



**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) • **David Moehring** (Position #8 – Development) • **Blake Voorhees** (Position # 9 – Realtor)  
**Elena Arakaki** (Position #10 – Get Engaged) • **Jessica Hernandez** (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*

**Meeting notes**

August 11, 2021, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Via Webex call  
(206) 207-1700

Meeting number: 1464 10 4033

Meeting password: 1234

*In-person meetings are not being held at this time due to the pandemic. 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  
Jessica Hernandez  
Julia Michalak  
David Moehring  
Stuart Niven  
Shari Selch  
Blake Voorhees  
Jessica Jones  
Elena Arakaki

Absent- Excused

Josh Morris  
Michael Walton  
Elby Jones

Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE

Guests

Toby Thaler – CM Pedersen’s Office

Public

Anna Pedroso  
Jessica Dixon, Plant Amnesty

**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 at 3:02.

**Public comment:**

- Art Pedersen sent a letter just prior to last week's meeting to be included in comments; this letter is included in the public input section in the meeting notes and Patti summarized the letter for the Commission.
- Commissioners had some discussion around Art's letter, including thoughts on the Commission's role around advocating for the additional funding needed for SDCI staffing, and updates on SLI recommendations and a possible additional recommendation letter from the Commission.

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

Patti provided additional update on the tree regulations outreach happening since last week's meeting, and outlined remaining steps on the two outreach processes. She also referred to the need to recruit a replacement for Sarah's Commission position as well as elect a new Vice-Chair.

Patti provided an update on the nominations received for Vice-Chair and the Commission discussed the election process. The decision was made to continue considerations and nominations for Vice-Chair and to take up elections again at the September 1 meeting.

**Changes to SMC 23.44.020 Single Family Residential tree requirements - discussion**

David set up a survey for Commissioners regarding single family resident requirements, then walked through the questions to orient the discussion on this topic. Weston pointed out that the items covered in the questions are not things that will be impacted by the tree ordinance changes or the Director's Rule, so it's critical that the Commission consider these things and work on a parallel path on other important tree code issues. David talked through the responses to the questions and discussed various aspects of trees and their protections in single family zone areas. The questions stress the importance of the canopy cover, including the importance of equity in the canopy cover. Most of the trees in the city are in single family zones, zoning changes affect the amount of land available for trees. Questions aim to help folks be more informed in order to answer questions from Councilmembers or others.

David also walked Commissioners through an exercise diagramming various SF scenarios as well as some real-life examples.

Weston commented on the concept of the underutilized or underplanted areas in SF zones, and how many lots don't have any/enough trees - is that a large number or small number? Need to know that in order to create policy. David noted that code requires a minimum cumulative tree trunk caliper for SF lots relative to lot size, but noted there are instances where it does not appear to be enforced beyond occupancy of the building. Property owners can remove up to three non-exceptional trees per year. In addition, is it fair to hold existing properties to a lower standard for trees on their property than what is required for new construction to retain or plant?

Sarah commented on the need for density and balancing density with more people then needing access to open space/parks; making planning changes and not having it be only in SF zones where trees can go. The focus on density is not necessarily a bad thing, but can be a bad thing if we don't plan for it holistically.

Jessica H. asked how we can combine this with the new IPPC report given that it focused on physical science. That report is underscoring how rapidly these changes are happening and how urgent it is to respond. The urban forest is critical for adapting to these changes.

There was discussion on what kind of density we're talking about and who are we creating it for (DADUs vs multi-family affordable units.) Parking required in development is also disproportionate - more space is allowed/required to plant cars than to plant trees; this is not consistent with climate/environment goals.

David suggests as one of the next steps inviting Faith Ramos, who did the tree research in 2017, to present on these findings. Weston agreed the Commission does need to take some more steps before getting to recommendations on this topic. There is a draft Council bill prepared for Resolution 32010 for the 9/8 meeting. More discussion on what is next on this topic included suggestion to restore the minimum tree requirements since even with the new leg they haven't changed/increased the 35% lot coverage, or potentially expand review of trees during project review. Julia made the tie to the previous discussion on doing an analysis for how do we get to the canopy cover goal we want to meet, how much can be done on public land and how much we need from the private properties is an important step moving forward.

### **2021 Workplan review**

Patti pulled up the workplan and began framing the discussion around it and how the Commission has expressed desire to update the format of the document and how work is tracked through the year. There was discussion on how it functions now, and some suggestions on how to make it more effective. Patti will draft a template that incorporates some of the suggested changes for future discussion, and Commissioners were tasked with reviewing the document and considering how they want to be involved.

**NOTE: Meeting notes are not exhaustive. For more details, listen to the digital recording of the meeting at: <http://www.seattle.gov/urbanforestrycommission/meetingdocs.htm>**

### **Public comment:**

Jessica Dixon commented that we need to also take into account, as far as right-of-way trees we should take into account the schedule for pruning and maintenance of trees; there's canopy in places, but we're losing it due to lack of maintenance. Regarding trees on existing lots, would much prefer a green credit is given if someone can prove they have trees on their lot. You're getting closer to having plan and strategy for canopy goals. There was an interesting presentation at the Urban Forestry Symposium in 2016 on the topic of sustaining the urban forest during densification - we need strong leadership on this front in Seattle.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 PM.

### **Meeting Chat:**

from Pedroso, Anna to everyone: 3:04 PM

Seattle resident, just listening. No public comment. :-)

from Pedroso, Anna to everyone: 3:05 PM

Hi!

from Stuart Niven to everyone: 3:05 PM

Hi all. I am here but not here. I am currently on the phone with a land use attorney related to an appeal hearing.

from Stuart Niven to everyone: 3:06 PM

Will join asap

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:27 PM

can it be split into two people?

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:27 PM

or only one person?

from Weston to everyone: 3:45 PM

Goal is for 24% in ROW, btw

from Weston to everyone: 3:47 PM

HA!

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:14 PM

Question: How would we connect this information presented today by David to the current IPCC 2021 climate report- given that it focused more on the physical sciences?

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:14 PM

current\*

from Blake Voorhees to everyone: 4:41 PM

Yes, and I was thinking an "Objective" column could be helpful to clarify actions needed.

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:46 PM

I was wondering if contact information can be added. For example who do we contact or which email we use for SDCI?

from Jessica Jones to everyone: 4:52 PM

Small comment, but as we have two Jessicas now we should specify

from Elena Arakaki to everyone: 4:53 PM

I'll be transitioning out soon once my Get Engaged term ends

from Elena Arakaki to everyone: 4:53 PM

:(

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:53 PM

I am ok being referenced as Hernandez instead of Jessica

@Jessica Jones

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:55 PM

For example: Land Acknowledgements is one I can think of, adding actions to it as UFC

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:56 PM

I will email Patti!

from David Moehring to everyone: 4:56 PM

Thank you all for the Three points identified today following the single-family (and 'ADU' from 2019; and forthcoming Sept 8th plan to convert SF-zones to "Neighborhood Residential" zones.

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 5:01 PM

@Jessica Public Comment can we get your contact info to ask about the urban forestry symposium and how we can participate in it?

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

**From:** France Giddings <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 12:35 PM

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

**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

As recent record temperatures have demonstrated, the climate crisis is real. Trees are a buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas.

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 12 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.

France Giddings  
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1612 NE 192nd St  
Shoreline, Washington 98155

**From:** Annette Ademasu <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 8:39 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

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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.

Annette Ademasu  
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PO BOX 65242  
SHORELINE, Washington 98155

**From:** RMGRAZIANI@GMAIL.COM <RMGRAZIANI@GMAIL.COM>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 4, 2021 12:42 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

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3727 192ND ST SW  
LYNNWOOD, Washington 98036

**From:** Todd Stoltey <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 5:07 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

It's time to end the delay by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on presenting the Seattle City Council with an updated draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance. Over the last 12 years, the City Council has repeatedly asked SDCI for an updated workable and effective ordinance draft to consider and it is obvious SDCI is not responding as requested. In its recent Resolution 31902, the Council gave specific issues for SDCI to address.

If SDCI cannot respond in a timely manner, please remove tree and urban forestry protection from their Department. As the City Auditor proposed in 2009, transfer tree and urban forestry oversight and authority to the Office of Sustainability and the Environment. SDCI has a conflict of interest in tree oversight – their priority mission has been to help developers build, not protect trees. Years of inaction on effective oversight and protection of trees by SDCI demands that a separate entity like OSE take over the city's responsibility to protect and enhance our urban forest.

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.

Todd Stoltey

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

4432 Baker Ave NW

Seattle, Washington 98107

**From:** Shelley Stoltey <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 6:06 PM

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

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

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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Shelley Stoltey  
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4903 30th Ave South  
Seattle, Washington 98108

**From:** Hilary Mohr <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 7:11 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please protect trees; Please Update Seattle's Tree Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Trees are critical to quality of life in the urban setting—especially in the poorest neighborhoods where rapid development of multi-family buildings is obliterating trees right and left. Please do more to protect trees. Some great ideas below:

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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 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.

Hilary Mohr

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

1131 NE 65th St.

Seattle, Washington 98117

**From:** Melissa Huelsman <mhuelsman@predatorylendinglaw.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 8:50 PM

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

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

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

It's time to end the delay by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on presenting the Seattle City Council with an updated draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance. Over the last 12 years, the City Council has repeatedly asked SDCI for an updated workable and effective ordinance draft to consider and it is obvious SDCI is not responding as requested. In its recent Resolution 31902, the Council gave specific issues for SDCI to address.

If SDCI cannot respond in a timely manner, please remove tree and urban forestry protection from their Department. As the City Auditor proposed in 2009, transfer tree and urban forestry oversight and authority to the Office of Sustainability and the Environment. SDCI has a conflict of interest in tree oversight – their priority mission has been to help developers build, not protect trees. Years of inaction on effective oversight and protection of trees by SDCI demands that a separate entity like OSE take over the city's responsibility to protect and enhance our urban forest.

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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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.

Seattle's trees were one of the things that enticed me to move here more than 21 years ago!! STOP allowing the destruction of one of our most precious resources!!!

Melissa Huelsman  
[mhuelsman@predatorylendinglaw.com](mailto:mhuelsman@predatorylendinglaw.com)  
7525 28th Avenue SW  
Seattle , Washington 98126

**From:** DENISE RHINER <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 2:59 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

As recent record temperatures have demonstrated, the climate crisis is real. Trees are a buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas.

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 12 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.

DENISE RHINER  
[denise7306@gmail.com](mailto:denise7306@gmail.com)  
1511 11TH AVE W #4  
SEATTLE, Washington 98119-3204

**From:** Karin Engstrom <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 3:13 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

I am not one to send a prewritten comment, but the message is clear and I have been researching the tree issues of our Seattle community. I lived in a Northern California community in the early 1970's that did not allow the trimming of a tree without a permit. I've seen the trees in the new High Point community that were definitely earmarked to be saved, cut down. Now I am watching the Seattle Schools bulldoze the hillsides of West Seattle Elementary today, without regard to the fact that there is a day care and youth summer programs active in the areas next to the bulldozing. All of the city's websites note that this heat is dangerous, yet the bulldozing brings up dust and who knows what else in the air for the children

and adults to breathe. This couldn't be a better example of why changes in the forestry regulations and practices need change.

My real purpose was to try to save the Black Locust trees that line the walkway along the soccer field. In weather like today, that shade is welcome - and I find that their spring blooms invite bees - and they house birds and other critters. They've been there since I moved in and walked my dogs. My question was, did the Parks and Recreation Dept. okay their removal? What is the process to save trees that provide oxygen, shade, beauty and support?

I just listened to an entomologist who studies tree environments say that he read a study showing less divorce rates and mental issues where trees lined the streets and walkways.

I stopped two men cutting off the pipe handrail that has been along the steps from the Hundley Soccer Field to the School grounds. The sawing was creating a huge cloud of white particulates - who knows if that pipe had lead in it? Children were walking along at the same time I was - through that cloud. They said they were sub contractors and had a time limit on what they were doing. Neither of them were wearing masks or goggles. I asked them why but they just said they wanted to get the job done.

I did reach David Jackson from Seattle Schools and he was appreciative that I had called. (I made many calls - no one to speak to the Seattle Parks and Rec - no Council member whom I could leave a message) I've lived across from the High Point Community Center for over 20 years. There has to be better coordination and oversight of these projects. The letter below stands for itself. Times Up!

It's time to end the delay by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on presenting the Seattle City Council with an updated draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance. Over the last 12 years, the City Council has repeatedly asked SDCI for an updated workable and effective ordinance draft to consider and it is obvious SDCI is not responding as requested. In its recent Resolution 31902, the Council gave specific issues for SDCI to address.

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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.

Karin Engstrom  
[kecitizen77@gmail.com](mailto:kecitizen77@gmail.com)  
6911 - 34th Avenue SW  
Seattle, Washington 98126

**From:** Lael White <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 25, 2021 6:38 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save our Trees!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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12 years, the City Council has repeatedly asked SDCI for an updated workable and effective ordinance draft to consider and it is obvious SDCI is not responding as requested. In its recent Resolution 31902, the Council gave specific issues for SDCI to address.

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Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.

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

Lael White

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

6707 230th Street SW

Mountlake Terrace, Washington 98043

**From:** Jayn Foy <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 9:00 AM

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

**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

As recent record temperatures have demonstrated, the climate crisis is real. Trees are a buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas.

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

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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.”
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- 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.”
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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Jayn Foy

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

3302 S. Charles St.

Seattle, Washington 98144

**From:** Rachel Gloersen <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 11, 2021 3:18 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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As a nurse and a native seattlite, I am appalled at how many green spaces have been completely demolished since my childhood for the sake of development. What about public health? Our state boasts that the climate crisis is an emergency, but you don’t take action to protect the nature that is left. The problem is NOT having enough housing, the problem is a population crisis. The number of humans is outgrowing what is sustainable on this earth. We need to push the facts. What world will our children live in? One without trees? Will we have to create electronic bees, trees, and oxygen? How will that work? What will that do to public health? Mental health?

I’m 34 years old and I have chosen not to have children because I am gravely concerned about the climate crisis. I know I am part of a growing number of people who will refrain from growing a family. I want my green, beautiful state back.

Stop selling out for a paycheck. We need our earth.



Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Rachel Gloersen, BSN, RN, Seattleite

Rachel Gloersen

[wajiro\\_bygrace@hotmail.com](mailto:wajiro_bygrace@hotmail.com)

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