

Tree Protections Update

Photo by John Skelton



Seattle Department of
Construction & Inspections



Seattle
Office of Sustainability
& Environment

Urban Forestry Commission
August 3, 2022

TODAY'S DISCUSSION

- SEPA Appeal
- Draft Legislation Update
- UFC Recommendations (March and July 2022)
- Next Steps



TREE PROTECTIONS UPDATE

Hearing Examiner Decision on SEPA Appeal

Possible Outcomes*

- 1) Affirms City's Determination, could allow Council to move forward considering draft legislation
- 2) Full Environmental Impact Statement, would need to be completed prior to Council action
- 3) Additional analysis required, could allow Council to proceed once confirmed work completed or could require reissue the threshold determination

**Anticipate Ruling end of July/early August*



TREE PROTECTIONS UPDATE

UFC Recommendations/Additional Clarifications (1 of 2)

- Payment-in-lieu
- Establishment of newly planted trees
- Tree replacement requirements
- Tree protection areas
- Type I Administrative “tree reviews”
- Tree removal limits
- Zoning applicability



TREE PROTECTIONS UPDATE

UFC Recommendations/Additional Clarifications (2 of 2)

- Tree tracking
- Exemptions
- Incentives
- Covenants
- Hazard trees
- Permits for tree removal
- Reporting (PIL, Tree Tracking)



NEXT STEPS

Q3 to Q4 2022

- Work with stakeholders, including UFC, on any potential revisions to SEPA Draft legislation
- Identify resources needed for implementation and enforcement
- Work with the Mayor and City Council on the next steps



QUESTIONS?

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www.seattle.gov/sdci/codes/changes-to-code/tree-protection/project-documents

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