

## SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Weston Brinkley (Position #3 – University), Chair • Sarah Rehder (Position #4 – Hydrologist), Vice-chair  
Steve Zemke (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • Elby Jones (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist - ISA)  
Stuart Niven (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • Michael Walton (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)  
Joshua Morris (Position #7 – NGO) • Steven Fry (Position #8 – Development)  
Blake Voorhees (Position #9 – Realtor) • Neeyati Johnson (Position #10 – Get Engaged)  
Whit Bouton (Position #11 – Environmental Justice)  
Jessica Jones (Position #12 – Public Health) • Shari Selch (Position #13 – Community/Neighborhood)

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

**February 12, 2020**

### Meeting Notes

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

#### Attending

##### Commissioners

Weston Brinkley – Chair  
Sarah Rehder - Vice-Chair  
Steven Fry  
Jessica Jones  
Josh Morris  
Blake Voorhees  
Michael Walton  
Steve Zemke

##### Absent- Excused

Whit Bouton  
Elby Jones  
Neeyati Johnson  
Stuart Niven  
Shari Selch

##### Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE  
Mike Wynne - SPU  
Shane Dewald - SDOT

##### Public

Tom and Bea Hoffmann  
David Ramsay  
Richard Ellison

**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:

None

#### Ship Canal Water Quality Project (SCWQP) tree mitigation update

Mike Wynne is the Ship Canal Project Deputy Project Manager. Mike provided an overview of the project and the construction timeline.

The purpose is to keep sewage out of surface waters. The timeline for this project is 10 years and has five main contracts. This project represents 85% of the City's combined sewer overflows. A 19ft diameter boring machine is being used to create a tunnel to hold overflow. SPU bought properties and did soil remediation as part of the project.

Tunnel construction is about to begin. While the boring might have no impacts to trees, ventilation, mechanical and electrical vaults and shafts made tree removal unavoidable.

Tree inventory and assessment:

- 80 trees require removal
  - o 40 are classified as exceptional (24,250 sqft of canopy cover in Ballard, Fremont, and Queen Anne – to be mitigated). They looked at two options in terms of tree replacement: square footage and Two-for-One policy. The two-for-one ended up resulting in more trees planted, so they chose that option.
  - o 6 are dead or dying trees that were removed after the assessment was made
- Reasons for removal
  - o Excavation for site remediation
  - o Mechanical and odor control vault installation
  - o Drop shaft construction
  - o Diversion structure construction
  - o Above ground structures

Tree mitigation:

Mike shared a table showing the tree mitigation planting locations by site.

Neighborhood impacts:

The project is impacting five neighborhoods.

Ballard

- Site remediation requires excavation and tree removal
- 32 trees need removal (18 trees of an exceptional grove)
- 64\* replacement trees needed (\*excludes sick/dead trees recommended for removal by the arborist)
- 44 trees will be planted on site (30 parcel trees and 14 street trees)

The maps Mike shared only show trees removed and planted. They don't show trees preserved.

East Ballard

- Large underground mechanical and odor control vaults
- 4 trees need removal, 8\* replacement trees required (\*excludes sick/dead trees recommended for removal by the arborist)
- 20 trees will be planted on site (1 parcel tree and 19 street trees)

Fremont

- Underground shaft and diversion structure
- 16 trees need removal (2 exceptional trees)
- 32\* replacement trees required (\*excludes sick/dead trees recommended for removal by the arborist) 23 trees will be planted on site, (5 parcel trees, 18 street trees)

#### North Queen Anne

- Drop shaft and structures
- 24 trees need removal (20 exceptional, 6 dead trees removal already)
- 48\* replacement trees required (\*excludes sick/dead trees recommended for removal by the arborist)
- 13 trees will be planted on site, (1 parcel and 12 street trees)

#### Wallingford

- Storage tunnel and east shaft
- Soil remediation
- 4 trees need removal
- 8\* replacement trees required (\*excludes sick/dead trees recommended for removal by the arborist)
- 29 trees will be replaced on site (16 parcel and 13 street trees)

#### Exceptional tree canopy mitigation

- Exceptional tree canopy area estimated at 24,250 sqft from 40 exceptional trees
- Assume conservative 25 ft dripline per average deciduous tree, results in a minimum need of 49 trees.
  - o Instead use the more conservative estimate of the 2 for 1 Executive Order which results in need for 80 trees.
- 8 or more continuous trees (grove potential at maturity) can be achieved at Ballard, Wallingford, and north Queen Anne sites
- Design meets exceptional tree mitigation intent for both existing sites that had exceptional trees.

#### Off-site mitigation by SDOT Urban Forestry

##### Updates since las briefing

- Trees have been removed from Ballard site, and a few more to be removed next month
- Fewer trees need to be removed overall, due to site design refinement
- Street trees changed from Maples to Hornbeams, Littleleaf Lindens, and Elms
- South operations center no longer an option for mitigation
- Pump station design has begun with many tree planting opportunities
- Trees planting continues until pump station construction ends 2024
- Present to UFC again after tree planting and mitigation is complete

The presentation went into Q&A.

The overall budget for the project is over \$500 million. Potential expenditures to plant 160 trees would be approximately \$160K and this puts the tree expense in perspective.

The UFC asked about the establishment period (3-5 years) maintenance (summer watering) for all mitigation trees. Mike said that they mostly have one-year contracts. He will ask the project about longer maintenance through establishment.

Sandra will follow up with Mike on whether or not the project is providing maintenance for trees through establishment (3-5 years). Depending on the response, Sarah will work on a draft letter of recommendation.

**NOTE: Meeting notes are not exhaustive. For more details, especially the Q&A section, listen to the digital recording of the meeting (organized by date) at:**

**<http://www.seattle.gov/urbanforestrycommission/meetingdocs.htm>**

#### **Draft Safe Routes to School letter**

The group discussed and edited the draft letter proposed by Whit.

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

**NOTE: (Sandra will clean up and Weston and Whit will review before sending)**

#### **Tree regulations presentations by Steve Zemke**

Steve presented the first [PowerPoint](#) on why the current tree ordinance doesn't work. He will present the second PowerPoint at the next meeting.

Steve briefed the UFC on today's tree regulations briefing to Council's Land Use and Neighborhoods committee.

#### **Public comment**

Richard Ellison: He is a plant ecologist by trade. He was part of former Councilmember Jan Drago's urban forestry group back in the '90s. He feels that we are re-living the same things. We would have great meetings and then everything would fall into a black box. He sees the same problem now. There is an opportunity now because there are several Councilmembers interested and actually listening. Heritage trees (huge exceptional trees) like the Tulip Tree that got cut down recently are being cut down. Code must be such that people can't remove exceptional trees. Maybe allow people to build taller if they preserve a tree. Everything is voluntary, no matter how exceptional the tree is. Should encourage people to relocate large trees. Invasive vegetation is a problem. Low hanging fruit is to have uphill developers to do restoration downhill. Education alone will not be enough to save trees.

#### **Adjourn**

#### **Public input:**

**(see below)**

**From:** David Powell <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2020 1:20 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,

Dear elected official.

As a long time citizen of our wonderful city, I would ask that you please strongly consider making the saving of our urban forest a high priority. It strikes me as smart to update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Thank you!

David Powell  
[davidpowell123@yahoo.com](mailto:davidpowell123@yahoo.com)  
5815 Ann Arbor Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98105

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**From:** Charna Klein <charnaklein@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2020 7:26 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.

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.

Charna Klein

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

6521 36 Ave NE

Seattle , Washington 98115

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**From:** Anne Roda <a.roda@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Friday, February 7, 2020 10:29 AM

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

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

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I worked for the Seattle Parks Department for many years as a Gardener and planted many trees for the City. I know first hand how much effort it takes to not just plant a tree, but to keep it alive over our hot and dry summers and over it's lifetime. As a city, we need to protect as many trees as possible to provide not just beauty, but all the vital elements that trees give to us by their continued presence, cleaner air, shade in the hot summer, lessening storm water runoff, as well as providing habitat for wildlife.

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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- (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6” and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
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  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.

Anne Roda

[a.roda@comcast.net](mailto:a.roda@comcast.net)

1130 N 82nd St

Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** Wendy Oberlin <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 8, 2020 9:37 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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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.

Wendy Oberlin

[wendy.oberlin@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.oberlin@gmail.com)

4015 Wallingford Ave N

Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** tawny Bates <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Saturday, February 8, 2020 8:36 PM

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

**Subject:** Save our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I agree with the following comments about the critical importance of tree canopy. I also believe tree protection efforts MUST operate from the Office of Sustainability, NOT the Dept. of Construction and Land Use.

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.

tawny Bates

[tawny.bates@outlook.com](mailto:tawny.bates@outlook.com)

1208 N. 42nd st

Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** Cat Reny <catreny@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 9, 2020 8:15 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save our Trees!

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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

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

In fact, implementation and enforcement of tree protection should be transferred to the Office of Sustainability and Environment.

Thank you,  
Cat Reny

Cat Reny  
[catreny@earthlink.net](mailto:catreny@earthlink.net)  
332 N. 101st St.  
Seattle, Campeche 98133

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**From:** Brian Magliozzi <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 9, 2020 9:44 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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

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

Brian Magliozzi

[bmzulu2010@gmail.com](mailto:bmzulu2010@gmail.com)

2100

19th ave s, Washington 98144

**From:** Nancy Simsons <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 9, 2020 10:14 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. 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.

Nancy Simsons

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

1709 N 82nd

Seattle , Washington 98103

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**From:** Marilyn Reed <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 9, 2020 11:43 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please please keep Seattle livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to our air and to keeping in balance our 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. So important for the physical and mental health of our residents, programs walking near trees is proven to be healing and stress relieving.

Seattle's rapid population and construction growth with 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.

Marilyn Reed

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

12200 Stone Ave N #65

Seattle , Washington 98133

**From:** Holly Townes <hollytownes@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 9, 2020 2:35 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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Holly Townes

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

5016 Wallingford Ave N

Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** Susan Montacute <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 9, 2020 8:42 PM

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

**Subject:** Save our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please don't allow money-grabbing developers to continue felling majestic trees which benefit us all and will continue to benefit others for generations to come.

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.

Susan Montacute

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

4325 Jill PI S

Seattle, Washington 98108

**From:** Wimsey Cherrington <wimsey@wimsey.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 9, 2020 9:51 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

This is my #1 concern and has been increasingly distressing as time passes without an updated Tree Protection Plan as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

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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removed on undeveloped lots.

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

Wimsey Cherrington

[wimsey@wimsey.org](mailto:wimsey@wimsey.org)

701 17th Avenue #107

Seattle , Washington 98122

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**From:** Susan Hemingway <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2020 9:04 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

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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.

Developers have decimated my neighborhood by chopping down all trees in yards where new homes are being built. One developer tried to claim a large tree on the property would make it impossible to build a home on the property. That was false. A tree-conscious developer designed a home that included the large tree in the home/property design. The courts ruled in the neighborhood's favor to save the tree.

The same decimation is occurring along Greenwood Ave. Large trees lining the streets were

needlessly chopped down just to fix a minor crack in a sidewalk. A year later they have not been replaced, and even when replaced, it will be 70-80 years before they reach comparable maturity.

When the trees are cut down, so are the animal habitats. The developers of the new house on the corner of my street chopped down a small tree on the parking medium despite a fence and sign requesting just 1 more week for the three baby birds to mature enough to leave the nest. The day work commenced, the developer pulled the nest out of the tree and killed all three chicks just to ensure their work schedule would not be interrupted. It is against both state and federal law to kill song birds. But a call to the City of Seattle said they had no ability to prevent private contractors from killing wildlife.

Do the right thing and save the trees and wildlife.

Susan Hemingway

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

737 North 82nd Street

Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** Margaret Morrison <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2020 5:12 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Margaret Morrison

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

9257 7th N.W.  
Seattle, Washington Wa.

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**From:** Cynthia Young <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2020 7:43 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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Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.

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

Cynthia Young

[pearl206@aol.com](mailto:pearl206@aol.com)

1523 NE 98th ST

Maple Leaf in North Seattle, Washington 98115

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**From:** Karen Barrett <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2020 8:04 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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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 AN EVEN BIGGER replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
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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.

These are minimal requirements to keep our city on track for canopy protection!

Climate change is NOW & our ability to grow new trees must not be taken for granted!

Karen Barrett

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

24th Ave E

Seattle, Washington 98122

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**From:** Jacqui Smith-Bates <jacquisb@spu.edu>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2020 10:18 AM

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

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

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

It is SO important to Seattle residents to have a strong and healthy tree canopy - it's what makes our city desirable and beautiful! 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.

Jacqui Smith-Bates

[jacquisb@spu.edu](mailto:jacquisb@spu.edu)

4319 Wallingford Ave N

Seattle , Washington 98104

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**From:** Catherine Ruha <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2020 7:53 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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

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

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

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

This city MUST do something to combat climate change and prevent Seattle from becoming a heat island. Trees provide natural cooling and keep this the Emerald City we claim to be. Trees reduce stress and help people feel happy. Happy people walk more under the shade of a tree where birds can nest and sing. The overall environmental and emotional health of the city and our people need trees.

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

Catherine Ruha

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

1541 NE 91st Street

Seattle, Washington 98115

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**From:** Tom Hoffmann <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2020 8:11 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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

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

My wife and I are frequent visitors to Seattle. For more than 20 years we have been coming to visit our son, and more recently to visit our grandchildren. We have always been impressed with what we perceived to be a very progressive tree protection program. Now more than ever it is important to protect our trees. If our grandchildren are to have any chance to living a

good life we need to protect our natural environment. Trees are an indicator of a healthy ecosystem. Please give them a chance.

Tom and Bea Hoffmann

Tom Hoffmann

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

Howard St

Winona, Mn, Minnesota 55987

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**From:** Deborah Bell <deborahbell@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2020 7:52 AM

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

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

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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Deborah Bell

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

4470 Whitman N

Seattle , Washington 98103

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

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2020 8:26 AM

**To:** Lewis, Andrew <Andrew.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Pedersen, Alex <Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Mosqueda, Teresa <Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Magnolia Community Council <magnoliacommunityclub@gmail.com>; Queen Anne Community Council <queenannecc@gmail.com>; Barbara Bernard via Magnolia Tree Keepers - All messages <Magnolia-tree-keepers\_all@googlegroups.com>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>;

DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; ppcprint@nwlink.com; Dawson, Parker <Parker.Dawson@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Today at 9:30am- Tree Ordinance EIS first in November 2020: Is this serious?



**SEATTLE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL:** *Please reinstate minimum tree retain-age / planting requirements for all lots that have maximum 35% ground coverage. The minimum was removed with ADU legislation in August 2019 for no reason.*

*REFERENCE: Highly objectionable code changes that was not studied within the FEIS for the Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance is found within the Seattle Municipal Code SMC 23.44.008.I. This legislation reduced the minimum tree retain-age and planting requirements by 80% despite the fact that the amount of open land area remained unchanged.*

Seattle Needs a **Stronger Tree Ordinance** now. As such, why would an Environmental Impact Study be conducted as late as November 2020? Please resist the delay on work that has been progressing through the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission for years. Since an EIS would only be required if the City Council intends on reduce tree protections, a stronger tree ordinance may proceed sooner rather than later. Public outreach was extensively conducted in 2018. Why would SDCI be looking first at an EIS in November 2020 which could mean an ordinance not being in place until early or mid-2021?

Not mentioned by the Urban Forestry Commission: Please **reinstate minimum tree retainage / planting requirements** for all residential-zoned lots that have maximum 35% ground coverage

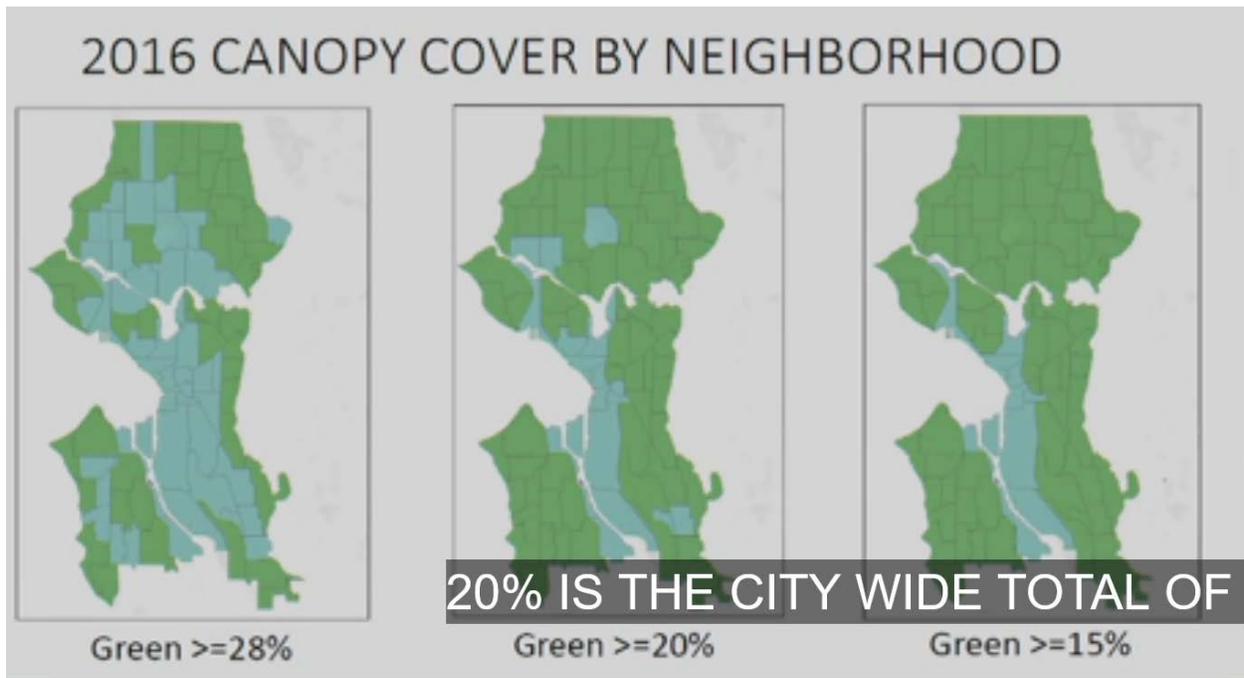
requirements. This minimum was removed with ADU legislation passed in August 2019 - and for no apparent reason. The result is impacting Seattle's Tree Canopy goals and natural habitats. REFERENCE: The objectionable code change that was not studied within the 2018 FEIS for the Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance is found within the Seattle Municipal Code **SMC 23.44.008.I**. This faulty legislation reduced the minimum tree retainage and planting requirements by 80% despite the fact that the amount of open land area remained unchanged at 65%.

David Moehring AIA  
Board Member, TreePAC

**SEATTLE LEGISLATION SHOULD RETAIN A MINIMUM OF 2-INCHES OF TREE CALIPER FOR EVERY 1,000 SQUARE FOOT OF LAND AREA WITHIN RESIDENTIAL ZONES.**

<http://seattle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8061899&GUID=26DD7102-31F2-4207-A690-CEDA9EB496BC>

Note the disparity within the tree canopy is mentioned in Josh Morris' December 2019 presentation as well as the presentation planned for today.



Forwarded email

From: "Michael Oxman"

Date: February 11, 2020 at 6:35 PM

To: "Thaler, Toby" ,

[richard\\_ellison@hotmail.com](mailto:richard_ellison@hotmail.com)

Subject: Re: [treepac\_seattle] Review of DCI Tree Submittal per Resolution

Howdy,

Thanks for the update on tree policy. I also have a list of 8 comments:

1).

The letter does not express awareness of a profound emergency. The values statement at the beginning of the proposal omits the fact that rapid development can wipe out our limited stock of mature trees in a very short amount of time.

What happened to the City Auditor recommendation to centralize authority in the Office of Sustainability?

2) What about our demand for a moratorium on Exceptional tree removal permits ? Citizens stood for 2 minutes at the podium during the public comment period at the December 18th Council Land Use committee meeting to point out the city stalls on meaningful tree protection regulations because the tree's real estate value exceeds environmental and social values. The moratorium is a deterrent against the city Council stalling the adoption of the new tree ordinance to appease more developers who want to remove more trees to make more profit.

3) What happened to the City Auditor recommendation to centralize authority in the Office of Sustainability & Environment ?

4) Mitigation of tree loss must include metrics of equivalency. Calculating the number of trees needing to be planted to equal the size of the trees lost must be done in trunk diameter/sapling caliber or canopy volume replacement metric.

5) The letter does not express awareness of a profound emergency. The values statement at the beginning of the proposal omits the fact that rapid development can wipe out our limited stock of mature trees in a very short amount of time.

6) Cross-train Parks & Street Tree crews as data collectors.

7) Deploy crews to underserved communities.

8) Replace damaged concrete farther from tree trunks.

8) Require ANSI A300 standards for tree care operations and ANSI Z133 tree worker safety standards.

I write this keeping in mind that 4 City Councilmembers retired rather than face the criticism that they failed to update the tree ordinance for over 10 years.

Thanks for listening.

Michael Oxman  
ISA Certified Arborist #PN-0756A  
(206) 949-8733  
[www.treedr.com](http://www.treedr.com)

On February 11, 2020 at 12:42 PM "Thaler, Toby" <[Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov](mailto:Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov)> wrote:

Your review of the presentation and SDCI report in response to Resolution on Wednesday's Land Use and Neighborhood Committee agenda (item 3 at <http://seattle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=A&ID=760835&GUID=97474BF7-3480-4539-892C-3F106ADC9619>) would be appreciated.

Thanks,

Thanks,

Toby Thaler, Legislative Aide

Councilmember Pedersen's Office

Cell 206 640-6982

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**From:** Michael Cvitkovic <[cvit4@msn.com](mailto:cvit4@msn.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2020 9:50 AM

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

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

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Michael Cvitkovic

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

1422 N 46th St

Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** Laura Skiles-Bundy <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2020 11:12 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.

Laura Skiles-Bundy

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

18747 Ridgefield rd nw

Shoreline, Washington 98177

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**From:** Laura Lovell <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2020 11:30 AM

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

**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I am writing to express support for the proposed Urban Tree Protection Ordinance. Seattle's tree lined streets are a treasure. They clean the air, create beauty and a sense of peace in troubled times. Some of them provide food for pollinators, and a home for birds. Sometimes they drop leaves on us, sometimes push up sidewalk paving slabs. Get over it. They give us more than they inconvenience us. Seattle's neighborhoods are more lovely by far than San Francisco's, because we have trees and gardens. Please do not make our city a dreary expanse of concrete . We have enough such areas already. Please support this proposed plan.

Thank you.

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.

Laura Lovell

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

3616 Burke N.

Seattle, Washington 98103

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**From:** David Geisen <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2020 11:56 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Greetings!

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.

Thank you!

David

David Geisen

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

19th Ave. S

Seattle, Washington 98144