattle Green Spaces Coalition.

The changes to zoning can completely obviate any tree protection regulations you are considering.

This duality in our city process must be reset by giving a higher priority to preserving the environment, and a lesser priority to needs for development.

The Canopy Cover Survey has been underutilized as a management tool in the past because of low funding and limited scope.

Please note our item 5. b., which says:

**Establish a baseline tree count that shows locations, sizes and health of trees, drawn from pairing aerial (LiDAR) surveys with on-the-ground surveys.**

Research has shown that eye level assessments of canopy density are sometimes more appropriate methods of gathering and using information on the structure and function of the forest.

Unfortunately, the Natural Capital Assessment that was funded in the 2020 budget was not been begun. We urge the UFC to call on city leaders to complete this essential task.

Arboreally yours,

Michael Oxman  
(206) 949-8733

Member, Board of Directors  
Seattle Green Spaces Coalitio