

## 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)  
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*

**September 4, 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 – Vice-Chair  
Whit Bouton  
Steven Fry  
Jessica Jones  
Josh Morris  
Sarah Rehder  
Shari Selch  
Michael Walton

##### Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE

##### Public

John Nuler

##### Absent- Excused

Stuart Niven

**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

#### Public comment

John Nuler – has experienced the changes in the tree code since 1996 when he moved back to Seattle. Given everything that’s going on in the world this is like rearranging the chairs in the Titanic. Trees need to be protected. Need to use factual, evidence-based tree solutions. Would like to see something that will make a difference. Green space is being neglected. To plant trees, make it a school program.

#### Adoption of August 7 and August 14 meeting notes

**ACTION: A motion to approve the August 7 meeting notes as amended was made, seconded, and approved.**

**ACTION: A motion to approve the August 14 meeting notes as amended was made, seconded, and approved.**

**UFMP update meeting with Core Team**

Sandra shared the process being used to work with the UFC subcommittee as part of the UFMP update. The last conversation centered around the first draft of the goals, strategies, actions, and key performance indicators. Steve, Weston, and Whit shared their experience with the session and said they found it helpful. Weston said the plan is not going to be a grand re-set of the approach to date, instead, it's pragmatic and implementable. What the team is putting forward are those actions that will get done in the next 1-5 years.

Are we responding fast enough to the challenges we are facing?

**UFC letters to adopt – discussion**

The UFC discussed the draft letter thanking the Mayor for moving forward work to update the tree protection ordinance.

**ACTION: A motion to approve the letter to the Mayor thanking her for instructing staff to update the tree protection ordinance as amended was made, seconded, and approved.**

**Hazardous tree definition – continues**

The UFC discussed.

Whit mentioned not being clear about the purpose of the discussion. Is it to create a new definition or is it to provide recommendations to SDCI? Michael agreed and said that ISA already has a definition.

The term is vague and determining whether a tree is hazardous or not need to be done by a TRAQ certified arborist.

Maybe look at a letter addressing multiple hazardous tree applications?

Whit asked for input:

- It might not be valuable to include a bunch of examples in a letter
- Focus on key principles
- Specific targeted uses (inside of specific TIPs)
- Including some relevant examples would be helpful for non-technical people
- Maybe recommend a new TIP sheet with this information
- What's the consequence of denying a removal?
- SDCI already has TIP 331B that deals with hazardous trees

**Public comment**

The discussion ran over time and there was not time allotted for public comment.

**New Business**

None

**Adjourn**

**Public input:**

**(see posted notes)**

**From:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 07, 2019 2:41 PM  
**To:** PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>; DOT\_LA <DOT\_LA@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** TreesForNeighborhoods <TreesForNeighborhoods@seattle.gov>; Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Exceptional trees risked 3509 W. Thurman (6724738-CN)

Please take note to document **Exceptional trees** risked (per proposal plans) at 3509 W. Thurman. So far, over the past couple months there does not appear to be any arborist report for this lot with large trees. The Seattle Municiple Code SMC 25.11.060\*\* requires tree protection on sites undergoing development within single-family zones. This code cannot be enforced without an arborist report and an architect who can demonstrate compliance by reconfiguring the proposed plans outside of the driplines of Exceptional trees.

Thank you,

David Moehring AIA  
TreePAC Board Member  
[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)

\*\* A. Exceptional trees [see Director's Rule \(dr\) 16-2008](#)

1. The Director may permit a tree to be removed only if:
  - a. The maximum lot coverage permitted on the site according to [Title 23](#) cannot be achieved without extending into the tree protection area or into a required front and/or rear yard to an extent greater than provided for in subsection 25.11.060A.2; or
  - b. Avoiding development in the tree protection area would result in a portion of the house being less than 15 feet in width.
2. Permitted extension into front or rear yards shall be limited to an area equal to the amount of the tree protection area not located within required yards. The maximum projection into the required front or rear yard shall be 50 percent of the yard requirement.
3. If the maximum lot coverage permitted on the site can be achieved without extending into either the tree protection area or required front and/or rear yards, then no such extension into required yards shall be permitted.

B. Trees over 2 feet in diameter measured 4.5 feet above the ground shall be identified on site plans. In order to protect such trees, an applicant may modify their development proposal to extend into front and/or rear yards in the same manner as provided for exceptional trees in subsection 25.11.060.A.

<https://washingtontreeexperts.net/what-is-an-exceptional-tree/>

**Sent:** Friday, April 05, 2019 at 6:43 AM  
**From:** "David Moehring" <[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)>  
**To:** [DOT\\_LA@seattle.gov](mailto:DOT_LA@seattle.gov), PRC <[PRC@seattle.gov](mailto:PRC@seattle.gov)>  
**Cc:** DOT\_SeattleTrees <[Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov](mailto:Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Exceptional trees risked 3509 W. Thurman

A huge three-story house that includes a lower level accessory dwelling unit if 3,800 sq ft is being planned on this 6,000 sq ft lot.

The 3 large trees enveloping the existing lot - perhaps all or some considered exceptional - are in real danger of being mowed down. It is unclear which trees on the the right-of-Way as the submitted site plan excluded all significant tree locations and sizes.

SDCI: Request an arborist report and full compliance with SMC 23.11, the Directors Rules, and other tree-protection codes in Seattle.

Source at: <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/>

David Moehring AIA  
Board member of TreePAC and  
Magnolia Community Council

[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)

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**From:** Annie Thoe <[annie@sensingvitality.com](mailto:annie@sensingvitality.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2019 10:02 AM  
**To:** Stuart Niven <[panorarbor@gmail.com](mailto:panorarbor@gmail.com)>; Steve <[steve@friends.urbanforests.org](mailto:steve@friends.urbanforests.org)>; Bagshaw, Sally <[Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov](mailto:Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov)>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Updated Neighborhood input into tree ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Hi Stuart, Steve and all working on protecting trees and vitality of Seattle,

Here's an updated/edited list of suggestions/considerations as you move to pass a new tree ordinance. Thanks for all you are doing!

Sincerely,  
Annie Thoe

*Annie Thoe, GCFP*

[annie@sensingvitality.com](mailto:annie@sensingvitality.com)

[www.sensingvitality.com](http://www.sensingvitality.com)

youtube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/c/SensingVitality>

## Suggestions for Tree Protection and Stewardship in Seattle

- from Annie Thoe, Seattle Victory Heights and Pinehurst neighbors

Trees represent the concept of **Teamwork: community, peace, inclusion, protection, homes and habitat for all, survival and vitality.** Need to shift in perspective from land use to land stewardship. Sustaining and planting more trees is one clear way to improve conditions for cleaner air, cool the planet, ensure our resources for building supplies, and connect communities.

- **City issue an immediate moratorium to declare any lots with native Trees and Exceptional trees over six inches in diameter as “Environmentally Sensitive” category in order to protect lots from being clear cut, to protect our exception trees from our present zoning laws. This will halt the pace of illegal development that threatens our air quality from diminished old growth tree canopy, storm water issues,**
- **Moratorium: Outlaw logging/clear cuts in the city for development immediately until a stronger policy to protect critical areas is in place — see above point. We need to re-think this fast-track development without providing adequate infrastructure, community impact, environmental impact, transportation issues and long-term impacts of density (Cambridge, MA- just issued a moratorium this year in response to public outcry. Look at Chicago’s projects and density nightmare) In our neighborhood alone, we have two more critical wooded lots that could be logged again- one by this same developer: 11344 23rd Ave NE. and the other is 2203 22nd Ave. NE. Until a moratorium can be placed, uphold strict enforcement of the current policy that all trees over 6” diameter: “No more than three non-exceptional trees six inches in diameter or greater may be removed on a lot in any one-year period.” - This current policy should be removed and is no longer working with our current situation and with global warming. 6-inch trees take 30 years to grow. We can’t afford or allow to lose any of these larger trees at this point.**
- **Mandatory Review on development designs for minimum number of trees to be retained e.g., at least three trees of significant diameter size (or what environmental consultants design) to ensure tree protection in residential neighborhoods, single family home zones least monitored in the city. Engage EPA and non-profit groups to help.**
- **Storm water department can issue recommendations on properties in critical areas, declare areas critically environmentally sensitive where mature trees need to be not only maintained, but what numbers of trees would be beneficial and recommend planting trees to homeowners who don’t currently have trees on their lots.**
- **Neighborhoods or individual homeowners can petition zoning to declare their lot or areas of their neighborhood than contain large stands of native, exceptional and mature trees as “Environmentally sensitive” to ensure we protect and foster old growth within the city for vitality for the future.**
- **Easements once issued for a building permit currently cannot be withdrawn and need to be when permits threaten large trees. Right now even with massive public complaints in this case with removing a perfectly healthy big tree, the developer has the right to remove a heritage tree if they’ve been granted easement. This needs to be changed to allow some public input and appeal.**

from Urban Forestry Meeting 6/5/19 - (updated 6/10/19)

**Suggestions for Tree Protection and Stewardship (pg. 2)**

- **Arborists hired by developers make money to cut down trees and can be persuaded with the excuse that the tree is hazardous.** Any additional trees that developers want to cut have to have an independent arborist selected by the city review any additional trees. All trees must be marked before cutting and reviewed. Neighbors should be notified as well since any large tree removal greatly impacts the neighborhood and threatens health of their trees. The developer in this clear cut pressured a neighbor during the cutting process to cut a tree on the property line without getting a permit claiming it would die in two years anyway from the driveway they were constructing near it. There will always be some hazards with trees. But even worse hazards without trees— We need an independent arborist to review a building project without the developer present to intimidate the arborist. Make a fee for independent arborist review part of development application process.
- **Pruning versus Cutting.** Trees are disappearing faster than replaced. Pruning requires more expertise but gives arborists more work later and just as much or more money. Cutting, when unnecessary, stresses and can diminish or threaten the health of other trees. How do you replace trees that are 100 -130 feet tall quickly? this is a false claim that the canopy taken away can be replaced by a developer. This current development case would take over 100- 120 years.
- **We all pay for this! Short term and long term costs of tree removal need to be assessed by city prior to permitting process of development.** Costs to the consumer and city for waste management basement flooding, flooding and street damage from runoff, pollution to our streams from water runoff, drought and damage from lack of protection to neighboring plants, rising costs for higher temperatures and air conditioning, damage to neighboring trees, weakening trees. Costs of these developments are currently deferred to the neighbors and citizens. City Building Code Violations replied: "The developers have a right to make as much money as they can with their lots— but to whose expense?"
- **Larger signage in residential areas of project intentions.**The signage in this recent development was so small, practically hidden with no indication of clear-cutting. Signs should indicate when a large tree is going to be removed and reasoning so folks can be alerted. Removing these trees increases our temperature, reduced air quality, increase costs for cooling homes, kills other trees and native plants- not to mention wildlife that rely on shade, increase watering demands, basically depletes our infrastructure costs to the city and community well-being.
- **What avenues to stop developers who disobey the law? tree poachers?**  
Suspend or remove licensure, bigger fines. Retaining the tree itself probably pays much more than the fine. I called the Building Code Violations & Complaints for the City about this developer- Gamut360 who clear-cut this recent property and talked with the city employee Eddie Scott 206-233-7857 said this developer had all his permits approved to cut. He excused himself, saying he was new and checked with his supervisor who said "everything was fine." How is this possible?
- **Awards for designs/projects that work with retaining trees and their impact on the environment.** Let's have developers strive to do better with ecosystem design. Work with Universities to award better research and design for maximizing tree use, sustainability and green building that necessitates trees as part of the design and development.

from **Urban Forestry Meeting 6/5/19 - (updated 6/10/19)**

**Suggestions for Tree Protection and Stewardship (pg. 3)**

- **Steward policy for stewarding trees in every neighborhood - part of block watch, block parties.** Anytime sensitive habitat or trees over 6" are removed, developer or homeowner must replace the habitat removed or pay for city to replace it— again, that's a big tree to replace. How do we replace these big trees that took 30, 50, 100 years to grow?
- **Neighborhood involvement with tree monitoring for health, measuring, tending (ivy removal or other maintenance) and mapping trees in neighborhood** to raise awareness, bird counts— can engage interest in stewardship through block parties. Ranking neighborhoods for most tall trees, best bird habitat, best bee and butterfly, best native plants, Frog habitat, owl/raptor/hawk habitat, best "green" houses, best vegetable gardens and rooftop/container gardens
- **School programs: adopt a tree in your neighborhood for the year**, study about this type of tree and compare with others, change through season, which birds live there, etc. - can pair up with neighbors or non-profit education groups for interest in our local trees and habitat.
- **University programs:** more emphasis on research with urban forestry with effects of health and livability, community building, combat global warming, business attraction, tourism, habitat. Tracking tree loss and replacement. Tracking positive gains in areas of more tree density.
- **Engaging more local non-profit communities from environmental groups, garden groups, churches, social clubs, sporting groups, boy scouts, girl scouts, outdoor activity groups** to assist in their own ways of retaining, stewarding trees - cheering each other on. Mapping trees helps expand awareness and community. NYC has a tree map for birders at Central Park that is now a tourist attracting tool but can also be attractive for gardeners, designers, etc.
- **Awards for Businesses** get involved with tree preservation, rooftop gardens, tree-planting possibly work with Social Venture Partners – Seattle (SVP) to come up with incentives to encourage businesses to develop more around supporting tree habitats, protecting existing trees and planting more trees <http://www.socialventurepartners.org/seattle/who-we-are/>
- **Steward policy for stewarding trees in every neighborhood - part of block watch, block parties.** Anytime sensitive habitat or trees over 6" are removed, developer or homeowner must replace the habitat removed or pay for city to replace it— again, that's a big tree to replace. How do we replace these big trees that took 30, 50, 100 years to grow?
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from **Urban Forestry Meeting 6/5/19 - (updated 6/10/19)**

**Suggestions for Tree Protection and Stewardship (pg. 4)**

- **Neighborhood involvement with tree monitoring for health, measuring, tending (ivy removal or other maintenance) and mapping trees in neighborhood to raise awareness, bird counts—** can engage interest in stewardship through block parties. Ranking neighborhoods for most tall trees, best bird habitat, best bee and butterfly, best native plants, Frog habitat, owl/raptor/hawk habitat, best “green” houses, best vegetable gardens and rooftop/container gardens.
- **Encourage neighbors to notify other neighbors out of courtesy when applying for tree removal or large specie tree planting, and help city monitor tree cutting with a hotline or website with approved tree cutting address lists that people can look up.** Even with trees in one’s yard, these trees provide shade, windbreak, soil and groundwater stability and cool the neighborhoods in heat. Tree planting also can affect shading/obstruction for other neighbors. Trees can affect neighbors as much as home development and fence-building.
- **School programs: adopt a tree in your neighborhood for the year, study about this type of tree and compare with others, change through season, which birds live there, etc.** - can pair up with neighbors or non-profit education groups for interest in our local trees and habitat.
- **University programs:** more emphasis on research with urban forestry with effects of health and livability, community building, combat global warming, business attraction, tourism, habitat. Tracking tree loss and replacement. Tracking positive gains in areas of more tree density.
- **Engaging more local non-profit communities from environmental groups, garden groups, churches, social clubs, sporting groups, boy scouts, girl scouts, outdoor activity groups** to assist in their own ways of retaining, stewarding trees - cheering each other on. Mapping trees helps expand awareness and community. NYC has a tree map for birders at Central Park that is now a tourist attracting tool but can also be attractive for gardeners, designers, etc.
- **Awards for Businesses to implement tree preservation, home design and community building for innovative designs to reduce footprint/home size/reduce building material use and design with consideration of habitat and environmental impact, community enhancement, tree-planting, local food production and rooftop gardens.** Possibly work with Social Venture Partners – Seattle (SVP) to come up with incentives to encourage businesses to develop more innovation around supporting tree habitats, protecting existing trees and planting more trees <http://www.socialventurepartners.org/seattle/who-we-are/>
- **Utility cost analysis of large homes without trees vs. small/modest homes for cost for heating, cooling, watering using resources.** Incentives to reduce energy and resource consumption by increasing cost of utilities for gas, water, electricity after these large homes exceed a base rate of sustainable use comparable a modest home.
- **County offer a rebate on the "drainage fee" portion of our taxes for each large tree that is an incentive to care and maintain trees, rather than charging for permits to remove trees.** Reward those who have the trees, while they are providing the benefits.

from **Urban Forestry Meeting 6/5/19 - (updated 6/10/19)**

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

**Sent:** Saturday, June 15, 2019 8:28 AM

**To:** info@ecobuilding.org

**Cc:** Stuart Niven <panorarbor@gmail.com>; Alanna <getthemail13@gmail.com>; Steve

<steve@friends.urbanforests.org>; Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>; Pacheco, Abel <Abel.Pacheco@seattle.gov>; O'Brien, Mike <Mike.O'Brien@seattle.gov>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Mosqueda, Teresa <Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov>; Gonzalez, Lorena <Lorena.Gonzalez@seattle.gov>; Sawant, Kshama <Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Help to work with developers, information on a clear cut in Seattle neighborhood

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Ecobuilders Group,

One of my neighbors suggested I contact you for help and advice from developers working with ecological building/developing.

I'm part of a group of neighbors in North Seattle where **one of the lots was recently clear-cut by a developer Gamut-360 who claims on their website to be sponsored by "Green-built"** - logged and scraped the dirt two-feet down completely to the edges of the lot— to the horror of all our neighbors to build two large 3000+ft homes with 400-500 foot detached garages. **These large footprints leave little space to "replace" the trees taken** — and are impossible to replace the canopy, roots, bird nests and wildlife destroyed— including one of the only nesting places for merlins in Seattle. We've been on the news and are very concerned about this situation where **our tall trees and canopy are disappearing at an alarming rate.**

The neighbors next to this clear-cut were given less than 24-hours notice of the tree cutting. One neighbor was pressured to cut down a giant big-leaf maple tree on the boundary line of his property and was told that "the driveway of the new homes would kill this tree in two years time anyway and they would cut it for free now instead of him having to pay the cost in two years"— pressing him to decide on the spot. The developer cut over 22 trees, many healthy large mature native trees in just 5 hours: firs, pine, etc — one with a 42-inch base and over 200 growth rings. Within a week, the developer had removed all evidence of the logs and roots and quickly went to work. **How can this be legal? How is this remotely a "green" building?**

Our neighborhood has groundwater flooding issues and underwater streams with a sensitive mud-slide issue in the next block where the streams flow. This clearcut will impact our flooding problems as well as the damage this contractor has done to the neighboring trees by digging down two-feet to the boundary line— disturbing/damaging other roots. The neighboring trees are now at risk without this grove of trees as well as from the damage. **This same developer has bought two more heavily wooded lots one block away which he plans to build 5 more mansion homes—** and previously developed a lot on this same block— cutting some giant cedars— the mature cedar trees that remained on that lot look stressed and from one arborist's estimation may die.

**Is there anything your guild can do to educate and stop these developers from building in this destructive, wasteful manner?** Seattle and cities all over are losing our mature canopies to companies who claim to be "Green" but don't design around landscapes, spectacular trees, sensitive environmental areas.

I've cc'd a couple people from our group, Steve Zemke who is the point-man working on the proposed tree ordinance for Seattle, Seattle Councilmember Sally Bagshaw, Mayor Jenny Durkan who are working to help

pass a stronger tree ordinance. **Do you have suggestions to help get this tree ordinance passed and suggestions for enforcement of adherence by developers to ensure more green building practices?**

**Please help us to do something to stop this senseless destruction of critical habitat for our health, our remaining wildlife, our oxygen, water supply and soils, our native trees and retaining more beauty for our communities.** Of course we need development and we need to plan for density, but we need you to help lead the way to a saner and more beautiful vision that works to sustain and steward our environment. We recommend a moratorium on tree cutting of native and exceptional trees until enforcement of protection of our canopy is established.

What ideas and actions do you have to work with developers to save our trees? Please forward this to whomever can work on this problem— your board, etc. Time is of essence. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,

Annie Thoe and the Neighborhood Treekeepers of North Seattle

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

**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2019 7:49 PM

**To:** PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Examiner, Hearing <Hearing.Examiner@seattle.gov>; Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; DOT\_LA <DOT\_LA@seattle.gov>; SCI\_Code\_Compliance <SCI\_Code\_Compliance@seattle.gov>; Pacheco, Abel <Abel.Pacheco@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** appealed short plat for 3641 22nd Ave W

**Importance:** High

**CAUTION: External Email**

Thank you for allowing comment on this LR1 lowrise residential rowhouse-townhouse project at **3641 22nd Ave W** --- which Short Plat Lot Subdivision was appealed to the Office of the Hearing Examiner of Seattle early in 2018 (MUP-18-001).

Despite testimony that indicated the parent lot could have been subdivided longitudinally in the east-west orientation to avoid utility easements cutting through tree's critical root zones, this case was dismissed by the Hearing Examiner suggesting that there was insufficient evidence of an alternative residential development layout that would maximize the retention of trees. Consequently, last week the three existing significant trees on the lot were chopped down. Looking at the development plans, there will be NO site area remaining to replant and regrow the amount of canopy that was removed. That's been the mode of operation... and the relatively treeless future of Seattle.

Moreover, despite that Municipal Code 23.84A.032 rowhouse development rules prohibit locating rowhouses between the street and other dwellings behind the rowhouses, that is exactly proven to be the case here. And to our dismay, the SDCI policy to allow such short plats as an excuse to circumvent the density limits and standards of the Seattle Code is the

true testimony that our ethics and legal system has failed - at least in this case. The allowable density on this 120 ft by 50 ft lot is only 3 townhouses (1 dwelling per 1,600 sq ft of the 6000 sq ft lot). Yet, SDCI is allowing 5 dwellings as if this lot was within a different zoning area like LR2.

Who is responsible? We are told that the City Council writes the rules and everyone "abides" by those rules (and the exceptions to those rules). We think it is time to come clean of the City Council and its staff providing undercover privileges.

Thank you,

David Moehring AIA NCARB  
3444B 23rd Ave W  
[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)

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Background information

06/24/2019	<b>001168-19PN</b>	3641 A 22ND AVE W SEATTLE	Application for project 3034438-LU	Land use application to subdivide three unit lots. The construction of Project #6596711-CN. This subdivision is for the purpose of allowing sale or lease of the lots. Development standards will be applied to the lots and not to each of the new unit lots.
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Is the Department trying to hide using revised posting policies over the past 18-months? The City Permit and Property Records website (\*\*) posts no building plan permits for these three (3) unit lots on the street facing half and two (2) unit lots on the alley-facing 3641 22ND AVE W.

(\*\*) <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/>.

Yet, the June 12, 2019 'Record Snapshot' for 6596711-CN includes a listing of several documents that have not been posted including the sought "SDCI\_INT\_CONSTRUCTION/Plan Set" dated 05/10/201. Is it too much information for neighbors to have?

File Name: HELD Approved Plan Set.pdf

<https://cosaccela.seattle.gov/Portal/cap/CapDetail.aspx?type=1000&fromACA=Y&agencyCode=SEATTLE&Module=DPDPermits&capID1=17HST&capID2=00000&capID3=48655>

It's time to stop playing the shell games.

Buried with the EDMS system is two townhouses being permitted BEHIND the rowhouses under a new address of 3641 D 22ND AVE W (Alley parcel)  
<http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/GetDocument.aspx?id=4592582>

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**From:** gregory berry <berry.gregory@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 08, 2019 8:56 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Notification of Removal of 7 poplar trees next to the Ballard Mansion, 22 W. Highland Drive

**CAUTION: External Email**

Ms Pinto de Vader:

My partner Teresa Self recommended I forward this email I sent to the Seattle Times. Please see the attachments for pictures. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Gregory Berry

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** gregory berry <[berry.gregory@gmail.com](mailto:berry.gregory@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Monday, July 8, 2019  
**Subject:** re:Notification of Removal of 7 poplar trees next to the Ballard Mansion, 22 W. Highland Drive  
**To:** Teresa Selfe <[tselfe@gmail.com](mailto:tselfe@gmail.com)>

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** gregory berry <[berry.gregory@gmail.com](mailto:berry.gregory@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Sunday, July 7, 2019  
**Subject:** re:Notification of Removal of 7 poplar trees next to the Ballard Mansion, 22 W. Highland Drive  
**To:** [kriley@seattletimes.com](mailto:kriley@seattletimes.com)

Ms. Riley:

Perhaps readers of the Seattle Times would be interested to know the city plans to cut down 7 poplar trees (100 plus years of age) next to the Ballard Mansion at 22 W. Highland Dr., on Queen Anne Hill. The reasons given by SDOT Urban Forestry are as follows: Poses a Public Safety Risk and Exhibits poor health, vigor, or structure. (you can read my caustic letter to SDOT Urban Forestry below). I contend that instead of considering topping and pruning, the city, under pressure from the property owner has settled on the most expedient means, clear cutting all the trees. The trees in my view are as important as the Mansion. They contribute to the beauty of the neighborhood making it a more pleasing place to live. I guess nobody gives a damn about that. Please see the photo of the trees in my attachment. If the trees were dead we could talk about this differently, but they are most certainly not. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Gregory Berry  
25 W. Highland Dr. Apt 26  
(206) 551-2834

<https://npgallery.nps.gov/pdfhost/docs/NRHP/Photos/79002536.pdf>

(Body of email sent to SDOT Urban Forestry)

I would like to lodge an objection to the removal of the Poplar trees next to the Ballard Mansion. There is no suggestion that pruning might be a better solution. Instead the powers that be have settled on the most expedient means--clear cutting. These trees are over 100 years old and an asset to the neighborhood. There is no consideration for the wildlife that inhabit and use these trees. It is all about what is convenient for people or "property" owners. Damn the rest.

Replacing the irreplaceable will not heal the wound of destroying these historic trees. I hope you will consider a less apocalyptic solution, but no doubt money talks and you will carry out this crime.

Thanks a lot.

---

**From:** heidi calyxsite.com <heidi@calyxsite.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 08, 2019 11:21 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Re:tree down forDaDu

**CAUTION: External Email**

For further follow up... looks like an 80 footer....

Heidi Siegelbaum

(206) 784-4265

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

**From:** Anne Siems <[annesiemsart@gmail.com](mailto:annesiemsart@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 08, 2019 10:36 AM  
**To:** Austin Ruf <[austin\\_ruf@outlook.com](mailto:austin_ruf@outlook.com)>; [dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com); heidi calyxsite.com <[heidi@calyxsite.com](mailto:heidi@calyxsite.com)>; [ovaltinelatte@hotmail.com](mailto:ovaltinelatte@hotmail.com); [panorarbor@gmail.com](mailto:panorarbor@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Re:tree down forDaDu

Alluvion Homes

Builder, just wants to have permit for DADu for buyer of house



Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 8, 2019, at 9:26 AM, Austin Ruf <[austin\\_ruf@outlook.com](mailto:austin_ruf@outlook.com)> wrote:

I'm driving to work and could not find your phone number but FYI there is a contractor cutting down a huge tree right across from Salmon Bay Park right now on the east side across from the playground neighbor Mike challenge them and ask them for a permit and the contractor out of Everett basically told him to piss off

---

**From:** Anne Siems <[annesiemsart@gmail.com](mailto:annesiemsart@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, July 8, 2019 7:18:01 AM

**Subject:** Fwd: New Message about Meet Candidates for SEA City Council District #6

Come meet the candidates!

Anne

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Austin & Tonya Ruf <[evite@mailva.evite.com](mailto:evite@mailva.evite.com)>  
**Date:** July 7, 2019 at 11:31:20 PM PDT  
**To:** [annesiemsart@gmail.com](mailto:annesiemsart@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** New Message about Meet Candidates for SEA City Council District #6  
**Reply-To:** Evite <[austin\\_ruf@outlook.com](mailto:austin_ruf@outlook.com)>

---

**From:** David Moehring <[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 09, 2019 8:46 AM  
**To:** SCI\_Code\_Compliance <[SCI\\_Code\\_Compliance@seattle.gov](mailto:SCI_Code_Compliance@seattle.gov)>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <[Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov](mailto:Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov)>; DOT\_LA <[DOT\\_LA@seattle.gov](mailto:DOT_LA@seattle.gov)>  
**Cc:** Stuart Niven <[panorarbor@gmail.com](mailto:panorarbor@gmail.com)>; Anne Siems <[annesiemsart@gmail.com](mailto:annesiemsart@gmail.com)>; Kevin Orme <[ovaltinelatte@hotmail.com](mailto:ovaltinelatte@hotmail.com)>; treepac\_seattle@lists.riseup.net; Annie Thoe <[neighborhoodtreekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:neighborhoodtreekeepers@gmail.com)>; O'Brien, Mike <[Mike.OBrien@seattle.gov](mailto:Mike.OBrien@seattle.gov)>; Bagshaw, Sally <[Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov](mailto:Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov)>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>; Durkan, Jenny <[Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov](mailto:Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please apply Director's Rule fees for removed tree down

**CAUTION: External Email**

Urgent action from City Inspectors is needed for Exceptional tree removed yesterday from a property at  
**6754 19TH AVE NW 98117** Parcel ID: 7518503430  
**TaxPayer:** FITFO HOLDINGS LLC \*  
**Current Zone:** SF 5000 (adopted pre-1996)  
[Click for more property info...](#)

The site plan\*\*\* showed an 800 sf backyard accessory dwelling unit and two parking spaces with **the Exceptional tree to remain** (see link below).

With the code-provided ability to prune up to one-third of the tree's critical root zone (see attached diagram), there is no excuse for the removal of this tree in contrast to the permit application. We need a stronger tree ordinance and inspectors who will enforce it ...this lot had 43% tree canopy cover on a 5,100 SF area. The tree in the image attached is there no more. Now what will be done to restore the damage?

**Apply the full extent of fines of the Director's Rule 17-2018**  
[Calculating Tree Valuations and Civil Penalties for Tree Protection Code Violations](#)

David Moehring  
TreePAC board member

[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)

\*Fitfo sister company to <https://opengovwa.com/corporation/604204825>

[Permit](#) 000097568 95 KB 06/21/19 [6721295-CN](#) Construction Permit

[Site Plan](#) 000338986 331 KB 01/11/19 [000277-19PA](#) Building & Land Use Pre-Application \*\*\*

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From: David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, August 06, 2019 9:17 AM  
To: PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>; Landry, David <David.Landry@seattle.gov>; DOT\_LA <DOT\_LA@seattle.gov>; Juarez, Debora <Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov>  
Cc: verrytrd@gmail.com; darcy@hungerintervention.org; jenn.seva@gmail.com; jack@hellbentbrewingcompany.com; victoria.moceri@northcedarpark.org; Muriel Lawty <m.g.lawty@gmail.com>; sjknodell@gmail.com; chrisburke99@gmail.com; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
Subject: 12 large townhouses at 14302 30TH AVE NE upzone from SF to LR3

CAUTION: External Email

Thank you for conducting the design review last night regarding the proposed contract up-zone from SF-7200 to LR3(M3) at the large lot with a protected steam at 14302 30TH AVE NE.

Watching the clearcutting of exceptional trees on development sites over the past few years has been a real disappointment relative to Seattle's oversight of codes developed to protect our environment.

This development is no different with two Exceptional trees of 31-inch Red Cedars proposed to be removed simply because the architect presenting said "they have a right to remove them in order to achieve the floor area allowed." (Assuming they are gifted the contract rezone by the City Council.)



The design review board hopefully reflected more on this architect's comment as well as Mr. Landry of the Department. There appeared to be a careless attitude with this declaration of 'property right', we should all be stunned and be discussing with the team enforcing the mitigation measures and the criteria of design review relative to maintaining mature trees rather than kicking back and passing the tree-protections buck down to the next project. None of the 4 reviewers challenged the architect at all in their claim to remove the trees (at least at this setting). It not subjective decision... it is the Seattle Municipal Code.



To begin, the architect incorrectly stated than the upzoning proposed from SF (single family) up three levels of height, bulk, and scale to LR3(M3) only results in a 10 ft height increase from current code. That's incorrect. The proposed zoning is 50 feet height limit and add yet another 10 feet for roof access, pitched roofs, or penthouses. If all they need is 40-feet for their proposed design, then they only need an upzone to LR2(M2). The proposed design does not warrant LR3... plus the code requires a buffer between SF and LR3 zones...which this design fails to provide both sharing the same street.



Additionally, the Department of Construction and Inspections (as the steward of the code) and the design review board must request site layouts that save the tree. Please review the suggested markup of the site showing how the site can indeed be developed while fully complying with the code and Design Review Principles. (Please scan and include the marked up comments provided last night for the record.)

Attached are examples of Ballard designs that did just that-- added multiple family housing while retaining existing significant trees. The proposed removal of two Exceptional protected Cedar trees and 7 other trees - possibly a tree grove - is simply unacceptable.

Sincerely,



David Moehring AIA NCARB  
Board member of TreePAC

#### Design Review Proposal

<<http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/GetDocument.aspx?id=4791644>>

> 58 MB

> 07/26/19

> 3023581-LU

<<https://cosaccela.seattle.gov/portal/customize/linktorecord.aspx?altId=3023581-LU>>

> Master Use Permit

>

#### Sheet Notes:

> Page 3 - Proposed Contract Rezone from SF-7200 up to LR3(M2). This increase in land-use zoning is actually 50 feet height limit plus another 10 feet for roof access penthouse. I recommend LR1(M) at maximum 30-foot height as a more appropriate code-identified transitional buffer.

> Page 3- Significant reduction in height, bulk and scale to the west of 30th Ave NE which is zoned SF-7200.

>

> Page 9 - 13 trees on site, and 8 more trees surrounding property.

> Taking out two Exceptional 31-inch DBH western Red Cedars and taking out 7+ other trees.

> What efforts have been made to retain these two large cedar trees?

>

> Page 12 - What are the ranges on building sizes for the 12 townhouses? It states that 23.45.510 - FLOOR AREA RATIO (FAR) limit within zone LR3(M2) is 1.1 for Townhouse developments, but the calculation shows 1.8??? (22,824 SF x 1.8 = 41,083.2 SF)

>

> Page 14 compared to page 8 to 16 - It is all the same density... so what happened to the middle 'Area with Mitigation' layer?

> Page 16 - How much of the lot will be dug up during construction?

>

> Page 37 - This building is bigger than it needs to be and a potential energy consumer. Building height from grade elevation of 237.4' at the GARAGE up to 279.1'

at ridge of pitched roof. That is 42 feet in height for three floors.... Extreme Height, bulk and scale aimed only at maximum profit.

>

> What are the price points for these over-sized homes? Any affordable per MHA? Paying fees instead?

Please inform the Mayor that the MHA code is not working. No one is providing inclusive affordable housing.

---

**From:** Strauss, Daniel <Daniel.Strauss@seattle.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2019 3:56 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Tebeau, Lena <Lena.Tebeau@seattle.gov>; Ho, Yolanda <Yolanda.Ho@Seattle.gov>; Pennucci, Aly <Aly.Pennucci@seattle.gov>; Podowski, Mike <Mike.Podowski@seattle.gov>; Emery, Chanda <Chanda.Emery@Seattle.gov>; Glowacki, Margaret <Margaret.Glowacki@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Raszler, Emily <Emily.Raszler@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Urban Forestry Commission requesting continued deliberative meetings on tree ordinance update

Sandra,

We cannot thank you enough for your and the UFC's continued work on the Tree Ordinance. We have been working to include the Mayor in this process to ensure the whole city family, is moving together in the same direction. To accomplish this, we are working with the Mayor on a workplan for the tree ordinance.

We will solidify the workplan for the ordinance through a resolution which will include a timeline to pass the ordinance. Currently we are waiting to receive feedback from the Executive on the workplan and we expect to hear back from her office shortly.

Before we review this current Draft of the Tree Ordinance with UFC, we would like to receive the transmitted workplan from the Mayor's office. Can we reconnect after Council Recess to outline next steps?

Please never hesitate to reach out by phone; 206.492.0141.

Best,

Dan



**Daniel A. Strauss**  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Office of Seattle City Councilmember Sally Bagshaw  
[www.seattle.gov/council/bagshaw/](http://www.seattle.gov/council/bagshaw/)  
Mobile: 206.492.0141  
Direct: 206.684.4335  
Office: 206.684.8801



**From:** Cynthia Slate <cynthiaslate@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2019 2:48 PM

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

**Subject:** Re: Trees for Burke Gilman Trail/more illegal removals

**CAUTION: External Email**

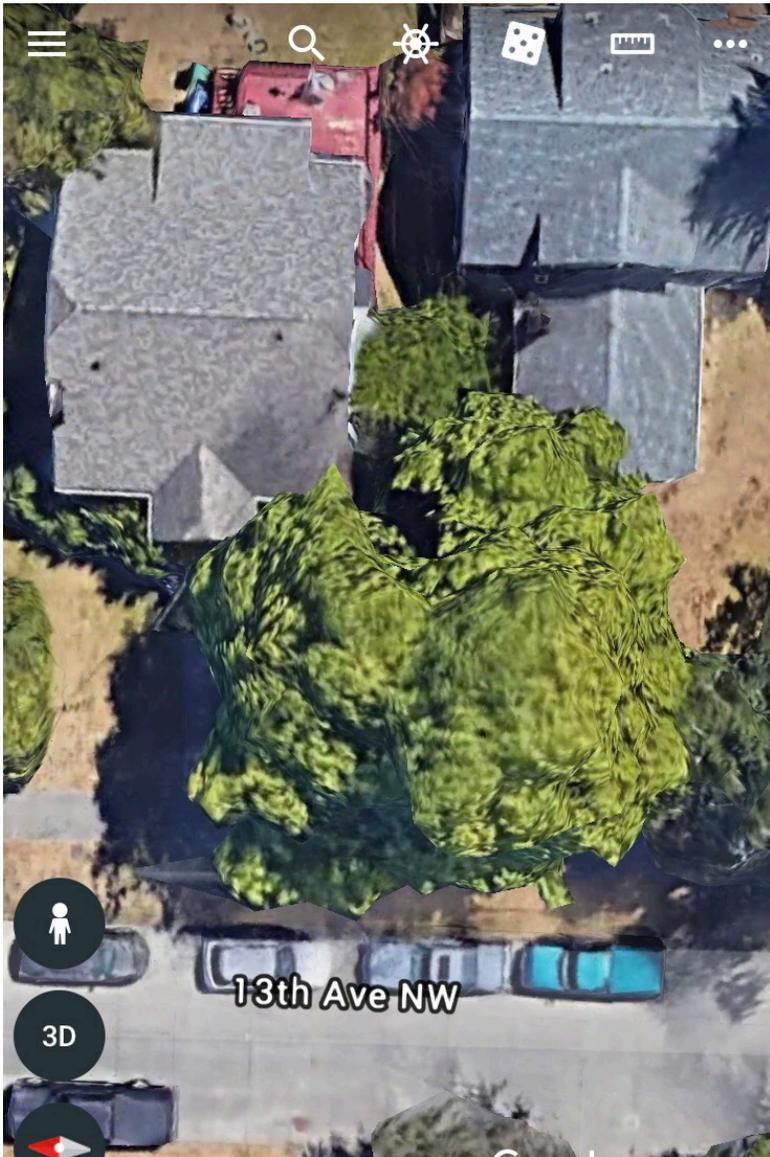
Regarding the Burke Gilman trail, I don't think we should use porous pavement right around the trees. I have seen this trend on Cap Hill, and these tree wells used to have dandelions.

Porous pavement doesn't support our pollinators. Instead plant native lupines that are drought tolerant, native sand strawberries, etc. We have a pollinator crisis as well as a climate crisis we need trees and pollinator friendly flowers.

Also, please consider not planting birch, kousa dogwoods, Japanese hornbeam, or Katsura. All need more water 10 plus years after planting in my North Ballard -Whittier neighborhood.

Second, we are losing so many trees -taken out illegally, which then creates more heat island effect and these planting strip trees can't take it. Please stop the illegal cuts.

Here is a photo of 38 inch at DBH Tulip Tree



to show you what we're losing. No development took this tree out. This tree was in an unbuildable front setback in a single family zone neighborhood.

Cynthia Slate  
Density+Trees

---

**From:** Robin Briggs <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 22, 2019 10:23 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Seattle Tree Ordinance Update

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle is losing tree cover at a time when we know we really need it. We need it because of climate change, and we need it for the psychological health of its citizens. The new proposed ordinance has been years in the making. Please don't let it be years more before it is enacted. We need it now. Therefore I urge you to support the following:

Expand the existing tree removal and replacement permit program, including 2-week public notice and posting, as used by the Seattle Department of transportation (SDOT) – to cover all trees 6” DBH and larger on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.

Require the replacement of all trees removed that are 6” DBH and larger with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay an in-lieu fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.

Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for exceptional trees to 24” DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit trees over 6”DBH being removed on undeveloped lots.

Allow removal of no more than 2 significant non-exceptional trees in 3 years per lot outside development

Establish one citywide database for applying for tree removal and replacement permits and to track changes in the tree canopy. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.

Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all tree service providers working on trees in Seattle.

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

Thanks very much for your consideration,

Robin Briggs

Robin Briggs

[rbriggs1201@gmail.com](mailto:rbriggs1201@gmail.com)

1201 18th Ave E.

Seattle, Washington 98112

---

**From:** ROBIN SMITH <blondie1958@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Saturday, August 24, 2019 9:55 AM

**To:** Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Juarez, Debora <Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; stevezemke@TreePAC.org

**Subject:** Amazon burning - what are we doing here at home?

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Ms. Durkan et al,

I live in Wedgwood - one of the few neighborhoods in Seattle that has a lot of trees. The burning Amazon is a huge concern, but I have no control over that. Maybe I have some clout in my own city? I am in favor of increasing residential building lot coverage to 50% to encourage higher density residential housing, affordable housing, and to encourage MIL's, though I think we need to require the same of any commercial development. While we work toward that goal, is there any way to immediately require shopping malls and grocery stores and any other developments with giant parking lots, to reduce all parking lots by 50%, and replacing that with TREES ! ? It truly just sickens me to see all that asphalt heating up the atmosphere and doing nothing for the environment, and I also don't enjoy parking in the hot sun, rain, snow, etc. Our City has a responsibility to do whatever we can to assist in the fight against global warming, and a cleaner environment.

I am also sending this email to support the

[Resolution urging passage of Seattle UFC draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance](#)

Thank you,

Robin Bartlett-Smith

---

**From:** Colin Wright <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Saturday, August 24, 2019 2:14 PM

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

**Subject:** Trees - #1 mitigation in climate crisis

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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, as used by the Seattle Department of transportation (SDOT) – to cover all trees 6” DBH and larger on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all trees removed that are 6” DBH and larger with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay an in-lieu 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 trees over 6”DBH being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 significant non-exceptional trees in 3 years per lot outside development  
Establish one citywide database for applying for tree removal and replacement permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
5. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
6. Expand SDOT’s existing tree service provider’s registration and certification to register all tree service providers working on trees in Seattle.

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

Colin Wright

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

1402 n 135th place

Seattle, Washington 98133

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**From:** Emily Geballe <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Sunday, August 25, 2019 2:02 PM

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

**Subject:** Trees - #1 mitigation in climate crisis

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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, as used by the Seattle Department of transportation (SDOT) – to cover all trees 6” DBH and larger on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all trees removed that are 6” DBH and larger with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay an in-lieu 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 trees over 6"DBH being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 significant non-exceptional trees in 3 years per lot outside development  
Establish one citywide database for applying for tree removal and replacement permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
5. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
6. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all tree service providers working on trees in Seattle.
7. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Emily Geballe  
[egeballe@hotmail.com](mailto:egeballe@hotmail.com)  
7527 14th Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115

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**From:** Wilma Boyd <wboydsea@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 26, 2019 5:22 PM  
**To:** Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>; LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** stevezemke@treepac.org  
**Subject:** Seattle Urban Forestry Commission's Draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Mayor Durkan, City Council Members, and others,

I write in support of updating the Urban Forest Protection Ordinance, with some specific suggestions, along with an instance in my own case where stronger protections would have been very helpful.

This is as short a summary of my situation as I can provide. Neighbors who bought the property west of mine and moved in about Labor Day 2013 have approached me several times about cutting down a boundary western red cedar tree, defined as "exceptional" by SDCI Director Rules due to size and species. It has raised the wooden landing of stairs that descend to their back yard; the stair landing is built integral to their deck. This deck was rebuilt by a prior property owner in approx. July 2009, without a permit. Both my arborist (2014) and their arborist (2018) indicate that the tree is in low risk of failure, is "Very Good to possibly Excellent (on a descriptive scale of 0 to 100%)", overall tree risk rating is moderate (due to eventual growth of the trunk) and the residual tree risk rating is low. An estimate to remove this tree indicates it is not practical to grind out the roots, so cutting it down will not solve the raised landing/deck circumstance. Both arborists agree that, IN TIME, the trunk is likely to grow to the point it impacts the roof of their house, 22" from the property line (the house was built in 1954, before Seattle annexed this area of Lake City in 1957), while current setback requirements are 5 feet. I have offered to pay all or substantially all of the costs to notch their roof to accommodate tree trunk growth, to no avail. This tree is in the buffer zone of an ECA (Environmentally Critical Area), due to riparian zone, steep slope, and other environmental factors. My neighbors have filed suit in Superior Court, King County, to force the removal of this exceptional tree. A hearing on a Motion for Summary Judgment is scheduled for August 30, and if this Motion is denied, then trial is scheduled shortly thereafter. If the Motion is approved, then the tree will be cut down immediately. If the tree is removed, I will lose the environmental benefits of this exceptional tree, the visual shield between my bedroom window and my neighbors' deck, and it is very likely my house will be 10 degrees hotter in summer months. I have no idea of the effects of storm water runoff (steep slope between my property and neighbors') that are currently moderated by this tree.

Several irregularities that involve the Urban Forest Protection Ordinance revisions are material in this case.

In September 2016, a Site Work Approval (SWA) was issued following an application submitted by my neighbors. They used my arborist site notes, which clearly showed that the tree straddled the property line. I had no knowledge of the application, no opportunity to comment or object, and no knowledge that it was issued until I requested permit records for my property and theirs, in November 2017. Documents which should have been attached to the application were not included with the record. The SDCI employee who issued this Site Work Approval no longer works for the agency, and there is no opportunity to ascertain his rationale for issuing the SWA. This approval is also generally referred to as a "permit." In a conversation with a

supervisor at SDCI after I became aware of this SWA, he explained that "this permit is really not a permit - we had to call it something when electronic document retrieval went into effect, so it was called a 'permit'." It has no expiration date, and there is no possibility of its being revoked. SDCI further retreats from any responsibility for their involvement by claiming that this 'permit' (not really a permit) only applies to my neighbors' yard, not to mine. When I contacted SDCI about how I could enforce replacement plantings if the tree was removed, the message to me was "there is no way to do so."

These neighbors have already removed a mature pine tree, a Mugho pine, a (diseased) weeping birch, and they have an estimate to remove a mature Doug fir, in addition to the exceptional western red cedar at issue in this litigation. That makes 5 trees in 6 years. Nothing similar has been planted in their yard (only decorative shrubs).

Here are my suggestions regarding the revisions and adoption of the Urban Forest Protection Ordinance:

- Make sure the protection ordinance IS ADOPTED.
- Make sure that the application fee is high enough that property owners are serious before applying to have trees removed.
- Make sure that applications are rejected until complete. In my case, the approval of the 2nd party should have been required before the application was even considered. Either the application should have been rejected until all parties indicated their support of the application, or SDCI should have notified parties not included on the application (where effects of SWA issuance would affect multiple parties) to allow comments or objections; notification that an SWA was issued should have been provided to all affected parties.
- Require that 'permits' (not really permits) or SWA documents are posted WHERE VISIBLE TO THE PUBLIC, or ONLINE AT AN ACCESSIBLE WEB SITE.
- Require that SWA documents be posted at least 2 weeks in advance of any removal activity (to allow public comment or some action before the chain saws go to work).
- Provide that removal under SWA authorization not completed within 6 months will automatically expire. (Application for another SWA could be re-submitted after expiration.)
- Require that any tree with a diameter of 6" or more that is removed under SWA be replaced with a planting that will substantially replicate the canopy of the tree removed within 25 years, either on the owner's property, or via a fund where fees to replace trees elsewhere are collected if the property owner does not expect to replace the tree directly on his property.
- Provide a mechanism to ensure that replacement plantings occur, with heavy fines if they are not completed within a permitted time frame (possibly up to 2 years, to allow planting at an appropriate season).

I can't do much about the Amazon rain forest burning. I am trying to do what I can to save the exceptional boundary western red cedar I share with contentious neighbors. I have planted

several trees (a Doug fir that will survive, an Italian plum, an Arbor Vitae, a Cercis Canadensis [Forest Pansy], western red cedar sapling, Japanese maple) and shrubs (lilac, viburnum, box, black lace elderberry, hydrangea, etc.) in the 23 years I have owned my property. I notice more hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees than I ever saw in early years I lived here. I would be grateful for ordinance protection of the urban tree canopy, rather than some good intentions alone.

Thank you for your consideration of these circumstances and suggestions,

Wilma Boyd

---

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

**Sent:** Monday, August 26, 2019 5:32 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; Pennucci, Aly <Aly.Pennucci@seattle.gov>; O'Brien, Mike <Mike.O'Brien@seattle.gov>; Pacheco, Abel <Abel.Pacheco@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** kshama.sewant@seattle.gov; Pennucci, Aly <Aly.Pennucci@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; treepac\_seattlelists.riseup.net <treepac\_seattle@lists.riseup.net>; LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Tree Ordinance Legal <tree-ordinance-legal@googlegroups.com>; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** ADU legislation has reduced tree retention and planting requirements

**CAUTION: External Email**

"

 Dear supporters of Seattle's Urban Forest,

Last year we were all assured that the tree retention / replanting requirements would *not be reduced* within Seattle's single-family zones along with the pending legislation to increase the number accessory dwelling units from one to two per lot. We were assured that the minimum tree requirements did not need to be further reduced because the maximum lot coverage would still remain at 35% [1].

**Surprise:** we now have a new Seattle Municipal Code section 23.44.020.A.2 which has significantly reduced tree planting and retention requirements even when just one accessory dwelling unit is provided:

*NEW: "2. Trees sufficient to meet the following requirements shall be provided when a new structure, or an addition to an existing structure, containing an accessory dwelling unit is constructed:*

*a. For lots that do not contain the minimum number of caliper inches of tree required by subsection 23.44.020.A.1 at the time a permit application is submitted for any number of accessory dwelling units, **at least 2 caliper inches of tree shall be planted;***

*b. For lots that contain the minimum number of caliper inches of tree required by subsection 23.44.020.A.1 at the time a permit application is submitted for any number of accessory dwelling units, **no new trees are required.**"*

**Seattle law makers: please keep your vows, and correct this environmentally harmful section that was accidentally slipped into the ADU legislation.**

**Thank you for striving to achieve Seattle's goals to grow by 2 to 3% (not shrink) Seattle's urban tree canopy and combat urban heat islands.**

For the sake of future generations!

David Moehring AIA NCARB  
Board Member of TreePAC

[1] (that being for lots at 5000 SF and over including yard setbacks from property lines)

=====

From: Dall'Osto, Alisha <Alisha.Dall'osto@seattle.gov>  
Sent: Thursday, October 4, 2018 7:19 PM  
To: [ovaltinelatte@hotmail.com](mailto:ovaltinelatte@hotmail.com)  
Subject: RE: when will you protect trees?! Really - when?

Dear Kevin,

I work for Councilmember Mike O'Brien. Thanks so much for reaching out about protecting trees. CM O'Brien is **committed to strengthening the proposed tree legislation and ensuring that it improves on our existing tree protections.** In particular, he is interested in including exceptional tree protections in the proposed legislation. We are happy to stay in touch as we move forward with the legislative process, and again, appreciate your feedback and perspective.

Thank you,

Alisha Dall'Osto

Legislative Assistant to Councilmember Mike O'Brien  
Seattle City Council <<http://www.seattle.gov/council/>>  
206-684-8800

=====  
**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 at 1:26 PM  
**From:** "David Moehring" <[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)>  
**Subject:** Urgent June 18th=== ADU legislation proposed reduces tree requirements

Dear members of TreePAC and all advocates of urban trees for Seattle-

 **TREE CANOPY ALERT!!** 

**Please write or/and call to:**

Mike O'Brien, Chair  
Chair Info: 206-684-8800; [mike.obrien@seattle.gov](mailto:mike.obrien@seattle.gov)  
Abel Pacheco, Vice-Chair  
Kshama Sawant, Member  
Bruce Harrell, Alternate

Ask today for the City Council and our Mayor Durkan and the Office of Planning and Community Development to reconsider these proposed **reductions in tree protections** for single family lots (that will soon be eligible for up to two Accessory Dwelling Units per lot as small as 3200 Sq Ft). Especially given a standing Executive Order from our past interim mayor that required for Stronger Tree Protection... not weaker!

There is a City Council Committee on this topic at 2pm Tuesday, June 18th.

We have already asked that the off-street parking requirement be waived ONLY IF an existing tree may be retained - since that is the primary reason that we have heard for the proposed waived parking requirement. "No parking = save a tree".

In a nutshell, although the proposed legislation does not change the maximum amount of 35% building-to-lot coverage (as so testified to the Deputy Hearing Examiner by OPCD's Nicolas Welch at the ADU appeal hearings), the amount of trees required on the lot are being significantly reduced! There is NO REASON that we are aware of why the minimum amount of trees should be reduced from the current minimum of 2-inches caliper of trees for every 1000 sq ft of lot area to just 2-inches caliper of tree regardless of lot size. See below carefully for these excerpts from the attached PDF are poorly or loosely worded legislation. What am I missing?

David Moehring

TreePAC board member

Seattle resident concerned about our urban forest and environment.

The attached 36 pages of CODE changes proposed with the pending for Accessory Dwellings (backyard cottages, granny flats, duplex, triplexes) relative to impacts on trees:

**Amending section SMC 23.44.014 Yards and separations**

18. A structure may be permitted to extend into front and rear yards as necessary to protect exceptional trees and trees over 2 feet in diameter pursuant to Section 25.11.060.

and

**Amending section SMC 23.44.020 Tree requirements:**

A. Tree requirements in SF 5000, SF 7200, and SF 9600 zones (now excludes RSL zones)

1. Trees sufficient to meet the following requirements shall be provided when single-family dwelling units are constructed:

a. For lots over 3,000 square feet, at least 2 caliper inches of tree per 1,000 square feet of lot area.

b. On lots that are 3,000 square feet or smaller, at least caliper 3 inches of tree.

2. Trees sufficient to meet the following requirements shall be provided when a new structure, or an addition to an existing structure, containing an accessory dwelling unit is constructed:

a. For lots that do not contain the minimum number of caliper inches of tree required by subsection 23.44.020.A.1 at the time a permit application is submitted for any number of accessory dwelling units, at least 2 caliper inches of tree shall be planted.

b. For lots that contain the minimum number of caliper inches of tree required by subsection 23.44.020.A.1 at the time a permit application is submitted for any number of accessory dwelling units, no new trees are required.

3. The minimum number of caliper inches of tree required may be met by preserving existing trees, planting new trees, or by a combination of preservation and planting. The preservation or planting of trees in the right-of-way may be counted, provided that they are approved by the Director of Transportation.

4. Submerged land shall not be included in calculating lot area for purposes of either the tree preservation option or tree planting option.

5. Tree measurements. Trees planted to meet the requirements in this subsection 23.44.020.A shall be at least 1.5 inches in diameter. The diameter of new trees shall be measured (in caliper inches) 6 inches above the ground. Existing trees shall be measured 4.5 22 feet above the ground. When an existing tree is 3 to 10 inches in diameter, each 1 inch counts as 1 inch toward meeting the tree requirements in this subsection 23.44.020.A. When an existing tree is more than 10 inches in diameter, each 1 inch of the tree that is over 10 inches shall count as 3 inches toward meeting the tree requirement.

6. Tree preservation plans. If the tree preservation option is chosen, a tree preservation plan must be submitted by a certified arborist and approved. Tree preservation plans shall provide for protection of trees during construction according to standards promulgated by the Director.

7. The owner of the subject lot shall ensure that the trees planted remain healthy for at least five years after inspection by the City and be responsible for replacing any 9 trees that do not remain healthy after inspection by the City.

and

**Amending section SMC 23.44.041 Tree requirements:**

4. In an SF 5000, SF 7200, or SF 9600 zone, accessory dwelling units are subject to the tree requirements in subsection 23.44.020.A.2.

(see above)

and

Table A for 23.44.041 Development standards for detached accessory dwelling units  
Footnote '2': The Director may allow an exception to standards e, i, and j if the exception allows for the preservation of an exceptional tree or a tree over 2 feet in diameter measured 4.5 feet above the ground.

e. Maximum rear yard coverage

i. Minimum rear yard

j. Location of entry

**23.84A.038 "T"**

"Tree, exceptional" means a tree designated as such per Chapter 25.11. *(No change to definition)*

Triplex" means a single structure containing three dwelling units, **none of which are accessory dwelling units authorized under Section 23.44.041.**

**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 at 11:07 AM

**From:** "Judy Bendich" <[jebendich@comcast.net](mailto:jebendich@comcast.net)>

**To:** [mha-feis-committees@googlegroups.com](mailto:mha-feis-committees@googlegroups.com), "Martin Henry Kaplan"  
<[mhk@martinhenrykaplan.com](mailto:mhk@martinhenrykaplan.com)>

**Subject:** [MHA-FEIS-ALL-COMMITTEES] Agenda - View.ashx Sustainability...Cmte. June 18, 2019 2:00 pm

Proposed amendments to ADU/DADU legislation Click on the staff report to find a summary of the amendments. Looks like people should be there to comment or send in comments. Herbold's are the best but not as good as they should be. Judy

<http://seattle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=A&ID=706564&GUID=0C2111CD-12D4-4DCF-A935-A7781F000D2A>

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**From:** John <[john.nuler@gmail.com](mailto:john.nuler@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 28, 2019 8:42 AM

**To:** Durkan, Jenny <[Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov](mailto:Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov)>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra  
<[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@Seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov)>; nolan.runquist@seattle.gov

**Cc:** Herbold, Lisa <[Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov](mailto:Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov)>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <[Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov](mailto:Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov)>;  
[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com); [annie@sensingvitality.com](mailto:annie@sensingvitality.com); Pacheco, Abel  
<[Abel.Pacheco@seattle.gov](mailto:Abel.Pacheco@seattle.gov)>; O'Brien, Mike <[Mike.O'Brien@seattle.gov](mailto:Mike.O'Brien@seattle.gov)>; Juarez, Debora  
<[Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov](mailto:Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov)>; Gonzalez, Lorena <[Lorena.Gonzalez@seattle.gov](mailto:Lorena.Gonzalez@seattle.gov)>; Mosqueda,  
Teresa <[Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov](mailto:Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov)>; Sawant, Kshama <[Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov](mailto:Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov)>;  
[bruce.harrel@seattle.gov](mailto:bruce.harrel@seattle.gov)

**Subject:** TREES FOR ALL - Seattle

**CAUTION: External Email**

## **SEATTLE - TREES FOR ALL – a desperate call**

Over the past quarter century, given impetus by the disastrous slides/lawsuits of 1996 and the ascendancy of Plant Amnesty, Seattle has developed ever more

complicated, unsuccessful tree ordinances that have appalled many tree loving property owners.

No longer were the trees on private property controlled by the property owner. Seattleites were no longer allowed to manage their own property tree-wise. We pasted "TREES ARE THE VIEW" slogans on our bumpers, Plant Amnesty openly ridiculed topiary, and equated past practices like tree topping with torture! Over time under the thrust of quasi governmental organization Plant Amnesty and the establishment of more careers of urban tree professionals, Seattle has become even less responsive to property owners' tree issues. Now, developers are openly demonized like for the necessity of removing trees to build homes to prevent urban sprawl. It has become acceptable to trespass with confrontations around trees. Property is vandalized. Police have had to be called. People now express beliefs that tree removal always equals destabilization, which I assume Urban Tree Commission members know is not always true, yet do nothing to dispel these half truths from being promulgated. It has become incredibly expensive to maintain and remove dangerous trees with high priced specialists like Certified Tree Consultants drafting reports and submitting permits, possible public input, the actual fee for the permit then hiring another Certified Arborist to do the removal. Due to these fees and bureaucratic code requirements, people are not maintaining their trees or removing dangerous trees. Allowing dangerous trees to remain because the expense and trouble of permits required for making them safe and the suggestion that "insurance will cover" damages is outrageous and not viable.

The Urban Tree Commission is another government group being influenced by urban tree professionals, lobbyists, political appointees and a suspiciously few, un-named, 'stakeholders'. The letters to the commission are also suspiciously few, even with some commission members letters included.

The Commission's chief accomplishment is "The Seattle Urban Forest Stewardship Plan (UFSP), adopted in 2013, is a comprehensive strategy for increasing Seattle's tree canopy cover to meet the 30% target."

The difference is a decidedly unimpressive 2%! The Goal is from 28% to 30%. This insignificantly low self-limited goal is determined by the **political expediency of placing the majority of the burden of new codes on the few, thereby avoiding offending the many.**

In this case, the undeveloped parcels in Seattle which are rare and becoming extinct through development become the focus of ever more costly restrictions.

The other being burdened are the few homeowners with “Exceptional Trees”. Simply compare the number of undeveloped lots in Seattle to the number of developed residences. To get some perspective, walk down just about any neighborhood block.

As the Plant Amnesty wave gained momentum for plant environmentalism placing the tree service industry and trees the centerpiece of lobbying and code tightening, it curiously ignored the environmental burden and inappropriateness of grass lawns for our climate. Grass front and back yards are the norm for existing homes and have traditionally helped define Seattle neighborhoods. With lawns we have ignored their carbon footprint, their waste of water, their destruction of our marine habitat for too long after being educated. Our wonderful indigenous trees are not compatible with a perfect lawn so we see few trees in yards with lawns. Existing trees are often “volunteers” that were allowed because they sprouted near a property line.

It was quite informative to enter the addresses of the letters submitted by members /stakeholders of the Urban Tree Commission into satellite mapping. Doing so, the vast tracts of lawn scraped of trees almost a century ago remain scarred to this day and literally jump out. Imagine if all of these existing homes planted one tree? Our tree canopy would soon increase exponentially. And since homeowners plant or tolerate a higher percentage of conifers, the environmental benefits would also outperform the city’s green spaces.

Factually, Seattle is and has been negligent maintaining its green spaces. After decades of neglect, we are admittedly millions of dollars behind in maintenance with monocultures of less desirable trees, unhealthy trees and invasive species firmly in control. Seattle has regretfully allowed its urban forests to mature with these undesirables to the point that conifers, the best trees for our environment, are far from common.

I hope we can see a future with trees being valued by everyone. Doing so will require everyone to share the burden and the benefits of tree ownership.

This is not the way it has been.

Currently, however, there appears legislation that continues and worse yet, extends the fetishization of certain trees on private property. The argument being

that if removal of exceptional trees is prohibited in developed parcels, it should also be prohibited on undeveloped ones. This “matching” argument ignores the many other codes exclusive to undeveloped parcels.

Exceptional trees are allowed to be removed as a last resource after a lengthy planning process for new development only if the exceptional tree(s) prevent development of the 35% maximum lot coverage, a rare occurrence.

But statements implying that undeveloped parcels are less burdened by tree regulations than existing homes and therefore need tightening are demonstrably false.

Developed homeowners are allowed to remove an unlimited number of trees below 6" and allowed to remove three non-exceptional trees per year that are larger than 6". In four years a homeowner is allowed to remove a dozen larger than 6" trees.

Contrast this with Undeveloped rules that allow no tree removal of 6" or greater EVER. Also in Undeveloped lots being developed, tree and green mitigation is required as part of the permitting process. That means that trees removed must be replaced by planting a like number /coverage of new trees as replacement. These rules do not apply to existing (developed) homes.

Examining the difference between Developed and Undeveloped lots, Developed SFR parcels are already serving their purpose within our city, providing homes for our citizens.

Undeveloped lots although being taxed comparable to developed ones, have no developed housing on them.

Banning the removal of Exceptional Trees in no way prevents an existing homeowner from enjoying his property for its designation, a Single Family Residence. The homeowner is not denied the presumed right to inhabit their property.

Banning Exceptional Tree removal on un-developed lots has the opposite effect of preventing designated legal SFR building parcels from any development at all, preventing all intended use of the property.

The restrictions on undeveloped land act like an ever tightening noose, because we are not allowed to control trees, they multiply and grow immediately or eventually becoming exceptional trees and untouchable. The lot becomes unbuildable. The property owner pays upwardly spiraling taxes for property that the owner is denied its intended use for.

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If threats to our environment are to be taken seriously, if we accept evidence based projections of doom, why are we fixed on the single tree for the forest? Especially when the forest is virtually our only solution?

It is imperative that we act now to do our small part for global emergency.

How can that be done?

Plant a tree in every yard without one. Make that the new code. Mayor Durkan wants to tax homes with oil heat to discourage its use and encourage replacement with electric non-combustion electric heating.

I ask Mayor Durkan to support a tax on lawns with tree installation and maintenance tax free as this would be significant rather than symbolic. I ask the Mayor to radically rethink Seattle Tree Codes in light of Climate Change.

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Instead of the city promoting tree viewing tours for teens and recording of exceptional trees on private property, replace with programs like, say, Seattle Public School children all receiving conifers as well as the assignment to properly locate, plant, care and make reports about the seedling for the next several school years. Every year brings a new class of students along with a new crop of trees.

The next best thing to saving a tree is planting a new tree and better than planting a new tree is planting 50,000 new trees.

Imagine!

Thanks,

SEATTLE - TREES FOR ALL

John Nuler

(206)369-6098

7241 36<sup>th</sup> Ave SW

Seattle, 98126

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**From:** Anne2 <a.roda@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 28, 2019 10:42 AM

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

**Subject:** Fwd: Please do not associate me with the views expressed in John Nuler's email

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I am forwarding an email that I also sent to the City Council. Please take a moment to read it and share with other members of the Commission as appropriate.

Thank you,  
Anne Roda

**Date:** August 28, 2019 at 10:29:30 AM PDT

**To:** [council@seattle.gov](mailto:council@seattle.gov)

**Subject:** Please do not associate me with the views expressed in John Nuler's email

Dear Urban Forestry Commission,

I just received a long rambling email from someone named John Nuler, who apparently got my email and others from letters we sent to the Urban Tree Commission, and included us in his letter to the City Council. I am not associated with him and do not agree with his views as I understand them from his letter. Please do not associate me with the views he is trying to express. I support trying to keep our urban tree canopy in many different ways.

Thank you,  
Anne Roda

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** David Moehring <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 28, 2019 1:58 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 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.

The Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, at the request of several City Council members, produced a draft Tree and Urban Forestry Protection Ordinance, that addresses the issues raised by the Council when they passed the mandatory Housing Affordability Ordinance.

Please update the current Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission. Thank you.

David Moehring

[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)

3444B 23rd Ave W

Seattle, Washington 98199

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**From:** kathy Griffith <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 28, 2019 6:06 PM

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

**Subject:** Changes needed in Seattle's Tree Ordinance, Please update.

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle was built in a forest, and as such is part of the planet's lungs. We need to figure out how to build densely while still preserving our urban forest and should not model our building after cities built in grasslands. I think we all want people in Brazil to figure out how to preserve their Amazon Rain Forest. Let's set an example here.

I strongly urge passage of the tree ordinance update as recommended by the Urban Forestry Commission which codified the April 2019 City Council resolution which was approved after the MHA.

Seattle's complaint based system does not work. Trees are removed before a complaint can be made or responded to. I particularly urge you to adapt a tree removal permitting system for developers and property owners alike. Permitting will enable the city to actually enforce its tree removal and replacement regulations, as well as provide data to track canopy changes and continuously monitor and improve the system.

Posting the permit applications 2 weeks in advance of approval will allow impacted parties to respond when appropriate, rather than waiting until the tree is cut, the stump is ground, and all traces of the tree/trees disappear.

And integral to the tree removal permits and basically "following the rules", is the requirement that arborists be certified to work in Seattle similar to SDOT requirements. Currently arborists are illegally cutting down trees, often falsely claiming the tree to be hazardous.

Thank you for your attention. We don't have to be like the Brazilian president and just burn it all down. Seattle is smart; we can figure it out.

Katy Griffith

Please pass everything in the 2019 Counsel Resolution as codified in the Seattle UFC recommendation:

- A. Retaining protections for exceptional trees and expanding the definition of exceptional trees.
- B. Creating a permitting process for the removal of significant trees, defined as trees 6 inches in diameter at breast height or larger.
- C. Adding replacement requirements for significant tree removal.
- D. Simplifying tree planting and replacement requirements.
- E. Maintaining tree removal limits in single-family zones.
- F. Exploring the feasibility of establishing a in-lieu fee option for tree planting.
- G. Tracking tree removal and replacement throughout Seattle.
- H. Providing adequate funding to administer and enforce tree regulations.
- I. Requiring that all tree service providers operating in Seattle meet the minimum certification and training requirements and register with the city.

katy Griffith

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

2131

Seattle, Washington 98133

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**From:** Lance Young <lance\_young@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2019 1:13 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** University study finds vacant lot greening reduces depression by 42% gun violence by 29%

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Mayor Durkan and the Urban Forestry Commission

Please read the following study by Columbia University, the University of Pennsylvania which undertook a study of green vacant lots in Philadelphia to study the psychological affects on its citizens. The study found that by cleaning and grading the lots planting grass and a few trees there were significant improvements in the psychology of near by residents and that crime rates went down dramatically.

The lots that were treated in this way cost the city only \$1,600 per vacant lot plus \$180 annual maintenance. For this very economical treatment local residents particularly those in less well off neighborhoods saw a 68% reduction in feelings of depression and a 29-percent decrease in gun violence near treated lots.

The article can be found at:

<https://www.mailman.columbia.edu/public-health-now/news/greening-vacant-lots-reduces-feelings-depression-city-dwellers>

Thank you for keeping our emerald city green!  
Lance Young  
Interurban Trail Tree Preservation Society

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**From:** JACK Smith <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2019 12:40 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 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.

The Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, at the request of several City Council members, produced a draft Tree and Urban Forestry Protection Ordinance, that addresses the issues raised by the Council when they passed the mandatory Housing Affordability Ordinance.

Please update the current Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission. Thank you. OUR DOWNTOWN SEATTLE HAS THE POTENTIAL OF GREAT BEAUTY AS A RESOURCE FOR OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS. PLEASE DO NOT LET THAT BEAUTY DISAPPEAR AMID THE VAST FOREST OF TALL BUILDINGS THAT WE ARE CREATING. SAVE THIS POTENTIAL FOR INHABITANTS AND TRAVELERS WHO WILL SPEND TIME IN THE SEATTLE OF THE FUTURE. SAVE OUR TREES.

JACK Smith

[erie1917@gmail.com](mailto:erie1917@gmail.com)

11331 24th Ave NE

Seattle, Washington 98125-6636

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

**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2019 12:51 PM

**To:** PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; Pacheco, Abel <Abel.Pacheco@seattle.gov>; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** DOT\_LA <DOT\_LA@seattle.gov>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Daniel <Daniel.Strauss@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** 2 to 3 more Exceptional trees lost at 2000 Thorndyke Ave W [3032564-LU]

CAUTION: External Email

**EXAMPLE OF 2 to 3 MORE "EXCEPTIONAL TREES LOST" from SEATTLE's URBAN FOREST:**

Here is another case why we need a stronger tree ordinance and better enforcement.

The current development at **2000 Thorndyke Ave W** has removed 3 large trees along the south edge of the property without even an arborist report on file. Two different multi-truck clusters and one 20-inch tree could have been Exceptional and protected by SMC25.11 and DR-2008-16. The planner in charge did not seem to request a report. *So, I guess we will never know.*

That is why we need a **better tree ordinance** to save Seattle's trees and resist the needless clear-cutting of Seattle!

- What are we waiting for? Exited-left Councilmember Rob Johnson's *'Tree for All'* was prepared for folks who wanted stronger enforcement on home-owners, but weaker requirements and mitigation measures on developers.
- To get a *positive direction* where development AND trees may co-exist, the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission has drafted an updated Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance consistent with the 8 recommendations specified by the Council in Section 6 of its Resolution 31870, which would:
  - a. retain current protections for exceptional trees and reduce upper threshold for exceptional trees to 24" DBH;
  - b. allow no more than two significant non-exceptional trees to be removed over 3 years on developed property;
  - c. 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 on both developed property and property being developed;
  - d. require two-week on-site posting of tree removal applications (as SDOT does);
  - e. require on-site tree replacement equivalent, in 25 years, to the tree canopy volume removed;
  - f. require registration **and qualifications** of all tree services providers with the city;
  - g. track **and map** all significant tree loss and replacement **locations**; and
  - h. provide adequate funds to administer and enforce the ordinance.

Pursuant to SMC 23.24.040, the SDCI should have used criteria '6' to determine to deny today's issued subdivision, as it failed to follow the code criteria: "*Whether the proposed division of land is designed to maximize the retention of existing trees*". The SDCI Planner Leslie LH. Orbino states in the decision released today: "***Tree and other landscaping requirements were considered under the building permit review.***"

And if so... where does this code-review internal 'finger-pointing' between different permits within the same development yield actual tree retention? It does not! We clearly have a system that does not work and is laden with layers of bureaucracy.

As the Department claims they are over-burdened, the real issue is the City needs one permit for the entire development in order to expedite reviews and reduce complexities born to circumvent the good intentions of the code. Seattle's tree ordinance is in that mess right now and needs immediate attention.

Thank you,  
David Moehring  
Board member of TreePAC

SDCI EDMS information at:  
<http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/default.aspx?ref=3017317>



**From:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2019 1:18 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; DOT\_LA <DOT\_LA@seattle.gov>; Bagshaw, Sally <Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov>; PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>; Godard, Holly <Holly.Godard@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** Pederson, Art <Art.Pederson@seattle.gov>; seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group-request@lists.riseup.net; neighborhoodtreekeepers@gmail.com; Queen Anne Community Council

<queenannecc@gmail.com>; treekeepersalliance@lists.1sustainableplanet.org; Queen Anne North Community <queen-anne-north-community@googlegroups.com>; nolan.runquist@seattle.gov  
**Subject:** Seattle greenbelt removed at landslide site

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Councilperson Bagshaw, Public Resource Center (PRC), SDCI Planner Godard, and Dept of Transportation-

*I believe there is congratulations in order! Please confirm.*

Per the March 27, 2019 letter from SDCI, the project for **2031 Westlake Ave N** (#3022513 in eastern Queen Anne near the waterfront) appears to have been cancelled. (Noting the Seattle Land Use Code Section 23.76.010F required responses to corrections required as a result of the recent reviews cycle and unpaid invoices.)

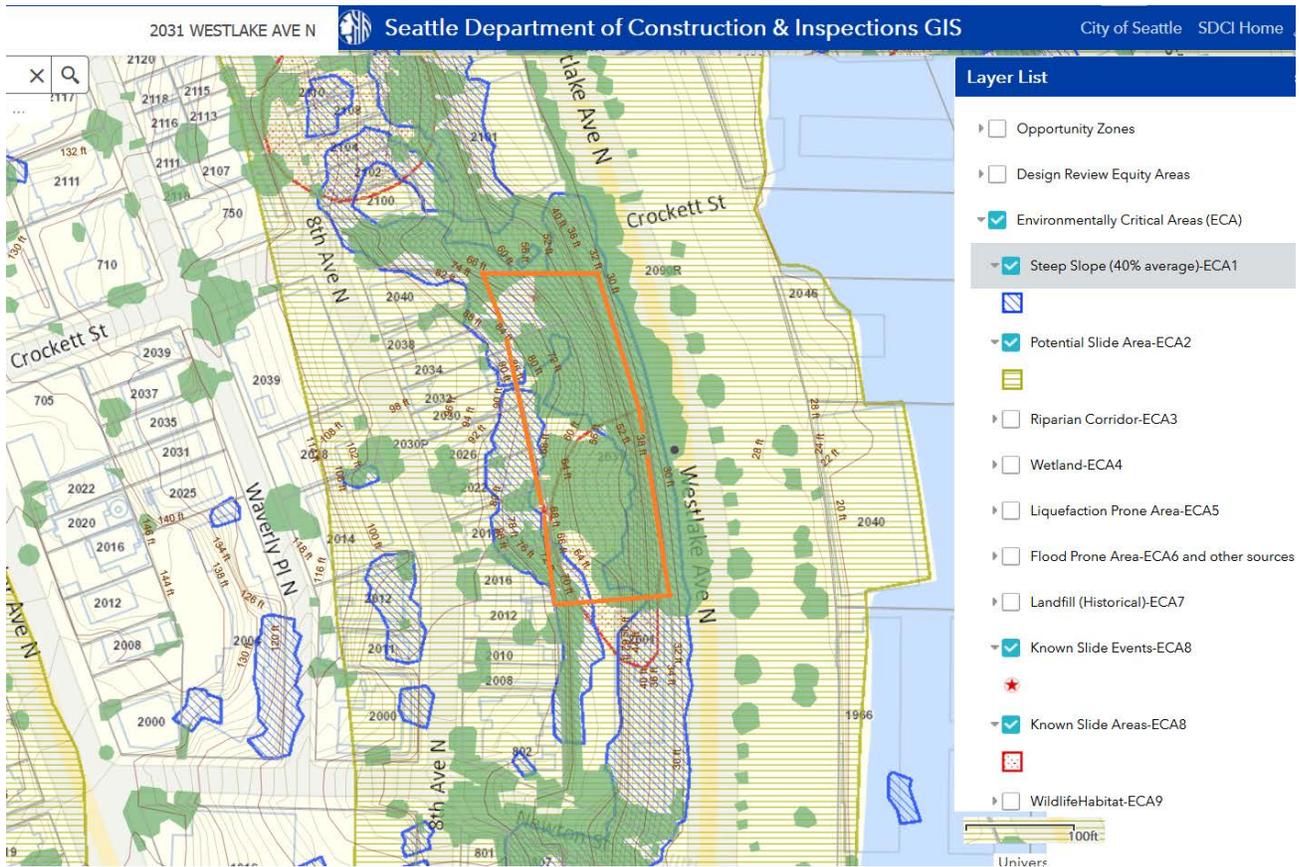
If so, this is a **good example where the Department has enforced the health and life safety concerns** that would otherwise result from carving a large development into the toe of a steeply sloping lot (over 30 feet drop in the narrow direction) that is also a designated potential landslide environmentally critical area that also has known landslide events. There are many safe building sites in Seattle, so we don't need to play Landuse Russian-Roulette.

Why would this Queen Anne Greenbelt site even be considered for permitting a large development -- including destroying a greenbelt with all but one tree to be removed?

Avoid these greenbelt life-safety hazards that are lurking throughout the city of Seattle, including the southern side abandoned brickyard in North Beacon Hill. **Please address the tree ordinance now** which does not currently prohibit such developments from Clear-cutting Seattle! Another such development is the forested and steeply sloping 3039 Humes Place currently raising considerable safety risks to adjacent properties.

Thank you!  
David Moehring AIA NCARB

Below image GIS Location: 2031 Westlake Avenue North; SDCI Application #3022513 Westlake Apartments (proposed)



PowerPoint presentation ; Site plans and elevations views:

> <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/GetDocument.aspx?id=3557879>

> <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/GetDocument.aspx?id=3506286>

SDCI information

<http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/default.aspx?ref=3017317>

Please enforce the SMC Title 25 Environmental Code and a better tree ordinance

Make it work:

<https://www.dontclearcutseattle.org>

<https://www.seattlemag.com/news-and-features/struggle-save-seattle/s-urban-trees-face-development>

<http://www.majorityrules.org/tag/save-the-trees-seattle>

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**From:** Judith Leshner <[jack2729rabbit@earthlink.net](mailto:jack2729rabbit@earthlink.net)>

**Subject:** This Year--Now-- Act to Protect Seattle's Trees

**Date:** August 27, 2019 at 7:17:37 PM PDT

**To:** [jenny.durkan@seattle.gov](mailto:jenny.durkan@seattle.gov)

Dear Mayor Durkan:

On August 18, Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, appeared as a guest on Fareed Zakaria's Sunday show to speak on our global climate crisis and how to think about it. She said that we need to do three things.

1. We each need to make it personal to our lives; to do something today that we haven't been doing to reduce our carbon footprint like use public transportation, use less energy, recycle more, eat less meat, etc.
2. Get angry and get active—get angry with those who have the moral responsibility to do more like cities, governments. Support with your voice and **your vote** those who are doing something on conservation, **protecting and planting trees**, solar energy, etc.
3. And, to imagine the healthier world that we are working towards and to implement changes **now**. The scientists tell us that we have about 11 years in which to reduce global carbon emissions by 45%. At the moment we are not going in the right direction. Last year carbon emissions went up. This year they will go up.

By implementing an updated Tree Protection Ordinance **this year** with the proposals set forth by the Urban Forestry Commission, you will be addressing Mary Robinson's second admonition stated above which is for cities and governments to do more on conservation, on protecting and planting trees, saving energy, etc.

I know that you have many issues to consider and some people aren't so concerned about Seattle's tree canopy or whether we'll have a wealth of trees in the future, but that's the point. We need your leadership now and your willingness to insure that this precious resource of trees will still be here in Seattle decades from now.

Thank you for protecting our trees.

Sincerely,  
Judith Leshner  
2568 10th Ave W  
Seattle, WA 98119  
[jack2729rabbit@earthlink.net](mailto:jack2729rabbit@earthlink.net)

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

**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2019 2:18 PM

**To:** Pederson, Art <Art.Pederson@seattle.gov>; McGarry, Deborah <Deborah.McGarry@seattle.gov>; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>; LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; TreesforSeattle <TreesforSeattle@seattle.gov>; Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>; Holmes, Peter <Peter.Holmes@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Amazing exceptional native big leaf maple removed at 10335 14th Avenue NW - Violation of SMC 25.11

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear SDCI Arborists,

Following the recent removal of a majestic 'exceptional' mature, native big leaf maple tree at the above address, please can you explain why the sub-standard arborist report and tree risk assessment was even considered as an acceptable reason for condemning the tree to be removed?

According to the thread of communication available online through the SDCI portal, there was insufficient evidence of the tree being 'high risk' and therefore quite rightly your department disallowed its removal. However, with no visible evidence in any communication available for the public, something happened behind the scenes and suddenly the decision was reversed and despite no meaningful additional evidence being provided to prove the tree was 'hazardous' and could be removed, SDCI approves the removal without condition.

This is very similar to a situation in Magnolia where 'exceptional' Lombardi poplar trees were permitted for removal based on a bogus tree risk assessment by an arborist contracted by Ballard Tree Removal Service who pressured the City along with the trees' owner with enough legal threats that despite the initial rebuttal of the initial report by SDCI that rightly claimed there was insufficient evidence to declare the trees to be 'hazardous', but suddenly reversed this opinion and allowed the trees' removal without condition.

This type of situation has significant legal, cultural and financial implications for the increasingly respected scientific realm of arboriculture because if property owners and unethical tree removal companies can overrule pre-existing municipal and city codes as well as established arboricultural industry reporting standards by threatening legal action to achieve their end goals, then the qualifications, education and experience of professional arborists will be undermined. If the current repeated violations of SMC 25.11 does not cease immediately, it wont be long before there is absolutely no need for tree care professionals in the City as there wont be any medium or large trees left to care for or assess, as all of the unethical tree removal services and developers will have successfully cut them all down because they will learn from others like them, that they can pressure the City of Seattle into doing whatever they want, as currently the tree protection codes dont carry any more weight than the paper they are printed on.

Out of interest which tree service company removed the tree and were they at all connected to the arborist who submitted the report connected to the removal request?

As a reminder to the SDCI arborists; there are options for risk mitigation that can help reduce the risk rating of larger and older trees, even those with 'defects' and other structural or health 'problems'. One very well established technique is 'retrenchment' pruning which is common in Europe for managing veteran trees that are much older and much more 'hazardous' than this particular maple. This technique includes shortening or removing larger portions of the tree's canopy while promoting increased growth of lower branching including young epicormic, adventitious (aka 'water sprouts') branches that can often become viable stems or branches in time. Another option is the installation of support systems, again something commonly used in Europe and throughout the world to support large parts of old trees.

Claiming that removing a tree is the only way to mitigate the risk should be a red flag to any reviewer of a tree risk assessment, and should result in the immediate rejection of the removal permit request.

This tree should NOT be removed.

I have asked for clarification on the current requirements for the standards of reporting by arborists when reporting on trees on sites being developed and when a 'hazard tree' removal permit is being requested, but as yet have not received this information. Please can you provide this as apparently the current standards for what is accepted is not sufficient and needs significant revision.

Thank you and kind regards,

Stuart Niven, BA(Hons)

*PanorArborist*

ISA Certified Arborist PN-7245A (2012 - Present)

Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) (2013 - Present)

ISA Certified Tree Worker - Climber Specialist (2011 - 2015)

Arborist on Seattle's Urban Forestry Commission (2018 - Present)

Lifetime Member of PNW-ISA & Member of Seattle Audubon

[www.panorarbor.com](http://www.panorarbor.com)

Tel/Text: 206 501 9659

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**From:** Cynthia Slate <cynthiaslate@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2019 2:48 PM

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

**Subject:** Re: Trees for Burke Gilman Trail/more illegal removals

**CAUTION: External Email**

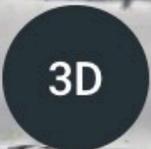
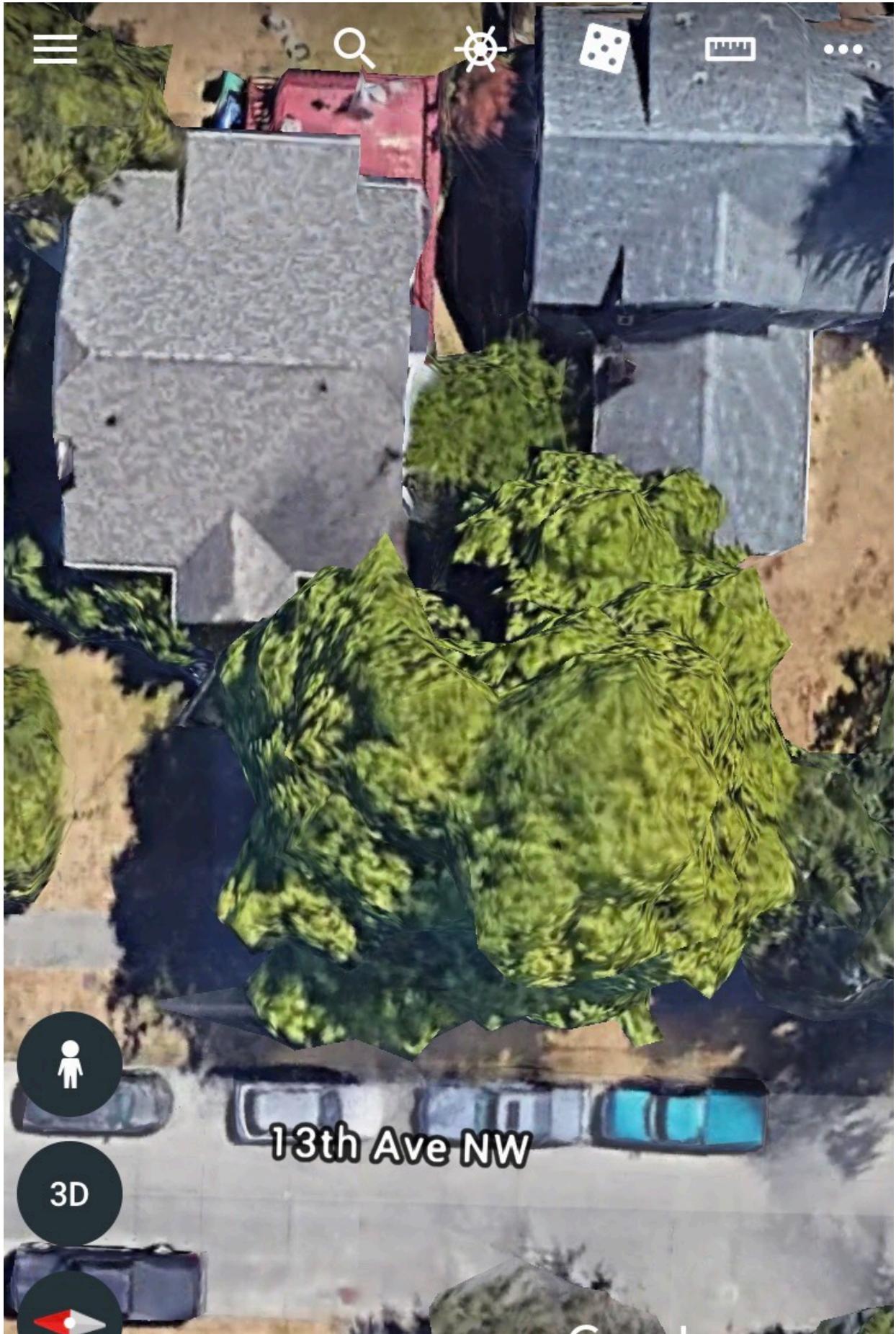
Regarding the Burke Gilman trail, I don't think we should use porous pavement right around the trees. I have seen this trend on Cap Hill, and these tree wells used to have dandelions.

Porous pavement doesn't support our pollinators. Instead plant native lupines that are drought tolerant, native sand strawberries, etc. We have a pollinator crisis as well as a climate crisis we need trees and pollinator friendly flowers.

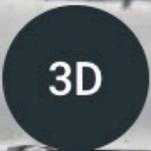
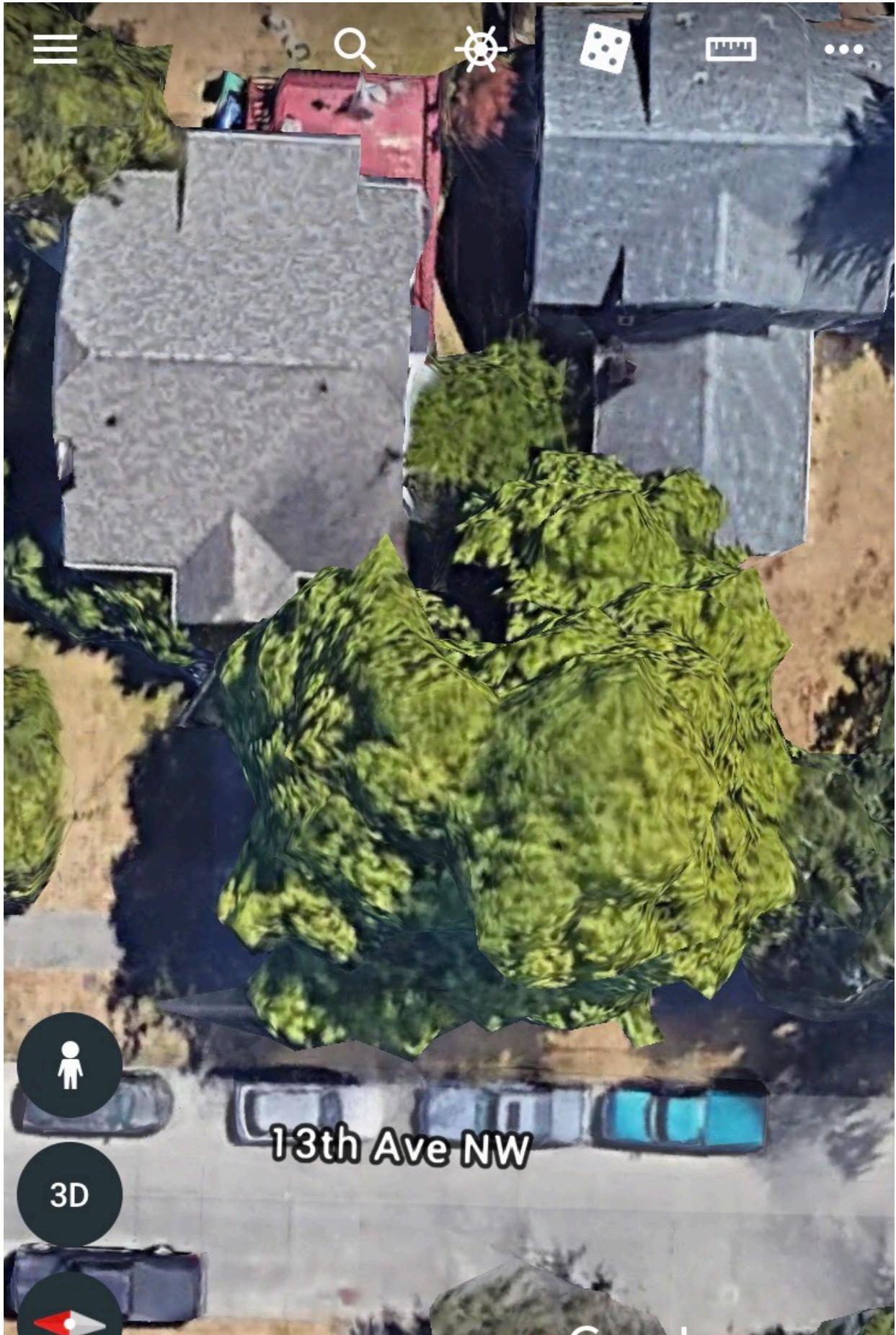
Also, please consider not planting birch, kousa dogwoods, Japanese hornbeam, or Katsura. All need more water 10 plus years after planting in my North Ballard -Whittier neighborhood.

Second, we are losing so many trees -taken out illegally, which then creates more heat island effect and these planting strip trees can't take it. Please stop the illegal cuts.

Here is a photo of 38 inch at DBH Tulip Tree



13th Ave NW



13th Ave NW

to show you what we're losing. No development took this tree out. This tree was in an unbuildable front setback in a single family zone neighborhood.

Cynthia Slate  
Density+Trees  
206 372-4271

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**From:** urbanbalance@activist.com <urbanbalance@activist.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2019 7:03 PM  
**To:** COTE@aiaseattle.org  
**Cc:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support City Council's recent resolution to update Seattle's tree ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Seattle AIA Committee on the Environment co-chairs, Shannon Bunsen and Rosa Folla AIA,

Thank you for your hours of promoting the environment through the American Institute of Architects!

As a fellow architect who is mindful of the built environment, we know that raising the number of residences per lot does not always mean that all of the significant trees have to fall. The attached PDF are recent multifamily developments within Ballard HUB that succeeded in that regard. A real win-win for growing in density Seattle!

If you concur and if you have a moment, please consider the AIA COTE's support to the Urban Forestry Commission and the City Council's recent resolution to update Seattle's tree ordinance. If you are looking for a starting point, here is a link from a local tree advocacy committee:

<https://treepac.org/resolution-for-organizations-please-join-in-support-of-updating-seattles-tree-ordinance/>

Kind regards,

David Moehring AIA NCARB  
Architect  
Senior Capital Planner  
University of Washington Bothell  
[urbanbalance@activist.com](mailto:urbanbalance@activist.com)  
o 425-352-5143 | m 312-965-0634



11347 20TH AVE NE:  
NEEDLESS CLEAR-CUT  
OF SEATTLE'S URBAN  
FOREST WHERE TWO  
NEW 4,500 SQ. FT.  
HOMES & TWO  
'DADU' COULD HAVE  
BEEN BUILT WHILE  
RETAINING SEVEN  
EXCEPTIONAL TREES!

Attached image is from the actual location in Seattle, which is a lot at 11347 20th Ave NE.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/weather/topstories/us-cities-are-losing-36-million-trees-a-year-heres-why-it-matters-and-how-you-can-stop-it/ar-AAEC1h1>



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**From:** Cynthia Slate <cynthiaslate@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 30, 2019 12:31 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Trees for Burke Gilman Trail/more illegal removals

**CAUTION: External Email**

Thank you Sandra,

Can I also add that the ingredient in the porous pavement is also a concern. It is made with 50 to 100% recycled used tire rubber. This has shown to be unsafe for our Chinook Salmon. Over time this will create micro-crumb rubber that will wash into our Sound.

In this photo from SDOT you can see the little particles breaking off -they are going to wash to the Sound. We have all learned in Seattle that everything on our streets and sidewalks "Flows to Sound". Let not start putting more toxics into our Sound.



What the new permeable pits will look like. (Image: SDOT)

Thanks again,

Cynthia

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**From:** Sheri Sullivan <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Friday, August 30, 2019 7:59 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, as used by the Seattle Department of transportation (SDOT) – to cover all trees 6" DBH and larger on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all trees removed that are 6" DBH and larger with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay an in-lieu 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 trees over 6"DBH being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 significant non-exceptional trees in 3 years per lot outside development  
Establish one citywide database for applying for tree removal and replacement permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
5. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
6. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all tree service providers working on trees in Seattle.
7. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Sheri Sullivan

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

416 W Crockett St  
Seattle, Washington 98119

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**From:** Philip Vogelzang <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 30, 2019 8:08 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers.

The Friends of Discovery Park want you to understand that 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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25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay an in-lieu 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 trees over 6”DBH being removed on undeveloped lots.

4. Allow removal of no more than 2 significant non-exceptional trees in 3 years per lot outside development

Establish one citywide database for applying for tree removal and replacement permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.

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

6. Expand SDOT’s existing tree service provider’s registration and certification to register all tree service providers working on trees in Seattle.

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

Sincerely,

Philip Vogelzang

president Friends of Discovery Park

Philip Vogelzang

[philip.vogelzang@gmail.com](mailto:philip.vogelzang@gmail.com)

1926 7TH AVE W

Seattle, Washington 98119

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**From:** ken danis <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Saturday, August 31, 2019 12:08 PM

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

**Subject:** Seattle’s Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Our Tree Ordinance needs to be strengthened and enforced. I live in Greenlake and 3 large cedar trees have been cut to the ground in the last 10 years within 100 feet of our house. This is terrible for supposedly 'green' Seattle.

Please protect the trees - or they will be just a memory.

Enact legislation proposed by Save Our Trees.

And I VOTE BASED ON THIS ISSUE!

ken danis

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

2142 n 61st st

seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** Janet Detwiler <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 31, 2019 2:57 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.
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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.

Janet Detwiler

[janetd1957@gmail.com](mailto:janetd1957@gmail.com)

1020 E Denny Way, 34

Seattle, Washington 98122-2446

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**From:** Timothy Colman <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 31, 2019 3:23 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I've been creating tree posters for 20 years to help people learn the importance of going outside and protecting our flora and fauna. 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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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.

Timothy Colman

[Tim@goodnaturepublishing.com](mailto:Tim@goodnaturepublishing.com)

6521 23rd AVE NE

Seattle, Washington 98115

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**From:** Acalia Randall <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Saturday, August 31, 2019 3:45 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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- private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
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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.

Acalia Randall

[calimarci.r@gmail.com](mailto:calimarci.r@gmail.com)

4105 North 9th street

Tacoma, Washington 98406

---

**From:** Heather Murphy Secrist <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 31, 2019 4:24 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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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.

Heather Murphy Secrist

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

16731 8th Ave Ne  
Shoreline , Washington 98155

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**From:** Patricia Scott <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 31, 2019 6:47 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.

Please see the film Fantastic Fungi when it is screened here in Seattle 11/15/19 and Bellingham 10/18-10/24 <https://fantasticfungi.com/trailer/>. Please understand and commit to sustaining the essential-to-all-life mycellium network connecting all trees. Do not interrupt this network by unnecessarily removing trees.

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.

Patricia Scott

[pascott888@gmail.com](mailto:pascott888@gmail.com)

2020 NE 89th St Apt 104

Seattle, Washington 98115

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**From:** Kevin Murphy <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 31, 2019 8:46 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.

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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.

Kevin Murphy

[kemurphy@microsoft.com](mailto:kemurphy@microsoft.com)

526 30th Ave East  
Seattle, Washington 98112

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**From:** Woody Wheeler <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 31, 2019 9:16 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 essential to 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. Just one proposed upzone in NE Seattle where I live will remove seven acres of large standing trees. This is the opposite of what we should be doing as a City as the climate warms and our city grows. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves.

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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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.
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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.

Woody Wheeler

[woody.wheeler@gmail.com](mailto:woody.wheeler@gmail.com)

1725 NE Naomi Place

Seattle, Washington 98115

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**From:** Sarajane Siegfriedt <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 31, 2019 9:23 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.

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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.

Sarajane Siegfriedt

[sarajane3h@comcast.net](mailto:sarajane3h@comcast.net)

11811 33rd Ave NE

Seattle, Washington 98125

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**From:** lisaclarklisaclark@gmail.com <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Sunday, September 01, 2019 7:18 AM

**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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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.

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

1900 E Fir Street

Seattle, Washington 98102

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**From:** Susan Helf <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Sunday, September 01, 2019 9:38 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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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.

Susan Helf

[shelf30@gmail.com](mailto:shelf30@gmail.com)

8501 12th Ave. NW, 208

Seattle, Washington 98117

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**From:** carol Isaac <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 01, 2019 9:55 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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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.

carol Isaac

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

2152 5th ave west  
seattle, Washington 98119

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**From:** Helaina Piper <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 01, 2019 10:15 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.

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

Helaina Piper

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

10208 30th Ave SW

Seattle, Washington 98146-1222

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**From:** Leslie Sherman <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 01, 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,

Two years ago the house next door was sold. It had a beautiful tree in the back yard, filled with birds. They brought in a couple of guys with a chain saw who started to cut it down. I objected and told them they had no right to do that. They apparently went through channels, "money changed hands," and they tree was ultimately cut down. They put on their addition,

and one year later, moved to California for another techie job. No more jays or lovely songbirds, and the perpetrators are gone gone gone.

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.

PLEASE SAVE OUR TREES, THEY ARE MORE VALUABLE THAN A FEW SQUARE FEET OF LAND

Leslie Sherman

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

3647 35TH AVE W

SEATTLE, Washington 98199

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**From:** Sonia Lyris <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Sunday, September 01, 2019 6:30 PM

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

**Subject:** Trees, please

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I love trees. The bigger, the better. And as human critters, we need our trees. Seattle's trees are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable.

But you know this.

Do you know this? Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff, and mediate heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife.

We share this city with animals. It's part of what makes us human. There's an ecology at work, even here in the city.

We need our trees.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are allowing trees to be removed and not replaced. This is appalling.

We must stop losing trees, in particular the big ones.

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

Trees matter. Please act now.

Sonia Lyris

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

PO Box 31181

SEATTLE, Washington 98103

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**From:** Rebekkah Madden <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Monday, September 02, 2019 7:00 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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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.

Rebekkah Madden

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

7541 18th ave nw

Seattle, Washington 98117

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**From:** Lyndsey Baldwin <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 02, 2019 7:15 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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Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.

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

Trees provide climate crisis mitigation. Ongoing scientific research confirms that reforestation is among the most effective action that can combat the looming climate crisis. As one of the most environmentally aware cities in the nation, Seattle should be taking the lead in the preservation of our urban forest.

Trees clean the air. According to the Nature Conservancy, leaves can filter out fine particulate matter (PM)—one of the most dangerous forms of air pollution, generated from burning biomass and fossil fuels.

Our urban forest is an integral part of our public health infrastructure. Numerous studies have found trees have proved to aid mental health, decrease obesity, and just generally make people happier.

Lyndsey Baldwin

[lyndsey.baldwin@gmail.com](mailto:lyndsey.baldwin@gmail.com)

2624 NW 85th St

Seattle, Washington 98117

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**From:** Alaina Butler <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Monday, September 02, 2019 7:24 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,

As rents rise astronomically and the city loses its soul to Amazon, the trees are the only thing keeping me (a soon to be physician) here. Please don't lose the only feature that sets Seattle apart from other big cities.

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.

Alaina Butler

[sgt\\_pepper@comcast.net](mailto:sgt_pepper@comcast.net)

4255 Linden Ave N  
Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** Kyle White <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 02, 2019 10:24 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
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8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Kyle White

[kylewhite0225@gmail.com](mailto:kylewhite0225@gmail.com)

13120 NE 117th St

Kirkland, Washington 98034-8504

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**From:** Steven Wells <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Monday, September 02, 2019 11:52 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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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've been a gardener and lover of trees for over 60 years. I've planted hundreds of them working in nurseries and doing landscaping. I can't imagine living in a city without big trees in it. They provide us with so many benefits, especially for our mental and physical health, as well as the health of our city and our planet.

I've seen people do so many horrible things to trees over my lifetime, and I've done my best to educate them as to why they should leave them be. It's appalling to see so many magnificent trees mistreated and cut down without any thought for their innate worth as well as their usefulness and beauty. It especially galls me to see people move into an old home and cut down existing large trees that have been there for decades. What hubris!

It used to be that a large percentage of a city building lot had to be left as green space for trees and other plantings to grow. It seems like that rule has been ridiculously relaxed so much that I now see houses take up to 80% of a lot and leave no room for trees at all. This is a sure fire recipe for climate disaster, and for making our city less livable and beautiful. We should be planting smaller houses and bigger trees! Big houses are environmental disasters with their huge energy requirements, and the idea of conservation seems to have disappeared with Jimmy Carter. Why is this stupidity allowed?

Seattle is known for our great climate that allows a huge variety of trees to grow well here. Our Arboretum has hundreds of viable trees that could be growing in neighborhoods all over the city, especially in low income areas that usually don't have many big trees at all. I worked with the city on their tree inventory a few years ago in Rainier Beach and was shocked at how few big trees there were in some areas. These places need more trees in them for people's well being and good health, as well as their access to the beauty of the natural world.

Please upgrade our existing laws re: trees to give them a bigger voice in our planning decisions. They may not "talk" to you, but they do to me and to many others. They say leave us alone to grow and be wonderful and to help heal our wounded planet. Climate change is a real danger and trees are one sure way to alleviate some of the worst consequences of it, and to make our city more beautiful at the same time. We can, and we Must do better!

Steven Wells

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

9249 1st Ave NW

Seattle, Washington 98117

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

**Sent:** Monday, September 02, 2019 12:16 PM

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

**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

An old tree was cut down outside of my apartment about a year ago. My apartment is now hotter and much less pleasant and so is my block. Notice is not enough if there is no way to stop threatened trees. We need a method to keep this from happening. 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.

Adrienne Weller

[Adrienne.w@earthlink.net](mailto:Adrienne.w@earthlink.net)

504 E Denny Way, #300

Seattle, Washington 98122

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**From:** David Tomlinson <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 02, 2019 12:24 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.

David Tomlinson

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

16 Sweet Earth Lane

Friday Harbor, 98250

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**From:** DOUGLASS FISHER <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 02, 2019 1:22 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save our Trees!

CAUTION: External Email

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I am writing this letter because I have seen the complete de-forestation of lots in our neighborhood (Pinehurst) upon which two houses are replacing one older one. I've seen many of these lots prior to clearing. It seems that developers want to make it easy for them at the expense of mature trees. And then they are routinely charging over a million dollars for these houses.

I'm not adverse to change, and the infill of city lots to accommodate more housing is reasonable and necessary. I would just like the mayor, city council, and other relevant persons and agencies to strengthen ordinances related to these critical issues.

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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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.

DOUGLASS FISHER

[simfish46@hotmail.com](mailto:simfish46@hotmail.com)

2205 NE 117th St

Seattle, Washington 98125

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From: David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2019 7:36 AM  
To: DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; DOT\_LA <DOT\_LA@seattle.gov>;  
SCI\_Code\_Compliance <SCI\_Code\_Compliance@seattle.gov>  
Cc: Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Josh Morris  
(joshm@seattleaudubon.org) <joshm@seattleaudubon.org>; Roberts, Ben  
<Ben.Roberts@seattle.gov>  
Subject: Tree cut at 2103 Thorndyke Ave W Seattle

CAUTION: External Email

Urgent:

Yet Another reason why Seattle needs a stronger tree ordinance including tree removal permits and significant advanced notice with adequate notice distribution.

A very large tree bordering a house addition at 2103 Thorndyke Ave W and a right-of-way sidewalk is cut down with log fragments yet to be removed. Inspect for tree species and health immediately. There were no permits on the SDCI EDMS for this likely Exceptional tree to be removed.

There is no arborist report for this project.

If not authorized, please promptly issue fines per Director rule - tripled if intentional. No evident reasons for this contributor to the urban forest to be removed relative to the project - especially considering pruning options and that

the tree largely fell on the ROW. Hazardous trees must meet specific qualified accompanied by an arborist report:

<http://www.seattle.gov/DPD/Publications/CAM/cam331b.pdf>

SDCI project 6370748

<https://cosaccela.seattle.gov/portal/customize/linktorecord.aspx?altId=6370748-CN>

SDCI EDMS-- <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/default.aspx?ref=3017317>

Complaint Record Number:  
008263-19CP

For TreePAC  
David Moehring  
Nearby resident

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**From:** Barbara Bernard <barbara\_bernard@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 03, 2019 12:40 PM

**To:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; DOT\_LA <DOT\_LA@seattle.gov>; SCI\_Code\_Compliance <SCI\_Code\_Compliance@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Josh Morris (joshm@seattleudubon.org) <joshm@seattleudubon.org>; Roberts, Ben <Ben.Roberts@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Tree cut at 2103 Thorndyke Ave W Seattle

**CAUTION: External Email**

I would like to share my concerns and ask that the removal of this tree at 2103 Thorndyke Ave W, be investigated promptly.

In a time where we are all outraged about the burning of the amazon, we must be equally outraged when needless description of trees occurs in our own city.

Attached are photographs that show this tree is likely exceptional and therefore, should have some protections.



Thank you,  
Barbara Bernard  
3010A 31st ave w

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Tuesday, September 3, 2019, 7:36 AM, David Moehring <[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)> wrote:

Urgent:

Yet Another reason why Seattle needs a stronger tree ordinance including tree removal permits and significant advanced notice with adequate notice distribution.

A very large tree bordering a house addition at 2103 Thorndyke Ave W and a right-of-way sidewalk is cut down with log fragments yet to be removed. Inspect for tree species and health immediately. There were no permits on the SDCI EDMS for this likely Exceptional tree to be removed.

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SDCI project [6370748](#)

<https://cosaccela.seattle.gov/portal/customize/linktorecord.aspx?altId=6370748-CN>

SDCI EDMS--- <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/default.aspx?ref=3017317>

Complaint Record Number:  
008263-19CP

For TreePAC  
David Moehring  
Nearby resident

Sent using the mail.com mail app

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Magnolia Tree Keepers - All messages" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to Magnolia-tree-keepers\_all+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion on the web visit [https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/Magnolia-tree-keepers\\_all/trinity-27ced4eb-4b75-47e1-9496-5603c2332b10-1567521383395%40msvc-mesg-gmxus009](https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/Magnolia-tree-keepers_all/trinity-27ced4eb-4b75-47e1-9496-5603c2332b10-1567521383395%40msvc-mesg-gmxus009).

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**From:** John Vance <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 03, 2019 4:50 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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Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

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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.

John Vance

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

3438 23rd Ave W

Seattle, Washington 98199

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**From:** Mary Bell <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 03, 2019 7:15 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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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.

Mary Bell

[makithappen@rocketmail.com](mailto:makithappen@rocketmail.com)

19505 115th Ave SW

Vashon, Washington 98070

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**From:** Debbi Pratt <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 03, 2019 8:41 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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8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Debbi Pratt

[debbi77777@hotmail.com](mailto:debbi77777@hotmail.com)

3535 27th Pl. W #505

Seattle, Washington 98199-2110

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**From:** Kathleen Myers <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 04, 2019 1:00 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,

The Seattle Urban Forestry Commission has a good plan. This no time to be compromising on our environment. Listen to those who care, and are thoughtful and organized. We just might survive.

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.

Kathleen Myers

[kdm00001@gmail.com](mailto:kdm00001@gmail.com)

1336-1/2 13th Avenue South

Seattle, Washington 98144

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**From:** Jesse Taylor <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 04, 2019 12:24 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.
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.

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