



**For immediate release**  
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**Contact:** Kirk Prindle, Urban Forestry Commissioner  
Phone: 206-313-8947

## **Urban Forestry Commission recommends increased protection for Seattle's heron colonies**

*Details include year-round plan for Seattle*

**Seattle** - The City of Seattle's Urban Forestry Commission yesterday transmitted a [recommendation](#) to revise the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) Director's Rule 5-2007, to improve protection for Seattle's two established great blue heron rookeries.

The recommendation focuses on the need for year-round protection of visual screening trees between these breeding grounds and human activity, expanding the threshold size to include smaller-sized trees. Currently, requirements preserve screening trees only through the heron breeding season during construction of new development.

Seattle's two heron rookeries are located south of the locks in Magnolia and in the North Beach neighborhood of Ballard. Heron rookeries can be subject to disruption and outright collapse from disturbance or habitat alteration.

The commission will be closely following DPD's response to this important recommendation to ensure that these improvements are quickly incorporated into DR 5-2007 as revised law.

The Seattle Urban Forestry Commission was established in 2009, in a collective effort by the Mayor and City Council to address specific issues of sustainable tree management in the city. Commission meetings are open to the public on the first Wednesday of each month from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Ave., room 1940. For more information, including agendas and meeting documents, visit the [Urban Forestry Commission website](#).

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