



# City of Seattle

Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

## Office of Sustainability & Environment

Jessica Finn Coven, Director

### SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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

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

#### Meeting notes

November 4, 2020, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Via Webex call

(206) 207-1700

Meeting number: 146-166-1990

Meeting password: 1234

*In-person attendance is currently prohibited per the Washington Governor's Proclamation 20-28. Meeting participation is limited to access by joining the meeting through a computer or telephone conference line.*

#### Attending

##### Commissioners

Weston Brinkley – Chair  
Sarah Rehder - Vice-Chair  
Elena Arakaki  
Elby Jones  
Julia Michalak  
Josh Morris  
Stuart Niven  
Shari Selch  
Blake Voorhees

##### Staff

Sandra Pinto Urrutia - OSE

##### Guests

Toby Thaler – CM Pedersen’s office

##### Public

Robert Harlon  
Steve Zemke

##### Absent- Excused

Whit Bouton  
Jessica Jones  
Michael Walton

**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:** Steve Zemke: Would like to comment on the 2020 Urban Forest Management Plan. He is concerned that although the UFC did have the opportunity to participate in discussions, it didn't get to see the draft that other communities saw. He also has a concern about other communities that fit in the historically underrepresented people beyond BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color). He would recommend using a broader term. Also, SDCI's is not required to report loss of trees larger than 24" due to development. On Action #18, it's important to strengthen tree protection, not just update regulations. Council asked SDCI to produce a list of potential actions. He will share more information with the group separately.

#### **Adoption of October 7 and October 14 meeting notes**

Commissioners reviewed October meeting notes.

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

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

#### **Cambium Carbon thank you letter**

Commissioners discussed the draft letter.

Sandra confirmed that, unfortunately, urban forestry staff felt that due to the challenging budgetary times ahead, they were not going to have capacity to dedicate to this effort as a pilot city. Core Team is intending to get involved at a regional level. Sandra wasn't sure if King County had applied but said that Tacoma had. As the program builds a robust demand side to urban wood re-utilization, Seattle hopes to be able to participate. This would most likely be in 2022.

**ACTION: A motion to approve the Thank You Letter to Cambium Carbon as amended was made, seconded, and approved.**

#### **City Budget discussion**

Weston led the discussion on the [Mayor's 2021 proposed budget](#), specifically the sections pertaining to SDOT and SPR. Weston also talked about different Statements of Legislative Intent and other budget actions affecting urban forestry, including:

- [SLI SPU-002-A-001](#) Requesting SPU to explore an expansion for the tree Ambassador program.
- [CBA OSE-002-A-001](#): Add \$132K General Fund to OSE for the Green New Deal Advisor position
- [CBA OSE-004-A-001](#): Add \$140K General fund to OSE for the Climate Policy Advisor position
- [SLI OSE-006-A-001](#): Requesting OSE to propose a plan for consolidating urban forestry functions
- [CBA SDCI-002-A-001](#): Add 1 FTE arborist and 1 FTE Housing and Zoning inspector to SDCI and \$275,237 General fund to fund the positions to improve enforcement of tree regulations, and
- [CBA SDCI-011-A-001](#): Proviso \$758,663 in SDCI for updated tree protection regulations.

**NOTE: Meeting notes are not exhaustive. For more details, especially the group discussion, please listen to the digital recording of the meeting at:**

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

**Public comment:** Steve Zemke: The City should commit to doing another canopy cover assessment in 2021 and include 3D to capture volume. He asks the UFC to urge the City to implement tree regulations, including a permit system that can provide funding for trees. Regarding the proposed SDCI proviso, he thinks the UFC should support it. It's been 11 years now and the regulations need to be updated. This can be a revenue-generating ordinance.

**Adjourn:** Weston adjourned the meeting.

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

**From:** Zachary Pfriem <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 12:38 PM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@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.

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.

Zachary Pfriem

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

11316 28th Ave NE

Seattle, Washington 98125

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**From:** dmoehring@consultant.com <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 23, 2020 6:51 AM  
**To:** seattletreelossgooglegroups.com <seattletreeloss@googlegroups.com>  
**Cc:** Treepac <Treepac@groups.outlook.com>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** 35th Ave Big Leaf Maple

**CAUTION: External Email**

With Seattle losing an average of 600-800 street trees per year, let's trust that your voices has saved an Exceptional Bigleaf maple!  
Thank you and Mr. Lowney for speaking up and for helping to make a difference!

David Moehring  
TreePAC board member

From: "DOT\_SeattleTrees" <[Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov](mailto:Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov)>  
Date: October 22, 2020  
To: "DOT\_SeattleTrees" <[Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov](mailto:Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov)>  
Cc:  
Subject: 35th Ave Big Leaf Maple

Hello,

Thank you for contacting SDOT Urban Forestry regarding the proposed removal of a large Big Leaf Maple at 1101 35th Ave. SDOT works diligently to preserve, protect, and expand the City's Urban

Forest for the benefit of all communities and their families. SDOT invests in our urban forest directly through tree planting and maintenance programs, and we partner and collaborate with other City departments to deliver on the goals of Seattle’s Urban Forestry Management Plan. Managing trees in a highly urban environment poses a unique set of challenges as we work to achieve safe access to safe, healthy, and vibrant streets for all.

It is our practice to post trees when we receive a permit application before a final decision is made to approve or deny the permit. This is an important step to alert the community of a pending decision and allows us to provide information about the decision-making process. In the City of Seattle, maintenance of public sidewalks are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner.

In this case, SDOT received an application to repair the adjacent sidewalk and a tree removal permit application which included an arborist’s risk assessment. SDOT will be issuing a permit for the sidewalk repair. This requires the applicant to work with an approved vendor, coordinate with both SDOT Street Use and SDOT Urban Forestry to replace the damaged infrastructure while taking measures to preserve existing healthy trees.

SDOT places tremendous value on our Urban Forestry assets and understands the unique role that trees and vegetation contribute to the environment and the health and vibrancy of our neighborhoods and communities. It is because of these values that SDOT has developed codes, policies, and procedures to ensure that the decision whether to allow the removal of a privately maintained street tree is based upon documented evidence that supports the decision.

When this tree was initially evaluated by SDOT Urban Forestry after the permit application, it was clear that the pending infrastructure repairs will have an impact on the tree regardless of the specific repair methods. These methods may include narrowing or moving the sidewalk, ramping or bridging over roots, as well as other methods documented in the Seattle Trees and Sidewalks Operations Plan. Some root pruning will be required to achieve a sidewalk condition that meets the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements that govern sidewalk design and construction. These impacts will exacerbate existing defects and decay already present within the tree due to its age, species and previous poor pruning practices known as “topping”.

Given the great public interest in the future of this tree, SDOT has contracted with an experienced 3rd party Certified Arborist to perform a more detailed evaluation of the tree’s condition and to include the context of an adjacent pavement repair operation. This information coupled with additional insight gained during SDOT Urban Forestry’s inspections of proposed pavement repairs will ultimately inform whether the tree can successfully be retained. This procedure ensures that the City is conforming to the Street Tree Ordinance adopted in 2013 should it be necessary to remove the tree based upon its condition, the pavement restoration requirements, or a combination of both.

We appreciate your feedback and concern about this project.

Sincerely,



**SDOT Urban Forestry**

ROW Maintenance and Urban Forestry Division

City of Seattle, [Department of Transportation](#)

O: 206-684-TREE (8733) | [seattle.trees@seattle.gov](mailto:seattle.trees@seattle.gov)

**From:** Janet Way <janetway@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 23, 2020 6:55 AM  
**To:** dmoehring@consultant.com; seattletreelossgooglegroups.com <seattletreeloss@googlegroups.com>  
**Cc:** Treepac <Treepac@groups.outlook.com>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: 35th Ave Big Leaf Maple

**CAUTION: External Email**

I hope this “third party” can be trusted.

I suggest that the tree advocates also hire an “expert” arborist to analyze this tree.

Janet

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**From:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 23, 2020 8:31 PM  
**To:** PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>; Vasquez, Colin <Colin.Vasquez@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; TreesForNeighborhoods <TreesForNeighborhoods@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Clearcutting two lots with Tree Groves abutting Kubota Garden

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Seattle Planner Mr. Colin Vasquez,

Thank you for the two publicly-requested online meetings regarding tree clearcuts of urban forest areas around Kubota Gardens:

- **Oct 27, 5:30pm (9666 51st Ave S)**
- **Nov 2, 5:30pm (9714 LINDSAY PL S)**

Please be prepared to share with the public participants information relative to these projects so they may be informed, including:

- site plans (before and after development)
- number of affordable units (under \$450k) to be provided
- total number of trees removed
- number of tree groves removed
- number of Exceptional trees removed
- where the proposed unit lots correspond with these trees
- number of trees to be replanted and comparison of before / after canopy
- alternative site plans considered to increase the retention of existing large trees

- alternative access options to reduce amount of impermeable surfaces
- locations of riparian pathways and flyways over this Kubota area.
- 

Looking forward to being better informed!

Member of TreePAC

David Moehring

[Videos](#) on Seattle tree loss and habitats...

<https://treepac.org/tree-videos/>

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**MEETING ONE:**

Public Meeting for project 3018093-LU

Address: 9666 51ST AVE S

Area:South Notice Date:10/12/2020

Project Description Land Use Application to subdivide one parcel into nine unit lots in an environmentally critical area. Proposed parcel sizes range from 3,982.03 sq. ft. (typical for 9) to 27,413.57 sq. ft. (east end at creek). Existing structures to be demolished.

This subdivision of property is only for the purpose of allowing sale or lease of the unit lots.

Development standards will be applied to the original parcel and not to each of the new unit lots. Comments may be submitted through: **10/27/2020**

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**MEETING TWO:**

Public Meeting for project 3030337-LU

Address: 9714 LINDSAY PL S

Project: 3030337-LU

Area:South

Notice Date:10/12/2020

Project Description

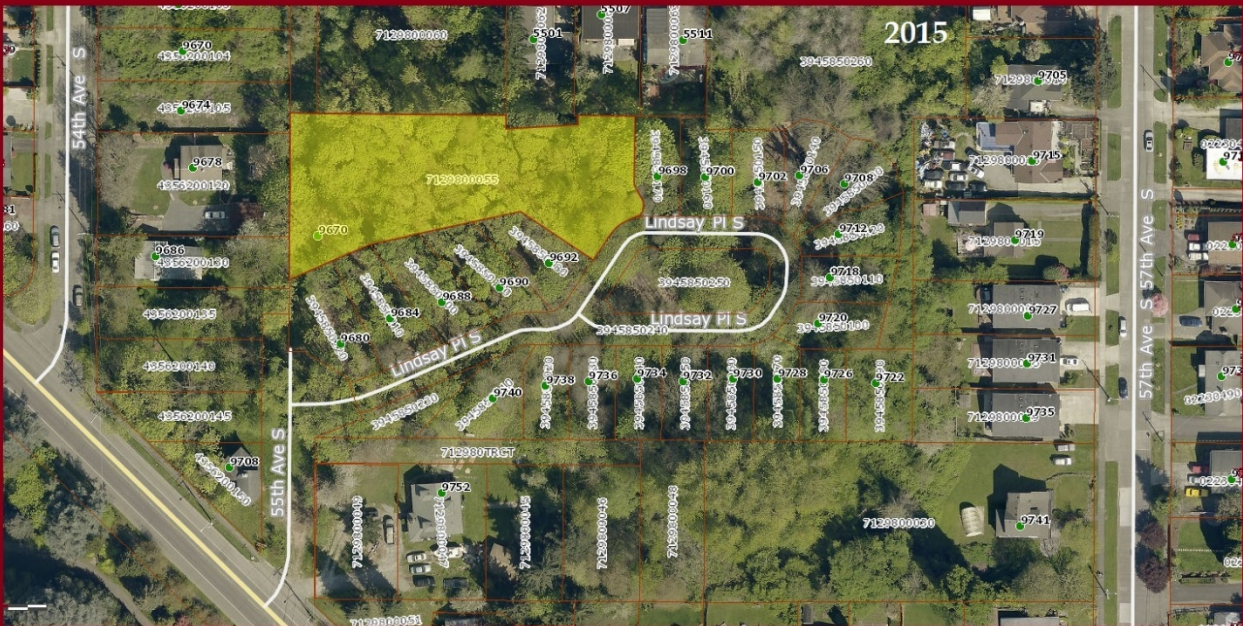
Land Use Application to subdivide two parcels into six parcels of land and one tract.

Comments to [PRC@seattle.gov](mailto:PRC@seattle.gov) may be submitted through: **11/02/2020**



# CLEARCUT SEATTLE:

9670 LINDSAY PL S being DIVIDED INTO 4 MORE LOTS...



Seattle clearcutting at Kabota Village from 2015 (above) to 2017 (below)



**Sent:** Sunday, October 27, 2019 at 4:07 PM

**From:** "David Moehring" <[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)>

**To:** "PRC" <[PRC@seattle.gov](mailto:PRC@seattle.gov)>, "DOT\_LA" <[DOT\\_LA@seattle.gov](mailto:DOT_LA@seattle.gov)>, "DOT\_SeattleTrees" <[Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov](mailto:Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov)>, [nathan.torgelson@seattle.gov](mailto:nathan.torgelson@seattle.gov)

**Cc:** "seattle-tree-ordinance-working-grouplists.riseup.net" <[seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net](mailto:seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net)>, [shyanika.burton@seattle.gov](mailto:shyanika.burton@seattle.gov), "Pinto de Bader, Sandra" <[Sandra.Pinto\\_de\\_Bader@seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@seattle.gov)>, "Herbold, Lisa" <[Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov](mailto:Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov)> ,



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

**Subject:** Clearcutting Tree Grove abutting Kubota Garden (9666 51st Ave S)

Thank you for allowing public comment on the **9666 51st Ave S**. With at **least 50 requests to** [PRC@seattle.gov](mailto:PRC@seattle.gov), please hold a public meeting to review the environmental and landuse issues of the proposed clear-cutting of a large wooded lot bordering Kubota Gardens.

This is yet another reason why Seattle needs a stronger tree ordinance.



Parcel 7131300100; Owned by Amerinor Holding, Lot area 62,726 sq ft

**FACTS:**

- A tribe sent in a public comment asking that the dam be removed to protect the fish population. Besides the dam on this property, there are 4 other dams, all within 200 feet of each other, 2 up stream and 2 downstream, and on Parks property.
- Another Correction letter requires the plans be revised to indicate the abutting Kubota Gardens Natural Area. The current version merely says there is a park within 100'.
- About 6 years ago another project on the southern boundary of Kubota Garden sought a 29 unit project on 5 acres in a wetland buffer on the upstream edge of the garden on S 55th St.. Fortunately, Seattle Parks purchased the 5 acres from them for \$5 million.

We know of lot subdivisions within Single-Family zone, but since when does SDCI allow selling 9 homes on one 62,726 sq ft lot within a SF-7200 zone? Is the owners at Amerinor Holding looking for a contract rezone from SF-7200 to LR1 in order to allow multiple family dwellings on this lot? Will any of these nine homes be set aside as affordable housing? Is Seattle that desperate to take away more park-like land in lieu of redeveloping run-down existing properties that have no adjacency to a Seattle nature habitat?

It was my understanding that in order to build nine market-rate and unaffordable homes on this deep lot that a subdivision of a lot should be pursued instead on the proposed unit lots. Please review carefully the code sections that are applicable to single-family zones compared to multifamily zones. See that plans of the project that referenced SMC 23.22.062:

<http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/GetDocument.aspx?id=3341073>

This was sent in this Streams report :

<http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/GetDocument.aspx?id=3318786>

• **SUMMARY OF POINTS FOR THE PUBLIC MEETING IF CALLED FOR BY AT LEAST 50 PEOPLE:**

- This 900' long X 100' wide parcel that crosses Mapes Creek & a Category 4 wetland.
- The September 16th, 2019 Site Plan Cycle 8 for MUP 3018093 shows this project I have been monitoring for a long time has been reactivated.
- This unbuilt natural site is zoned SF7200, but the 9 unit lots in the 1.44 acre site are only 4,000 sq ft. Since when is the 75/80 lot division rule ignored for lots like this?
- A 1-31-19 Corrections letter from Parks asks if the applicant considered a deed to the city for the creek area on the east side of the site. They would like to own it as done adjacent to this lot. Why is the City willing to accept a Conservation Easement?
- Parcel F is part of separate lot that appears to be shelved in the current application. Parcel F was previously included in a design that did not have adequate driveway turn radius's for fire trucks, due to the narrow 100' width of the majority of the site.
- What enforcement is being pursued by SDCI on the existig tree grove and two Exceptional trees? The plans only mention 1 of the Exceptional Trees, and does NOT mention the Grove, but they are not close to each other. Both Exceptional trees are extra large, and thus are deal-breakers in the existing design. Each of the trees would cost an entire lot to save.

To quote the Arborist Report, the forest is so dense that plotting the trees on the plan 'presents real problems'. So does that warrant the arborist to avoid plotting any trees?

David Moehring  
TreePAC and concerned Seattle resident.

Let's build a community by following the Codes.

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Address:

9666 51ST AVE S

Project:

3018093-LU

Zone:

SF 7200

Applicant Contact:

MYLOAN NGUYEN – (206) 763-8496

SDCI Planner:

COLIN VASQUEZ - (206) 684-5639

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Land Use Application to subdivide one parcel into nine unit lots in an environmentally critical area.

Proposed parcel sizes range from 3,982.03 sq. ft. to 27,413.57 sq. ft. Existing structures to be demolished.

This subdivision of property is only for the purpose of allowing sale or lease of the unit lots. Development standards will be applied to the original parcel and not to each of the new unit lots.

The project requires the following approvals:

ECA Administrative Condition Use to allow smaller lot sizes to recover development potential.

Unit Lot Subdivision to create nine unit lots.

SEPA Environmental Determination

INFORMATION AVAILABLE:

The project file, including application plans, environmental documentation and other additional information related to the project, is available in our electronic library at Seattle Services Portal and at the following web link: <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/>, by entering the project number.

ONLINE MEETING INFORMATION

Date:

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Time:

5:30 PM

Online Access:

Webex Meeting Link: <https://bit.ly/Mtg3018093>

Listen Line: 206-207-1700 - Access Code: 146 973 8519

Public Comment Sign Up: <https://bit.ly/Comment3018093>

Translators/interpreters provided upon request.

Contact the Public Resource Center at [PRC@seattle.gov](mailto:PRC@seattle.gov) or (206) 684-8467 at least five business days prior to the meeting to request this service.

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**From:** jebendich@comcast.net <jebendich@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Friday, October 23, 2020 10:29 PM

**To:** 'David Moehring' <dmoehring@consultant.com>; PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>; Vasquez, Colin <Colin.Vasquez@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; TreesForNeighborhoods <TreesForNeighborhoods@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Clearcutting two lots with Tree Groves abutting Kubota Garden

**CAUTION: External Email**

Please include me as one of the public participants and notify me how I may join the online meetings.

Thank you,

Judith E. Bendich

1754 NE 62<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Seattle, WA 98115  
(206) 525-5914

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

**Sent:** Sunday, October 25, 2020 10:21 AM

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

**Cc:** PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>; Vasquez, Colin <Colin.Vasquez@seattle.gov>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; TreesForNeighborhoods <TreesForNeighborhoods@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Re: [TREE LOSS] Clearcutting two lots with Tree Groves abutting Kubota Garden

**CAUTION: External Email**

I second David's request.

Thank you and kind regards,

Stuart Niven, BA (Hons)

*PanorArborist*

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

[ISA Certified Arborist PN-7245A & Tree Risk Assessment Qualification \(TRAQ\)](#)

[Arborist on Seattle Audubon Society Conservation Committee](#)

[Arborist on Seattle's Urban Forestry Commission](#)

[Board Member of TreePAC](#)

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**From:** jebendich@comcast.net <jebendich@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 25, 2020 1:09 PM

**To:** Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>; Vasquez, Colin <Colin.Vasquez@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Public meetings on Oct. 27 and Nov. 2 and 5:30 pm re Clearcutting over 90 trees from groves abutting Kubota Garden (9714 Lindsay Pl S and 9666 51st Ave S)

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Mr. Torgelson and Mr. Vazquez,

Please be prepared to answer the following questions which were prepared by Mr. David Moehring and others:

- o Can we see in advance and at the meetings the outline of the 6 proposed lots?
- o Can we see in advance and at the meetings the outlines of the proposed lots with the existing trees?
- o Can we see in advance and at the meetings which existing trees will be retained?
- o How did or will the development explore maximizing the retention of existing trees per the city code SMC 23.24 criteria #7?
- o We understand that a fire truck turnaround may be provided. How did or will the development provide adequately sized emergency access easement across the subdivision.  
(drawings should be prepared before the meeting by Collin V of Seattle Dept of Construction and Inspections)

Please address the following points by those who have written re these proposals:

- o 1: Firsthand seen neglect of neighborhood, lack of communication re: Kubota Village Phase 1, etc.
- o 2: Tree groves are riparian pathways for wildlife habitat to move through neighborhood; what steps are contemplated for buffering along riparian areas? What studies and analyses have been done re the high water mark, flora and fauna both along riparian stream banks and along migratory pathways and how these will be protected?
- o 3: Kubota Village does not meet the requirements of affordable housing
- o 4: Do the lots and house plans meet the city code? How are they taking current code into consideration?



- o 5. Phase 1 included at least 4 tree groves and several Exceptional trees that were cleared rather than protected in some part. SMC 25.11 requires those tree groves and exceptional trees to be replaced with equitable tree canopy. Where are the equitable replacement trees? Where are the code required 8-inches of new tree caliper for every new residential lot of roughly 4,000 sq ft.?
- o 6: Half of Phase 2 has already been clear cut BEFORE the subdivision application has been removed. How was this permitted? The Seattle Hearing Examiner concurs that tree removal is only allowed per SMC 25.11 with a construction permit. Construction permits should not be issued before the lots are legal lots. Will there be fines assessed per the Director's Rule. Trees for Seattle indicates that this part of Seattle has significantly less tree canopy than other parts of the City. We is tree clearing of green space continuing here and other areas like South Park?

Sincerely yours,

Judith E. Bendich

1754 NE 62<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Seattle, WA 98115  
(206) 525-5914

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**From:** Mark Pedini <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 8:43 AM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@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.

Mark Pedini

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

3218 SW 100th Street

Seattle, Washington 98146

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**From:** Heather Carlton <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Monday, October 26, 2020 1:57 PM

**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 11 years ago and is long overdue.

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

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

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

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

maintain a diversity of tree species and ages.”

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

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Heather Carlton

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

13224 97th Ave NE, Apt C206

Kirkland, Washington 98034



---

**From:** Siegelbaum, Heidi <heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 11:59 AM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** Steve Zemke (stevezemke@msn.com) <stevezemke@msn.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Shrinking Forest Canopies and Urban Heat Islands

**CAUTION: External Email**

Hi Sandra

Please submit the article below into the public record and to support adopting a tree ordinance.....

All the best and many thanks,  
Heidi

Heidi Siegelbaum  
Stormwater Strategic Initiative Lead

Washington Stormwater Center at Washington State University

[Heidi.Siegelbaum@wsu.edu](mailto:Heidi.Siegelbaum@wsu.edu)

(253) 445-4502

Home office: (206) 784-4265

<https://wastormwatercenter.org>

<https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov>

**From:** Biophilic Cities <[info@biophiliccities.org](mailto:info@biophiliccities.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 11:14 AM  
**To:** Siegelbaum, Heidi <[heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu](mailto:heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu)>  
**Subject:** Shrinking Forest Canopies and Urban Heat Islands

[View this email in your browser](#)



Color enhanced aerial image of New York City illustrating variations in vegetation cover.

Image Credit: USFS

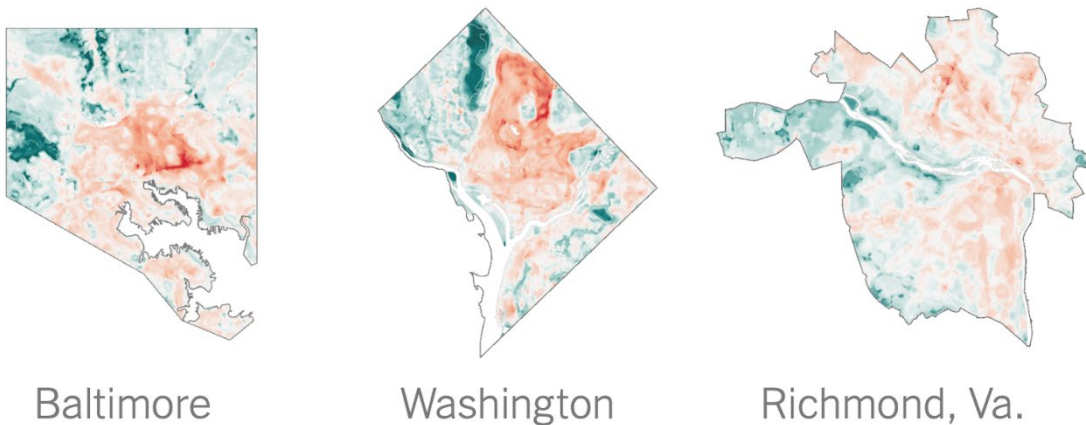
## Shrinking Forest Canopies and Urban Heat Islands

By Lucia Shuff-Heck

In the [latest issue](#) of the Biophilic Cities Journal, Vol. 3 No. 2, [Taking Stock: The First Step to Creating Healthier Cities With Trees](#) provided an overview of tools to assist cities in improving tree canopy, targeting areas of the city that need it most. The article by David Novak, a senior scientist and i-Tree Team Leader with the USDA Forest Service, outlines some of the characteristics of tree canopies in cities, including the problems they are facing.

As urban populations grow, and cities expand, tree populations continue to decline. An important aspect of forest management is data collection, something the USDA hopes to encourage with tools such as [I-Tree](#), an analytical tool that provides information on urban forests by quantifying the structure and value of local forests. Through I-Tree, cities can accurately assess tree canopies by parcel and identify threats to the health of trees and forests.

Forest management tools like I-Tree also have the potential to help cities identify insufficient tree canopy in underserved neighborhoods. Unequal distribution of nature across cities is part of a larger trend, in the United States and across the globe, that threatens cities and their residents. One of the detrimental effects of inadequate green space is the urban heat island effect, a challenge that only grows more severe as climate change stokes increasingly higher temperatures in hot summer months.

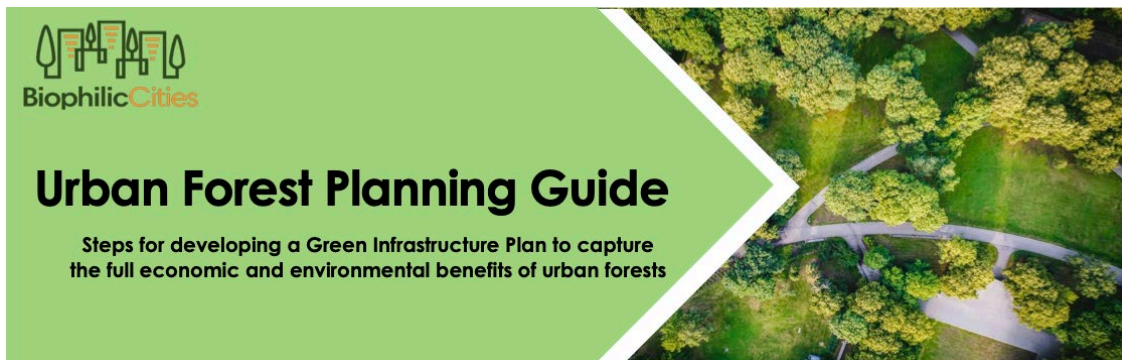


*Image: The New York Times*

A [recent article](#) in the New York Times highlights the staggering disparities within "urban heat islands," noting that temperatures can vary by as much as 20 degrees across neighborhoods in the same city. Of the temperatures recorded, the lowest were in forested neighborhoods, and the highest in industrialized areas, downtowns, and areas with a high proportion of asphalt surfaces and little to no tree cover. In multiple cities, high temperature districts aligned with lower-income neighborhoods, predominantly communities of color,

while the comparatively low temperature districts were mostly white and higher-income.

Research supports these findings. A [study](#) of 108 urban areas in the United States identifies the role of historically racist housing policies as a factor in the variances of intra-urban heat. Approximately 94% of areas studied demonstrate higher land surface temperatures in redlined areas compared to non-redlined areas, increasing the vulnerability of these neighborhoods to extreme heat events.

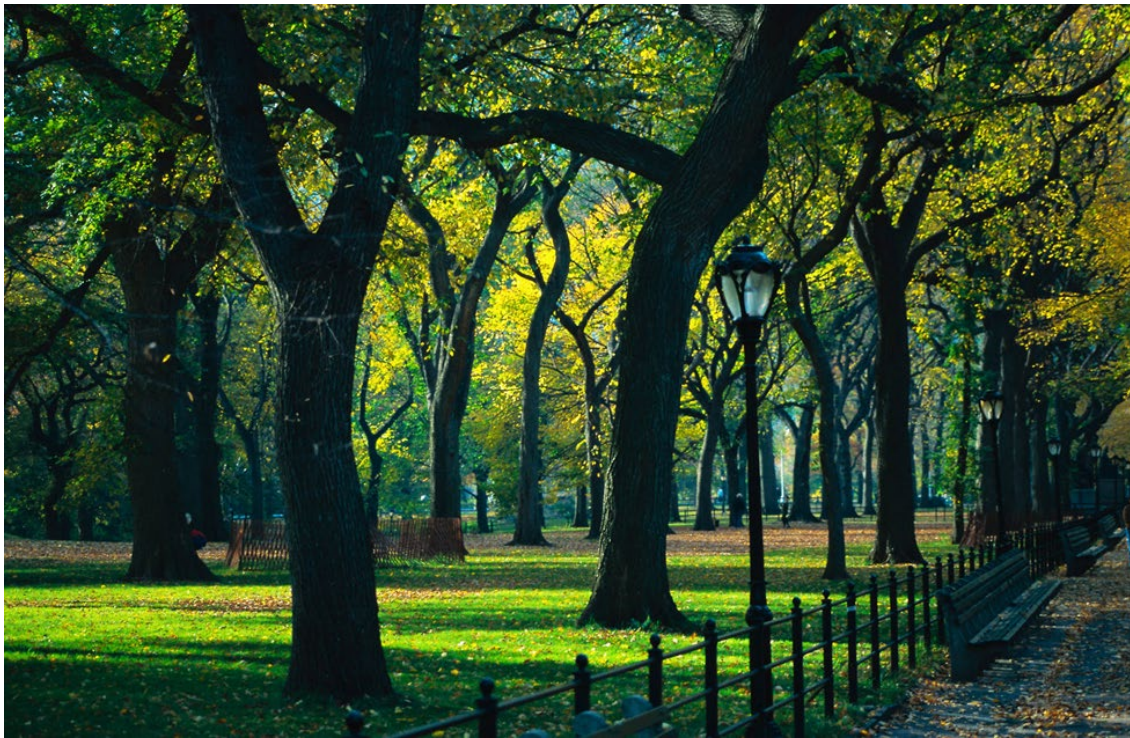


### Three Components of a Thriving Urban Forest



In order to address disparities like these, services like I-Tree are essential, and can allow city officials to more easily identify areas that suffer from diminished tree canopies. [Urban Forests: Nature as a Resource](#), a Biophilic Cities white paper by Jess Stevens, further clarifies the benefits of urban forests, and outlines steps to developing a Green Infrastructure Plan. With targeted plans, like those in [Portland](#), or [Melbourne](#), cities can more equitably address the need for urban greenery in all communities.

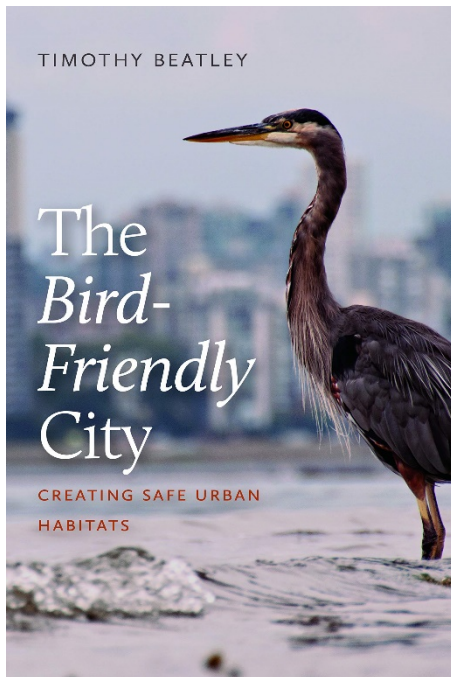




Urban trees can provide numerous benefits to society.  
Photo by David Lorenz Winston (Provided courtesy of USFS).

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## Book Announcement



*The Bird-Friendly City: Creating Safe Urban Habitats* is now available for purchase!

This latest book by Biophilic Cities Founder and Executive Director Tim Beatley takes readers on a global tour of cities that are reducing the risks birds face in urban areas through public education, urban planning and design, habitat restoration, architecture, art, civil disobedience, and more.

Find *The Bird Friendly City* at [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), or your [local independent bookseller](#). You can also visit [Island Press](#) and use code BEATLEY for a 20% discount.

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*Lucia Shuff-Heck is the Communications Coordinator for Biophilic Cities, and an undergraduate in the Global Sustainability program at the University of Virginia.*



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PO Box 400122  
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Learn more at [BiophilicCities.org](https://BiophilicCities.org)

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This email was sent to [heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu](mailto:heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu)  
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University of Virginia · PO Box 400122 · Charlottesville, Va 22904 · USA

**From:** RICHARD ELLISON <climbwall@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 3:43 PM  
**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Pedersen, Alex <Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Budget Support for the Urban Forest with a new Parks and Tree Ordinance!

**CAUTION: External Email**

To: Councilmember Alex Pedersen  
[Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov](mailto:Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov) , [council@seattle.gov](mailto:council@seattle.gov)

cc. Toby Thaler [toby.thaler@seattle.gov](mailto:toby.thaler@seattle.gov)

Date: October 27, 2020

From: Richard Ellison, MS Botany  
8003 28<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115  
[climbwall@msn.com](mailto:climbwall@msn.com)

RE: Budget Support for the Urban Forest; Parks and Updating Tree Protection; Small Minority Business support.

Dear City Council;

I would like to support updating the new citywide Tree Ordinance, and more Parks and Park funding.

More details include:

1. **Special protections for Heritage Trees, Exceptional Trees**. It should be mandatory, not optional, to try to change lot configurations to save trees. Existing language should be changed so that **“projects MUST be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees.”**
2. **Tree protection and affordable housing strategies**. Build up not lot line to lot line. New McMansions or MF housing all suffer from limited, to almost no usable open space, on the ground. Where can a tree even grow to maturity in new development?
3. **Green Factor**. As a newly planted tree gets almost the same credit value (up to 0.9 credits) as a mature tree (only 1.0 for any sized mature tree), its not much incentive to preserve the tree than replace it.
4. **Urban Island Heat Effect, Climate Change and Environmental Justice**. Our mild summer this year has allowed us to pretend that extreme summer heat is not an issue here, and we know that mature trees and their canopies are critical infrastructure for both summer heat and seasonal peak storm rain events. For SF communities to be the major benefactors of shade trees, how do we convince the Council and other communities to make all zones tree dense?

5. **Open Space and Youth Justice/ Environmental Justice. Where are the kids supposed to play?** Especially during time of Covid-19, where kids and all people should have opportunity for outdoor access at or near their home, we are limiting public and private open space on properties with new development.
6. **Invasive Vegetation on public and private properties** are choking our mature trees and the recruitment of new trees. English Ivy, Clamatis, Blackberry, and other invasive vegetation are killing much of our “preserved” trees. New development now requires removing invasives within 10 feet of newly planted vegetation, but controls should include the entire properties lot. This missed opportunity to control invasives during new development, an inexpensive but valuable activity, means the remaining urban forest areas continue to decline.
7. Consolidate all tree management authority to the Office of Sustainability and Environment. There needs to be **better coordination of City policy regarding tree protection and maintenance.** With 9 different departments regulating trees, there must be a better way to coordinate this octopus of policies.
8. Within DCI, which has direct oversight for trees and development activities, **there needs to be a Urban Forestry Division of DCI,** to help keep City policy on trees on track. DCI has about 400 staff members, but no one person or office in charge of tree issues.
9. Outside of the tree issue discussion, I support allocating funding to small minority businesses for Covid assistance, with monies earmarked for business improvement. Many small businesses suffer from lack of investment. Shouldn't this be an opportunity to invest in improving our community businesses to make them more inviting to the neighbors, neighborhoods and city at large?

Thank you,

Richard Ellison

---

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

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 5:15 PM

**To:** Vasquez, Colin <Colin.Vasquez@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>; Morales, Tammy <Tammy.Morales@seattle.gov>; Michael Oxman (michaeloxmancomcast.net) <michaeloxman@comcast.net>; McGarry, Deborah <Deborah.McGarry@seattle.gov>; MYLOAN@MARKTRAVERSARCHITECT.COM; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; An, Noah <Noah.An@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Andrew <Andrew.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; Dawson, Parker <Parker.Dawson@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Yes! We can have density AND Tree Groves at 9666 51st Ave South (#3018093)

**Importance:** High

CAUTION: External Email

**Yes we can!**





Please refer to the attached PDF to share at this evening's 5:30 Public Meeting requested by approximately 50 people back in November 2019 regarding the proposed tree-clearing adjacent to Kubota Gardens at **9666 51st Ave South**.

***Start thinking and stop clearcutting!***

This part of Seattle is already robbed of its urban forest.

David Moehring  
TreePAC Board Member

**Sent:** Friday, July 10, 2020 at 2:26 PM  
**From:** "michaeloxman" <[michaeloxman@comcast.net](mailto:michaeloxman@comcast.net)>  
**To:** [prc@seattle.gov](mailto:prc@seattle.gov), [colin.vasquez@seattle.gov](mailto:colin.vasquez@seattle.gov)  
**Cc:** [tammy.morales@seattle.gov](mailto:tammy.morales@seattle.gov)  
**Subject:** 9666 51st Ave S Arborist Report

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the construction project for 9 single-family houses abutting Kubota Garden.

Starting in 2010, I participated as a volunteer Parks Forest Steward with the Green Seattle Partnership in planting 3 and 1/2 acres of baby trees in the abutting Kubota Garden Natural Area for 6 years. Some of our trees are now 20' tall.

Attached is the June 21st, 2020 Response by the applicant to a SDCI Corrections Notice.

The arborist still can't decide if there are any groves on site. This Response is this arborist's 4th report on these trees, plus there were 2 other arborists who also wrote Arborist Reports going back 6 years ago.

The Arborist Report is the thing that the owner should consider BEFORE deciding to develop property, not after the layout & all the engineering is complete.

I believe, since the creek buffer is not included in the Arborist Report, that the trees in the entire creek buffer are a Grove, (and therefore protected as Exceptional trees) but for some reason, that is not being included in the permit application file.

The developer is chintzing out by not asking the arborist to report on the trees within the creek buffer.

Certainly the lot has not been split yet, so just because the developer elects to survey only the trees in the construction envelope, that does not mean there are no groves on the lot, as this Response contends.

The project site contains an irrigation dam, dating back to the pre-WWII era. This dam should be removed prior to issuance of any housing permits, as asked for by the Muckleshoot Tribe.

The arborist quibbling over the definition of the term 'viable' does not mean there are no groves on site, just because the unspecified 'non-viable' trees supposedly meet the condemnation criteria in a tree risk assessment that we haven't seen.

Please note the planset includes the erroneous measurement of the Oak Tree trunk dbh as 36" (actually, it is at least 42") on the hand-drawn diagram of its dripline position, which is noted in the previous Correction

Notice. These hand-drawn dripline positions that are not to scale have no place in professional construction documents meant to direct operators of bulldozers and other heavy equipment operating in close proximity to delicate tree roots on \$5 Million dollar project.

The Oak Tree's current diameter is at least 42", which conflicts with other statements in the application. Please note the ivy covering the bases of the 2 indicated Exceptional trees prevents precise measurements, but the amount of slop is due to very old documents that haven't been updated.

The claim that the 44" dbh Bigleaf Maple tree has 'very small leaves' indicating 'excessive risk' shown in the Tree Risk Assessment form in the project file could be mitigated by removing the tightly wrapped vines from around the trunk. This tree health treatment would also enabling an accurate reading of the trunk diameter measurement.

Removing constriction of sap flow underneath the bark caused by these vines (which have been wrapped around the trunks of the 2 designated Exceptional trees since the owners first filing of the building permit application 6 years ago) could release nutrients, and the leaf size may return to normal. We won't actually know this until next spring.

By allowing this infestation of vines to persist for decades (and thru the life of the 6-year permit process), the applicant fails to comply with the zoning requirement for subdivisions that "This project maximizes the retention of existing trees".

This operation to prune away invasive English Ivy vines is an accepted mitigation of tree stress, which is much less extreme than removing the entire 44" Bigleaf Maple tree, bulldozing the 10' diameter stump, and paving the dripline with an asphalt private driveway for only 9 homes.

Please note that the trunk and much of the crown of the Bigleaf Maple tree spans the property line of the house at 9684 'A' 51st Ave South. This neighbor recently obtained permits to build a detached Backyard Cottage (DADU) less than 5' away from the fence, and underneath the dripline of the tree. This cottage is in addition to the Attached Accessory Unit (AAU) already permitted inside the house.

This DADU was built on concrete pilings to mitigate the impact within the north side of the dripline and Feeder Root Zone of the Bigleaf Maple tree. Any building by the applicant within the NE part of the dripline would exceed the threshold of the Tree Protection Area (TPA) of the Outer Critical Root Zone (OCRZ). The threshold of intrusion into 1/3rd of the Outer Critical Root Zone would be cumulative impact exceeded by the applicant's proposal.

Another flaw in the Arborist Report is the mystification about why several Cedar & other types of trees have died. They died due to soil drying out as a direct result of the neighbors paving 1 and a 1/2 abutting acres to build the 7 new homes in 2014 at 9684 51st Ave S. The lesson of this causation of impact on adjacent properties should trigger increasing the size of the Tree Protection Area (TPA) around the Oak tree and the Ginkgo tree to include the Feeder Root Zone, which is twice the dripline diameter.

I appreciate the city planning staff paying close attention. I was one of the more than 50 people who wrote in asking for a public meeting about Project #3018093.

Michael Oxman  
(206) 949-8733

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

---

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

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 5:30 PM

**To:** Morales, Tammy <Tammy.Morales@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby

<Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Andrew <Andrew.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; Dawson, Parker <Parker.Dawson@seattle.gov>; Pedersen, Alex <Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Treepac <Treepac@groups.outlook.com>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; jebendichcomcast.net <jebendich@comcast.net>; seattle-tree-ordinance-working-grouplists riseup.net <seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net>

**Subject:** Tonight's budget meeting at 5:30 pm. Please support Councilmember Pederson's motions on trees

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Members of the City Council,

I cannot attend this evening's meeting with a tree-clearing being discussed with SDCI for a urban forest lot at the north end of Kubota Garden.

Please support Councilmember Pedersen's proposals with respect to trees. The failure to enact a revised tree ordinance and the failure of SDCI to comply even with the inadequate tree ordinance we have has gone on far too long and had resulted in the clearcutting of tree groves and large trees like the image east of Kubota attached for your reference. The lack of oversight has been inexcusable and Seattle is losing the invaluable tree canopy we desperately need to stem pollution, heat rise, decreasing wildlife and reducing natural habitats, climate change and protection of valued flora and fauna. The proposals should be adopted now, and the Office of Sustainability with UFC should take on the responsibility of truly protecting the trees we now have and working to increase tree cover for all our neighborhoods.

Please enact the measures Councilmember Pedersen proposes.

Sincerely,

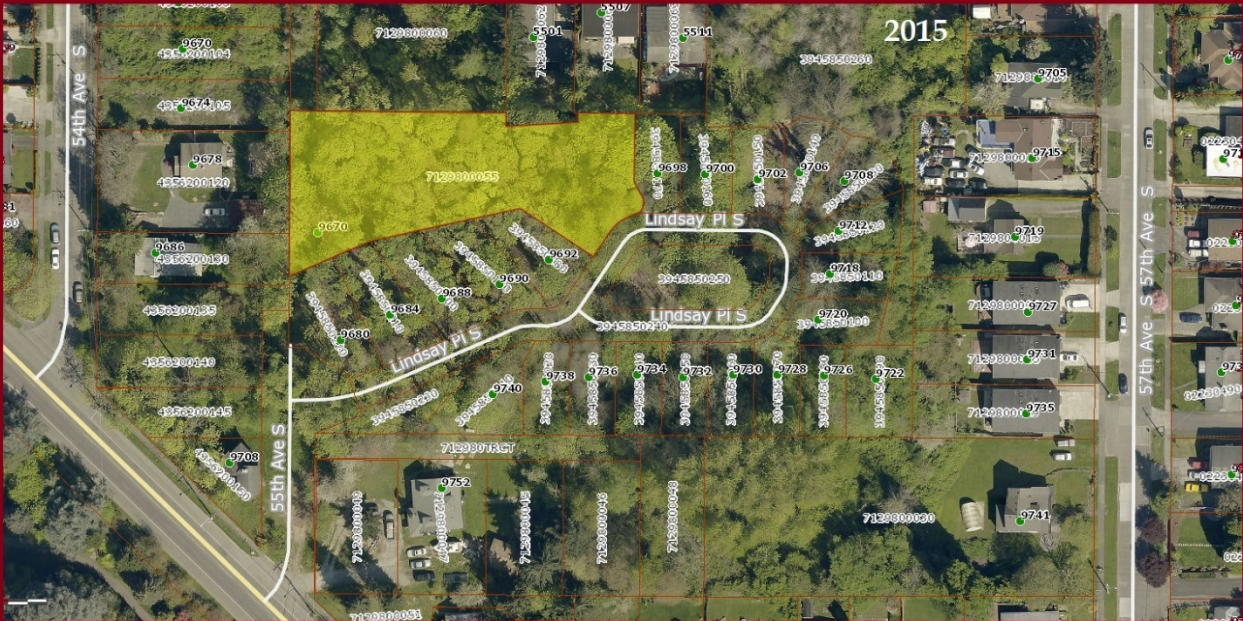
David Moehring

TreePAC



# CLEARCUT SEATTLE:

9670 LINDSAY PL S being DIVIDED INTO 4 MORE LOTS...



Seattle clearcutting at Kabota Village from 2015 (above) to 2017 (below)



From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 9:21 PM

To: LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>

Cc: Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

Subject: Enact Councilmember Pedersen's two provisos! Update and enforce the 2009 Interim Seattle Tree Ordinance -

CAUTION: External Email

To the members of the Seattle City Council and Mayor Jenny Durkan:

First, I would like to express my strong, complete support of Councilmember Pedersen's two measures proposed earlier this week regarding updating and enforcing the 2009 Interim Seattle Tree Ordinance - namely:

- a) requiring SDCI complete and provide to the Council and Seattle public an updated ordinance before it can spend its last 1/3 of 2021 budget - either deliver or defund by Sept 30, 2021; and
- b) provide a written statement (and then actually DO it) transferring and consolidating all tree mgmt authority in Seattle to the Office of Sustainability and Environment.

Besides the excellent reasons and rationale offered at that meeting and by Councilmember Pedersen for doing so, including the long-overdue and perpetually ignored and deprioritized Tree Ordinance since 2009 and earlier, and those of environmental justice and equity - I also offer the following:

1) We are in a climate crisis, and as the past two summers of increasing fires and forest damage in our state (notwithstanding the timber industry's continued focus on cutting them all down to boot) - we cannot keep stating 'the wild forest will protect our climate, we can cut down anything in urban areas and not worry about the effects' - this has NEVER been true and becomes more obvious daily in our city and suburban living spaces;

2) why is our urban and suburban forest being sacrificed largely for greed? We hear cries for 'density and affordable housing' - yet we see McMansions and ridiculous homes being built across the City and County - 'because we can' and, because they bring in the most money for those building them?

3) Finally and just as important - 'green building' is a complete farce. Using materials that are 'somewhat less toxic' for the environment doesn't excuse clearcutting lots to build oversized, expensive houses that use those materials. Planting small, often non-native trees as a token gesture to meet a token requirement yet providing no means to maintain and make sure they grow to survive their first several years of life is arguably no better than not doing anything? And more importantly, the big, exceptional and sometimes Heritage trees you allowed to be cut down were ALREADY doing the yeoman's job of protecting our climate, providing habitat, cleaning our air, and many other benefits that we can't easily come close to replicating through technology or by simply 'planting trees' or non-native landscaping.

to conclude - Yet again we are asking, and I seriously hope this time \*\*\*you are finally listening\*\*\*, **but actions speak louder than words**. Starting with Councilmember Pedersen's two provisos noted above and earlier this week in the public meeting would be a good start towards rectifying the problem you have otherwise let grow for literally decades, while greed ruled the day.

kevin orme  
Seattle, 98103

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.



---

**From:** Gayle Janzen <cgjanzen@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 2, 2020 12:30 AM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** We Need More Action to Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I have written to you many times about the uncontrolled clear-cutting of our urban forests. It is heartbreaking watching exceptional tree after exceptional tree being cut down to be replaced with market value homes. Our city leaders keep talking about how they want to combat climate chaos and save our trees but in reality the developers do what they want as they destroy our urban forests for their own greed. We taxpayers try to be heard, but we are ignored. We have been waiting for a tree ordinance that will actually save our trees since 2009, and yet here we are 11 years later, no new and improved ordinance with more trees than ever being cut down. We are told that we cannot develop the city and save trees at the same time. With thoughtful planning and with less emphasis on profits, we can save many more trees and still build new housing. It should be an either or situation.

We all know the value of our old growth trees, but their value is simply ignored by city leaders. Our 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 stop dragging your feet and 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.

Gayle Janzen

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

11232 Dayton Ave N

Seattle, Washington 98133

---

**From:** Mariana Sintay <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 2, 2020 7:05 AM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI’s Director’s Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I'm not saying "please." I'm sick of the pandering language: "Please" "..a great step forward" ..

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

Seattle MUST move forward NOW, without the delay urged by some (you fools; don't you realize the planet is dying and one of the main reasons is clear cutting of trees? Trees respire. They put moisture back into the air at night and cool OUR planet. They provide shade, which cools the land. They are habitat for animals and insects. They keep the soil in place and are part of a vast underground web that supports all the life in the soil) in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 11 (ELEVEN) years ago and is long overdue.

I ask: What is in the heart and soul of you people on the City Council that you care more about glad-handing, power, and money than being stewards of OUR city, keeping it a place of beauty livability? Where are your ETHICAL standards? What VALUES drive your life?

Developers, like this one, should be chastened and made to follow the strictest guidelines to preserve Seattle's livability. This developer has committed a CRIME, clear-cutting without permission. He is a crook, and YOU know it. Yet you do nothing. Shame on him. AND SHAME ON YOU. There is no heart whatsoever in this development, and what is life without heart? This development is another tumor of the cancer killing our planet. All who support this project have a stronger relationship with their greed, and their desire for more power and money than with their responsibility to be stewards of that which under their care.

Is the developer building Green? Is the developer creating a space that supports human health and well-being? Building houses with the smallest footprint possible to conserve resources? Designing a place of beauty that nourishes the soul and spirit of the people who will live there? Is the developer treating the land with respect, devotion, and gratitude?

Land is not there to be DEVELOPED. The purpose of land is to sustain Life.

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

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of

Transportation already requires

- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- “Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090.” Are you kidding me? NO exceptional trees should be removed. WE NEED TO PRESERVE THESE TREES. INCORPORATE THEM INTO THE PLAN. MAKE LESS PROFIT. There’s a novel idea for you. If it wasn’t to maximize profits this crude plan would not be happening. Can we be honest here? Everybody knows exactly what’s going on. We, the people, are asked to BEG the City Council that reigns to PLEASE consider our humble requests. It’s disgusting.
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees. It’s not TREES that are a hazard; it’s people. Don’t build so close to the trees. Give them room to be and to grow. That’s right. You wouldn’t make so much profit for YOURSELF.

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

- Change Subject Title to remove words “land division” and replace with “Development.” YES
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add “SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city.”
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as “a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns.” Include street trees in groves.
- Add “Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages.” YES
- Add “All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can’t be removed.”
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to “TREE PROTECTION”. Remove references to “Exceptional Trees” only and change to “Trees”. e.g., change “Exceptional Tree Protection Areas” to “Tree Protection Areas”.
- SECTION 4. Add “The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle’s Equity and Environment Initiative.”
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be

planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. .[Any in-lieu fee [THIS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE FIRST PLACE. FEES ARE NOT REPLACEMENTS FOR TREES] must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.

- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be enforced at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director's Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.

- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT's registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers (What a corrupt joke. They are nothing more than participants in the web of a profit driven consciousness. They should be called what they are: Timber companies) in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. (WE CAN'T AFFORD THIS! 1! ONE CITATION! Explain the rational for 2 or more? There is none. Abiding by rules is EASY). Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor's license to ensure they have workers' compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

"Thank you for protecting our urban forest."

NO! NO THANK-YOUS UNTIL YOU STAND UP AND DO THE RIGHT THING! THE ONLY THING YOU HAVE BEEN PROTECTING, AND CONTINUE TO PROTECT, ARE YOUR DESIRES FOR POWER AND MONEY.

You care nothing for other people. You don't keep agreements made ELEVEN years ago. You are not trustworthy. You should feel shame, and, for once, do the right thing.

Mariana Sintay

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**From:** Tracie Edelson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 2, 2020 3:51 PM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@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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