



## SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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

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

**Laura Keil** (Position #10 – Get Engaged), Co-Chair

**Alicia Kellogg** (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist) • **Falisha Kurji** (Position #3 – Natural Resource Agency)

**Stuart Niven** (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • **Hao Liang** (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)

**David Baker** (Position # 8 – Development) • **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 2, 2023, 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: 2490 665 0103

Meeting password: 1234

### Attending

#### Commissioners

Becca Neumann – Co-Chair

Josh Morris – Co-Chair

Laura Keil – Co-Chair

Alicia Kellogg

Stuart Niven

Hao Liang

Jessica Jones

Lia Hall

#### Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE

#### Guests

Toby Thaler

#### Absent- Excused

Falisha Kurji

David Baker

Jessica Hernandez

#### Public

Sage Miller

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:**

Sage Miller expressed a question about how the new tree ordinance would protect the Wedgewood tree of recent concern.

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

Patti shared information on two recent articles around heat and urban forests:

- The Natural Areas Conservancy has published a report on a nationwide study they led on the cooling potential of forests and green spaces in cities: <https://bit.ly/CoolingCitiesReport>. Seattle Parks and Recreation has been working with the Natural Areas Conservancy in recent years as part of their national network focused on natural areas management, and they participated in the study, deploying six sets of sensors in forested parklands, adjacent landscapes and neighborhoods. The results reinforce how improving urban natural areas is a vital way to disrupt elevated urban heat in cities.
  
- Climate Central recently released an urban heat island study: <https://www.climatecentral.org/climate-matters/urban-heat-islands-2023>. They analyzed how urban heat island intensity varies within 44 major U.S. cities, and calculated the urban heat island (UHI) index for each census tract within the cities to estimate how much hotter these areas are due to the characteristics of the built environment. The results of the analysis show Seattle with one of the higher UHI indices, behind NY, SF, Chicago and Miami. The data and maps can be downloaded and will be useful as continue analyses here in Seattle around the urban forest.

Patti also provided updates on planning for the annual joint meeting, noting that October 4 is likely best date and that topic ideas from the UF Core Team include:

- Discussion of grant project ideas – given the current and expected grant funding opportunities around urban forestry
- Brainstorming and planning around where to build partnerships, considering who are we not in partnership with – public health, Tribes – and how we can work to develop those partnerships
- What can this group of people – the UFC and the ID Team – do on these things together? That could include a networking mapping exercise – who knows who, where are the overlaps, opportunities.

**Adoption of July meeting notes**

**Action: A motion to approve the July 12, 2023 meeting notes as written was made, seconded and approved.**

**Action: A motion to approve the July 19, 2023 meeting notes as written was made, seconded and approved.**

**2023 Urban forestry work plans****- City urban forestry work plan and Urban Forest Management Plan Action Agenda**

Patti provided an overview of the strategies included in the last update of the Urban Forest Management Plan from 2020, and reviewed the associated action agenda, noting the prioritization process that occurred in its development, in coordination with community. The action agenda includes 19 total actions, with seven of those actions prioritized during this process.

Patti then shared the Trees for Seattle work plan, outlining how the city's urban forestry departments will implement the UFMP's action agenda. In 2022, the group migrated to using an Excel format for the work plan, similar to how the UFC set up their updated work plan format. There are spreadsheets for ongoing work and for each strategy in the action agenda, and also a spreadsheet that contains all of the actions from the action agenda, in order to track which ones are seeing action in any given year.

**- UFC Work Plan – review and update**

Patti provided an update of the UFC work plan, and Commissioners reviewed and updated tasks in the various work area spreadsheets, including in the area of city regulations and policies, Statements of Legislative Intent and the tree protection ordinance. With more work to be done to update the work plan, it was agreed that the Co-Chairs would continue to do that work and report back to the Commission at a later meeting.

### **Right of way canopy data updated findings – Hao Liang**

Hao presented right of way canopy data that he was able to update with the newly released 2021 canopy data, including additional findings for the SDOT management units. For each neighborhood, Hao showed the canopy cover and canopy change between 2016 and 2021. Things we want to understand with the canopy data include where right of way canopy was lost, how much was lost, what the causes of loss are, what it means to equity, and how can we gain canopy in the right of way.

Interpretations from the data and mapping include:

- There were canopy losses due to infrastructure projects
- Direct impacts from development and construction activities contribute to canopy losses
- Indirect impacts from development and construction activities also contribute to canopy losses

### **ANSI/ISA standards briefing follow-up letter**

Josh walked through the draft letter Becca prepared for this. Commissioners discussed potential revisions, including suggestions made by Hao prior to the tree protection ordinance being passed.

**Action: a motion to adopt the response letter for the ANSI/ISA standards briefing was made, seconded and approved.**

**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 related to the tree protection ordinance, that several of the provisions requested by the UFC over the years were included in the ordinance. He urged caution in continuing to work to understand the ordinance and potential impacts, especially given changes that will result from HB 1110. There is an increase in protection for trees in areas not seeing development, but in areas seeing development, protection is lowered due to the hardscape allowances. There will be tree loss in these areas, making it harder to reach the 30% tree canopy goal.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 PM.

### **Meeting chat:**

from Lia Hall UFC13 to everyone: 3:15 PM

welcome back, Josh!

from Chris Gaul to everyone: 3:40 PM

Are those 'success toward targets' results available to the public?

from Chris Gaul to everyone: 3:52 PM

Thank you, Lia!

from Chris Gaul to everyone: 3:55 PM

Thank you, Patty.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:04 PM

city council had passed looking at coordination of urban forestry eg SDCI- Urban Forestry or ISE, also perhaps Climate and Environment Dept with UFC section

from sage miller to everyone: 4:06 PM

thanks for letting me inquire about wedgewood tree both as a CMT and exceptional tree. Hopefully the tree can be saved. Need to leave..

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:12 PM

Need to look at possible amendments to tree ordinance to council for next year's Council to consider

from Chris Gaul to everyone: 4:13 PM

Strauss said there would continue to be updates to ordinance.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:15 PM

number of

from Lia Hall UFC13 to everyone: 4:17 PM

can it be wrapped into another topic?

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:17 PM

number of issues were covered ordinance passed, fewer issues to consider for amendments

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:18 PM

HB 1110 will

from Lia Hall UFC13 to everyone: 4:18 PM

i'm interested in assisting on 1.2.2

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:20 PM

House Bill 1110 allows 4 plexes in NR zone and 6 plexes with 1/4 mile frequent transit. Hard to see how can reach 30% canopy with inability to retain large trees on lots being developed.

from Chris Gaul to everyone: 4:22 PM

Would UFC be involved with checking out if the new TSP regulation has resulted in a decrease in illegal tree removal?

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:22 PM

Would be good to have meeting with Planning Commission as they are leading development of new Comprehensive Plan which will affect tree policy

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:26 PM

added at last minute in ordinance, two violations remove TSP from city work for a year, only for illegally cutting down 2 Tier 1 and Tier 2 trees, not for illegally cutting any Tier 3 or 4 trees

from Chris Gaul to everyone: 4:28 PM

Thanks, Steve.

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 4:35 PM

The reports I mentioned earlier:

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 4:35 PM

The Natural Areas Conservancy study: <https://naturalareasnyc.org/media/pages/in-print/951f086032-1690225094/nac-cooling-cities.pdf>

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 4:36 PM

And the Climate Central study: <https://www.climatecentral.org/climate-matters/urban-heat-islands-2023>

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:37 PM

Some of new trees can be seen as already dying at northgate

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 4:37 PM

GSP blog article on the NAC study: <https://greenseattle.org/caring-and-cooling-seattles-forests-in-a-warming-world/>; and the slides with summary and Seattle-specific data: <https://greenseattle.org/caring-and-cooling-seattles-forests-in-a-warming-world/>

from Alicia Kellogg she/her to everyone: 4:38 PM

are both of those links supposed to be the same?

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 4:41 PM

Sorry, no they're not; the correct link for the slides:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1D3tqmfpNBLfT1CwVZmd9yGpmGFEsizJ3F2EMMZ8NUhw/edit#slide=id.g24b243ee7d1\\_0\\_43](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1D3tqmfpNBLfT1CwVZmd9yGpmGFEsizJ3F2EMMZ8NUhw/edit#slide=id.g24b243ee7d1_0_43)

from Alicia Kellogg she/her to everyone: 4:41 PM

thank you!

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 4:42 PM

Thanks for catching that!

from Chris Gaul to everyone: 4:42 PM

Thanks, Hao!

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:44 PM

Good analysis Hao.

from Alicia Kellogg she/her to everyone: 4:47 PM

very helpful and clear, thank you!

from Hao Liang to everyone: 4:48 PM

@Steve, for tree dead in these projects. Contractors are responsible to replace them. Some warranties of these projects could be as long as 10 years

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:50 PM

Agree Hao, just noting not all trees surviving and need to be replaced.

**Public input (additional comments received):**

**From:** Julia Field <1juliafield@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 20, 2023 6:51 PM

**To:** Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>; LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; Pedersen, Alex <Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Lowe, Marco <Marco.Lowe@seattle.gov>; Wilburn, Bradley <Bradley.Wilburn@seattle.gov>; LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** SAVE LUMA THE CEDAR TREE and REVISE SEATTLE'S TREE ORDINANCE

**Importance:** High

Dear Elected Officials and City Staffers,

Please follow your own rules and take action to save the magnificent cedar tree at 3849 NE 88th St, Seattle, WA 98115.

The City law designed to protect trees was not followed in this case and is rarely enforced; this is an unlawful removal of an elder tree that should be being treated as one of the City's most treasured assets, instead of being summarily destroyed unnecessarily. There is room on the lot for the planned buildings, without removing this tree.

A notable outpouring of community support and media attention has been generated in the past week in support of this tree. A neighbor has given a week of his own time to camp in it and protect it. The Snoqualmie Tribe has designated this tree as an archaeological site. Clearly Seattle's residents care about and love our trees and are highly dissatisfied with this inexcusable decision and the impending tragic loss of this tree (and many others like it). Our urban canopy is disappearing while we have supposedly committed to increasing it.

In the Emerald City we need climate action NOW, and trees are at the heart of the solution — but we're being ignored by closed-door decision making

Please protect Luma the cedar tree NOW and require Legacy Capital to pursue an existing, viable alternate site plan that allows for the same number of units without tree removal.

We can have BOTH housing AND trees as our city grows. Architects have demonstrated this with alternative plans for the lot that is Luma's home; this tree and lot could and should be a demonstration of this very

point; alas, the City of Seattle is poised to go in the other direction and destroy this irreplaceable tree. It's not too late to change course - please permanently rescind the permit to cut down this tree. And then, please make much-needed amendments to the recently-passed and highly flawed Tree Ordinance - by consulting with the Urban Forestry Commission (as required by law) and following their recommendations for amendments.

Sincerely,  
Julia Field  
2034 NW 60th Street  
Seattle, WA 98107



**From:** kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 20, 2023 10:18 PM

**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Boawn, Jeanie <Jeanie.Boawn@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia

<Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Wedgwood's double-trunk tree could be saved as archaeological site

**CAUTION: External Email**

[Wedgwood's double-trunk tree could be saved as archaeological site | The Seattle Times](#)

funny how that works, people actually demonstrate how they feel and what they support, and SDCI still says 'our hands are tied' - oh right. But it was ok to let MBACKS write the Tree Removal Ordinance, to the tune of your pet law firm asserting protecting trees was 'unconstitutional' - that well of hypocrisy just keeps getting deeper and deeper..

kevin orme

PS - still waiting for Councilmember Juarez to acknowledge tribal involvement and values - guess we'll keep on waiting....

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

**Sent:** Friday, July 21, 2023 8:56 AM

**To:** Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>; SCI\_DRulesComments <SCI\_DRulesComments@seattle.gov>; Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Andrew <Andrew.Lewis@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Directors Rules due Friday, July 21st

**CAUTION: External Email**

Tree Director's Rules not studied to remediate losses at equitable replacement value.

## Seattle taxpayers should not have to pay to plant trees developers remove!

Include references to tree groves within code that were removed from draft DR 7-2023 – [Designation of Tier 2 Trees](#)

Plant two to three trees for each tree removed to account for survivability- and increase fees by 300-percent accordingly within draft DR 8-2-23 [Payment in lieu of tree replacement pursuant to the Tree Protection Code](#)

### **DR 7-2023 - Designation of Tier 2 trees**

Include in the Director's Rule the definition in SMC 25.11 of what a Tier 2 Tree is, including 'also known as an Exceptional Tree.'

Ordinance Definition - "Tier 2 tree means any tree that is 24 inches in diameter at standard height or greater, tree groves, each tree comprising a tree grove and specific tree species below 24 inches in diameter at standard height as provided by Director's Rule"

Street trees should also be considered part of tree groves.

### **DR-8-2023 —Payment in lieu**



The in lieu fee needs minimally to cover the cost to buy, plant, maintain and water replacement trees for 5 years to insure their survival. The Parks Dept. has stated this cost as \$4000 for 5 years. Yet the proposed in lieu fee only covers 2/3 of that cost at \$4000 per tree for replanting 12-24" DBH tree removed. This means city taxpayers will pay 1/3 of the cost of replacing 12-24" DBH trees that developers remove and do not replant on site. The cost should start at \$4000 for a 12" DBH tree and increase by \$17.87 per square inch increase of a cross section of the trunk at 4.5 feet above ground.

SEATTLE's 30% canopy cover objective by 2037 translates into planting an ADDITIONAL 80,000 trees at an appropriate budget of \$200,000,000 to \$240,000,000

The in lieu fee also does not take into account the increasing value of the environmental services lost by the city as the tree size increases. The in lieu fee cost should be re-evaluated every 2 years as part of the budget process to take into account inflation and other cost increases.

**From:** Natasha Abramoff <natashaabramoff@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, July 21, 2023 5:52 PM

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

**Subject:** western red cedar, dubbed "Luma"

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Patricia,

I was deeply disturbed while reading about the western red cedar, dubbed "Luma" scheduled to be killed and cut down. I am compelled to contact you.

Born and raised in King County, I have seen many of our beautiful and beloved trees killed and cut down. Now, more than ever, we need to protect these sentient beings. They provide numerous benefits to all, as I'm sure you are aware of. When will we learn to protect and cherish these symbiotic relationships we, humans, have with the natural world? I'm afraid we will learn when there is nothing left of it. Perhaps when our air is filled with too much CO2 and the canopy of trees have vanished, allowing for the sun to scorch the Earth and ourselves. Perhaps then?!

Please do your best to stop the removal of "Luma" and any additional trees from Seattle. The need of the masses should trump the need of a few. Please protect and save this western red cedar.

Sadly yours,

Natasha Burkle

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 24, 2023 7:36 AM

**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>



**Cc:** Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Boawn, Jeanie <Jeanie.Boawn@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Eco Talk: The Value of Urban Community Forests

**CAUTION: External Email**

[Eco Talk: The value of urban, community forests \(auburnpub.com\)](#)

Here's yet another non-agenda item for the Marco Lowe MBAKS fan club meeting - you might actually try reading it though....

kevin orme  
seattle

**From:** kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 24, 2023 10:05 PM  
**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Boawn, Jeanie <Jeanie.Boawn@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Trees cool the land surface temperature of cities by up to 12°C

**CAUTION: External Email**

[Urban heat: Trees cool land surface temperature in cities by up to 12°C | New Scientist](#)

Trees help. McMansions and heat islands do not. read up and act, rather than sticking your heads in the sand and pretending the problem doesn't exist.

kevin orme  
seattle

**From:** kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2023 8:22 PM  
**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby

<Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Boawn, Jeanie <Jeanie.Boawn@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** The biggest trees capture the most carbon: Large trees dominate carbon storage in forests

CAUTION: External Email

[The biggest trees capture the most carbon: Large trees dominate carbon storage in forests \(phys.org\)](#)

Yep - those same trees your '85% clearcut' rule will consign to the memories of Seattle history - unless you reverse course before it's too late...

kevin orme  
seattle

**From:** kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 27, 2023 7:41 AM

**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Boawn, Jeanie <Jeanie.Boawn@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Urban Heat Hot Spots -Climate Central

CAUTION: External Email

<https://www.climatecentral.org/climate-matters/urban-heat-islands-2023>

This is again why fixing the Tree Ordinance before it's too late is so important. MBAKS can still build things and protect trees - if you act.

kevin orme  
Seattle

**From:** kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, July 28, 2023 8:11 AM

**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Boawn, Jeanie <Jeanie.Boawn@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia

<Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Fresno is a giant 'heat island' - More parks and green space can cool things down

**CAUTION: External Email**

[Fresno is a giant 'heat island.' More parks and green space can cool things down | Opinion \(yahoo.com\)](#)

this is the fate that awaits us without trees **\*\*where people actually live\*\***. Street trees and parks are a good start (unlike McMansions and clearcuts from Legacy Capital, Thomas James Homes and MBAKS/Marco Lowe fans) but we need trees in close proximity to where we live, too. Planting trees - provided we care for and nurture them for their first 8-10 years of life is also good, but that's years from now even if planted now? **PROTECT** existing big trees **NOW**. Tree 'funds' that plant trees away from where we live aren't going to cut it (now or years from now - especially when developers want that land, too?)

Otherwise, guess what happens.

kevin orme  
Seattle

**From:** kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, July 31, 2023 7:50 AM

**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Boawn, Jeanie <Jeanie.Boawn@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Finding Relief in the Shade - USDA/US Forest Service

**CAUTION: External Email**

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/features/finding-relief-in-the-shade>

"...Trees offer a natural respite from scorching temperatures and a range of environmental, social and economic benefits. With \$1 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA), cities, towns and suburbs will soon be able to **plant** and **maintain** more trees, offering hope for a cooler and more sustainable future.

**The USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF) will award grants for tree planting and maintenance programs in August**, to expand nature's presence in communities most in need...."

notice the word "Maintain" in the above? That means **PROTECT**, not "McMansion, MBAKS, Marco Lowe" - read it.

kevin orme  
Seattle

**From:** Judy Johnson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 31, 2023 3:19 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Amend Mayor Harrell's draft Tree Protection Ordinance - no 85% guarantee

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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. With middle-housing zoning updates, neighborhood residential (34% tree canopy) will change to multi-family (23% tree canopy) and Seattle tree canopy will plummet unless strong and effective efforts are made to preserve trees.

We urge you to adopt these amendments to the 2023 draft Tree Protection Ordinance.

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TOP PRIORITY -- We need trees where we live!

1. Require 20% lot allowance for "tree preservation and tree planting areas" in multifamily areas and 40% lot allowance for 1-4 units in the neighborhood residential zone as Portland Oregon does in their family residential zone. Portland passed legislation in 2020 to allow up to 4plexes in their neighborhoods after the state mandated zoning updates. Portland responded in Nov 2022 to update their tree protection legislation. <https://www.portland.gov/code/11/50/050>
2. Remove the guaranteed "85% lot development area" provision. If the current middle housing legislation passes in Olympia, almost all of Seattle would be affected by this change, with a significant loss of tree canopy city wide. The city needs flexibility to evaluate development and protecting trees lot by lot, not one size fits all circumstances.

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3. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6" DSH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan be submitted by developers, as Portland Oregon does, prior to any building permits being approved. This information fits with collecting in lieu fees prior to issuing building permits and facilitates reporting and tracking of tree loss and replacement, rather than city workers having to pull this

information from site plans. Mayor Harrell's Executive Order asked for data on trees removed and replaced. Getting this information up front from developers is the best way to do this.

4. Require developers throughout the total development process to maximize the retention of existing trees 6" DSH and larger with adequate space for trees to grow and survive. The current draft removes consideration of protecting 6"-12" DSH trees and also removes them from site plans. Keep them on the site plans and protect them during development. Trees 6" DSH and larger represent 45% of trees in the NR zone according to Seattle's Ecosystem Values Report. Most of these trees are established potential replacement trees for existing large trees that die. Trees 12" DSH and larger only represent 18% of the trees in the NR zone. A diversity of ages and species for trees is essential for a healthy urban forest.

5. Retain definitions and use of exceptional and significant trees. Remove the confusing and biased proposed new classification of trees as Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4. The use and understanding of trees as exceptional has been in the Tree Protection Ordinance since 2001 and described in more detail in the 2008 Director's Rule. 16-2008. Significant trees are understood to be those 6" DSH and larger that are not exceptional. Many other cities, including in this region, use these definitions.

6. Require for replacement 2 trees for 12-24" DSH trees removed, 3 trees for 24 – 36" DSH and 4 trees for above 36" DSH for more equivalency of the increasing value of services trees provide as they increase in size. One for one replacement is no equivalency for what is lost as trees increase in size. Require that tree replacement numbers increase with the size and canopy volume of the removed tree. such that in 25 years or less they will reach equivalent canopy volume lost. Waiting 80 years to replace an 80-year-old tree is too long.

7. Increase in lieu fee schedule to require the \$17.87/square inch of trunk in-lieu fees to start with 12" DSH trees rather than 24" DSH trees. In-Lieu fees need to adequately cover the city's additional cost of planting and maintaining the trees for 5 years.

8. All replacement in lieu fees and fines should go into a One Seattle Tree Fund as stated in Mayor Harrell's 's Executive Order. It should be a dedicated Tree Planting and Preservation Fund like Portland, Oregon has (not into SDCI's budget). The Fund should be added to this draft. The Fund should report yearly on its budget to the City Council and Mayor. The One Seattle Tree Fund should be overseen by the City Urban Forester located in OSE because the distribution of funds would be interdepartmental. Allow the One Seattle Tree Fund (Tree Planting and Preservation Fund) to also accept fines, donations, grants, purchase land, set up covenants and for educational purposes as Portland, Oregon does.

9. The role of the new City Forester position created by the Seattle City Council in OSE should be

defined in this ordinance.

10. Create an Urban Forestry Division within SDCI with additional staff as recommended in a separate budget provision or expand the Urban Forestry staff and responsibility in the Office of sustainability and Environment for independent oversight of trees.

11. 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" DSH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, removed both during development and outside development. The proposed ordinance remains a complaint-based system relying on citizens which has been proven to not be effective in code compliance. SDCI only has 2 arborists who are mostly deskbound to check site plans and in the field.

12. Require SDCI to submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree removal and replacement as currently required by other City Departments and yearly as required yearly by Mayor Harrell's Executive Order.

13. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Highrise, Industrial, Downtown and Institutions.

14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity.

15. Expand the required tree protection covenant to include a replacement requirement for a tree that dies. Make it a permanent "protected tree planting site" for the life of the building.

16. Remove or clarify language of tree drip line "may be irregular in shape to reflect variation in branch outer limits" Dripline is used to determine tree protection area and branches shortened in some areas may not reflect root structure or may have been removed in certain areas if tree has been limbed up.

17. Require that maintenance of relocated and replacement trees include "watering as needed".

18. Require street trees be planted if ADU's are added to a lot. ADU's reduce space for trees on site and increase tree removal. They are currently exempt from original lot coverage limits in the NR zone.

19. Remove the 1000 square feet addition to an existing structure exemption requiring planting street trees. Additions increasing the building footprint are removing existing or potential tree

planting and preservation space.

20. Give the SDCI Director the authority to reduce or waive any fees assessed by this ordinance, taking into account a homeowner's financial circumstances or ability to pay.

21. Split the purpose and intent section. Add to intent "address climate resiliency and reduce heat island impacts across the city"

22. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, scotch broom, and holly from development sites to help stop the spread of invasive species in our city that add to maintenance costs and replacement of dying trees.

Judy Johnson  
[judy.jmtulips@gmail.com](mailto:judy.jmtulips@gmail.com)  
308 summit ave e  
Seattle , Washington 98102

**From:** kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 1, 2023 4:58 AM  
**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Boawn, Jeanie <Jeanie.Boawn@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Wall Street Journal on Heat Islands

**CAUTION: External Email**

<https://www.wsj.com/video/series/news-explainers/these-photos-show-how-urban-growth-fuels-extreme-heat/73DA72E0-DF39-4F23-973C-AEEBEF455473>

if the WSJ of all media is talking about heat islands - beyond time for the City of Seattle to start listening and stop MBAKS and Marco Lowe from cutting down all our trees? FIX the Tree Ordinance!

kevin orme  
Seattle

**From:** kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 2, 2023 6:59 AM  
**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin



<Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Boawn, Jeanie <Jeanie.Boawn@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Where the most U.S. residents bake because of concrete and lack of trees

**CAUTION: External Email**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/07/26/extreme-heat-island-effect-cities/?wpisrc=nl\\_most](https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/07/26/extreme-heat-island-effect-cities/?wpisrc=nl_most)

Until you do something and **protect trees in Seattle**, this is what's awaiting us. When you build a city of McMansions and heat islands because developers aren't making enough greedy profits, you get what you paid them for.

kevin orme  
Seattle

**From:** Rebecca Guss <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 2, 2023 7:14 PM

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

**Subject:** Please amend the 2023 Draft Tree Ordinance - No "guaranteed 85%"!

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Rebecca Guss  
[rebeccaguss@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccaguss@gmail.com)  
7404 45th Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115