



## SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

**Becca Neumann** (Position #4 – Hydrologist), Co-chair

**Joshua Morris** (Position #7 – NGO), Co-Chair

**Julia Michalak** (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • **Joe Sisneros** (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist - ISA)

**Falisha Kurji** (Position #3 – Natural Resource Agency) • **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

November 2, 2022, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Via Webex call and in-person at the  
Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 1872 (18<sup>th</sup> floor)  
700 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle

(206) 207-1700

Meeting number: 2485 293 7426

Meeting password: 1234

### Attending

#### Commissioners

Josh Morris – Co-Chair

Becca Neumann – Co-Chair

Falisha Kurji

Laura Keil

Jessica Jones

Lia Hall

#### Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE

#### Guests

Toby Thaler

#### Absent- Excused

Julia Michalak

Joe Sisneros

Stuart Niven

Hao Liang

David Moehring

Blake Voorhees

Jessica Hernandez

#### Public

Steve Zemke

**NOTE: Meeting notes are not exhaustive. For more details, listen to the digital recording of the meeting at:**  
<https://www.seattle.gov/urbanforestrycommission/meetingdocuments>

**Call to order:** Josh called the meeting to order and offered a land acknowledgement.

**Public comment:**

Steve Zemke noted that the City Urban Forester position seems to be moving forward in the budget process. In the Land Use Committee discussion last week, four additional Councilmembers joined in supporting it, so that is almost unanimous support so far. He reiterated the need to budget in time to discuss possible amendments of the draft urban forest protection ordinance. One item that should be in there is to require a tree inventory and landscape plans before building permits are approved. Without that, there can't be an accurate assessment of what is on the property, and what's going to be removed and replaced.

Toby provided a warning on the budget and revenue projections, since the news came out that there is a large shortfall in projected revenues and cuts will need to be made to the budget. The strong support noted for the City Urban Forester position, but also serious budget concerns.

**Chair, Committees, and Coordinator report:**

Patti shared a couple of topics:

Seattle urban forestry conferences/workshops week – As mentioned several times in recent months, November 14-17 will be busy for Seattle urban forestry, as there will be hosted here three large events:

- The national Forests in Cities group will have their annual meeting on Monday-Tuesday that week
- The Society of Municipal Arborists annual workshop and conference will be Monday-Tuesday
- The Partners in Community Forestry annual conference will be Wednesday-Thursday

Canopy Watch International is also hosting, on the Sunday leading into this week, an inaugural event, they're calling the Urban Canopy Leadership Summit. They are interested in having Commission participation in the event and have invited Commissioners.

Reschedule of 11/16 meeting – Since the conferences and events are happening that week, Patti noted that she and the Co-Chairs have considered rescheduling the 11/16 meeting due to the fact that many tree-focused folks may be participating in the Partners in Community Forestry conference that afternoon. OSE anticipates being able to provide a briefing on the next phase of canopy cover assessment results at that meeting. Commissioners were asked for thoughts on which option would be more likely to maximize participation – keeping the meeting at the regularly scheduled time of Wednesday afternoon, or rescheduling potentially to Thursday, November 17.

Josh noted he had a meeting with a member of Marco Lowe's team as part of their stakeholders outreach about recommendations they are working on for the urban forest protection ordinance. Josh shared recommendations with them consistent with what the UFC has put forward so far.

**Trees for Seattle Parks**

Stephanie Shelton introduced the topic and introduced herself as the new Natural Resources Unit Manager with Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) who oversees the department's urban forestry tree crews.

Anne Knight introduced herself and the Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks (FSOP) and staff team working on this program. Anne noted that this program has been in the process of being developed this past year and the intent is to lay the groundwork for a SPR program that can focus on trees needed in developed parks. Working with staff, the focus has been on understanding the specific needs of trees in Seattle's developed parks throughout the city.

Natural areas have been managed successfully by the Green Seattle Partnership program, but developed parks don't have a sponsor for tree canopy development. The resources available for tree planting and maintenance haven't matched the need and the loss of trees. There is a backlog of over 2,000 dead or removed trees to be replaced. Currently the budget has allowed for only 50-100 trees to be planted annually. The program needs to plant at least 500 trees per year to catch up with the backlog, requiring a substantial increase in investment. The budget for planting trees now needs to include an establishment period

expanded to five years; the cost estimate for planting and establishing a tree in developed parks is \$4,000 per tree.

A budget of at least two million dollars annually is needed for planting 500 trees per year. This budget would cover planting the new trees each year and continuing the establishment of the 2,500 trees planted in the preceding five years. The current budget only covers 5% of this need. The funding provided in the new Park District funding package will increase that budget so that it covers 40% of the funding need. So in order to reach that state of no net loss in the next 20 years, there needs to be an additional 1.2 million dollars identified. FSOP will be working with Seattle Parks Foundation on a fundraising campaign starting this winter to supplement the city funds and raise those needed additional funds. They are also hopeful that state and federal funds can also be identified to add to the funding.

To implement the trees for Seattle parks program a variety of protocols have been developed to help guide the planting program. As the starting point, Seattle's racial and social equity index will guide identification of the levels of need within the park system and its developed parks. The intention is to ensure that developed parks within areas of the highest need get the most trees planted. Understanding the individual park attributes, such as heat island effects, vulnerable trees, irrigation, and access will also be important in understanding the annual tree planting program and ensuring its success. These factors will be used to rank parks and guide planting decisions. Tree selections will be guided by best practices to ensure long term survival of the trees, and to select species that are best suited to this site and the desired characteristics of the site and function.

Questions addressed by the team included:

- Does that rate of loss of trees (300+ per year) reflect a change or is that a normal number?
- Comment of the benefit of tying in with the UFMP's focus on job training with this program.
- Will there be a focus on native trees where possible for habitat for birds and other wildlife?
- Are you planning to have any ownership programs to maintain new trees? Something like adopt a tree or park.
- In the research conducted, did the team come across the figures for how many significant trees are being lost in non-developed parks/natural areas?
- Has the team thought about whether SPR will run out of space to plant trees in the high-need areas since there are fewer park properties there?
- Recommendation when pitching to potential corporate sponsors, highlight park spaces close to them or important to their leadership and/or staff.

The team solicited input from Commissioners on what other issues should be considered, and what else they can include in developing this program. Are there other stakeholder groups they should be reaching out to? Other potential donors to focus on as they plan their fundraising event?

They will be developing a website for program details and ways to contribute/donate.

### **Presentation Debrief**

Commissioners reviewed the questions and comments on the briefing, and brainstormed additional groups to reach out to. Becca volunteered to draft a follow-up letter on this topic.

### **2023 UFC Leadership nominations**

Patti reviewed the scheduled for the leadership election process. At the first meeting in November, the subject is raised and a call for nominations goes out. Then nominations are discussed at the second November meeting, and elections based on the slate of nominees occurs at the first December meeting. Those elected to leadership positions then take office at the first meeting in January.

Patti reviewed the way the process went last year, when there were no Commissioners who felt they could take on the full Chair position on their own and the Co-Chair model was developed. The bylaws were

amended to allow for this new leadership model, but flexibility was also retained to allow for a return to a Chair/Vice-Chair model. So nominations can be made for Commissioners to serve in Co-Chair, Chair and Vice-Chair roles. Josh, Julia and Becca reflected on their experiences as Co-Chairs and noted things have been going well in this new model.

Commissioners were encouraged to send nominations of themselves or other Commissioners to Patti.

### **2023 Work plan development**

Commissioners began by reviewing the 2022 work plan. Patti walked through the structure and content of it and noted that she has been making some updates to the status of work tasks as the year progressed. Commissioners discussed items, added additional updates to tasks and new Commissioners added themselves to additional items. Commissioners then started discussing the process for incorporating continuing items into the 2023 work plan. Patti will share the current work plan again with Commissioners.

### **Recommended UFC website updates – UFC website subgroup**

Josh provided a recap of the process undertaken by the subgroup to evaluate the website, review the needs and goals for it, and develop recommendations for updates to the website. Laura provided an overview of the subgroup's process and provided details on the recommended website updates. Patti noted that a couple of questions need to be investigated as to whether the updates will be possible within the city's web page template, and discussed the process for getting the updates completed. Commissioners were asked to submit any feedback or other suggestions they have on this.

### **Dead Horse Canyon project follow-up letter**

Laura reviewed the draft letter she had prepared for this and Commissioners made a few edits. Without a quorum of Commissioners, there was not the ability to vote on or adopt the letter, so it will be further considered at the next meeting.

***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 regarding the SPR briefing, their cost estimates include both tree planting and establishment. The payment-in-lieu program currently proposed in the draft urban forest protection ordinance includes costs that don't include establishment. The UFC should talk to Councilmembers about this. Also, regarding survival rates, given what survival rates we've seen the current replacement ratio of 1:1 in the draft ordinance does not make sense. The ratio should be higher; this is another issue to discuss with Councilmembers.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 PM.

### **Meeting Chat:**

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 3:07 PM

I can provide a one minute budget update if you want.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:07 PM

That would be wonderful!

from Laura Keil she/her to everyone: 3:17 PM

Any of those options should work for me

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:17 PM

Thanks for changing it. From a public guest perspective.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:20 PM

Council Land Use Committee has canceled their meeting 2nd Wed in Dec and will not meet again until Jan

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:20 PM

January

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 3:22 PM

Budget info: Go to this page and find presentations under "November 2, 2022 Meeting."

<https://www.seattle.gov/economic-and-revenue-forecasts/meeting-information/materials>

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 3:22 PM

Thanks, Toby.

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 3:24 PM

Part two—Schedule for Council Budget will be at this site, and dates are changing as a result of forecast. I don't think changes are posted yet. <https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/select-budget-committee>

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:40 PM

In the research did presenters come across the figures for how many significant trees are being lost in non-developed parks/natural areas? For perspective.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:45 PM

A thought on post-planting care...I've had success involving neighborhood schools and businesses in watering new street trees, and they would like to do more.

from Dinushi Samarasekara to everyone: 3:46 PM

Are you planning to have any ownership programs to maintain nw trees? Something like adopt a tree or park, since you are planting 500 trees per year.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:47 PM

Will there be a focus on native trees where possible for habitat for birds and other wildlife?.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:47 PM

Tree Ambassadors, if the program were resurrected, to work on building those connections with communities and their nearby trees.

from Dinushi Samarasekara to everyone: 3:56 PM

A strong maintenance plan is required for the survival of new trees.

from Dinushi Samarasekara to everyone: 3:56 PM

failed projects: <https://e360.yale.edu/features/phantom-forests-tree-planting-climate-change#:~:text=An%20on%2Dthe%2Dground%20study,died%20or%20were%20washed%20away>

from Lia Hall to everyone: 3:57 PM

Thank you for the question Becca. High need neighborhoods do lack open green space—South Park, Georgetown, Rainier Beach...

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:04 PM

Need to insure 5 year maintaince is also in Tree and Urban Forestry Ordinance tree replacement guidelines.

from Laura Keil she/her to everyone: 4:06 PM

trees4seattleparks@gmail.com

from Laura Keil she/her to everyone: 4:06 PM

So its saved in the mtg notes :)

from Doug Luetjen, FSOP to everyone: 4:09 PM

Or.... Friends@SeattleOlmsted.org

from Laura Keil she/her to everyone: 4:15 PM

You do a great job, Josh!

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:31 PM

Commissioners really need to have discussions with Council members on draft Tree and Urban Forestry Ordinance. They are the ones who will make the final decisions on the draft ordinance. Start with Dab

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:31 PM

Start with Dan Strauss and Land Use Committee members

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 4:34 PM

<https://www.seattle.gov/urbanforestrycommission/ufcissueddocuments/workplansandannualreports>

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:34 PM

Comprehensive Plan has sections on Housing and Transportation plans - need to participate in these updates regarding trees and urban forest. Parks also an issue in Comprehensive plan

from Lia Hall to everyone: 4:43 PM

Great ideas

from Lia Hall to everyone: 4:45 PM

in front of a giant tree

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:51 PM

This is a great comprehensive response. I believe the "do nothing" option would require the City to reach some kind of agreement with the lakefront dock owners. I'm super thankful for this response and support for the canyon's forest. Thank you!!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:52 PM

Yes please say that:)

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:53 PM

They said "less or no removal"

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:53 PM

But "less" could still be "some"

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 4:53 PM

I have related suggestion.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:55 PM

When I've asked, SPU staff say they don't know what flows in that sewer and they are investigating.

from Becca Neumann to everyone: 5:00 PM

I mentioned the Dead Horse Canyon issue to someone and they mentioned that you could potentially move logs into the space using horses? Similar to how big logs used to be moved before cars/trucks. Not sure how viable this is.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 5:02 PM

Yes, the Friends of DHC have done research on this. It's been done in national parks frequently

from Laura Keil she/her to everyone: 5:02 PM

While I was researching for the DHC letter, I was reading SPU's FAQs and question 6.4 basically says that using animals to deliver LWD would solve the delivery problem but not the placement problem (that they'd need to use heavy machinery to place logs)

from Laura Keil she/her to everyone: 5:02 PM

[https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/SPU/EnvironmentConservation/TaylorCreek\\_FAQ\\_August2022.pdf](https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/SPU/EnvironmentConservation/TaylorCreek_FAQ_August2022.pdf)

from Dinushi Samarasekara to everyone: 5:02 PM

Thank you!

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

**From:** Kate O'Brien <kambiri@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Friday, October 21, 2022 7:14 AM

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

**Subject:** Save Meadowbrook's Iconic True-Love Trees

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

I am writing to ask you to support preservation of the Meadowbrook True-Love trees, an exceptional cedar-fir pair in Meadowbrook, and their nearby grove. Because of the True-Love trees' remarkable union and visibility on a busy street, they are well-known and beloved by the community, with over 500 signatures on a recent petition to save them. Together with the adjacent grove, they shelter the north fork of Thornton Creek's and form a vibrant urban forest.

Development plans have been filed for this project on SDCI's portal under 004386-22PA. The plans call for the removal of the trees to achieve maximum development potential. Yet, a respected local architect has drawn plans which would include the trees in the development, a win-win for the homes' future residents, the community, and the environment!

These huge native conifers are our last link to the vast, ancient coastal forest which covered this land before settlement. Now, we benefit from the seedlings of that time, which have grown and reached the size and grandeur of their ancestors. They cool us in our increasingly hot summers, provide habitat for native birds and wildlife, filter pollutants from the air and stormwater, and provide amazing public health benefits.

With thoughtful planning, Seattle can preserve its forest and build new homes. Please use your authority to ask the developer to include these trees on the development plan, instead of cutting them down.

Kate O'Brien  
[kambiri@comcast.net](mailto:kambiri@comcast.net)  
5010 47th Ave S  
Seattle, Washington 98118

**From:** Martha Taylor <denmarth@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 22, 2022 9:09 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Save Meadowbrook's Iconic True-Love Trees!

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

We need to save mature trees in Seattle!

I am writing to ask you to support preservation of the Meadowbrook True-Love trees, an exceptional cedar-fir pair in Meadowbrook, and their nearby grove. Because of the True-Love trees' remarkable union and visibility on a busy street, they are well-known and beloved by the community, with over 500 signatures on a recent petition to save them. Together with the adjacent grove, they shelter the north fork of Thornton Creek's and form a vibrant urban forest.

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With thoughtful planning, Seattle can preserve its forest and build new homes. Please use your authority to ask the developer to include these trees on the development plan, instead of cutting them down.

Martha Taylor  
[denmarth@comcast.net](mailto:denmarth@comcast.net)  
6545 53rd Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** Kathryn Show <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 23, 2022 12:26 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Save Meadowbrook's Iconic True-Love Trees

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With thoughtful planning, Seattle can preserve its forest and build new homes. Please use your authority to ask the developer to include these trees on the development plan, instead of cutting them down.

Kathryn Show  
[kathrynshow@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynshow@gmail.com)  
11315 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, Washington 98125

**From:** Lakmini Bulathsinhala <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 23, 2022 6:26 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto: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!

Lakmini Bulathsinhala  
[laka1020@gmail.com](mailto:laka1020@gmail.com)  
300N 130th st  
Seattle , Washington 98133

**From:** Jill McGrath <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2022 7:55 AM  
**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.

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 relaced are protected trees and not subject to removal
  17. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, from development sites

Jill McGrath  
[mcgrathjill40@gmail.com](mailto:mcgrathjill40@gmail.com)  
6743 Palatine Ave N  
Seattle, Washington 98103

**From:** Valerie Tracy <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2022 11:12 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Meadowbrook's Iconic True-Love Trees

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

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Development plans have been filed for this project on SDCI's portal under 004386-22PA. The plans call for the removal of the trees to achieve maximum development potential. Yet, a respected local architect has drawn plans which would include the trees in the development, a win-win for the homes' future residents, the community, and the environment!

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With thoughtful planning, Seattle can preserve its forest and build new homes. Please use your authority to ask the developer to include these trees on the development plan, instead of cutting them down.

Valerie Tracy  
[val\\_wishaar@hotmail.com](mailto:val_wishaar@hotmail.com)  
18911 Burke Ave N  
Shoreline, Washington 98133

**From:** Billie Sprouse <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 25, 2022 4:34 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.

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
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6. Allow the Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants, purchase land, set up covenants and for educational purposes.
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8. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-exceptional trees in 3 years per lot outside development
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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
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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 relaced are protected trees and not subject to removal
17. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, from development sites

Billie Sprouse  
[billie.sprouse@hotmail.com](mailto:billie.sprouse@hotmail.com)  
8711 13th street ne  
Lake Stevens , Washington 98258

**From:** Jackie Teng <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 26, 2022 7:50 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

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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.

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Jackie Teng  
[jackieteng2005@gmail.com](mailto:jackieteng2005@gmail.com)  
5216 , 20th Ave South  
Seattle, Washington 98108

**From:** n. churillo <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 26, 2022 4:51 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please Save Meadowbrook's Iconic True-Love Trees!

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

I am writing to ask you to support preservation of the Meadowbrook True-Love trees, an exceptional cedar-fir pair in Meadowbrook, and their nearby grove. Because of the True-Love trees' remarkable union and visibility on a busy street, they are well-known and beloved by the community, with over 500 signatures on a recent petition to save them. Together with the adjacent grove, they shelter the north fork of Thornton Creek's and form a vibrant urban forest.

Development plans have been filed for this project on SDCI's portal under 004386-22PA. The plans call for the removal of the trees to achieve maximum development potential. Yet, a respected local architect has drawn plans which would include the trees in the development, a win-win for the homes' future residents, the community, and the environment!

These huge native conifers are our last link to the vast, ancient coastal forest which covered this land before settlement. Now, we benefit from the seedlings of that time, which have grown and reached the size and grandeur of their ancestors. They cool us in our increasingly hot summers, provide habitat for native birds and wildlife, filter pollutants from the air and stormwater, and provide amazing public health benefits.

With thoughtful planning, Seattle can preserve its forest and build new homes. Please use your authority to ask the developer to include these trees on the development plan, instead of cutting them down.

n. churillo  
[nancitaloca@yahoo.com](mailto:nancitaloca@yahoo.com)  
8010 11th Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** Zachary Kirshbaum <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 27, 2022 11:39 AM

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

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

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

Please do anything you can to prevent clearcutting. As a resident I feel a lot of despair when I see the city turning into nothing but construction and office spaces. We need nature in our daily lives, and you are someone who actually has power in this situation.

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.

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800 N 36th St  
Seattle, Washington 98103

**From:** Nancy Hannah <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 27, 2022 4:09 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Meadowbrook's Iconic True-Love Trees

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Nancy Hannah  
[nancyhannah75@gmail.com](mailto:nancyhannah75@gmail.com)  
7526 27th Ave. NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** Ben Maxfield <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 27, 2022 9:23 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Our Trees! Please!!!

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Ben Maxfield  
[benmaxfield13@gmail.com](mailto:benmaxfield13@gmail.com)  
716 N 45th Ave #4  
Seattle, Washington 98103

**From:** Christina Morales <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 28, 2022 11:40 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Update Seattle's Tree Ordinance

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Christina Morales  
[starchildindustries@gmail.com](mailto:starchildindustries@gmail.com)  
5537 22nd Ave s  
Seattle , Washington 98108

**From:** Arren Lenau <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 29, 2022 5:29 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

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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

Arren Lenau

[alenau82@gmail.com](mailto:alenau82@gmail.com)

550 NE RAVENNA BLVD, Apt 15  
Seattle, Washington 98115

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

**Sent:** Saturday, October 29, 2022 7:18 PM

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

**Subject:** Save Meadowbrook's Iconic True-Love Trees

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

At the urging of friends, I am writing to ask you to support preservation of the Meadowbrook True-Love trees, an exceptional cedar-fir pair in Meadowbrook, and their nearby grove. Because of the True-Love trees' remarkable union and visibility on a busy street, they are well-known and beloved by the community, with over 500 signatures on a recent petition to save them. Together with the adjacent grove, they shelter the north fork of Thornton Creek's and form a vibrant urban forest.

Development plans have been filed for this project on SDCI's portal under 004386-22PA. The plans call for the removal of the trees to achieve maximum development potential. Yet, a respected local architect has drawn plans which would include the trees in the development, a win-win for the homes' future residents, the community, and the environment!

These huge native conifers are our last link to the vast, ancient coastal forest which covered this land

before settlement. Now, we benefit from the seedlings of that time, which have grown and reached the size and grandeur of their ancestors. They cool us in our increasingly hot summers, provide habitat for native birds and wildlife, filter pollutants from the air and stormwater, and provide amazing public health benefits.

With thoughtful planning, Seattle can preserve its forest and build new homes. Please use your authority to ask the developer to include these trees on the development plan, instead of cutting them down.

Tom Johnson  
[gharrity@gmail.com](mailto:gharrity@gmail.com)  
1707 Boylston Ave , Apt 306  
Seattle, Washington 98111

**From:** wm waldman <[wwaldmanmd@erols.com](mailto:wwaldmanmd@erols.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 30, 2022 11:03 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Save Meadowbrook's Iconic True-Love Trees

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

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With thoughtful planning, Seattle can preserve its forest and build new homes. Please use your authority to ask the developer to include these trees on the development plan, instead of cutting them down.

wm waldman  
[wwaldmanmd@erols.com](mailto:wwaldmanmd@erols.com)  
3701 South Hudson Street  
Seattle, Washington 98118

**From:** Caleb McCarthy <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 30, 2022 1:46 PM

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

**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

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

Please don't cut the big old oak tree on the end of Holly Street. They're threatening to cut it down to build a sidewalk. Though this is an admirable endeavor, I feel it is unfair to rob us and our neighbors (not to mention all the birds that nest in it) such a wonderful tree! Please do not cut it down, as this act was done without the input of the people who have been living in this street for decades. Thank you!

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.

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 relaced are protected trees and not subject to removal
17. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, from development sites

Caleb McCarthy  
[elijahcaleb@gmail.com](mailto:elijahcaleb@gmail.com)

2616 South Holly Street  
Seattle, Washington 98108

**From:** Ellen Choy <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:45 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

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

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Thank you

Ellen Choy

Ellen Choy  
[ejchoy@gmail.com](mailto:ejchoy@gmail.com)  
928 141st PI SW  
Lynnwood, Washington 98087