



SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Julia Michalak (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist), Co-chair
Joshua Morris (Position #7 – NGO), Co-Chair
Joe Sisneros (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist - ISA) • **Falisha Kurji** (Position #3 – Natural Resource Agency)
Becca Neumann (Position #4 – Hydrologist) • **Stuart Niven** (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA)
Hao Liang (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA) • **David Moehring** (Position # 8 – Development)
Blake Voorhees (Position # 9 – Realtor) • **Laura Keil** (Position #10 – Get Engaged)
Jessica Hernandez (Position #11 – Environmental Justice) • **Jessica Jones** (Position # 12 – Public Health)
Lia Hall (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 3, 2022, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Via Webex call and in-person at the
Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 1872 (18th floor)
700 5th Avenue, Seattle

(206) 207-1700

Meeting number: 2494 142 4553

Meeting password: 1234

Attending

Commissioners

Josh Morris – Co-Chair
Falisha Kurji
Stuart Niven
Hao Liang
Blake Voorhees
Laura Keil
Jessica Jones
Lia Hall

Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE

Guests

Toby Thaler

Public

Barbara Bernard
Sandy Shettler
Susan Ricci
Steve Zemke

Absent- Excused

Julia Michalak – Co-Chair
Joe Sisneros
Becca Neumann
David Moehring
Jessica Hernandez

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: Julia called the meeting to order and offered a land acknowledgement.

Public comment:

Barbara Bernard spoke about a project on Aurora Ave. This has long been an area that doesn't have adequate tree cover. Many mature trees were taken out a few years ago on Aurora for a storage unit project. SDOT indicated there would be a 2:1 replacement ratio with that project, but a recent visit showed there wasn't that amount of replacement, and many of the ones that were planted aren't doing well. She has photos that she will share for the record. Replacement trees are small and don't provide the shade the previous trees did. The buildings and surrounding concrete are absorbing and radiating heat now, exacerbating heat island effect. There is concern that removal of some of the last mature trees on Aurora and doing similar replacement for the new proposed project will not help the surrounding neighborhood.

Sandy Shettler – this is the time we're starting to think about budget. Two years ago, the Council tried to get funding into the budget for two additional Arborists in SDCI, but that didn't go through. She has been following tree removals and noted two recent project examples involving exceptional trees where SDCI Planners allowed removal. In both cases, the project didn't make it to SDCI Arborist review, and SDCI apologized that removal of the exceptional trees was missed. She would like the existing Arborists to have more support, so that they can be involved in project decisions. If the UFC prepares a letter for a budget request, she would help get the word out.

Sharon Ricci discussed a project in Taylor Creek, in Deadhorse Canyon and Lakeridge Park. Most of the residents bordering the park are residents of unincorporated King County. Seattle Public Utilities is planning to take out ~300 trees in a project aimed at reducing runoff, improv drainage and habitat for salmon. About 100 concerned people met at the Rainier Beach Community Center, and agreed they want 1) SPU to conduct a better community engagement process, 2) have an independent engineer (not hired by SPU) review and design the project, and 3) not have these trees clear cut for a road to be put through this hundred-year-old greenspace, which is the only open space in this area. They would like SPU to look at the alternative of having animal and human labor bring in materials to create the drainage solutions necessary. They are looking for support to avoid the runoff, heat and erosion that would happen if these trees are taken out with this project.

Steve Zemke noted that those replacement trees for the storage unit project on Aurora are failing due to lack of watering. The other issue on Aurora is the sweetgum removal project where notice was put up for removal of trees between 80th and 130th or so. This is a sidewalk issue and SDOT needs to look at how we can save those trees that are there. Removal will those trees are stressed, we need to care for them better. Regarding the Tree Protection Ordinance, the loss of trees from lack of oversight and planning in these projects points to the need to do tree inventory on the front end, that includes what trees will come out, what will stay and what will be planted and replanted. Looking at that along with the landscape plan, everyone will be clear on what is to be save and what is not. SDCI is too limited in what they can do (3 site visits per day at most), so they do need more Arborists and that proposal should come from the UFC. Dan Strauss indicated that the Land Use Committee would meet again September 14, which is getting late in the budget process, and the timeline for how the Ordinance can proceed is unclear. Perhaps discussing how some of the provisions can move forward this year is a step that can be taken.

Chair, Committees, and Coordinator report:

Patti shared some updates:

- Regarding the potential removal of trees on Aurora Avenue for the project to replace sidewalks between 80th and 105th, many emails have been received addressed to the Commission on this. There is much community concern about the potential removal of these trees, and is another example of the potential

tension between accessible sidewalks and trees, so folks are urging that creative solutions be used to accommodate both trees and sidewalks.

- Social media page – Lia is interested in running a social media page, likely on Instagram. The content would be mostly utilizing existing information about what the UFC does and announcing when the meetings happen and letting the public know how to participate, engaging public about current policies and happenings related to trees, sharing information about ecosystem services that trees provide and so on.
- Canopy cover assessment – we are still waiting for a draft report from the consultant team with this data, and staff hope to share results with the UFC at the August 20 meeting.
- Regarding Co-Chair nominations and election, Becca has indicated she is willing to serve as Co-Chair. No other nominations have been received yet.
- The joint meeting between the UFC and the IDT will be September 21, 1:00-5:00 p.m. We are looking at doing a 4-hour session rather than a full day as has been done in pre-COVID years, as we ease back into in-person gatherings. This will be an in-person meeting, but we'll retain remote participation options.

Josh shared that there are two meetings scheduled with OSE Director Jessyn Farrell later this month to collaborate on the Chief Arborist Statement of Legislative Intent. Additional Commissioners are able to participate as interested. Also, a subgroup met recently to discuss potential updates to the website and have another meeting scheduled to continue the discussion on August 17th. Additional Commissioners are able to join that discussion as well.

Adoption of July 6 and July 20 meeting notes

ACTION: A motion to approve the July 6 meeting notes as amended was made, seconded, and approved.

ACTION: A motion to approve the July 20 meeting notes as written was made, seconded, and approved.

SEPA draft urban forest protection ordinance – Chanda Emery, SDCI

Chanda outlined the plan for this discussion, starting with an update on the appeal of the SEPA determination, then reviewing updates on the draft legislation in relation to the UFC recommendations from March and July 2022, and then next steps for this process.

Chanda outlined three potential outcomes from the Hearing Examiner's decision: affirming the City's determination, allowing Council to move forward considering draft legislation; ordering that a full Environmental Impact Statement be done, requiring much time and resources; and requiring additional analyses, allowing Council to proceed once that work is completed and confirmed. A ruling is anticipated at the end of July or early August, and can be found on the Hearing Examiner's website which will be shared in the chat.

Regarding the draft ordinance and the UFC recommendations, Chanda shared a list of recommendation and clarification areas based on review of the recommendations letters. Chanda and Commissioners selected and discussed several of those areas to discuss for this meeting:

- Payment-in-lieu program funds – Chanda clarified that the funds coming in for this new option would be pass-through only; they wouldn't stay with SDCI. They would be received by SDCI and then passed on to the department doing the planting, which is currently expected to be SDOT and Parks and Recreation. There are also legal requirements for how the funds are tracked and spent, so SDCI will be able to report out on how the funds are being spent.

- Payment-in-lieu amounts – the Director’s Rule on this that was published along with the draft legislation in February described how the payment is being determined. Chanda clarified that maintenance costs will be included in calculating the payment amount. Tree species and location of the tree are not currently included in the calculation of costs. Commissioners noted that Washington DOT has a formula that incorporates many of these considerations, and that in general, a 1-for-1 replacement ratio is not going to achieve the canopy replacement values lost quickly enough when trees are removed. Chanda noted that SDCI will review the WSDOT process, and that it is a challenge to achieve a greater than 1-for-1 replacement ratio.
- Type I Administrative tree reviews – the draft legislation retains the ability to do the same process as the existing process. It was a type I previously and it’s still a type I review. The draft legislation incorporates a tree review into the process that wasn’t part of the process previously. This applies to how permit applications are reviewed, but not to the legislation itself. Any changes to the legislation in the future would still go through a SEPA process and be appealable. Commissioners noted that this reinforces the need for additional Arborists in SDCI given the additional workload it would generate.
- Permits for tree removal – SDCI did not recommend instituting a process for requiring permitting for tree removals outside of development. Chanda notes that one reason for this was to accommodate flexibility for homeowners’ needs. Another reason is enforceability, since it is difficult enough for SDCI staff to process and enforce the existing set of permits. Also, other jurisdictions that do have permits for tree removal indicate that they are not able to enforce that permit requirement.

Chanda indicated that they look forward to more deliberative sessions through the summer as well as reviewing any additional information or resources that Commissioners have to share. Prior to legislation moving forward to Council, the current Mayor administration needs to review and confirm the content of the legislation, since the draft legislation was prepared under the previous administration.

Chanda also shared next steps for this work to be done in the remainder of the year:

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

Josh will take the lead on drafting a response letter for SDCI, to include that replacement costs and ratio should incorporate ecosystem services for the payment-in-lieu program, appreciation for the clarification on the Type I process, and reinforcing the desire for a permit process and identifying more robust tracking options if that cannot be developed.

Comprehensive Plan Environmental Impact Statement alternatives

Josh provided a review of the proposed EIS alternatives and the resolution the Council passed asking for climate resiliency to be incorporated into the Comp Plan update process.

Josh noted that there has been comment that Alternative 4 should not be included because of equity considerations.

Laura noted that something that is missing is prioritization of non-vehicular public spaces and planning from the human scale. This happens in a lot of cities in the U.S. Environmental attractiveness including trees adds to the experience of people moving through spaces; that is missing from the planning process so far. Potentially an Alternative 6 could incorporate climate resiliency and the human experience.

Hao noted that data is only shown for Alternative 1 (projections of jobs and people) and these are King County’s projections. Alternative 1 is aimed at meeting those targets and Alternatives 2-5 are aimed at meeting growth projections. One goal is to determine how to meet those needs for people and jobs and then figure out how to retain trees while doing that.

One alternative not included is something that studies things like regenerative EcoDistricts discussed by Michael Eliason in his recent presentation. The typical development models don't lend themselves to provision of parks, open spaces and amenities. The UFC could suggest those types of development models be included in this process.

The plan update process includes a set of defined place types. Commissioners noted that these types were developed in the 1990's and could potentially be updated.

Josh reviewed Council's resolution related to climate change impacts being included in the Comp Plan update. UFC supports the resolution and has additional items to suggest adding; Josh reviewed those potential suggestions.

Laura will work with Josh to draft a comment letter, with the aim to get it to folks a week in advance for review in preparation for the 8/17 meeting, so comments can be finalized prior to the end of the public comment period.

NYC work

Josh explained that The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is working with New York City to conduct a practical canopy analysis, a spatially explicit analysis of where new trees are possible in the city. This is similar to what we've been needing in Seattle. The lead for that project and the local urban program director will be presenting to the UFC on September 7 on the work in NYC and locally.

The UFC aims to compile a list of questions to share with the TNC team prior to their presentation on 9/7, and will have some time on the next agenda to develop those.

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:

Steve Zemke noted that the UFC can be aggressive in continuing to push for greater protections beyond those currently proposed. We really need to keep the large trees we currently have given the difficulty in replacing that canopy. Patti could forward to the Commissioners past presentations from on payment in lieu options. Replacement ratios should be larger than 2:1, let alone 1:1. The resistance to permits is absurd. SDOT is doing it and other cities are doing it including Tacoma, Atlanta, and Lake Forest Park. Voluntary reporting does not give an indication of what's happening out there. The City was looking at amendments to the current Comp Plan ahead of the update process, to look at where we can concentrate more trees in order to reach tree equity.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Meeting Chat:

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 3:08 PM

Send photos/info to: patricia.bakker@seattle.gov

from Blake Voorhees to everyone: 3:09 PM

Thank you, Barbara.

from Blake Voorhees to everyone: 3:11 PM

Thanks, Sandy!

from Blake Voorhees to everyone: 3:13 PM

Thank you, Sharon. Send to Patti @ patricia.bakker@seattle.gov

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:24 PM

Thanks Steve!

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:39 PM

payment in lieu needs to increase with size of tree removed, like Portland does. Also tree replacement needs to be more than 1 tree for 1 tree - not on slide.

from Blake Voorhees to everyone: 3:39 PM

Enforcement

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:40 PM

Great question!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:40 PM

SDOT has people on the weekend!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:41 PM

I can send an example of an SDOT arborist stopping an illegal removal last Saturday.

from Blake Voorhees to everyone: 3:41 PM

Please do

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:42 PM

<https://www.westsideseattle.com/robinson-papers/2022/07/31/sdot-stops-illegal-tree-cutting-only-one-three-large-cedars-still-stand>

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:43 PM

Definitely need two week notice of applications to remove trees both on site and on line to stop illegal removal of trees

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:46 PM

cost needs to include ecosystem services value of tree that is lost not just cost to buy a replacement tree!! Portland charges \$450/diameter inch for trees over 20 inches

from Blake Voorhees to everyone: 3:47 PM

Thank you, Sandy. Great article and public resource.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:48 PM

replacing a 89 year old conifer with a 6 foot tree is not an equivalence of the loss of the existing tree!

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:52 PM

Other Seattle city Depts require a 2 for 1 replacement. Why isn't even that minimal replacement considered?

This was set up by Mayor Nickels over a decade ago.

from Sharon Ricci (privately): 3:54 PM

I sent you an email Patricia with what I know so far about the proposed SPU Taylor Creek "Restoration" project.

from Sharon Ricci (privately): 3:55 PM

And I used my work email sricci@wfs.org but signed in to this meeting using my personal email ricci.sharon@gmail.com.

from Sharon Ricci to everyone: 3:59 PM

Is there a reason why trees under 6" diameter are not considered important? These trees are often 5-15yrs old and holding soil in place.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:59 PM

The Type 1 review removes exceptional tree removal in multi family zones from design review requirement. Tree regulation research project noted that only .3% of projects had gone to design review for exceptional trees

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:01 PM

6" trees represent 45% of tree sin neighborhood residential 12"DBH represent only 18% of trees according to Ecosystems Services Report.in 2012

from Jim Davis to everyone: 4:02 PM

How much would it cost to provide a permitting service for private property outside of development. Could this scenario be shown as an option with the price associated with it.

from Jim Davis to everyone: 4:04 PM

Perhaps let the Council and Mayor decide if the additional costs would be warranted rather than just say it is a non starter.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:05 PM

SDOT has set up on line tree removal and replacement permits. through the Accela database system SDCI could do the same for 6" DBH trees and larger

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:08 PM

Atlanta GA, Tacoma DOT and Lake Forest Park currently use on line Accela system for tree removal and replacement permits. Voluntary reporting is not accountable and accurate.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:09 PM

I don't think that means we should give up on those trees.

from Sharon Ricci to everyone: 4:15 PM

Thank you all for providing this platform for our community members. I have another Zoom at 4:30pm for my daughter's upcoming trip to the UN! Thank you for your effort and thoughtfulness for our urban forest.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:18 PM

Thanks Sharon for caring for the canyon forest and trees in general. Best wishes for your daughter!

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:18 PM

None of alternatives really discuss impact on trees and urban forests, Maybe need to consider an alternative based on presentation at last UFC meeting that puts a higher priority on open space and trees into development process.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:21 PM

Need to give priority to building affordable housing, not just housing which is usually market rate housing many cannot afford.

from Lia Hall to everyone: 4:22 PM

I concur with the need for exploring regenerative eco districts.

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 4:24 PM

Has need to include trees on private land in order to meet Comp Plan goals been stated in OPCD's material?

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 4:31 PM

<https://seattle.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5721424&GUID=BC88BA35-B914-4B65-84BC-F8A5CF1106A8&Options=ID%7cText%7c&Search=climate>

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:33 PM

Resolution was not voted on at the last Land Use Committee as they do it at next meeting on Sept 16th. So you have time to draft and send draft amendments.

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 4:33 PM

As noted in the draft protection ordinance discussion, here is the website to track hearing examiner decision : seattle.gov/hearing-examiner/decisions/case-search

from Falisha Kurji to everyone: 4:34 PM

I'd like to see safe walking and biking routes incorporated in this resolution

from Hao Liang to everyone: 4:38 PM

130th and 145th Station Area Planning - July 21 2022 Presentation

from Hao Liang to everyone: 4:38 PM

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

from Hao Liang to everyone: 4:38 PM

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

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 4:42 PM

NYC Urban Forest Agenda:

https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/UFA_Pages_final_hires.pdf

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 4:43 PM

Resolution 32059 was passed out of Land Use Committee July 13 and adopted by Council on July 19:

<http://seattle.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5721424&GUID=BC88BA35-B914-4B65-84BC-F8A5CF1106A8>

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 4:43 PM

A RESOLUTION stating The City of Seattle's intent to address climate change and improve resiliency as part of the One Seattle update to the Comprehensive Plan.

from Stuart Niven to everyone: 4:44 PM

Very sorry but I am having significant connection issues at my end which is why I am dropping in and out. I think my wife is dehydrated.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:48 PM

I agree with Steve! SDOT has been doing this for 9 years and the public both accepts and overwhelmingly supports it.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:50 PM

Thanks Commissioners for volunteering so much of your time and energy:)

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

From: Jessica Dixon-Horton <BARDJESS@msn.com>

Sent: Friday, July 22, 2022 3:11 PM

To: kristin.simpson@seattle.gov; Bergerson, Ethan <Ethan.Bergerson@seattle.gov>; DOT_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>

Cc: Juarez, Debora <Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; lictonsprings@hotmail.com; Maggie Rogers <executivedirector@plantamnesty.org>; Josh Morris <joshm@seattleaudubon.org>; info@dontclearcutseattle.org

Subject: Aurora's Few Street Trees at Risk!

CAUTION: External Email

Dear Director Simpson and Mr. Bergerson,

I am reaching out to ask that the street trees on Aurora Ave North be protected and retained as new sidewalks and other street improvements are constructed. These healthy American Sweetgums are Aurora's only mature street trees between 80th and 103rd. They provide shade and cooling to one of Seattle's busiest streets, which has so little greenery that it creates its own heat island (see map above).

I noticed nearly all the trees on Aurora have signs noting they will be evaluated. I am concerned because I know this often results in their removal. Yet they are healthy and could live for many more decades if the sidewalks are constructed to accommodate them. I have seen SDOT do this in other neighborhoods and it can be done on Aurora with thoughtful planning.

These trees provide the only shade available to Aurora's many businesses, pedestrians and commuters. If they are removed, we will also lose their other ecosystem benefits, contributions to Aurora's livability, and the beauty they add to such a car-centric area. Studies show that mature trees along street R-O-W function to *slow* traffic, while stretches with no trees typically see higher speeds. I am concerned that replacement trees will take decades to reach the size of these mature sweetgums; *if* they survive at all with hotter summers, and surrounded by pavement and pollution.

As an adjacent business owner said about the Aurora Avenue North Corridor Improvements Project, "removing trees is not an improvement!" I'm attaching a snip of the King County heat map, which shows the North Aurora corridor as a heat nexus. Photos of some of the trees are below.

Please design Aurora's new sidewalks around the existing trees.

Sincerely,

Jessica Dixon







Jessica Dixon
Seattle, WA - (206) 478-2443

From: Erika Kretzmer <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 9:12 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Save Our Trees!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

Please act to update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance. It's been 13 years since the Seattle City Council first urged the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) to update the ordinance. We appreciate the recent enactment by the Seattle City Council and Mayor to adopt registration of Tree Service Providers in the city as a first step. We also appreciate action finally by SDCI to release a more complete draft of an updated Tree Protection Ordinance.

The draft Tree Protection Ordinance is currently under a Hearing Examiner appeal by the Master Builders of King and Snohomish County and six development companies. Their goal is to delay and potentially weaken the ordinance. We believe that Seattle needs to protect its existing trees while planting more trees in underserved areas with low tree canopy to address adverse climate impacts while also increasing

affordable housing. It is not a question of one or the other. We need to do both.

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city and people livable and healthy. 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. A robust urban forest is critical for climate resilience and environmental equity.

Seattle's rapid growth and increased density combined with an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed without serious consideration of ways to incorporate more of them in the development. Unless exceptional there is no real effort to save them. And what replacement requirements were in the ordinance since 2001 appears to have seldom been enforced. It is urgent to act now to reduce this continued loss of existing trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity by retaining as many trees as possible and replacing those removed for climate resiliency.

We support the following provisions in SDCI's draft ordinance.

1. Lowering the upper limit for exceptional trees to 24" Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) from 30" DBH.
2. Continuing protection for exceptional trees less than 24" DBH and tree groves and heritage trees
3. Defining any tree 6" DBH and larger that is not exceptional as a significant tree
4. Continuing prohibition on removal of trees 6" DBH and larger on undeveloped lots.
5. Requiring replacement of 12" DBH and larger trees removed by developers
6. Creating an in-lieu fee for developers to replace trees 12" DBH and larger that cannot be replaced on the development site.
7. Requiring in lieu fees be used to replace and maintain newly planted trees
8. Limiting removal of significant trees outside development to those less than 12" DBH
9. Protected trees and replaced trees are covered by a covenant for life of project

Here are key provisions that need to be added to the draft ordinance

1. Protected trees should include protection of the roots of the tree, which includes soil around the tree to the drip line. If the roots are cut or disturbed, it is almost as bad as cutting branches or the trunk of the tree.
2. A property tax credit should be established for every significant and protected tree on the property. This would encourage property owners to register their trees into the database, and also provide a record for the city of where these important trees are. Do not give the property tax credit for the "replacement trees" until they have actually reached the required size.

I also agree with the points of my TREEPAC friends as follows:

1. Expand the existing Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) Tree Removal and Replacement

Permit Program using the Accela database system to include SDCI to cover all significant trees 6" DBH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.

2. Require SDCI submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree removal and replacement as required by other City Departments
3. Require 2-week public notice posting, as SDOT does on-site, and add online, of any 6" DBH and larger tree removal and replacement permit requests and keep posted on a lot for 1 week after removal
4. Require that tree replacement numbers increase with the size of the removed tree such that in 25 years or less they will reach equivalent canopy volume lost – either on site or pay a replacement fee that also increases with the size of the tree removed
5. All replacement in lieu fees and fines should go into a dedicated Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund (not SDCI budget or city general fund), that yearly reports on their budget to the City Council and Mayor.
6. Allow the Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants, purchase land, set up covenants and for educational purposes.
7. Require 5-year maintenance of replanted trees
8. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-exceptional trees in 3 years per lot outside development
9. Require developers throughout the total development process to maximize the retention of existing trees with adequate space for trees to grow and survive.
10. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6" DBH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan prior to any building permits being approved.
11. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Industrial, Downtown and Institutions
12. Keep requirement that all 6" DBH and larger trees be on site plans
13. Require tree replacement or in lieu fees by developers for trees removed 1 year prior to property purchase
14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity
15. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance
16. All trees replaced are protected trees and not subject to removal
17. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, from development sites

Thank you for your consideration.

Erika Kretzmer
ekretzmer@gmail.com
7908 Fremont Ave N
Seattle, Washington 98103

From: Heidi Siegelbaum <Heidi@calyxsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 1:53 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

Please act to update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance. It's been 13 years since the Seattle City Council first urged the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) to update the ordinance. We appreciate the recent enactment by the Seattle City Council and Mayor to adopt registration of Tree Service Providers in the city as a first step. We also appreciate action finally by SDCI to release a more complete draft of an updated Tree Protection Ordinance.

The draft Tree Protection Ordinance is currently under a Hearing Examiner appeal by the Master Builders of King and Snohomish County and six development companies. Their goal is to delay and potentially weaken the ordinance. We believe that Seattle needs to protect its existing trees while planting more trees in underserved areas with low tree canopy to address adverse climate impacts while also increasing affordable housing. It is not a question of one or the other. We need to do both.

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city and people livable and healthy. 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. A robust urban forest is critical for climate resilience and environmental equity.

Seattle's rapid growth and increased density combined with an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed without serious consideration of ways to incorporate more of them in the development. Unless exceptional there is no real effort to save them. And what replacement requirements were in the ordinance since 2001 appears to have seldom been enforced. It is urgent to act now to reduce this continued loss of existing trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity by retaining as many trees as possible and replacing those removed for climate resiliency.

We support the following provisions in SDCI's draft ordinance.

1. Lowering the upper limit for exceptional trees to 24" Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) from 30" DBH.
2. Continuing protection for exceptional trees less than 24" DBH and tree groves and heritage trees
3. Defining any tree 6" DBH and larger that is not exceptional as a significant tree
4. Continuing prohibition on removal of trees 6" DBH and larger on undeveloped lots.
5. Requiring replacement of 12" DBH and larger trees removed by developers
6. Creating an in-lieu fee for developers to replace trees 12" DBH and larger that cannot be replaced on

the development site.

7. Requiring in lieu fees be used to replace and maintain newly planted trees
8. Limiting removal of significant trees outside development to those less than 12" DBH
9. Protected trees and replaced trees are covered by a covenant for life of project

Here are key provisions that need to be added to the draft ordinance

1. Expand the existing Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program using the Accela database system to include SDCI to cover all significant trees 6" DBH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require SDCI submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree removal and replacement as required by other City Departments
3. Require 2-week public notice posting, as SDOT does on-site, and add online, of any 6" DBH and larger tree removal and replacement permit requests and keep posted on a lot for 1 week after removal
4. Require that tree replacement numbers increase with the size of the removed tree such that in 25 years or less they will reach equivalent canopy volume lost – either on site or pay a replacement fee that also increases with the size of the tree removed
5. All replacement in lieu fees and fines should go into a dedicated Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund (not SDCI budget or city general fund), that yearly reports on their budget to the City Council and Mayor.
6. Allow the Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants, purchase land, set up covenants and for educational purposes.
7. Require 5-year maintenance of replanted trees
8. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-exceptional trees in 3 years per lot outside development
9. Require developers throughout the total development process to maximize the retention of existing trees with adequate space for trees to grow and survive.
10. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6" DBH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan prior to any building permits being approved.
11. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Industrial, Downtown and Institutions
12. Keep requirement that all 6" DBH and larger trees be on site plans
13. Require tree replacement or in lieu fees by developers for trees removed 1 year prior to property purchase
14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity
15. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance
16. All trees related are protected trees and not subject to removal
17. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, from development sites

Heidi Siegelbaum
Heidi@calyxsite.com
3018 NW 85th
Seattle, Washington 98117

From: Cindy Savage <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2022 4:35 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

Please act to update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance. It's been 13 years since the Seattle City Council first urged the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) to update the ordinance. We appreciate the recent enactment by the Seattle City Council and Mayor to adopt registration of Tree Service Providers in the city as a first step. We also appreciate action finally by SDCI to release a more complete draft of an updated Tree Protection Ordinance.

The draft Tree Protection Ordinance is currently under a Hearing Examiner appeal by the Master Builders of King and Snohomish County and six development companies. Their goal is to delay and potentially weaken the ordinance. We believe that Seattle needs to protect its existing trees while planting more trees in underserved areas with low tree canopy to address adverse climate impacts while also increasing affordable housing. It is not a question of one or the other. We need to do both.

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city and people livable and healthy. 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. A robust urban forest is critical for climate resilience and environmental equity.

Seattle's rapid growth and increased density combined with an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed without serious consideration of ways to incorporate more of them in the development. Unless exceptional there is no real effort to save them. And what replacement requirements were in the ordinance since 2001 appears to have seldom been enforced. It is urgent to act now to reduce this continued loss of existing trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity by retaining as many trees as possible and replacing those removed for climate resiliency.

We support the following provisions in SDCI's draft ordinance.

1. Lowering the upper limit for exceptional trees to 24" Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) from 30" DBH.

2. Continuing protection for exceptional trees less than 24" DBH and tree groves and heritage trees
3. Defining any tree 6" DBH and larger that is not exceptional as a significant tree
4. Continuing prohibition on removal of trees 6" DBH and larger on undeveloped lots.
5. Requiring replacement of 12" DBH and larger trees removed by developers
6. Creating an in-lieu fee for developers to replace trees 12" DBH and larger that cannot be replaced on the development site.
7. Requiring in lieu fees be used to replace and maintain newly planted trees
8. Limiting removal of significant trees outside development to those less than 12" DBH
9. Protected trees and replaced trees are covered by a covenant for life of project

Here are key provisions that need to be added to the draft ordinance

1. Expand the existing Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program using the Accela database system to include SDCI to cover all significant trees 6" DBH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
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15. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance
16. All trees related are protected trees and not subject to removal
17. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, from development sites

Cindy Savage
cindy.savage@gmail.com
432 NE Ravenna Blvd
Seattle, Washington 98115-8448

From: Kara Wiggert <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2022 11:03 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Save Our Trees!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

Please act to update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance. It's been 13 years since the Seattle City Council first urged the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) to update the ordinance. We appreciate the recent enactment by the Seattle City Council and Mayor to adopt registration of Tree Service Providers in the city as a first step. We also appreciate action finally by SDCI to release a more complete draft of an updated Tree Protection Ordinance.

The draft Tree Protection Ordinance is currently under a Hearing Examiner appeal by the Master Builders of King and Snohomish County and six development companies. Their goal is to delay and potentially weaken the ordinance. We believe that Seattle needs to protect its existing trees while planting more trees in underserved areas with low tree canopy to address adverse climate impacts while also increasing affordable housing. It is not a question of one or the other. We need to do both.

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city and people livable and healthy. 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. A robust urban forest is critical for climate resilience and environmental equity.

Seattle's rapid growth and increased density combined with an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed without serious consideration of ways to incorporate more of them in the development. Unless exceptional there is no real effort to save them. And what replacement requirements were in the ordinance since 2001 appears to have seldom been enforced. It is urgent to act now to reduce this continued loss of existing trees, particularly large mature trees and tree

groves. It is important to promote environmental equity by retaining as many trees as possible and replacing those removed for climate resiliency.

We support the following provisions in SDCI's draft ordinance.

1. Lowering the upper limit for exceptional trees to 24" Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) from 30" DBH.
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5. Requiring replacement of 12" DBH and larger trees removed by developers
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7. Requiring in lieu fees be used to replace and maintain newly planted trees
8. Limiting removal of significant trees outside development to those less than 12" DBH
9. Protected trees and replaced trees are covered by a covenant for life of project

Here are key provisions that need to be added to the draft ordinance

1. Expand the existing Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program using the Accela database system to include SDCI to cover all significant trees 6" DBH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
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16. All trees relaced are protected trees and not subject to removal
17. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, from development sites

Thank you.

Kara

Kara Wiggert
karawiggert@gmail.com
11032 parkview Ave s
Seattle, Washington 98178

From: Thomas Coffee <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2022 2:19 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Don't wait to protect Seattle's trees

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

We came to Seattle for the trees. We stay for the trees.

But Seattle has been waiting 13 years to update its Tree Protection Ordinance, and massive numbers of trees are being lost each year, many irreplaceable and many more never replaced. The Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) must build on its recent draft to strengthen protections for the trees we have left.

Trees protect the people of Seattle from air pollution, water pollution, excess light, and excess heat, and contribute immeasurably to the happiness and survival of human residents and wildlife. Providing all these services at no cost, they promote health and equity in ways that cannot be duplicated. They make Seattle a beautiful place to live year-round, different from every other major city in the country.

The draft ordinance is being reviewed by development companies and by the Master Builders of King and Snohomish County, whose interest is to delay and weaken the ordinance so that trees need not be considered in new development plans, and developers can continue to ignore replacement requirements with no enforcement. This is a shortsighted goal for housing development, in which the quality of life for all residents, especially those in new affordable housing, will suffer forever to promote a miniscule short-

term advantage in planning. We need to build affordable housing and protect our urban forest at the same time; it just requires a bit of care.

Trees are disappearing rapidly, and action cannot wait any longer. We support the recommendations of Don't Clearcut Seattle to maintain and improve important provisions in SDCI's draft ordinance:

Provisions to maintain:

1. Lowering the upper limit for exceptional trees to 24" Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) from 30" DBH.
2. Continuing protection for exceptional trees less than 24" DBH and tree groves and heritage trees
3. Defining any tree 6" DBH and larger that is not exceptional as a significant tree
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5. Requiring replacement of 12" DBH and larger trees removed by developers
6. Creating an in-lieu fee for developers to replace trees 12" DBH and larger that cannot be replaced on the development site.
7. Requiring in lieu fees be used to replace and maintain newly planted trees
8. Limiting removal of significant trees outside development to those less than 12" DBH
9. Protected trees and replaced trees are covered by a covenant for life of project

Provisions to add:

1. Expand the existing Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program using the Accela database system to include SDCI to cover all significant trees 6" DBH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
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15. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance
16. All trees related are protected trees and not subject to removal
17. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, from development sites

Thank you for helping to protect the most important and unique aspect of our vibrant city.

Thomas Coffee
thomasmcoffee@gmail.com
2124 NE Park Rd
Seattle, Washington 98105

From: Richard Ellison <climbwall@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 8:00 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

On Aurora Ave. N between 80th-105th has a strip of healthy big Sweetgum trees, some exceptional in size, (one measured in 2008 at 28" diameter), are at great risk of being removed by the City in a sidewalk repair project. Aurora Ave N has too few shade trees already! Please keep these trees so they can continue to benefit all who live, work, shop and visit in the neighborhood.

We beg our City officials to save these Sweetgum trees by utilizing modern design options while rebuilding the sidewalks between 80th-105th, along Aurora Ave N. We know SDOT is concerned the sidewalk is VERY rough in those places, a serious inconvenience to disabled folks or the less surefooted. But would be great if the City could fix the sidewalks without removing these trees.

Sweetgums are prized across the country as street trees for their resilience, resistance to disease, drought tolerance and beauty. In fact, they are currently recommended by SDOT as an approved street tree! So, we are stunned to find these beautiful shade trees may be removed for sidewalk improvements.

This is not the time to remove any mature trees in the city. Climate change and the urban heat islands formed in bare urban areas are impacting us right now. These shade trees providing cooling on a busy highway and commercial district with too few big trees right now. As shown on the King County urban heat map, removing these trees will expand the hottest part of the urban heat island.

The @seattledot signs alerting the public of this possible removal were ripped down soon after being put up, and we are concerned neighborhood people are not being alerted all these trees could be removed.

SDOT has already done this in other areas of Seattle. And our neighbors to the north in Shoreline, (@saveshorelinetrees) similarly successfully lobbied its City Council and WDOT to alter the sidewalk design, and thus saved a long row of giant conifers. We can too! It can be done. Save the Aurora Sweetgums!

Richard Ellison
climbwall@msn.com
8003 28th Ave NE
Seattle, Washington 98115-4639

From: David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 9:42 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Aurora Ave Street Tree retention

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

Aurora Ave. N (between 80th-105th) has a strip of healthy Sweetgum trees, some exceptional in size, (one measured in 2008 at 28" diameter). There are multiple reasons why these trees should be retained rather than be removed by the City for a simple sidewalk repair project. Aurora Ave N has too few trees, and these benefit all who live, work, shop and visit in the neighborhood.

There are several examples how these Sweetgum trees may be retained by utilizing modern design options while rebuilding the sidewalks between 80th-105th, along Aurora Ave N. We know SDOT is concerned the sidewalk is VERY rough in those places, a serious inconvenience to disabled folks or the less surefooted. But would be great if the City could fix the sidewalks without removing these trees.

Sweetgums are prized across the country as street trees for their resilience, resistance to disease, drought tolerance and beauty. In fact, they are currently recommended by SDOT as an approved street tree! So, we are stunned to find these beautiful shade trees may be removed for sidewalk improvements.

This is not the time to remove any mature trees in the city. Climate change and the urban heat islands formed in bare urban areas are impacting us right now. These shade trees providing cooling on a busy

highway and commercial district with too few big trees right now. As shown on the King County urban heat map, removing these trees will expand the hottest part of the urban heat island.

The @seattledot signs alerting the public of this possible removal were ripped down soon after being put up, and we are concerned neighborhood people are not being alerted all these trees could be removed.

SDOT has already done this in other areas of Seattle. And our neighbors to the north in Shoreline, (@saveshorelinetrees) similarly successfully lobbied its City Council and WSDOT to alter the sidewalk design, and thus saved a long row of giant conifers. We can too! It can be done. Save the Aurora Sweetgums!

David Moehring
dmoehring@consultant.com
3444 23rd Ave W, #B
Seattle , Washington 98199

From: Janet Way <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 8:23 AM

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

Subject: SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

This area is a WA State Highway.

WSDOT has jurisdiction and can stand up for these trees with SIDEWALK ALTERNATIVES!

On Aurora Ave. N between 80th-105th has a strip of healthy big Sweetgum trees, some exceptional in size, (one measured in 2008 at 28" diameter), are at great risk of being removed by the City in a sidewalk repair project. Aurora Ave N has too few shade trees already! Please keep these trees so they can continue to benefit all who live, work, shop and visit in the neighborhood.

We beg our City officials to save these Sweetgum trees by utilizing modern design options while rebuilding the sidewalks between 80th-105th, along Aurora Ave N. We know SDOT is concerned the sidewalk is VERY rough in those places, a potential hazard to disabled folks or the less surefooted. But would be great if the City could fix the sidewalks without removing these trees.

Sweetgums are prized across the country as street trees for their resilience, resistance to disease, drought tolerance and beauty. In fact, they are currently recommended by SDOT as an approved street tree! So, we are stunned to find these beautiful shade trees may be removed for sidewalk improvements.

This is not the time to remove any mature trees in the city. Climate change and the urban heat islands formed in bare urban areas are impacting us right now. These shade trees providing cooling on a busy highway and commercial district with too few big trees right now. As shown on the King County urban heat map, removing these trees will expand the hottest part of the urban heat island.

The @seattledot signs alerting the public of this possible removal were ripped down soon after being put up, and we are concerned neighborhood people are not being alerted all these trees could be removed. Please repost these signs so that the public knows what you are considering.

SDOT has already done this in other areas of Seattle. And our neighbors to the north in Shoreline, (@saveshorelinetrees) similarly successfully lobbied its City Council and WDOT to alter the sidewalk design, and thus saved a long row of giant conifers. We can too! It can be done.

Save the Aurora Sweetgums!!!

Janet Way
janetway@yahoo.com
940 NE 147th St
Shoreline , Washington 98155

From: Boni Biery <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 12:44 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

On Aurora Ave. N between 80th-105th, a strip of healthy big Sweetgum trees, some exceptional in size, (one measured in 2008 at 28" diameter), are at great risk of being removed by the City in a sidewalk repair project. Aurora Ave N has too few shade trees already! Please keep these trees so they can continue to benefit all who live, work, shop and visit in the neighborhood.

We beg our City officials to save these Sweetgum trees by utilizing modern design options while rebuilding the sidewalks between 80th-105th, along Aurora Ave N. We know SDOT is concerned the sidewalk is VERY rough in those places, a potential hazard to disabled folks or the less surefooted. But it would be wonderful if the City would fix the sidewalks AND work to save these mature, ecosystem serving trees!

Sweetgums are prized across the country as street trees for their resilience, resistance to disease, drought tolerance and beauty. In fact, they are currently recommended by SDOT as an approved street tree! So, we are stunned to find these beautiful shade trees may be removed for sidewalk improvements.

After all, the trees are a part of the experience of using a sidewalk and should be treated as a positive component to be retained.

This is not the time to remove any mature trees in the city. Climate change and the urban heat islands formed in bare urban areas are impacting us right now. These shade trees providing cooling on a busy highway and commercial district with too few big trees right now. As shown on the King County urban heat map, removing these trees will expand the hottest part of the urban heat island.

The @seattledot signs alerting the public of this possible removal were ripped down soon after being put up, and we are concerned neighborhood people are not being alerted to the fact that all these trees could be removed. Please repost these signs so that the public knows what you are considering.

SDOT has already done this in other areas of Seattle. And our neighbors to the north in Shoreline, (@saveshorelinetrees) similarly successfully lobbied its City Council and WDOT to alter the sidewalk design, and thus saved a long row of giant conifers. We can too! It can be done. Save the Aurora Sweetgums!

Boni Biery
birdsbeesfishtrees@gmail.com
903 N 188th St
Shoreline, Washington 98133-3906

From: Barbara Bernard <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 1:55 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

On Aurora Ave. N between 80th-105th has a strip of healthy big Sweetgum trees, some exceptional in size, (one measured in 2008 at 28" diameter), are at great risk of being removed by the City in a sidewalk repair project. Aurora Ave N has too few shade trees already! Please keep these trees so they can continue to benefit all who live, work, shop and visit in the neighborhood.

We beg our City officials to save these Sweetgum trees by utilizing modern design options while rebuilding the sidewalks between 80th-105th, along Aurora Ave N. We know SDOT is concerned the sidewalk is VERY rough in those places, a potential hazard to disabled folks or the less surefooted. But would be great if the City could fix the sidewalks without removing these trees.

Sweetgums are prized across the country as street trees for their resilience, resistance to disease, drought tolerance and beauty. In fact, they are currently recommended by SDOT as an approved street tree! So, we are stunned to find these beautiful shade trees may be removed for sidewalk improvements.

This is not the time to remove any mature trees in the city. Climate change and the urban heat islands formed in bare urban areas are impacting us right now. These shade trees providing cooling on a busy highway and commercial district with too few big trees right now. As shown on the King County urban heat map, removing these trees will expand the hottest part of the urban heat island.

The @seattledot signs alerting the public of this possible removal were ripped down soon after being put up, and we are concerned neighborhood people are not being alerted all these trees could be removed. Please repost these signs so that the public knows what you are considering.

SDOT has already done this in other areas of Seattle. And our neighbors to the north in Shoreline, (@saveshorelinetrees) similarly successfully lobbied its City Council and WDOT to alter the sidewalk design, and thus saved a long row of giant conifers. We can too! It can be done. Save the Aurora Sweetgums!

Barbara Bernard
barbara_bernard@yahoo.com
3213 W Wheeler St. #451
Seattle, Washington 98199

From: Woody Wheeler <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 2:25 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

On Aurora Ave. N between 80th-105th has a strip of healthy big Sweetgum trees, some exceptional in size, (one measured in 2008 at 28" diameter), are at great risk of being removed by the City in a sidewalk repair project. Aurora Ave N has too few shade trees already! Please keep these trees so they can continue to benefit all who live, work, shop and visit in the neighborhood.

We ask that our City officials save these Sweetgum trees instead of destroying them. By utilizing modern design options while rebuilding the sidewalks between 80th-105th, along Aurora Ave N these trees can be preserved. We know SDOT is concerned that the sidewalk is rough in those places, a potential hazard to disabled folks or the less surefooted. But would prefer that the City could repaired the sidewalks and saved these trees.

Sweetgums are prized across the country as street trees for their resilience, resistance to disease, drought tolerance and beauty. In fact, they are currently recommended by SDOT as an approved street tree! So, we are stunned to find these beautiful shade trees may be removed for sidewalk improvements.

This is not the time to remove any mature trees in the city. Climate change and the urban heat islands formed in bare urban areas are impacting us right now. These shade trees providing cooling on a busy highway and commercial district with too few big trees right now. As shown on the King County urban heat map, removing these trees will expand the hottest part of the urban heat island.

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SDOT has already done this in other areas of Seattle. And our neighbors to the north in Shoreline, (@saveshorelinetrees) similarly successfully lobbied its City Council and WDOT to alter the sidewalk design, and thus saved a long row of giant conifers. We can too! It can be done. Save the Aurora Sweetgums!

Woody Wheeler
woody.wheeler@gmail.com
1725 NE Naomi Place
Seattle, Washington 98115

From: Barbara Bernard <barbara_bernard@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 3:15 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; Josh Morris <joshm@seattleaudubon.org>
Subject: Aurora Street trees before and after

CAUTION: External Email

Aurora Avenue has long been an area that doesn't have adequate tree cover. A few years ago, The last 6000 was able to document existing mature trees that were removed in order to build a storage unit on Aurora between 97th and 98th St. At the time @seattledot indicated that there would be a 2:1 replacement. On our visit this week, we did not count trees that equated to that ratio. In fact, one tree, as you can see in the image is dying back and one has been chopped down and not replaced. The trees are small and do not create the shade canopy the previous trees did. This results in buildings that radiate more heat and concrete that creates the heat island effect. This is our fear of removing the mature trees that remain on Aurora.

How do we get the correct ratio of trees planted and how do we get the trees that were planted, taken care of so they don't continue to dieback.

Thank you,
Barbara Bernard

From: Valerie Tracy <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 3:19 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

Please don't cut mature trees lining 99!!!!!!! These trees have been working so hard for so long to help clean our air and provide shade in a part of Seattle that is essentially a concrete desert. As the form letter states below, please utilize construction methods that would preserve the trees and upgrade the sidewalk around them.

On Aurora Ave. N between 80th-105th has a strip of healthy big Sweetgum trees, some exceptional in size, (one measured in 2008 at 28" diameter), are at great risk of being removed by the City in a sidewalk repair project. Aurora Ave N has too few shade trees already! Please keep these trees so they can continue to benefit all who live, work, shop and visit in the neighborhood.

We beg our City officials to save these Sweetgum trees by utilizing modern design options while rebuilding the sidewalks between 80th-105th, along Aurora Ave N. We know SDOT is concerned the sidewalk is VERY rough in those places, a potential hazard to disabled folks or the less surefooted. But would be great if the City could fix the sidewalks without removing these trees.

Sweetgums are prized across the country as street trees for their resilience, resistance to disease, drought tolerance and beauty. In fact, they are currently recommended by SDOT as an approved street tree! So, we are stunned to find these beautiful shade trees may be removed for sidewalk improvements.

This is not the time to remove any mature trees in the city. Climate change and the urban heat islands formed in bare urban areas are impacting us right now. These shade trees providing cooling on a busy highway and commercial district with too few big trees right now. As shown on the King County urban heat map, removing these trees will expand the hottest part of the urban heat island.

The @seattledot signs alerting the public of this possible removal were ripped down soon after being put up, and we are concerned neighborhood people are not being alerted all these trees could be removed. Please repost these signs so that the public knows what you are considering.

SDOT has already done this in other areas of Seattle. And our neighbors to the north in Shoreline, (@saveshorelinetrees) similarly successfully lobbied its City Council and WDOT to alter the sidewalk design, and thus saved a long row of giant conifers. We can too! It can be done. Save the Aurora Sweetgums!

Valerie Tracy
val_wishaar@hotmail.com
18911 Burke Ave N
Shoreline, Washington 98133

From: Judy Bendich <jebendich@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 3:35 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

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Judy Bendich
jebendich@comcast.net
1754 NE 62nd St.
Seattle, Washington 98115

From: Sharon Ricci <sricci@wfis.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 3:47 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Save Lakeridge Park / Deadhorse Canyon from the proposal by SPU

CAUTION: External Email

Seattle Public Utilities "Taylor Creek Restoration Project" proposal for stabilizing erosion and reducing sediment run-off is the clear-cutting of this beloved community gem of a trail & natural green space. There were less than 100 people at the Rainier Beach Community Center meeting Wednesday 7/13/22 as it was not publicized nor direct emailed to past Taylor Creek Project listserv members. (I was on that listserve for many years and learned through a fellow block watch member only the evening before).

It is critical that community members be given choices - other than removal of all of the trees - about the sediment issues. It should be the residents of this community who get to decide if creating potential salmon breeding habitat at the lake connection takes priority over having the woods, trail and existing animals species protected.

Local residents have not been informed and educated about what is being pushed to permitting approval in spring of 2023. The community has not been presented with the data gathered by the SPU. Independent engineers have not been brought in to review the determination SPU is putting forth.

The City of Seattle and the Parks Department should require SPU to abide by the tenets of [Seattle's Green New Deal](#). This project will transform the neighborhoods south of Rainier Beach forever.... getting it right is critical.

SPU information about the project: <https://brent582.wixsite.com/website-15> is a bit buried when searching via google, and then part 6 offers a Survey to submit feedback <https://brent582.wixsite.com/website-15/share-your-feedback>. The project manager is Cody.Nelson@seattle.gov.

Friends of Deadhorse Canyon's website has detailed information about this project and some alternative ideas: <https://www.friendsofdeadhorsecanyon.org/spu-project>

There are well beyond 150 and closer to 300 trees tagged for removal, though this does not include many more under 6" diameter, not counted by SPU. The area is home to eagles, Cooper's hawk, many other resident and migratory birds, coyotes, rabbits, small mammals and insects but has not ever had salmon recorded in the creek.

There will be no way to replace this forest with plantings after two or three years of road construction and removal. Of immense concern is erosion of the steep hillsides which are also within our property

lines. Without trees and a forest canopy, earth & mud-slides will occur. Some homes would be put at great risk.

Please respond and let me know if there are steps fellow residents need to take with the City of Seattle to have our concerns considered.

Thank you,

Sharon Ricci
11233 Crestwood Dr S.
Seattle WA 98178
206.478.3167

From: Pamela A Okano <pokano@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 4:27 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

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Pamela A Okano
pokano@comcast.net
2211 NE 54th Apt 2D
Seattle, Washington 98105

From: Jill Doran <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 6:22 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

I realize this is a form letter below, but they hit on all the points I would say myself if I had time to do the research and write all of this up. This issue of removing trees to fix the sidewalk feels like it is either a massive oversight on someone's part or a lack of conviction/understanding that while yes SDOT needs to repair the sidewalks, it (and other city infrastructure agencies) is also responsible for preserving, increasing and protecting the tree canopy in the city. So this isn't an either/or situation - sidewalk or trees - it is a both/and. I feel it is an entirely appropriate use of My tax payer dollars to do both things - not one over the other if saving dollars is the main factor in why the decision was to just remove the trees.

Removing trees is going in the wrong direction as far as urban planning and maintenance is concerned, so please figure out how to make it common practice to choose designs that save/incorporate existing trees into the plans (across the board including new houses) so I don't have to continually write to you all protesting other tree removal situations.

Thank you so much for the work you do on behalf of the community. Please, save the trees!

Best,
Jill

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Jill Doran
missturtle628@yahoo.com
3137 Ne 81st St
Seattle, Washington 98115

From: tomofwashington@gmail.com <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 8:38 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: SAVE THE AURORA AVE SWEETGUMS

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

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tomofwashington@gmail.com

734 N 100th Street

Seattle, Washington 98133