

## SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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

**March 11, 2020**  
**Conference call**  
**(206) 386-1200**  
**Conference ID: 942649#**

### **Attending**

#### Commissioners

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

#### Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE

#### Guests

Tamara Power-Drutis

#### Public

John Nuler

#### Absent- Excused

Whit Bouton  
Neeyati Johnson

**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 acknowledged that meeting via conference call is the way the UFC will be meeting to comply with COVID-19 direction to avoid in-person meetings. He did roll call and went through the agenda.

### **Public comment**

John Nuler: wanted to talk to the UFC about the City participating in tree topping and not wanting to tell anybody about it. When reporting exceptional trees that have been removed, the City's statute of

limitations is one year. The City won't follow up after trees are removed. Bon Air Drive is an example of where trees have been cut down.

### **Growing Old – Seattle Tree Story Project – Tamara Power-Drutis**

Tamara is working on a podcast that will be going live on Earth Day. The team came together over a year ago to explore how to engage communities around trees. How can communities and trees grow old, regardless of where they live in Seattle?

They have already begun inviting people to have conversations and to imagine the year 2070 and tell us what does Seattle look like? Weston and Sandra will be participating. Tamara would like to invite the UFC to participate in a group interview. She is also interested in knowing if individual commissioners would like to participate. She is exploring ways to do remote one-hour interviews. She could send the questions in advance. The interaction would be recorded for the podcast.

### **Urban Forestry Commission protocols discussion**

UFC Coordinator protocols (approved July 1, 2015):

Sandra walked the UFC through protocols adopted for the UFC Coordinator (OSE staff supporting the UFC). The document is posted under the March 11 meeting documents on the UFC website.

Proposed letter drafting process protocols – initial discussion

Commissioners discussed the draft and made changes to it. This is a living document that the UFC will continue to discuss.

### **Initial discussion on letter for King County 30-year Forest Plan**

Steve walked the group through the draft. Commissioners discussed, edited and adopted the document. Sandra will clean it up and send it to King County.

**ACTION: A motion to approve the Letter of Recommendation for King County's 30-year Forest Plan as amended was made, seconded, and approved.**

### **Public comment**

John Nuler: Mentioned that Josh Morris was lobbying for Seattle Adubon in several venues and had not clearly stated that he was not speaking on behalf of the UFC. Sandra shared with John the clear protocol commissioners need to follow when speaking to the media or the public and that they know to clearly state that they are not speaking on the UFC's behalf (unless the UFC has explicitly chose them to share an adopted UFC position on a specific matter).

### **Adjourn**

Weston adjourned the meeting.

### **Public input:**

**(see next page and posted notes)**

**From:** heidi calyxsite.com <heidi@calyxsite.com>

**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 8:21 AM

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

**Subject:** FW: Threatened Significant Tree at 8015 Mary Ave NW

Heidi Siegelbaum

(206) 784-4265

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/heidisiegelbaum>

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

**Sent:** Friday, March 06, 2020 7:24 AM

**To:** PRC <[PRC@seattle.gov](mailto:PRC@seattle.gov)>; DOT\_LA <[DOT\\_LA@seattle.gov](mailto:DOT_LA@seattle.gov)>

**Cc:** Mary Jean Gilman <[mj.gilman@comcast.net](mailto:mj.gilman@comcast.net)>; [dkmoody@gmail.com](mailto:dkmoody@gmail.com); [josh@sfc.org](mailto:josh@sfc.org); [sethely@gmail.com](mailto:sethely@gmail.com); [surfsupgordi@yahoo.com](mailto:surfsupgordi@yahoo.com); [rotterbj@hotmail.com](mailto:rotterbj@hotmail.com); [kares@uw.edu](mailto:kares@uw.edu); [irish\\_family@hotmail.com](mailto:irish_family@hotmail.com); [laurelgene@comcast.net](mailto:laurelgene@comcast.net); [woodburne@gmail.com](mailto:woodburne@gmail.com); [slgaskill@aol.com](mailto:slgaskill@aol.com); [jimboo1471@aol.com](mailto:jimboo1471@aol.com); dan.straussseattle.gov <[dan.strauss@seattle.gov](mailto:dan.strauss@seattle.gov)>; [Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov](mailto:Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov);

Toby Thaler <[toby.thaler@seattle.gov](mailto:toby.thaler@seattle.gov)>; [josh@sfei.org](mailto:josh@sfei.org)

**Subject:** Threatened Significant Tree at 8015 Mary Ave NW

Dear PRC-

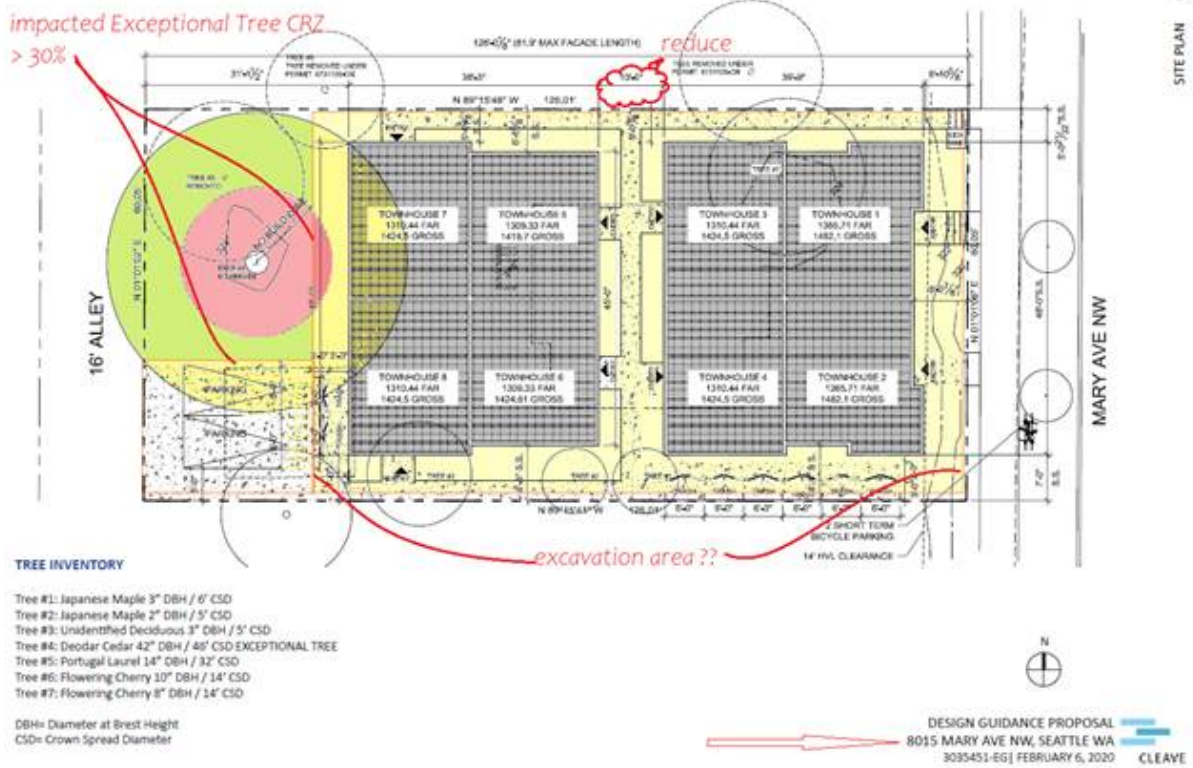
Please reconsider the design submittal for **8015 Mary Ave NW**.

This property is owned by the Johnson family. Yet there is no signature from the property owner to Modern Homes LLC to develop this property (Reference the posted Statement of Financial Responsibility/ Agent Authorization.)

The good news since the original proposal is that the Feb 2020 design proposal (page 9) shows that there is an Seattle Exceptional tree in the back along the alley that is indeed being proposed to remain. Please post on the PRC record the arborist reports. ***We appreciate the design variances per code to retain the existing property-line exceptional tree!***

The excavation for this project's foundations has been color-coded in the attached image. The excavation encroached on the inner Critical Root Zone of the Exceptional tree. This requires a further design response.

The facade design also needs attention.



**Feb. 14, 2020: 8034 MARY AVE NW**  
Northwest Design Review Board

Administrative Design Review for 2, 3-story townhouse buildings. Parking for 6 vehicles proposed. Existing building to be demolished.

Taxpayer name: MODERN HOMES LLC from Susan Scott

Address: 8034 MARY AVE NW 98117

Appraised value: \$705,000

Lot area: 7,620

[View full design proposal:](#)



1  
COVER

DESIGN GUIDANCE PROPOSAL  
8015 MARY AVENUE NW, DISTRICT 9A  
FROM SECAUNTO | JANUARY 20, 2020  
CLEAVE

**Feb. 14, 2020: 8015 MARY AVE NW**  
Northwest Design Review Board

Streamlined Design Review for 2, 3-story townhouse buildings (8 units total).  
Parking for 2 vehicles proposed. Existing buildings to be demolished. Exceptional  
tree to be removed for parking.

JOHNSON DOUGLAS L+SHARON D

Appraised value: \$683,000

Lot area: 7,560

[View full design proposal:](#)

1



PROJECT TEAM  
OWNER: Modern Homes LLC  
ARCHITECT: Cleave Architecture and Design  
LANDSCAPE: Root of Design

DESIGN GUIDANCE PROPOSAL  
8015 MARY AVE NW, SEATTLE WA  
3035451-EG | FEBRUARY 6, 2020 | CLEAVE

<a href="#">SDR Presub Coversheet</a>	83 KB	12/16/19	<a href="#">3035451-EG</a>	Early Design Guidance
<a href="#">Pre-Submittal Conference/Coaching Application</a>	331 KB	12/03/19	<a href="#">3035451-EG</a>	Early Design Guidance
<a href="#">Statement of Financial Responsibility/Agent Authorization</a>	254 KB	12/03/19	<a href="#">3035451-EG</a>	Early Design Guidance
<a href="#">Department of Neighborhoods Community Outreach Package</a>	1043 KB	11/12/19	<a href="#">3035451-EG</a>	Early Design Guidance
<a href="#">Department of Neighborhoods Community Outreach Notification Letter</a>	303 KB	10/14/19	<a href="#">005244-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
<a href="#">Preliminary Assessment Report</a>	158 KB	10/11/19	<a href="#">005244-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
<a href="#">Site Photos</a>	53 MB	10/09/19	<a href="#">005244-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application

**Sent:** Saturday, June 29, 2019 at 3:17 PM

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

**To:** PRC <[PRC@seattle.gov](mailto:PRC@seattle.gov)>, [8021MaryAveNW@gmail.com](mailto:8021MaryAveNW@gmail.com)

**Cc:** "Mary Jean Gilman" <[mj.gilman@comcast.net](mailto:mj.gilman@comcast.net)>, [dkmoody@gmail.com](mailto:dkmoody@gmail.com), [josh@sfc.org](mailto:josh@sfc.org), [sethely@gmail.com](mailto:sethely@gmail.com), [surfsupgordi@yahoo.com](mailto:surfsupgordi@yahoo.com), [rotterbj@hotmail.com](mailto:rotterbj@hotmail.com), [kares@uw.edu](mailto:kares@uw.edu), [irish\\_family@hotmail.com](mailto:irish_family@hotmail.com), [laurelgene@comcast.net](mailto:laurelgene@comcast.net), [woodburne@gmail.com](mailto:woodburne@gmail.com), "OBrien, Mike"

<[Mike.OBrien@seattle.gov](mailto:Mike.OBrien@seattle.gov)>, "Bagshaw, Sally" <[Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov](mailto:Sally.Bagshaw@seattle.gov)>, "Pacheco, Abel" <[Abel.Pacheco@seattle.gov](mailto:Abel.Pacheco@seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** Threatened Significant Tree 8021 Mary Ave NW

Dear Seattle Public Resource Center-

Thank you for the opportunity to attend a public meeting for those interested in the eight townhouse development proposed for 8021 Mary Ave NW which was upzoned from Single-Family SF-5000 to LR2(M1) with the Mandatory Housing Affordability legislation passed earlier this year. We are told, unfortunately, that all of these townhouses will be sold at market-rate, despite the increased allowances in floor area and an additional height of 10 feet to be 40 feet + 10 feet roof access enclosures. The MHA in-lieu-of-fees that may equate to only 2 to 3 percent of the revenues that will be generated - which is just too low to promote inclusive housing opportunities within all neighborhoods. Instead, Seattle moves forward with segregated affordable housing developments where the City of Seattle owns land or land is cheap.

The project comments herein *may not include neighborhood-specific interests*, but simply the interests of TreePAC and other tree canopy retention groups who would like to see the **2017 mayor's Executive Order for stronger tree protection** be implemented without further delay. These tree requirements should not only apply to home-owners (as Johnson's "Trees For All" attempted last year), but to development lots with Exceptional trees, as well. We would like to see Councilmembers Bagshaw and O'Brien include within their term legacies the necessary actions to implement tree ordinance recommendations of the Urban Forestry Commission that have been in process for a decade.

This residential projects proposes eight townhouses with parking on a 7,560 square foot lot at **8021 Mary Ave NW** Project. Firstly, intake submission requirements require the owner of the property to consent to the landuse application. Instead, SDCI has allowed the architectural firm representative to allow consent to access the site. Is there a document on file signed by the deeded owner that Moon may act on their behalf? According to King County records, the deeded owners since 2000 are Ronald and Kelly Paananen (Parcel 045800-0125).


Again, we caution that there are several trees on that property that are protected by the Seattle Municipal Code that the current development plans seem to ignore and the architect has promised to resolve. See the image attached for at least one exceptional tree. Please post the arborist report for public record on the SDCI EDMS system.

Reference the link to the SDCI's photos:

<https://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/GetDocument.aspx?id=4624046>

The development initial plans from the SDCI website are at:  
<https://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/GetDocument.aspx?id=4608198>

**Questions to answer:**

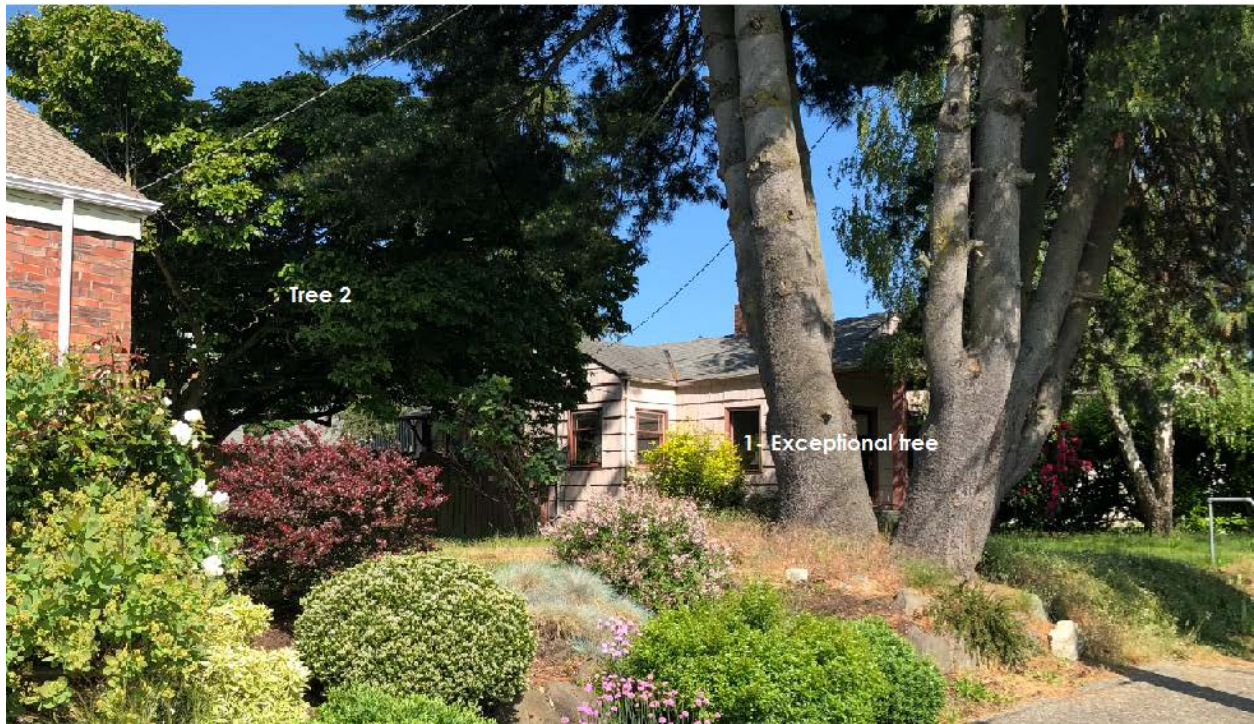
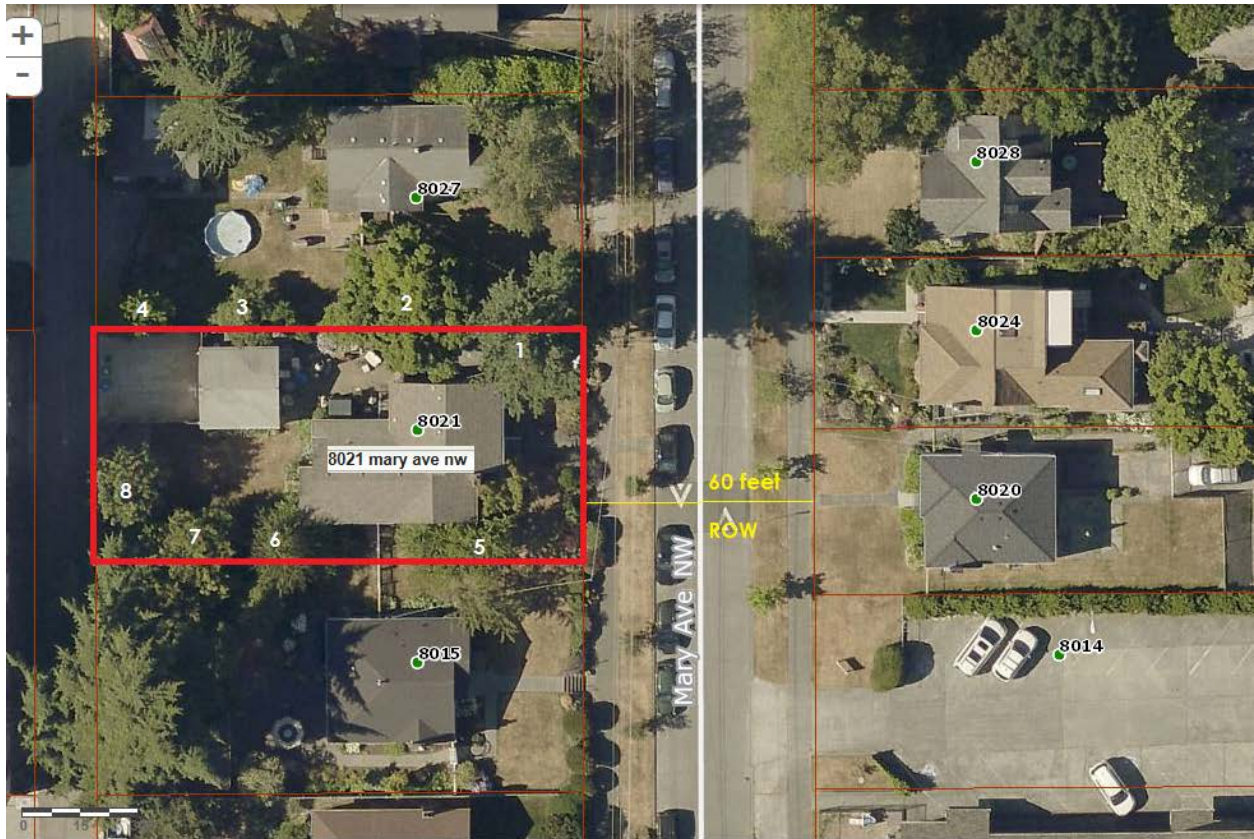
- [1] where is the site survey that shows the location of the existing trees?  
Several trees appear to originate on the neighbor's lot owner by Dave Boyd at 8027 MARY AVE NW.
- [2] is there a qualified arborist report that identifies the species and size of trees?
- [3] which of these trees are Code-protected as 'Exceptional' or 'Tree Groves' or 'Heritage' trees (per DR 16-2008)\* 
- [4] please share what alternative layouts of the 9,828 SF of buildings that will be prepared to retain the existing trees.
- [5] we are told that the arborist and architect will consider excavation limits of the site to avoid killing the neighboring lot line trees.
- [6] is the 60-foot street right-of-way and emergency vehicle access wide enough for a new LR2(M1) zone? [Seattle Municipal Code 23.53.015](#).
- [7] how will the exterior on-grade amenity areas of 945 sq feet be achieved without non-complaint use of trash and vehicle parking areas?

We need more affordable housing and tree canopy. At the meeting held this morning, it does not appear at the moment that Modern Homes ([afichukpv@yahoo.com](mailto:afichukpv@yahoo.com)) or Cleave Architects ([MOON@CLEAVEARCH.COM](mailto:MOON@CLEAVEARCH.COM)) are providing either.

Thank you in advance!

David Moehring  
TreePAC, Board member  
<https://treepac.org/tree-preservation-efforts-in-seattle/>





**SDCI Land Use Code Requirements**  
"Street Requirements"

Based on the scope of the proposed project, the following street improvements are required per Chapter 23.53 of the Seattle Municipal Code.  
 Please review Right-of-Way Improvements Manual for design criteria (<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/row/manual/manual/>). Show required street improvements on your "enhanced site plan" at SDCI permit application intake. If an SDOT Street Improvement Plan (SIP) is required, please list SDOT project number and SDOT contact name on the enhanced site plan. Street Improvement Plans must be accepted by SDOT prior to SDCI permit application intake. New structures must be designed to accommodate right-of-way improvements.

This project qualifies for a reduced street improvement, a noprotest agreement is required.

Street trees shall be provided in the planting strip according to Seattle Department of Transportation Tree Planting Standards. Contact SDOT Urban Forestry (for residential projects: (206) 684TREE; for all others: (206) 684-5693), to determine species of tree and standards of planting.

Please add a note to the site plan showing size, location and species of tree to be planted. Any planting proposed within the ROW must be reviewed and approved by SDCI and SDOT.

Alley Requirements

Alley on the west

Based on the submitted documents, no alley improvements are required per SMC 23.53.030."

Kind regards,


David Moehring  
 Baker Street Community Group, Member  
 TreePAC, Board member  
<https://treepac.org/tree-preservation-efforts-in-seattle/>

## Permit and Property Records

Document	Size	Date	Record #	Record Type
<a href="#">Department of Neighborhoods Community Outreach Notification Letter</a>	000310587 303 KB	06/05/19	<a href="#">002641-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
<a href="#">Preliminary Assessment Report</a>	000108042 105 KB	05/31/19	<a href="#">002641-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
<a href="#">Site Photos</a>	129844287 123 MB	05/24/19	<a href="#">002641-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
<a href="#">PASV Authorization Letter</a>	000018991 18 KB	05/21/19	<a href="#">002641-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application

Document	Size	Date	Record #	Record Type
<a href="#">PASV Authorization Letter</a>	000018991 18 KB	05/21/19	<a href="#">002641-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
<a href="#">PASV Authorization Letter</a>	000018991 18 KB	05/21/19	<a href="#">002641-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
<a href="#">Site Plan</a>	000401612 392 KB	05/17/19	<a href="#">002641-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application

Above list of documents is updated bt SDCI online at <https://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/>

\*\*  Active Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections Director Rules that interpret Tree Protection and fees (Ch. 25.11)

**DR # Name**

- 17-2018 [Calculating Tree Valuations & Civil penalties for Tree Protection Code Violations](#)
- 16-2008 [Designation of Exceptional Trees](#)
- 10-2006 [Clarifying when administrative design review is required in order to save exceptional trees in lowrise, midrise, and commercial zones.](#)

**From:** Martha Walsh <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 9:09 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** No clearcuts for mini-mansions!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I want to bring your attention to a group of 49 large trees at risk in the Victory Heights Neighborhood at 11340 to 11344 23rd Ave NE. (Lot Boundary Adjustment #3030102-LU, Parcel B permit 6761539) The 3 lots are being divided into five 7000+ sq. ft lots, with five

3000+ sq. ft homes There are 49 significant trees; 10 of those are exceptional with the largest being 71" DBH.

Unfortunately, the arborist report for this development is incomplete and contradictory. There is no indication as to which trees are being preserved.

The site-plan for Parcel B 6761539-cn is not available on the website (although the website says it was uploaded on 1/9/2020) and yet our window for comment is gone without the relevant information ever being made public! The Victory Heights neighborhood is fearing yet another clear-cut to build mini-mansion housing. We have seen how ineffective our current tree ordinance is.

This situation raises the following questions:

- What is the city going to do to save our neighborhood trees? And when? We have already waited 11 years. What can be done now? An updated tree ordinance is delayed until December 2020 or later.
- Why has the city not updated the Tree Protection Ordinance using the Urban Forestry Commission's draft? The UFC draft has been available since June 2019.

A major problem is that DCI's priority is to facilitate construction, not to protect trees. There is no Urban Forestry division within DCI to oversee tree protection. Tree protection responsibilities are spread throughout DCI, but no one seems to be specifically tasked with tree protection as a priority. We urge that you create an Urban Forestry division within DCI or move tree oversight to the Office of Sustainability and Environment. Based on DCI's past failures to protect our tree canopy, tree oversight needs to be handled by an entity that is adequately staffed and funded and that has the sole accountability for tree protection.

Please take the following actions NOW for this case in Victory Heights:

1. Make available the site plan that shows the trees to be saved, removed or replaced. Reopen the comment period so that neighbors have an opportunity to comment with the relevant information.
2. Work with the developer to develop alternative designs to maximize tree retention.

Please help save these trees. Once they are gone, they are gone forever. These trees provide habitat for scores of species, including merlins and owls, and they mitigate both air pollution and noise pollution from SR 522. These trees help preserve urban quality of life for all.

Let's work together to ensure housing and trees are compatible.

Thank you,

-Martha Walsh

Martha Walsh

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

11745 20th Ave NE

Seattel, Washington 98125

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**From:** Bernice Maslan <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 4:21 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** 49 large and exceptional trees or mini-mansions?

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Hello,

I want to bring your attention to a group of 49 large trees at risk in the Victory Heights Neighborhood at 11340 to 11344 23rd Ave NE. (Lot Boundary Adjustment #3030102-LU, Parcel B permit 6761539) The 3 lots are being divided into five 7000+ sq. ft lots, with five 3000+ sq. ft homes There are 49 significant trees; 10 of those are exceptional with the largest being 71" DBH. This neighborhood has already been hard-hit with unnecessary tree removal.

Unfortunately, the arborist report for this development is incomplete and contradictory. There is no indication as to which trees are being preserved.

The site-plan for Parcel B 6761539-cn is not available on the website (although the website says it was uploaded on 1/9/2020) and yet our window for comment is gone without the relevant information ever being made public! The Victory Heights neighborhood is fearing yet another clear-cut to build mini-mansion housing. We have seen how ineffective our current tree ordinance is.

This situation raises the following questions:

- What is the city going to do to save our neighborhood trees? And when? We have already waited 11 years. What can be done now? An updated tree ordinance is delayed until December 2020 or later.
- Why has the city not updated the Tree Protection Ordinance using the Urban Forestry Commission's draft? The UFC draft has been available since June 2019.

A major problem is that DCI's priority is to facilitate construction, not to protect trees. There is no Urban Forestry division within DCI to oversee tree protection. Tree protection responsibilities are spread throughout DCI, but no one seems to be specifically tasked with tree protection as a priority. We urge that you create an Urban Forestry division within DCI or move tree oversight to the Office of Sustainability and Environment. Based on DCI's past failures to protect our tree canopy, tree oversight needs to be handled by an entity that is adequately staffed and funded and that has the sole accountability for tree protection.

Please take the following actions NOW for this case in Victory Heights:

1. Make available the site plan that shows the trees to be saved, removed or replaced. Reopen the comment period so that neighbors have an opportunity to comment with the relevant information.
2. Work with the developer to develop alternative designs to maximize tree retention.

Please help save these trees. Once they are gone, they are gone forever. Let's work together to ensure housing and trees are compatible. It is heart-breaking to lose the trees so a few people can live in large houses.

Thank you,

Bernice Maslan

[bmaslan08@gmail.com](mailto:bmaslan08@gmail.com)

9705 1st Ave NW

Seattle, Washington 98117

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**From:** Heather Wehl <hdwehl@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 7:45 PM

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

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

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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.

Heather Weihl

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

1808 Bigelow Avenue North. A301

Seattle, Washington 98109

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**From:** seattleposa@googlegroups.com <seattleposa@googlegroups.com> **On Behalf Of** J BARBER

**Sent:** Sunday, March 8, 2020 1:13 PM

**To:** SeattlePOSA <seattleposa@googlegroups.com>

**Subject:** [SeattlePOSA] City to update progress of Green Seattle Partnership



CAUTION: External Email

From:

To: Cc:

Subject: Date: Attachments:

Aguirre, Jesús

Pinto de Bader, Sandra

Durkan, Jenny; LEG\_CouncilMembers; Acosta, Rachel; McElroy, Shanyanika; Merriam, Patrick; Caulfield, Michelle;

Blumenthal, Aaron; Ho, Yolanda; Hohlfeld, Amanda; Finn Coven, Jessica; Grabowski, Donnie; Williams, Christopher

Green Seattle Partnership funding levels

Monday, November 25, 2019 12:29:40 PM

ADOPTEDGSP2019-20Budget111319.pdf

November 25, 2019

To: Via: CC:

Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment  
Sandra Pinto de Bader, Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator

Mayor Jenny Durkin

Seattle City Council

Others CCed in November 13, 2019 letter (attached)

From: Jesús Aguirre, Seattle Parks and Recreation Superintendent

Dear Members of the Urban Forestry Commission:

Thank you for reaching out to Mayor Jenny Durkan again regarding funding levels for the Green Seattle Partnership. We appreciate your partnership and advocacy for this important program that restores and maintains Seattle's forested parklands and designated natural areas of Seattle.

The City remains committed to meeting the 2,500-acre urban forest restoration goal by 2025. As you are aware, Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) will be doing further analysis on this subject during the first half of 2020 to respond to a City Council Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI), due on June 30. SPR will be pulling together an internal workgroup to address the SLI's questions about acreage restored, challenges/barriers to completing the restoration of the 2,500 acres, and ongoing maintenance requirements as acres in active restoration are added. The SLI's evaluation will then inform any recommended programmatic or budget changes for the 2021-22 budget to ensure alignment with the 2025 restoration goal.

Thank you again for your partnership and advocacy for the Green Seattle Partnership Program. Please do not hesitate to send any further questions you have.

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "SeattlePOSA" group. To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [seattlePOSA+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:seattlePOSA+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com).

To view this discussion on the web visit

<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/seattlePOSA/615356463.935358.1583698393451%40connect.xfinity.com>.

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**From:** seattleposa@googlegroups.com <seattleposa@googlegroups.com> **On Behalf Of** Michael Oxman

**Sent:** Sunday, March 8, 2020 4:41 PM

**To:** J BARBER <barber-osa@comcast.net>; SeattlePOSA <seattleposa@googlegroups.com>

**Subject:** Re: [SeattlePOSA] City to update progress of Green Seattle Partnership

**CAUTION: External Email**

This letter from Parks is about deserving a tax rate increase to be asked for in October. June 30th is too late to produce the 2019 Green Seattle Partnership budget analysis.

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**From:** Patricia Halsell <pathalsell@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 2:35 PM

**To:** peter.nguyen@seattle.com

**Cc:** Maria Winkler <airamkw@gmail.com>; Paton J. Lewis <pjl@patonlewis.com>; David Gordon <dgordon562@gmail.com>; Kim Gordon <lunaboogie@gmail.com>; Hal Columbo <infierno667@yahoo.com>; Forest Brooks <forest\_74@comcast.net>; TreesforSeattle <TreesforSeattle@seattle.gov>; stevezemke@treepac.org

**Subject:** Fremont Exceptional Tree

Dear Peter,

I want to thank you and Councilmember Strauss for taking time from your busy schedules to visit our Exceptional Tree in Fremont. My neighbors and I are deeply appreciative that Councilman Strauss has been willing to become familiar with a matter that is of such important interest to us.

As I mentioned, our current concern is protecting the tree from the developer between now and the time that GEM starts applying for building permits; we don't want GEM to succeed in doing what the City would not allow once the permitting process begins.

We are not opposed to development, since we enjoy the benefits that development often brings to a community. But we don't want to lose our tree canopy in the process.

I'm forwarding to you a very nice note I received over the weekend from Seattle Tree Service. Colin Madden of GEM had arranged for Seattle Tree Care to shear his side of the tree, but since they are a reputable company, they refused to do so once I explained to them that it was a rare species, an Exceptional Tree, and not a junk cottonwood as Collin had told them. Unfortunately, had I not been home that day, the tree would have been sheared.

Under these circumstances, it seemed like the right time to bring these matters to your attention and arrange for you to visit the tree.

Thank you for your willingness to help us protect this 80 year old rare species.

Warm regards,



Patricia Halsell

[pathalsell@gmail.com](mailto:pathalsell@gmail.com)  
[www.PatriciaHalsell.com](http://www.PatriciaHalsell.com)  
[www.instagram.com/pathalsell](https://www.instagram.com/pathalsell)

Art is the highest form of hope. - Gerhard Richter

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Whitman Bouton <[whit@seattletreecare.org](mailto:whit@seattletreecare.org)>  
**Subject: Re: Fremont Exceptional Tree**  
**Date:** March 6, 2020 at 7:50:48 PM PST  
**To:** Patricia Halsell <[pathalsell@gmail.com](mailto:pathalsell@gmail.com)>

Thank you Patricia,

I am just getting home after a 12 hour day but wanted to take the time to send this confirmation email to you to let you know I have received the documents, to tell you that I sincerely appreciate the time you spent with me and our crew today advocating for such a special tree. Honestly I am humbled by the work you and the neighborhood have done advocating for the preservation of this tree. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to keep up fighting for tree protection for this tree and for all trees in the area. It is very much noted and appreciated - it is not everyday we meet great folks like yourselves who see the same inherent and intrinsic beauty of trees that got us all into the line of work in the first place. The time I spent with you today and learning about this tree's history was the highlight of my day. Thank you again and for these documents which I will upload to Collin/GEMs file should they wish to work with us in the future I have made significant notes about this experience and am positive the documents you provided present a much more accurate and informative portrait on the trees history. Hope you have a good night and weekend and wishing you the best with the challenges that you and your mom face ahead. Thank you for being you and for sharing your passion and love for nature with us, Seattle and the world.

Sincerely,  
Whit

On Fri, Mar 6, 2020 at 12:31 PM Patricia Halsell <[pathalsell@gmail.com](mailto:pathalsell@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Dear Whit,

Thank you again for your sensitive handling of this delicate situation today. As I mentioned, I'm very grateful for how you, Aaron and your crew have dealt with me.

As I reiterated, my main concern is that Colin (GEM Real Estate) not succeed in doing through your company what the city would not otherwise allow him to do once he applies for building permits.

Since Colin failed to share with you the reports that properly identify the tree as a Weeping Poplar 'Simonii pendula' I'm attaching the following:

- 1) Favero Greenforest evaluation after 2008 topping
- 2) Tina Cohen's identification
- 3) Tree Solutions report of October 2019 with results of sonic tomography
- 4) my attorney's letter to the city notifying them of the existence of this Exceptional Tree
- 5) Arthur Lee Jacobson's handwritten report of October 2019
- 6) my recent letter (February 2020) to the City Council and Urban Forestry Commission

I also have an email from Hyde Herbarium from December 2019, corroborating Arthur Lee's identification of the tree as a Populus Simonii 'Pendula' which I will forward to you by separate email.

Please let me know if you need anything further.

City Councilmember Dan Strauss' office has just notified me that they will be visiting the tree site this afternoon at 3:15.

Warm regards,

Patricia Halsell

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

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

[www.Instagram.com/pathalsell](https://www.instagram.com/pathalsell)

Art is the highest form of hope. - Gerhard Richter

--

Whitman Bouton -

Director of Operations ISA Certified Arborist #PN-8386A | Tree Risk Assessment Qualified  
Seattle Tree Care

o: [206.789.0534](tel:206.789.0534) | m: [206.369.6081](tel:206.369.6081)

[whit@seattletreecare.org](mailto:whit@seattletreecare.org)



Professional Tree Management for Your Home and Property

[www.seattletreecare.org](http://www.seattletreecare.org)

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**From:** John <[john.nuler@gmail.com](mailto:john.nuler@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 5:21 PM

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

**Subject:** Heading Cuts?

**CAUTION: External Email**

Seattle Urban Tree Commission,

Is the trimming shown in the photo an example of ANSI Part 1, Pruning 2017 approved "Heading Cuts"?



Thanks,

John

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

**Sent:** Thursday, March 12, 2020 4:39 PM

**To:** PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** heidi calyxsite.com <heidi@calyxsite.com>; KAICARPENTER.ART@GMAIL.COM; ovaltinelattehotmail.com <ovaltinelatte@hotmail.com>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; seattle-tree-ordinance-working-grouplists.riseup.net <seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net>; jcanningjr@yahoo.com; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Pedersen, Alex <Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov>; Pederson, Art <Art.Pederson@seattle.gov>; An, Noah <Noah.An@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Andrew <Andrew.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Toby Thaler <toby@louplop.net>; Dawson, Parker <Parker.Dawson@seattle.gov>; djebby@me.com; Sawant, Kshama <Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov>; Ziemkowski, Adam <Adam.Ziemkowski@seattle.gov>; arbor.steve@gmail.com; jenn@mediciarchitects.com

**Subject:** A roadmap to save trees in danger at 926 and 930 Broadway East

**CAUTION: External Email**

Thank you for allowing public comment on the proposed six (6) multi-million-dollar townhouse development at **926 and 930 Broadway East**. One irrelevant-looking existing house will remain as an attractive heritage house will be destroyed and all of the lots' trees will be clear-cut.

Only a few have written into [PRC@Seattle.gov](mailto:PRC@Seattle.gov) so far, and only one person signed up for the 'pop-up' session. It appears that public outreach does not seem to be very effective here.


It appears in the SDCI record that the Department of Neighborhoods finds no value in the historic merit of the existing Broadway buildings.


It also appears as if this development disregards the value of large and 35" diameter Red Oak Exceptional trees relative to the micro-climate of the area as well as Seattle's interests in minimizing the urban heat island affect. **Yes, Seattle can have BOTH additional density AND open space for large and Exceptional trees.** In fact, the Seattle Code requires design alternatives in order to maintain Exceptional trees while achieving the development capacity of the property. (See the attached example within the Ballard HUB).


According to Seattle staff Faith Ramos' report in 2017, **only 2.2% of code-protected Exceptional trees are retained** in development. It is that poor statistic that merits a **better tree ordinance now** as the prior mayor issued an Executive Order on.

[Design Review Proposal 3033132-LU](#) or [3033265-EG](#)

As a background, the City's design review for this development states these valid points in effort to modify the design:

 *"Two detached single-family homes sit on site with one detached garage. One exceptional tree is near the southern property line, which is proposed to be removed."*

 *"Many mature trees line the streets in the area and successfully thrive on private property, creating an invaluable connection to nature in an urban setting. **Large trees, such as the tree on site, are in part the essence of this portion of Capitol Hill.**"*

 *"Staff prefers **preservation of the exceptional tree** to provide a connection to nature and an attractive open space for residents. A ground level open space near the exceptional tree is more likely to be used, and enjoyed by all members of the community, than the open space proposed between*

Units 5 and 6. The desire to retain the exceptional tree is also supported by public comment. (CS1-D-1)"

👍 "The proposed occupiable amenity space on the roof of the one car garage is private to Unit 6 and does not offer a benefit to the rest of the community. An **exceptional tree is being removed that takes away numerous benefits to the community**. SDCI does not support a requested adjustment to allow a one car parking garage in exchange for removing open space and would prefer to see some level of occupiable open space that the residents of the complex can enjoy and that preserves the mature canopy in the neighborhood. (CS1-D-1, DC4-D-4)"

👍 "CS1-D-1. On-Site Features: Incorporate on-site natural habitats and landscape elements into project design and connect those features to existing networks of open spaces and natural habitats wherever possible. Consider **relocating significant trees** and vegetation if retention is not feasible."

👎 Not noted in the review is that the new building foundation excavations will damage the code-protected inner-critical root zone of the neighbor's Exceptional 23" diameter at 70-foot tall Green Spruce. See page 5 of the design review set. Even being noted as "tree to be retained", **excavations for the foundations will kill this neighbor's tree as well.**

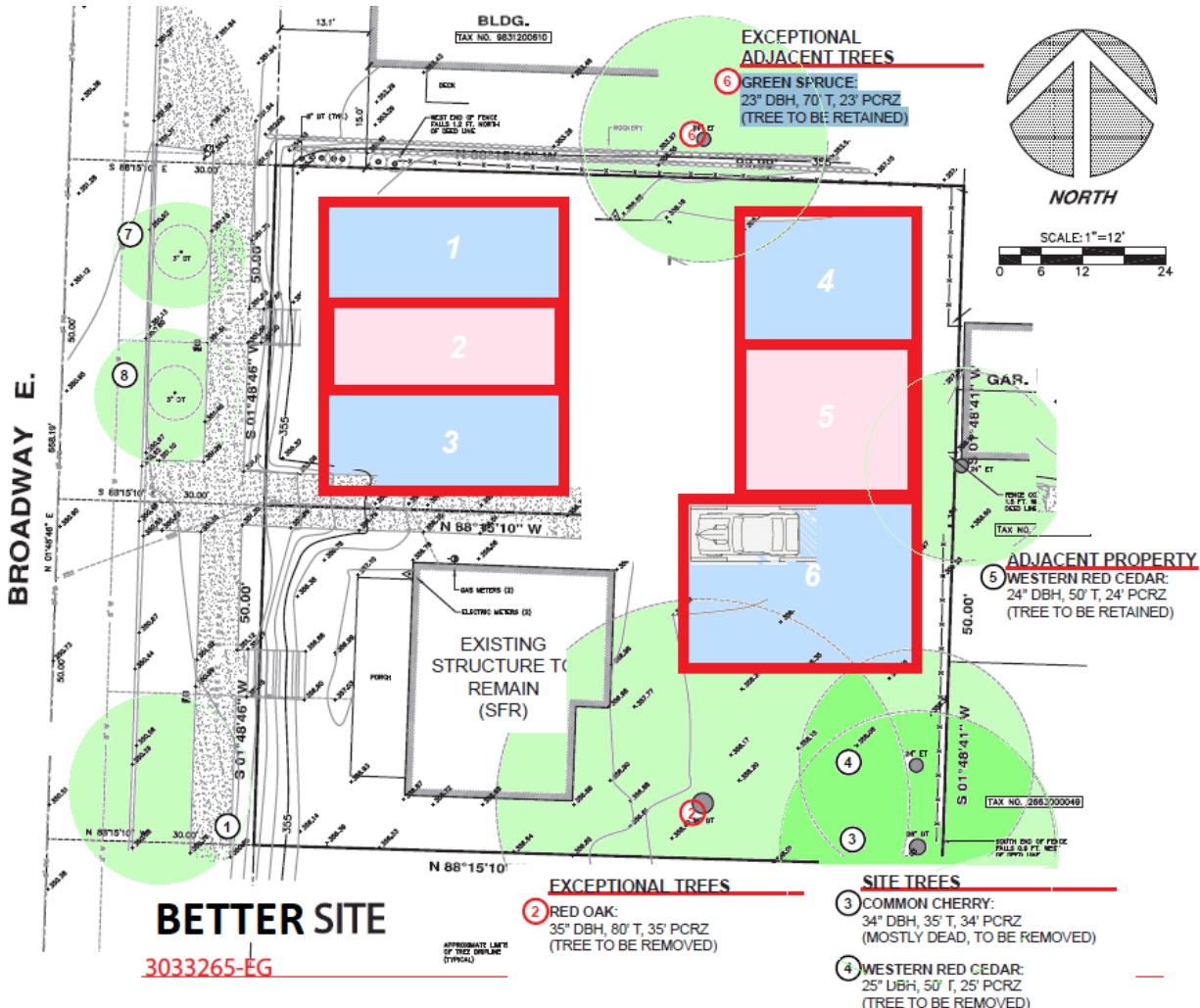
What is ironic is that four (4) million-dollar+ detached homes are being built on the lot immediately to the south. That development at least made an effort to retain the Exceptional Red Oak- - - only now to have this remarkable tree removed by this proposed development.

**Let's work together to make Seattle a better place rather than undoing the good deeds of another.** The proposed design needs a new start. The Department of Construction and Inspections must request that the owner consider keeping instead the heritage house at 926 Broadway East along with its Red Oak Exceptional tree, and then infill the rest with affordable living units meeting the original objectives of the Mandatory Affordable Housing legislation passed in April 2019 as well as the development area potential. The attached image is just a suggestion of the roadmap to get there.

David Moehring  
TreePAC board member

*Below image: a recommended alternative and a win-win:*





# Ballard Townhouses Retain Exceptional and Large Trees



Add More Housing to Seattle *with* a Retained Tree Canopy!!!

*Anyone Can Do It!*

Pass the Tree Ordinance **NOW**



Before

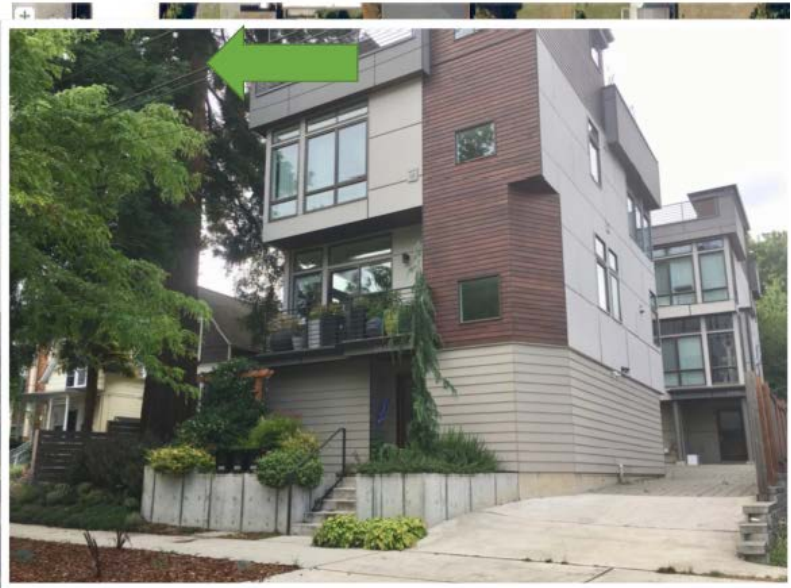
2000 NW 61<sup>st</sup>  
Street and  
6105 20<sup>th</sup> Ave  
NW



After

Before / During

After



2030 and 2042  
NW 62<sup>nd</sup> Street

-----  
**From:** Julie Knight <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2020 11:47 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Update Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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

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.

Julie Knight

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

PO Box 17761

Seattle , Washington 98127

**From:** Greenforest Inc <greenforestinc@mindspring.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2020 1:41 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** comments on and suggestions for the draft tree protection ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra, below (and attached) are my comments on and suggestions for the draft tree protection ordinance.

TERMS & DEFINITIONS

*2. Definitions of TRAQ method terminology that are not set forth in this Chapter 25.11 or Section 23.84A. can be found in the article “Qualitative Tree Risk Assessment” by E. Thomas Smiley, Nelda Matheny, and Sharon Lilly on file at SDCl.*

The referenced “Qualitative Tree Risk Assessment” by E. Thomas Smiley, Nelda Matheny, and Sharon Lilly article is already obsolete.

Suggestion: reference current industry standards for terms of art and definitions for tree risk assessment, which include ANSI A300 Part 9 – Tree Risk Assessment a. Tree Failure, and the companion BMPs written and published by ISA, already referenced in the new code.

As terms and methods change or refine within the industry, they will be done via the ANSI standards and BMPs, not an out of date article.

“Healthy Tree” means a tree that is not a High or Extreme Risk according to the ISA hazard evaluation standards...[underline mine]

Here a healthy tree is defined by the absence of a specific risk rating (either high or extreme risk). This is so confusing (and inaccurate!) because this definition ties the health of the tree to a risk rating, completely ignoring its health. Tree health, structure, form and risk are independent tree attributes. They are related terms, but are separate and distinct. Trees with *high* risk ratings are typically *healthy* trees.

Suggestion: Define a healthy tree by its health condition, and not by a risk rating. Do not tie tree health to structural defects or to risk. (See more below)

This definition appears to be copied and pasted from Kenmore WA municipal code, and is nonsense. Tree health and structure are mutually exclusive, and it is the tree’s structure, not its health, that will affect the outcome of a risk assessment. Tying tree health to tree structure and form is confusing and incorrect.

*"Tree" means a plant having a permanent woody stem or trunk, ordinarily growing to a considerable height,... [underline mine]*

The word 'considerable' in this proposed definition is exceedingly vague and open to interpretation and (inevitable) disagreement.

Suggestion: either quantify the word *considerable*, or use the definition of tree already codified within SMC: see §23.84A.038 - "T" "Tree" means a plant defined as a tree in the Sunset Western Garden Book, 7th Edition, 2001.

Both SDOT and SCDI have published documents with glossaries and definitions related to risk assessment and trees.

Suggestion: cross check this code with other City-published documents for consistency.

#### WHAT ABOUT DEAD OR DYING OR CONTAGEOUS TREES? (AKA Unhealthy Trees)

Sometimes trees are dead, dying or are infected by a contagious and incurable disease or insect (Dutch elm disease, laminated root rot, Verticillium wilt, balsam woolly adelgid, etc.) AND are not *high risk* or *extreme risk* trees.

Suggestion: provide an easy and inexpensive process for a landowner to obtain a permit for the removal of obviously dead or infected regulated trees.

Suggestion: define 'Healthy Tree' in terms of the above health related conditions (and not risk assessment outcomes).

#### ON THE MEASUREMENT OF TREES

The proposed ordinance includes and uses the acronym DSH, and then has to define it because it is not the industry standard and no one know what it means. (It defines it as '*the same definition as DBH.*') This is inaccurate: "DSH" is a forestry acronym for *Diameter at Stump Height*.

Suggestion: use only the industry standard "DBH" in all documents and delete all reference to DSH.

SDOT documents and forms use only DBH.

SDCI forms and documents use only DBH.

ISA Tree Risk Assessment form uses only DBH.

ISA Guide for Plant Appraisal uses DBH.

“DSH” is a forestry acronym for *Diameter at Stump Height*. Using “DSH” to refer to the industry standard, which is “DBH,” is confusing and misleading and in some cases is technically incorrect. (As an example: in Bellevue WA *the* standard height for measuring trees is 4.0 feet above grade, and not 4.5 feet.)

By contrast, the long established term of art “DBH” is unambiguous and understood to mean a specific height above ground, and not to other specific heights around a person’s knees or shins (which would describe diameter at stump height).

The currently industry standard is (and always has been) DBH, and using DSH is confusing and only creates a need for clarification. DBH can only mean 1 thing: DSH, several.

<https://acronyms.thefreedictionary.com/Diameter+at+Stump+Height>

[https://www.acronymfinder.com/Diameter-at-Stump-Height-\(forestry\)-\(DSH\).html](https://www.acronymfinder.com/Diameter-at-Stump-Height-(forestry)-(DSH).html)

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5260256.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5260256.pdf)

<https://www.isa-arbor.com/education/onlinelearning/podcastDetail?ID=39&EP=1295>

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5384945.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5384945.pdf)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diameter\\_at\\_breast\\_height](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diameter_at_breast_height)

<https://www.fs.fed.us/fmfc/ftp/measure/cruising/other/docs/FSH2409.12-2000.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygtPQEGaP1k>

<https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/fia/data-tools/state-reports/glossary/default.asp>

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev2\\_025021.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev2_025021.pdf)

[https://www.americanforests.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/AF-Tree-Measuring-Guidelines\\_LR.pdf](https://www.americanforests.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/AF-Tree-Measuring-Guidelines_LR.pdf)

[https://www.americanforests.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/AF-Tree-Measuring-Guidelines\\_LR.pdf](https://www.americanforests.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/AF-Tree-Measuring-Guidelines_LR.pdf)

Favero



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GREENFOREST, Inc.

Favero Greenforest

Consulting Arborist

206-723-0656

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**From:** Annette Ramsay <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Saturday, March 14, 2020 12:14 PM

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

**Subject:** No clearcuts for mini-mansions!

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I want to bring your attention to a group of 49 large trees at risk in the Victory Heights Neighborhood at 11340 to 11344 23rd Ave NE. (Lot Boundary Adjustment #3030102-LU, Parcel B permit 6761539) The 3 lots are being divided into five 7000+ sq. ft lots, with five 3000+ sq. ft homes. There are 49 significant trees; 10 of those are exceptional with the largest being 71" DBH.

Unfortunately, the arborist report for this development is incomplete and contradictory. There is no indication as to which trees are being preserved.

The site-plan for Parcel B 6761539-cn is not available on the website (although the website says it was uploaded on 1/9/2020) and yet our window for comment is gone without the relevant information ever being made public! The Victory Heights neighborhood is fearing yet another clear-cut to build mini-mansion housing. We have seen how ineffective our current tree ordinance is.

This situation raises the following questions:

- What is the city going to do to save our neighborhood trees? And when? We have already waited 11 years. What can be done now? An updated tree ordinance is delayed until December 2020 or later.
- Why has the city not updated the Tree Protection Ordinance using the Urban Forestry Commission's draft? The UFC draft has been available since June 2019.

A major problem is that DCI's priority is to facilitate construction, not to protect trees. There is no Urban Forestry division within DCI to oversee tree protection. Tree protection responsibilities are spread throughout DCI, but no one seems to be specifically tasked with tree protection as a priority. We urge that you create an Urban Forestry division within DCI or move tree oversight to the Office of Sustainability and Environment. Based on DCI's past failures to protect our tree canopy, tree oversight needs to be handled by an entity that is adequately staffed and funded and that has the sole accountability for tree protection.



Please take the following actions NOW for this case in Victory Heights:

1. Make available the site plan that shows the trees to be saved, removed or replaced. Reopen the comment period so that neighbors have an opportunity to comment with the relevant information.
2. Work with the developer to develop alternative designs to maximize tree retention.

Please help save these trees. Once they are gone, they are gone forever. Let's work together to ensure housing and trees are compatible.

Thank you, Annette Ramsay

Annette Ramsay

[Ramclan01@gmail.com](mailto:Ramclan01@gmail.com)

11555 6th PL NE

Seattle, Washington 98125

---

**From:** John <john.nuler@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 10:11 AM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Tree Topping

**CAUTION: External Email**

Mr. Nuler:

Please post ArtPederson's response and photo to viewing the photo.



----

No, this does not appear to meet ANSI rules for heading cuts.

Our apologies about the circuitous route to get this answer. The photo you submitted was a clear violation in my mind, so I asked the person at the PRC to have it reported to Code Compliance. The PRC staff has also been directed to have inquiries, other than violations, directed to land use Q and A, where they can be efficiently assigned for an answer (and not possibly get lost in the ten's of emails each of us get daily). Your seeming report of a violation, but actually an inquiry, got confused in the two processes.

Art Pederson

---

Lea

---

**From:** Cynthia Johnson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 8:43 PM

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

**Subject:** Please help save the Victory Heights Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

I want to bring your attention to a group of 49 large trees at risk in the Victory Heights Neighborhood at 11340 to 11344 23rd Ave NE. (Lot Boundary Adjustment #3030102-LU, Parcel B permit 6761539) The 3 lots are being divided into five 7000+ sq. ft lots, with five 3000+ sq. ft homes. There are 49 significant trees; 10 of those are exceptional with the largest being 71" DBH.

Unfortunately, the arborist report for this development is incomplete and contradictory. There is no indication as to which trees are being preserved.

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This situation raises the following questions:

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Please take the following actions NOW for this case in Victory Heights:

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- Reopen the comment period so that neighbors have an opportunity to comment with the

relevant information.

2. Work with the developer to develop alternative designs to maximize tree retention.

Please help save these trees. Once they are gone, they are gone forever. Let's work together to ensure housing and trees are compatible.

Thank you,

Cynthia Johnson and Tim Humes

Cynthia Johnson

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

5105 1st Ave NW

SEATTLE, Washington 98107

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**From:** Cynthia Johnson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 8:45 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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.

Cynthia Johnson

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

5105 1st Ave NW

Seattle, Washington 98107

**From:** Timothy Humes <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 8:46 PM  
**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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

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

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

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

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

Timothy Humes

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

5105 1ST AVE NW

SEATTLE, Washington 98107-3433

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

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2020 10:53 PM

**To:** Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto\_de\_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Pedersen, Alex <Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; Morales, Tammy <Tammy.Morales@seattle.gov>; Sawant, Kshama <Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov>; Mosqueda, Teresa <Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov>; Gonzalez, Lorena <Lorena.Gonzalez@seattle.gov>; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; McGarry, Deborah <Deborah.McGarry@seattle.gov>; Pederson, Art <Art.Pederson@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Let Seattle clear everthing but street trees in a housing crisis?

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Seattle Mayor Durkan and Seattle Councilmembers-

Given Seattle's rightful objective of **reversing climate change**, is the elimination of trees except trees from along streets really good urban planning?

Observe two (2) equally-scaled Seattle aerial views tree canopy maps of Wallingford compared to Belltown as one example. What does this comparison indicate that the future holds for a sustainable city?

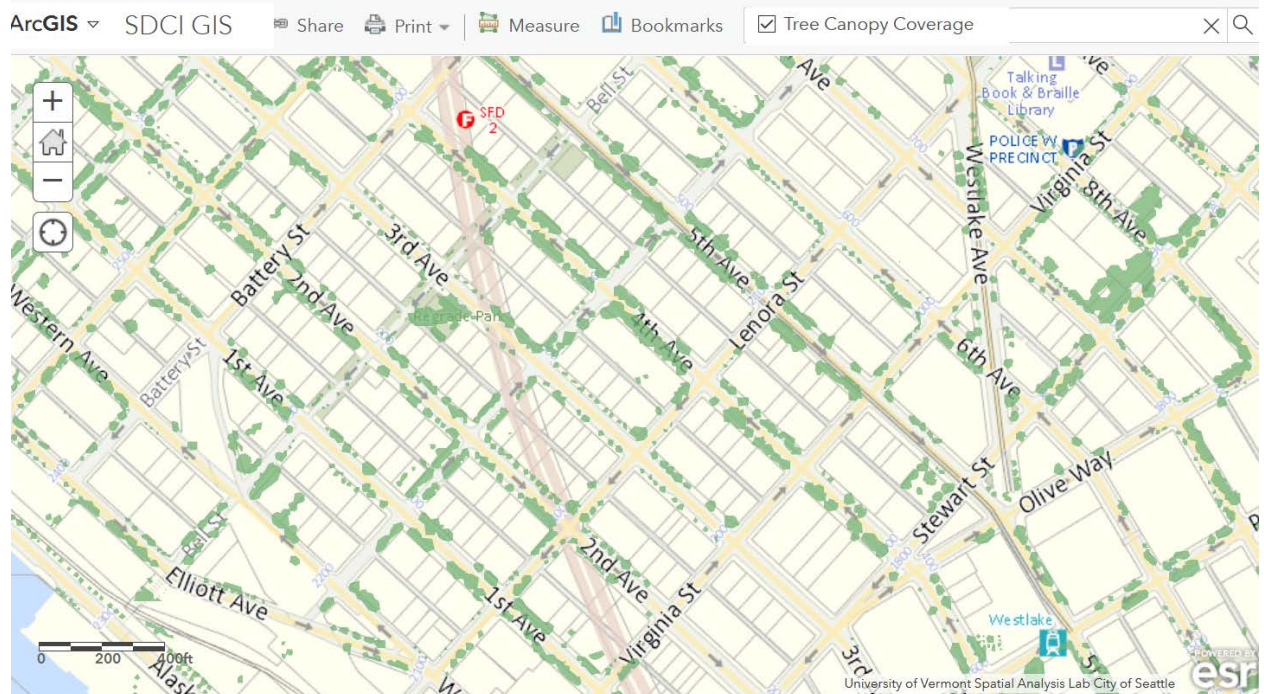
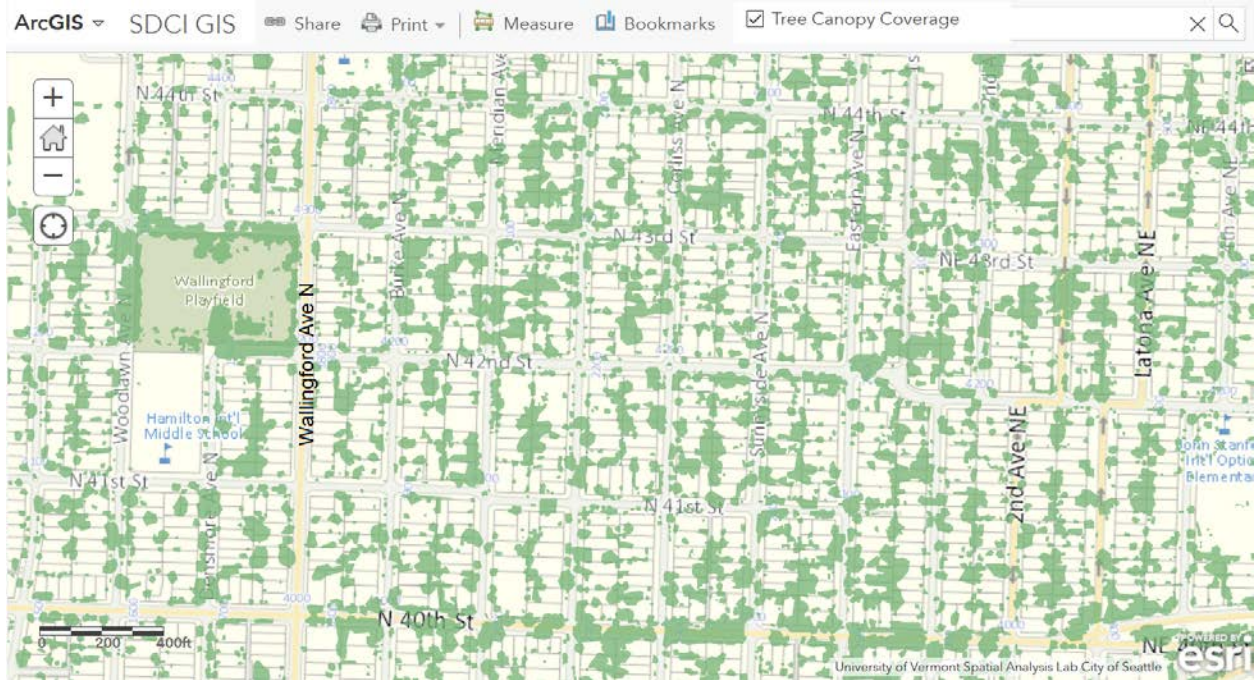
Yes, we need to strive with legislation for **both the urban forest along with urban density**... not just one or the other or by chance.

**Please pick up the pace on Seattle's enforceable tree ordinance.**

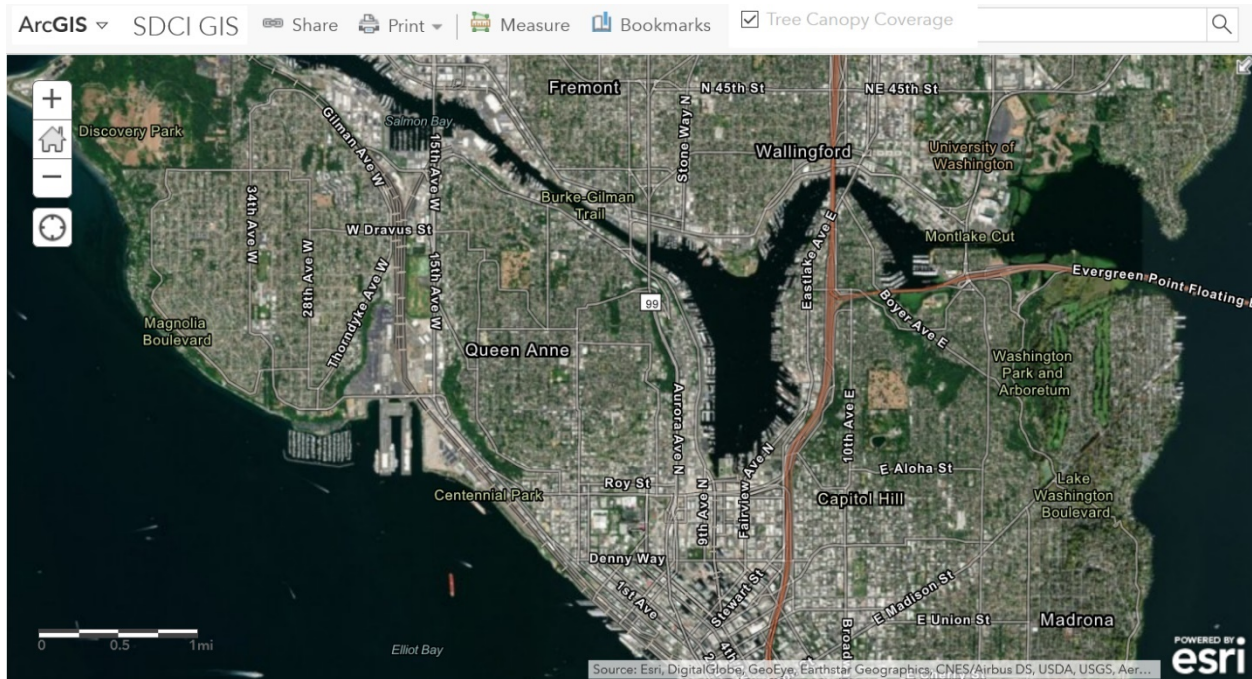
Thank you,

David Moehring  
TreePAC Board Member

*Stay healthy! Nothing filters and cleans the air better are more naturally than Seattle's urban forest.*







From NY Times: [Why we need urban open space \(thanks Jan!\)](#)

"The study suggests that fragmented ecosystems like those in backyards do benefit cities and should be factored into urban planning. For example, green spaces placed next to developed spaces might act as a buffer against the negative effects that impervious surfaces have on the environment.

Ms. Ziter and Dr. Keiluweit agreed that *minimizing pavement and keeping green spaces green* was an important first step.

"You don't need to have a perfect lawn for it to be really beneficial," Ms. Ziter said. "You don't have to have an incredibly intensive management system. It's O.K. to have things to be a little wild."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/06/climate/yard-garden-global-warming.html>



[A Secret Superpower, Right in Your Backyard](#)

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

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Small, urban green spaces provide an unexpected benefit in the fight against climate change, a new study shows.

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