



SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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

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

Hao Liang (Position 6 – Landscape Architect – ISA), Co-Chair

Alicia Kellogg (Position 2 – Urban Ecologist) • **David Baker** (Position 8 – Development)

Nathan Collins (Position 9 – Financial Analyst) • **Logan Woodyard** (Position 10 – Get Engaged)

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

March 13, 2024, 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: 2493 040 8265

Meeting password: 1234

Attending

Commissioners

Josh Morris – Co-Chair

Becca Neumann – Co-Chair

Hao Liang, Co-Chair

David Baker

Nathan Collins

Logan Woodyard

Jessica Jones

Lia Hall

Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE

Guests

Absent- Excused

Alicia Kellogg

Public

Steve Zemke

Toby Thaler

Tina Cohen

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

Public comment:

Steve Zemke noted that the language in the draft Comprehensive Plan does not include the date of 2037 to reach the 30% canopy cover goal. He also noted that the example housing types depicted in the draft Plan don't illustrate how trees would fit into the housing projects. With the new tree ordinance not including flexibility in the tree protection zone, there will be little space for trees in the new multi-family housing types as depicted currently in the plan. He suggested the UFC recommend looking at alternative building designs, including building higher so that more of a lot can be available for trees.

Tina Cohen noted that she is wondering what is happening with the Heritage Tree program. If Heritage Trees are the only category of trees required to be saved, there should be a mechanism for adding more trees, but the status of the committee to evaluate nominations is unknown.

Chair and Coordinator reports:

Josh shared that a state bill was passed related to the Wildland-Urban Interface Code that will impact how that is implemented in Seattle. This means that the Code won't take effect here in Seattle in March as originally expected. He noted that the Seattle Tree Canopy group, facilitated by the Seattle Parks Foundation had a meeting recently. The group has been rebranded as the Tree Equity group. Hao and Josh met recently with OSE staff and leadership to share priorities and framing around tree protection.

Adoption of February 14 meeting notes

Action: a motion to adopt the February 14 meeting notes as written was made, seconded and approved.

Subgroup reports:**- Tree Protection Ordinance**

The group had a productive meeting with Lois Martin, a long-time Central District resident. They discussed the Connected Communities ordinance proposed by CM Morales, which didn't pass but brought up aspects to consider.

The group has been discussing how to track tree removals approved, how best to move the work forward of tracking where projects are being proposed and tracking what happens with trees in them. There is a spreadsheet that the group has been using to list addresses/projects. This will be added to the subgroup information workbook so that other Commissioners can add to it as well. Hao noted that the tree map that SDCI is working on that will show tree projects can help with this, so it will be good to get an update on the status of that map.

- Climate

Hao is working on some slides for the next meeting.

- Budget

The subgroup and Patti met with Akshay Iyengar from the City Budget Office on the city budget process and how to provide meaningful recommendations on the city's budget. Akshay offered some insights into how the UFC can be most effective in developing and providing recommendations. Josh shared some slides summarizing some of the content from last year's urban forestry expenditures Statement of Legislative Intent report.

- Diversity and Equity

At their last meeting, the subgroup discussed the land acknowledgement the UFC has been using, and aspects of it to consider and improve. They also discussed attending community meetings rather than asking community groups to host one of the UFC meetings, as part of the effort to build relationships and have stronger connections to community groups.

Draft One Seattle Plan briefing – OPCD staff

Michael Hubner provided some background on what the Comprehensive Plan is and why it gets updated. A focus of this update is challenges around housing and affordability, and the city is also responding to climate impacts and centering and elevating equity in the planning work. Michael shared the timeline for this work, noting that after the public engagement around the release of the draft Plan, there will be additional work later this year to release a zoning proposal that implements the Plan and public engagement around that. The final Plan is expected to be released by the end of the year.

In addition to the draft EIS and the draft Plan, there is a report on what is proposed for updating neighborhood residential zones given the new set of requirements in the Growth Management Act to allow a broader range of housing types in NR zones. The changes in the NR zones will impact the largest area of the city. The Growth Strategy is designed to increase the supply, diversity and affordability of housing into the future. There is also an expanded Housing Element and a Housing Appendix with data supporting the Plan policies.

Equity and opportunity was considered across all of the Plan elements, including many policies to address these aspects. Some highlights of the policies:

- Prioritizing investments in communities, particularly low-income and BIPOC communities that have experienced historic underinvestment.
- Supporting a broad range of anti-displacement tools.
- Elevating both equitable housing and inclusive engagement as the Plan is implemented.

The Growth Strategy aims to put the City in the position to increase the supply of housing, with the existing target for housing growth over the next 20 years is for at least 80,000 units and up to 120,000 units. The goal is to increase diversity of housing types and create more affordable opportunities along with the overall increase in housing. The strategy also aims to reduce and address the history of racist and exclusionary policies.

Michael described the various place types outlined in the Plan: Regional Centers, Urban Centers, Neighborhood Centers, Manufacturing and Industrial Centers and Urban Neighborhoods. He shared a map showing the locations of the new place types across the city, discussed details of each place type, and showed examples of the different housing types proposed.

Patrice Carroll provided an overview of the new Climate and Environment Element in the Plan. House Bill 1181 introduced a goal around Climate to the Growth Management Act guidelines. It includes the guidance to include a set of policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and a set of policies that address resiliency to climate impacts. The previous plan's policies around trees that were in the Land and Environment Element were moved into this new Element. Recognizing that trees have a role in emission reduction is reflected in the narrative of this Element. It also integrates the strategies from the Urban Forest Management Plan. Other aspects called for in HB 1181 won't have enough information to be included in the final Plan adopted this year, but can be incorporated into subsequent annual updates. Patrice reviewed the policies included in the Element, including the carried-over policies and new policies. The goal for this section is the city's goal of reaching 30% tree canopy.

Michael reviewed the community engagement plans for the rest of the Plan process.

Questions and comments from Commissioners included:

- Request for more detail on the open houses to be held. How is this information being disseminated to the community?
- One result of the pandemic was an increase in people moving away from urban areas. Was this reverse of urbanization considered in developing the Plan?
- What has OPCD heard from community around parks and open space, recreational forest canopy?

- Does the City evaluate/consider responsibilities around biodiversity?
- Why was the 2037 timeline for reaching the 30% tree canopy goal removed?
- Was the potential to increase wealth disparity considered in developing the Plan?

Presentation debrief

Commissioners discussed initial thoughts they have from the presentation, and what areas of the Comprehensive Plan they want to know more about. These included:

- Understanding the rationale behind the new place types/Centers and the organization of the growth strategies. Resiliency and ecological functions should be considered along with the other aspects/values; we need more trees, how can we get there with these strategies?
- Opening up neighborhood residential zones to historically barred communities is very important, but we should also weigh the fact that these communities have also been barred from the ecological functions of trees.
- Wealth disparities – prices are going up at such a high rate, how can people stay in place? How many units on a lot are one thing, but single-family homes host a lot of our trees. Consider more deeply how people can stay in place, what incentives there are for people staying to keep their trees.

The group discussed next steps and how the UFC can work to develop and approve recommendations in the two-month window for comments. The next UFC meeting is April 10. A subgroup of Commissioners can meet to start developing draft feedback before that 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 that OPCD discussed the draft Comp Plan and not the draft EIS. He suggested the UFC review that as well to consider impacts to trees. He stressed that public health is a big reason to retain tree canopy on neighborhoods where people live, rather than relying just on canopy in parks. Tree advocates worked for years to get HB 1181 passed, ensuring that additional aspects are included in all Comprehensive Plans.

Toby Thaler suggested that the UFC should consider impacts in the right of way, and ask the City to empower SDOT to have more authority over trees in the ROW adjacent to private lands.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM.

Meeting chat:

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:08 PM

I don't have a comment, thank you Hao!

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 3:14 PM

Thanks, Tina! The heritage tree nomination process is still an open question for sure.

from steve zemke to everyone: 3:36 PM

Would be good to coordinate amount of trees the Dept have respomy

from steve zemke to everyone: 3:37 PM

responsibiliy for and amount of spending - agree Josh

from steve zemke to everyone: 3:39 PM

Would be good to look at how the Department's responsibility overlap and could be better coordinated with a single Dept of Climate and Environment with an urban forestry division.

from steve zemke to everyone: 3:41 PM

Example seattle City Light and Dept of Transportation deal with same land area.

from steve zemke to everyone: 3:41 PM

Example seattle City Light and Dept of Transportation deal with same land area.

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 3:46 PM

Is there a link to agenda for today's meeting?

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 3:47 PM

<https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/UrbanForestryCommission/2024/2024Agendas/UFCagenda031324.pdf>

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 3:48 PM

Thank you!

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:30 PM

Would help to add addresses to locations for community engagement

from Tina Cohen to everyone: 4:31 PM

Where is the space for large trees in this rezoning scheme?

from Patrice Carroll, OPCD to everyone: 4:31 PM

<https://engage.oneSeattleplan.com/en/events>

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:32 PM

What is encouraf

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:33 PM

What is rimpact expected on middle housing building over time on loss of tree canopy?

from Tina Cohen to everyone: 4:36 PM

One seattle plan site doesn't list the events, at least I cannot locate the info

from Tina Cohen to everyone: 4:36 PM

Where is the Loyal heights meeting?

from Urgenson, Lauren to everyone: 4:36 PM

Here is the events page <https://www.seattle.gov/opcd/meetings-and-events>

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:37 PM

Loyal Heights location is 2101 NW 77th

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:38 PM

Time is 600 to 7:30 PM

from Patrice Carroll, OPCD to everyone: 4:40 PM

Meeting is at Loyal Heights Community Center

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:40 PM

Will goal to reach 30% tree canopy by 2037 be changed as a result of this plan?

from Danielle Devier to everyone: 4:43 PM

Thanks for presenting. I'm not a commissioner but, I think that it would be helpful to see some big trees (and green infrastructure?) in the renderings that illustrate typical 5000 sf lot dense housing-typologies.

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:44 PM

Should add health benefits to benefits of trees

from Lia Hall UFC13 to everyone: 4:44 PM

Per Josh's point, Would be interesting to overlay riparian corridors, greenspace with zoning changes.

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:45 PM

UFMP says 30% by 2037.

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:46 PM

Previous Comp Plan also said strive to reach 40% over time

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 4:49 PM

Thank you!!

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:53 PM

Need to ask them to do a presentaion at your next meeting on the impact of Comp Plan changes. That is a secon document that is commented on separately.

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:53 PM

Need to ask them to do a presentation at your next meeting on the draft EIS - impacts of changes on tree canopy over time.

from Danielle Devier to everyone: 4:59 PM

gotta run, thank you!

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 5:00 PM

GMA requires disparate impact analysis

RCW 36.70A.070(2)(e) – (h)

City Code requires Race and Social Justice Initiative analysis; was botched by City for last major up zones, MHA

from steve zemke to everyone: 5:02 PM

Agree with Toby.

Public input (additional comments received):

-----Original Message-----

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 10:54 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>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; DOT_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; Wong, Greg <Greg.Wong@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Nelson, Sara <Sara.Nelson@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Hollingsworth, Joy <Joy.Hollingsworth@seattle.gov>; Kettle, Robert <Robert.Kettle@seattle.gov>; Morales, Tammy <Tammy.Morales@seattle.gov>; Turla, Alexis <Alexis.Turla@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; Carey, Imani <imani.carey@seattle.gov>; Chow, Evelyn <Evelyn.Chow@seattle.gov>; Rivera, Maritza <Maritza.Rivera@seattle.gov>; Ko, Elaine <Elaine.Ko@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Enbysk, Amy <Amy.Enbysk@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Moore, Cathy <Cathy.Moore@seattle.gov>; Thoreson, Hannah <Hannah.Thoreson@seattle.gov>; Smith, Steven (LEG) <Steven.Smith@seattle.gov>; Lo, Brent <Brent.Lo@seattle.gov>; Duran, Rebecca <Rebecca.Duran@seattle.gov>; Woo, Tanya <Tanya.Woo@seattle.gov>

Subject: Legacy Capital gaming the system to clearcut trees - AGAIN.

CAUTION: External Email

To the members of Seattle city government - yet again we see big builders gaming the system to ensure **their** oversized profits come at our (Seattle resident and wildlife) expense.

In this latest example, Legacy Capital will soon be allowed to remove a 52" diameter, healthy western red cedar tree at 3003 NE 88th. This is one of the clearest examples of the difference between the old and new tree ordinance (and how the latter **does not** actually protect trees).

Under Seattle's previous tree ordinance, this tree would be required to be retained. It's on the very edge of an oversize corner lot, so there are almost limitless site plans which could include it and yet accomodate new homes.

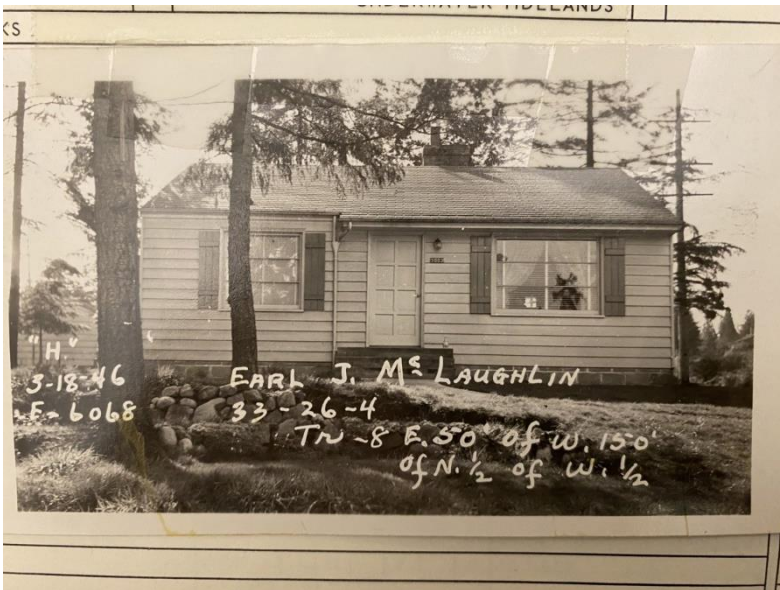
Legacy was able to have their project approval date (vesting) **moved** so that it would fall under the new tree ordinance, which sadly gives developers ultimate authority of whether or not to remove trees. The SDCI arborists now have no choice but to allow the removal. Removing this tree will not increase the amount or size of housing to be built.

I'm very interested to hear how Councilmember Strauss responds to this type of chicanery and, how Councilmember Morales, the new chair of the Land User Committee - intends to prevent this stuff from happening (fixing the new ordinance to actually **retain big trees** would be a great start). This type of bait and switch is only going to get more frequent as interest rates will likely fall again soon, and construction will pick back up accordingly.

Protecting trees is a recurring promise made by nearly every single candidate who ran for council this time around, and city leaders—especially Mayor Harrell—can no longer ignore Seattle's growing urban heat islands, clearcutting all lots for developer profit and looking the other way as SDCI continually allows it to happen. We need to remove tree governance from SDCI once and for all to get a much more objective (and protective) perspective on our urban tree canopy before it's too late.

Attached are pics of the tree (historical and now) and the Legacy Capital letter asking for the preferable treatment to blatantly avoid tree protection.

kevin orme
seattle



Original Message-----

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

Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 6:59 AM

To: Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>; SCI_Code_Compliance <SCI_Code_Compliance@seattle.gov>

Cc: treesandpeoplepacificwest.com <treesandpeople@pacificwest.com>; Hao Liang <ufclandscape@gmail.com>; June BlueSpruce <info@treesandpeople.org>; Becca Neumann <ufc.pos4@gmail.com>; Josh Morris <joshm@birdsconnectsea.org>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

Subject: Illegal and intentional tier 2 tree damage

CAUTION: External Email

SDCI inspectors ,

Visit immediately 3003 NE 88th St in Seattle.

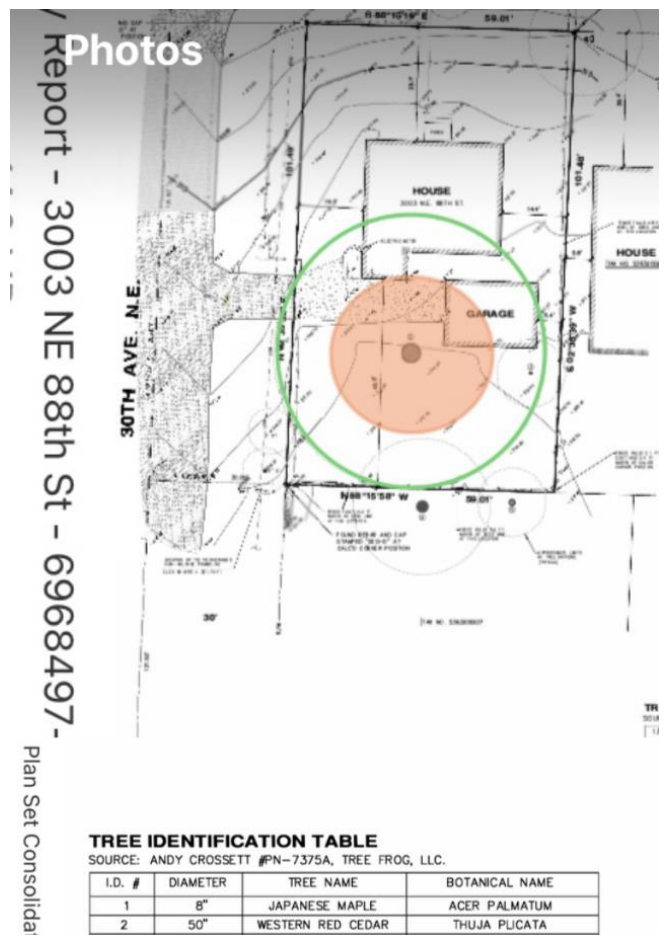
Please inspect and apply maximum fines authorized by SDCI for intentional tier 2 tree damage at the above indicated property.

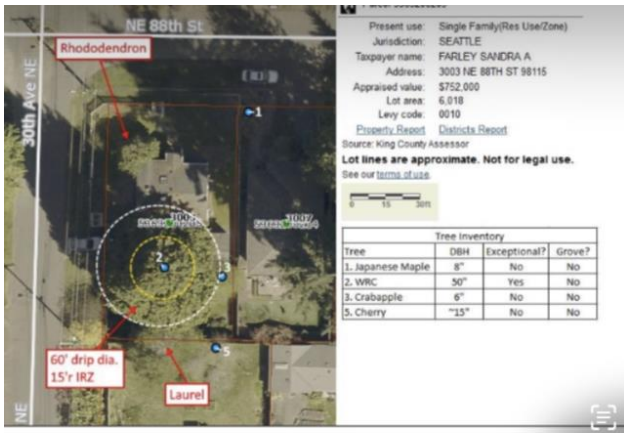
It is a 50-inch DSH Western Red Cedar. Provide a barrier and signage around this tree including fines.

The links in residential trees tips and phone number on trees website if SDCI are inoperable.

Outside the inner critical root zone and incorporating a design departure of fifty percent reduction in the front yard, this exceptional tree may remain with at least 35% of the lot being able to accommodate structures.

Thank you,
For the Trees and People Coalition
David Moehring

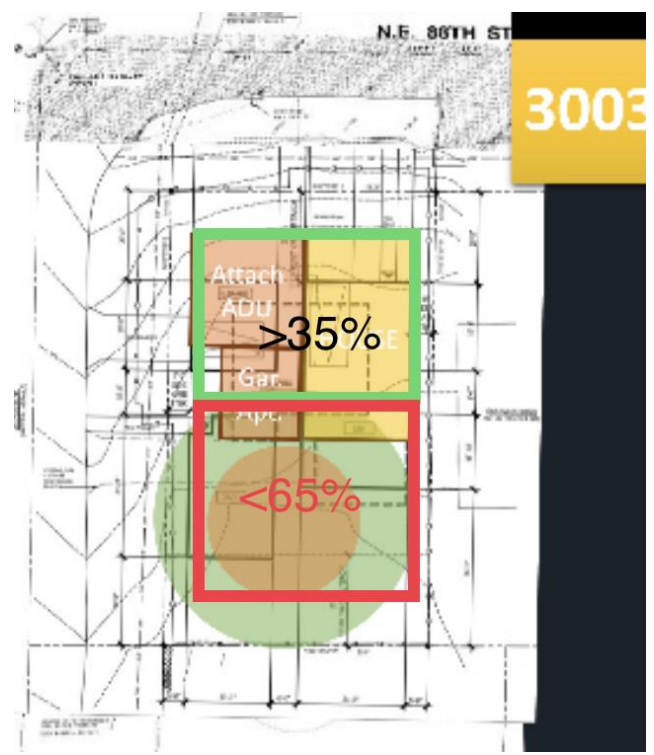
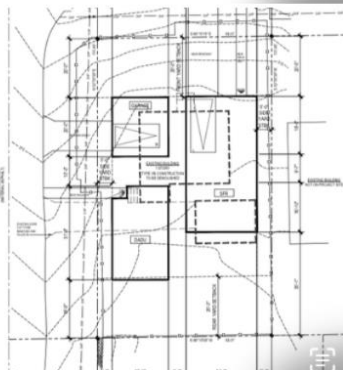




Present use: Single Family(Res Use/Zone)
 Jurisdiction: SEATTLE
 Taxpayer name: FARLEY SANDRA A
 Address: 3003 NE 88TH ST 98115
 Appraised value: \$752,000
 Lot area: 6,019
 Levy code: 0010
 Property Report Districts Report
 Source: King County Assessor
 Lot lines are approximate. Not for legal use.
 See our terms of use.

Tree Inventory				
Tree	DBH	Exceptional?	Grove?	
1. Japanese Maple	8"	No	No	
2. WRC	30"	Yes	No	
3. Crabapple	6"	No	No	
5. Cherry	"15"	No	No	

3003 NE 88TH STREET, SEATTLE, WA 98115
 TRIMMING
 INCLUDING LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT AND ADDITIONAL PLANTING
 PLANT LIST
 4,000 TO 7,000 PLANTING QUANTITY
 NEW
 CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE WITH A SINGLE CAR
 DETACHED GARAGE AND A DETACHED ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT.
 SEANCY GROUP CAPITAL, 4001 10TH AVE NE, #200, BELLEVUE, WA 98008
 CHRISTOPHER JONES ARCHITECTS, 300 OLIVE WAY, SUITE 100, SEATTLE, WA 98101



-----Original Message-----

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 1:44 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>; Farrell, Jessyn

<Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia

<Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; DOT_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; Wong, Greg

<Greg.Wong@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Nelson, Sara <Sara.Nelson@seattle.gov>; Um,

Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Hollingsworth, Joy

<Joy.Hollingsworth@seattle.gov>; Kettle, Robert <Robert.Kettle@seattle.gov>; Morales, Tammy

<Tammy.Morales@seattle.gov>; Turla, Alexis <Alexis.Turla@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin

<Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; Carey, Imani <imani.carey@seattle.gov>; Chow, Evelyn

<Evelyn.Chow@seattle.gov>; Rivera, Maritza <Maritza.Rivera@seattle.gov>; Ko, Elaine

<Elaine.Ko@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Enbysk, Amy <Amy.Enbysk@seattle.gov>;

Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Moore, Cathy <Cathy.Moore@seattle.gov>; Thoreson, Hannah

<Hannah.Thoreson@seattle.gov>

Subject: Activists want to save Wedgwood cedar, change Seattle tree oversight

CAUTION: External Email

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/activists-want-to-save-wedgwood-cedar-change-seattle-tree-oversight/>

yet again, another heritage tree essential to the climate fight, wildlife habitat and many other environmental capabilities is being hacked down (illegally to boot) due to simple greed and SDCI indifference.

When does it end? I include the ever-growing list of SeaTimes articles and editorials to date on this subject below. Since the Tree Removal Ordinance was passed last May (again, there was plenty of warning there from

the Seatimes and many other local news and community then too) - the situation just keeps barreling toward clearcut after clearcut. I also included the Eric S's two articles detailing how the fix was in for the Tree Removal Ordinance last May for those of you not already familiar with them:

<https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=31323334-50bba2bf-31321b84-4544474f5631-5a01929f9a539fc7&q=1&e=ff1abd12-0ddd-4021-af2e-b96da0fe45cb&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.invw.org%2F2023%2F07%2F19%2Fhow-developers-helped-shape-seattles-controversial-tree-protection-ordinance%2F>
<https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=31323334-50bba2bf-31321b84-4544474f5631-fe386682765b0ccb&q=1&e=ff1abd12-0ddd-4021-af2e-b96da0fe45cb&u=https%3A%2F%2Fcrosscut.com%2Fenvironment%2F2023%2F09%2Finside-tumultuous-debate-behind-seattles-tree-ordinance>

get tree supervision OUT from under SDCI and reform the Tree Ordinance, please!

kevin orme
Seattle

-----Original Message-----

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

Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 6:45 AM

To: Liz.Berry@leg.wa.gov; julia.reed@leg.wa.gov; noel.frame@leg.wa.gov

Cc: Woo, Tanya <Tanya.Woo@seattle.gov>; julia.lain@leg.wa.gov; SenNoelFrame@updates.leg.wa.gov; Kettle, Robert <Robert.Kettle@seattle.gov>; Nelson, Sara <Sara.Nelson@seattle.gov>; June BlueSpruce <info@treesandpeople.org>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; info@treeactionseattle.com; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Magnolia Community Council <magnoliacomunityclub@gmail.com>; Hao Liang <ufclandscape@gmail.com>; Josh Morris <joshm@birdsconnectsea.org>; Becca Neumann <ufc.pos4@gmail.com>

Subject: Support ESB 6120: Wildlife Urban Interface - update

CAUTION: External Email

Dear Representative Reed and Representative Berry, and Senator Frame,

I'm a constituent of yours residing in LD 36.

I strongly support ESB 6120. Please ensure this bill gets a floor vote and vote in favor of passage. Bill 6120 essentially allows for a more nuanced and location-specific plan to remove trees for wildfire prevention. The existing plan wipes out thousands of acres of forest across the state unnecessarily, in the name of wildlife prevention.

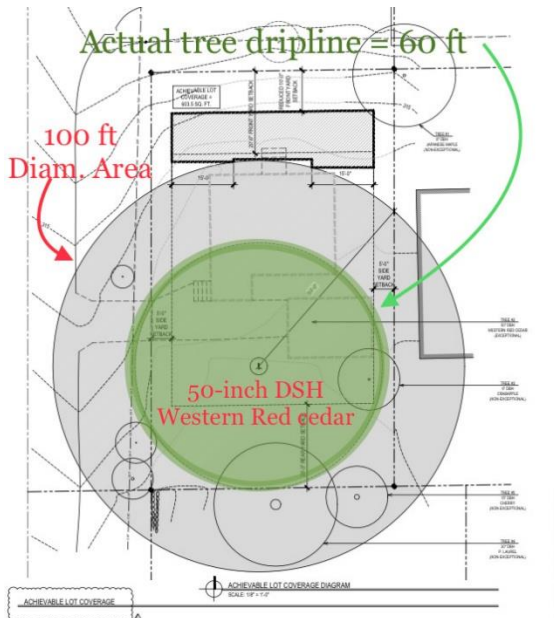
Within our city, Seattle needs a thousand acres of canopy within 13 years to meet the 2035 Seattle comprehensive plan of 30% equitable canopy cover. In the past five years from 2016 to 2021, Seattle's tree canopy assessment recorded a net canopy loss of 255 acres... the area equivalent to Green Lake.

Seattle's July 2023 tree removal ordinance has recently proved (reference Neighborhood Residential NE3-zoned 3003 NE 88th St, images attached) that previously-protected exceptional trees such as a 50-inch diameter trunk Western Red Cedar are now free to be removed and no space provisions for replanting equitable canopy cover. 35-percent of the development lot was available to build three dwellings, but the previous code provision is no longer enforced.

We would enjoy the opportunity to explore efficient urban growth along with large tree retention per the comprehensive plan initiatives.

Sincerely,

David Moehring, AIA, NCARB



60 ft dripline increased to 100 ft tree area using 2023 Tree removal Method. Directors Rule 11-2023 stopped from correcting a bad ordinance provision.

Plan Set Consolidated Summary Report - 3003...

14.9 MB

From: MICHAEL OXMAN <michaeloxman@comcast.net>

Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 8:19 AM

To: dmoehring@consultant.com; Liz.Berry@leg.wa.gov; julia.reed@leg.wa.gov; noel.frame@leg.wa.gov

Cc: Woo, Tanya <Tanya.Woo@seattle.gov>; julia.lain@leg.wa.gov; SenNoelFrame@updates.leg.wa.gov;

Kettle, Robert <Robert.Kettle@seattle.gov>; Nelson, Sara <Sara.Nelson@seattle.gov>; June BlueSpruce

<info@treesandpeople.org>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; info@treeactionseattle.com;

Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Magnolia Community Council

<magnoliacomunityclub@gmail.com>; Hao Liang <ufclandscape@gmail.com>; Josh Morris

<joshm@birdsconnectsea.org>; Becca Neumann <ufc.pos4@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: [TREE LOSS] Support ESB 6120: Wildlife Urban Interface - update

CAUTION: External Email

Dear Legislators,

Managing forests requires counting & measuring the trees & other natural features in a database. Currently, we use aerial photos taken from satellites, which is inexpensive, but inexact.

Please consider collecting data in a scientific format, rather than using a cursory glance to estimate important environmental factors.

Please see the attached guide to differentiating the methods of geographic information systems.

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:320336fe-df31-4fb4-a013-a7d31e8075d4>

Thanks!

Michael Oxman
ISA Certified Arborist #PN-0756A
(206) 949-8733
www.treedr.com

On 03/01/2024 6:45 AM PST dmoehring@consultant.com wrote:

Dear Representative Reed and Representative Berry, and Senator Frame,

I'm a constituent of yours residing in LD 36.

I strongly support ESB 6120. Please ensure this bill gets a floor vote and vote in favor of passage. Bill 6120 essentially allows for a more nuanced and location-specific plan to remove trees for wildfire prevention. The existing plan wipes out thousands of acres of forest across the state unnecessarily, in the name of wildlife prevention.

Within our city, Seattle needs a thousand acres of canopy within 13 years to meet the 2035 Seattle comprehensive plan of 30% equitable canopy cover. In the past five years from 2016 to 2021, Seattle's tree canopy assessment recorded a net canopy loss of 255 acres... the area equivalent to Green Lake.

Seattle's July 2023 tree removal ordinance has recently proved (reference Neighborhood Residential NE3-zoned 3003 NE 88th St, images attached) that previously-protected exceptional trees such as a 50-inch diameter trunk Western Red Cedar are now free to be removed and no space provisions for replanting equitable canopy cover. 35-percent of the development lot was available to build three dwellings, but the previous code provision is no longer enforced.

We would enjoy the opportunity to explore efficient urban growth along with large tree retention per the comprehensive plan initiatives.

Sincerely,

David Moehring, AIA, NCARB
3444B 23rd Ave W
Work 425.352.5143
mobile. 312.965.0634

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Help support TreePAC's efforts to create a stronger tree ordinance, more informed residents, and more informed City Officials.

Guide to save trees before it is too late:

<https://treepac.org/step-by-step-saving-seattle-trees-guide-new/>

Donate to non-profit TreePAC:

<https://donorbox.org/support-treepac-and-seattle-s-urban-forest?>

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To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/seattletreeloss/trinity-e92a4092-ee46-4b2b-a19b-877424f4b479-1709304313205%40msvc-mesg-gmxus008>

From: Steve Zemke <stevezemke@msn.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2024 11:57 PM

To: Bergsrud, Kevin <Kevin.Bergsrud@seattle.gov>

Cc: LEG_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

Subject: Comments on 2024 Parks Plan

CAUTION: External Email

To Kevin Bergsrud,

Please accept these comments in regard to the 2024 Parks Plan.

We are concerned that your definition of pocket parks is very limited. It doesn't even mention trees but only says native plants. Trees are needed in all zones of the city as an important climate resiliency issue and to reduce heat islands and increase environmental equity where they are scarce or lacking entirely.

As the city densifies with 4 plexes and 6 plexes in what is currently the neighborhood residential zone, that tree canopy and nature will significantly decrease in these areas. Lots up to 10,000 square feet can become ways to retain tree groves (6 or more trees 12" DSH in diameter) and larger trees like Tier two trees (greater than 24" DSH) and Tier 1 trees (heritage trees) and Tier 3 trees (12-24" DSH) that provide climate resiliency and reduce heat island impacts in neighborhoods. Natural areas and trees are important for mental and physical health, for reducing air pollution and heat impacts, providing habitat for wildlife and helping reduce stormwater runoff. No mention is made of the value of trees and small forested areas accessible and close to where people live.

You likewise seem to give short shift to the value of larger park areas in general and specifically natural areas as tree repositories and places to plant new trees. Natural areas are experiencing a significant loss in our city as trees mature and die and also are affected by water availability and heat impacts caused by climate changes. According to the 2021 Canopy Study done by the city, tree loss in natural areas was occurring at a faster rate than other areas of the city.

Parks (along with street) have been identified in the 2023 Tree Protection Ordinance update as a place where replacement trees paid for by in lieu are to be planted to compensate for their loss during development. This needs to be evaluated and discussed in the context of the 2024 Parks Plan, where these trees will be planted, estimates of how many, specific species, and how they will help grow the tree canopy in Parks in the city.

Please increase the emphasis of trees in all of our parks where possible as development continues to remove trees elsewhere. We do not want to have a discussion regarding the Emerald City losing its namesake credibility.

Thanks for your work. Parks are a critical component of Seattle reaching its current Comprehensive Plan goal of 30% canopy cover by 2037 and 40% over time.

Steve Zemke

Chair - Friends of Seattle's Urban Forest and TreePAC.

From: RICHARD E <climbwall@msn.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2024 12:27 AM

To: LEG_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Josh Morris <joshm@seattleaudubon.org>; Bakker, Patricia

<Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

Cc: sshettler@msn.com; ArthurLee Jacobson11 <arthurleej@earthlink.net>

Subject: Comment on 2024 Parks Plan in regards to trees and wildlife.

CAUTION: External Email

Dear Councilmembers and Urban Forestry Commission

Below are my comments on the draft 2024 Parks Plan in regards to trees and some of the critical role these remnant forests play, that are not being addressed in the Plan.

Comment on 2024 Parks Plan

As Seattle densifies, large-scale urban forests are ever more important, and all of them are within Seattle's parks. These natural areas are reservoirs of biodiversity and provide wildlife habitat, urban cooling, air filtration and stormwater management at a level which exceeds that provided by individual trees along streets and on private property. The 2024 Parks Plan fails to account for the value of these forests or dedicate resources needed to preserve and grow them.

This is critically important as the city loses significantly more and more of its larger sized (Exceptional) trees in the developmental process of providing new residential housing.

The parks and natural areas are becoming more critical as corridor connections with the other parts of the urban canopy, in terms of reservoirs of wildlife, and corridors of wildlife to private property canopy remnants, and other canopy as it exists. There is no evaluation of the growing dependence of the City on parks spaces for canopy and wildlife.

The Canopy study noted "Parks Natural Areas make up a small portion of the city's land (5%), but had a net loss of 111 acres (5.1% relative loss)—nearly half of the city's overall canopy loss."

Alarming, the plan to restore Parks forested natural areas appears to rest primarily in the hands of volunteers, who cannot possibly operate at the scale needed. Green Seattle Partnership is even described as having completed restoration of all natural areas by 2025, thereafter shifting to maintenance. (P.8) Given the degradation and loss of hundreds of acres of Parks forest noted in the 2021 canopy study, this statement is grossly inaccurate.

Visiting parks and natural areas it is obvious that canopies are being swallowed by invasive vegetation, such as English ivy and clematis. The understory is overwhelmed by these species and others, and invasive trees and shrubs such as Himalayan blackberry, holly, English laurel, bitter cherry and others, combined with English ivy and clamatis are devastating sapling recruitment and native species biodiversity. Areas that have been previously restored are also being reinvaded by invasives.

Climate change and longer hotter summer droughts are also significantly reducing the survivorship of new plantings. Additionally, these extensive multi-year declines in precipitation and higher temperatures are weakening and killing many exceptional trees in both parks and natural areas. What is the evaluation and solution to these trends?

Plans to irrigate new planting are good, but there may be a need to include waterings of existing exceptional trees to help maintain the pristine nature of many exceptional trees. Like any garden areas, where the need to water herbs and oremental shrubs are normal, it may be necessary to develop a strategy of watering at least certain especially treasured large exceptional trees to keep them from dying.

Many natural areas on steep slopes are also many times the most overwhelmed by invasives, where both trees and understory are heavily infected. These are the slopes, especially with some soil types beneath, that have a tendency to slope failure. Failed slopes create both risks below of falling trees and branches on roads, but also tremendous costs to mitigate after.

For both ecosystem services and public health, this Plan should be substantially revised to recognize the value of urban forests, their fragile degraded state, and the need to prioritize their restoration.

Thank you,

Richard Ellison, MS Botany

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cimbwall@msn.com