

SDCI 2021 (Omnibus) Code Corrections

Photo by John Skelton



Seattle Department of
Construction & Inspections

Policy and Technical Team / Urban Forestry Commission
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WHAT IS THE OMNIBUS?

The Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) is responsible for routine maintenance of the Land Use and other codes.

- The proposed amendments are called “omnibus” amendments because SDCI packages a collection of amendments for efficiency that are relatively small scale.
- Such amendments include relatively minor changes that do not warrant independent legislation, correcting typographical errors and incorrect section references, as well as clarifying or correcting existing code language.

Comments on this legislation have been extended to January 20th and the appeal period until January 27th.

We will receive comments until the Mayor transmits the legislation to City Council

WHAT IS 25.09.070?

Standards for tree and vegetation and impervious surface management

Applies **only** in:

- landslide-prone critical areas
- steep slope erosion hazard areas and their buffers
- fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas
- wetlands, and wetland buffers

Applies to:

- Planting, disturbing, or removing trees or vegetation
- Adding, altering, or removing impervious surface
- Other land disturbing activity

25.09.070 applies only in environmentally critical areas (ECAs). It is not the tree protection code (25.11). No changes to 25.11 are proposed as part of this omnibus.

WHAT IS 25.09.070?

Standards for tree and vegetation and impervious surface management

Provides standards for:

- Tree topping
- Hazard tree removal
- Voluntary restoration
- Normal and routine maintenance
- Tree and vegetation and impervious surface plan requirement
- Mitigation requirements

CHANGES TO 25.09.070

SMC 25.09.070 - Standards for tree and vegetation and impervious surface management

This proposal is to improve clarity of this section. As currently written, Section 25.09.070 does not clearly indicate what type of actions are allowed and those that are prohibited. Several subsections are rewritten to improve clarity, correct mistaken citations, and convert complex code into plain language. No new or expanded development is authorized by these changes.



WHAT DO THESE CHANGES MEAN?

25.09.070.D – Activities allowed without complying with 25.09.070

- Clarification and plain language for normal and routine pruning allowed within steep slope areas without SDCI review

25.09.070.E – Voluntary restoration

- Clarification and plain language

25.09.070.F – Hazard trees

- Clarification and codification of requirements for hazard tree removal
- Tree Risk Assessment (TRA) high risk rating specified
- Minimum 1:1 replacement ratio specified

QUESTIONS?

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<https://www.seattle.gov/sdci/codes/changes-to-code/code-corrections>

