



**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**

April 24, 2024, 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: 2497 326 6830

Meeting password: 1234

**Attending**

Commissioners

Josh Morris – Co-Chair  
Hao Liang, Co-Chair  
David Baker  
Nathan Collins  
Lia Hall

Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE

Guests

Absent- Excused

Becca Neumann – Co-Chair  
Alicia Kellogg  
Logan Woodyard  
Jessica Jones

Public

David Moehring  
Steve Zemke  
Michael Oxman  
Toby Thaler  
Lois Martin

**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:**

David Moehring made suggestions on the draft UFC recommendations. He also noted again the vacant UFC positions and requested the UFC let folks know if they recommend contacting the Land Use Committee about those.

Steve Zemke reiterated the recommendation that the UFC provide comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement, and cited some specific areas recommendations can be made.

Michael Oxman noted that the current Comp Plan includes two goals for canopy – the goal of 30% canopy by 2037 and the goals of 40% canopy over time. The city’s tree canopy was 18% when the UFMP was first adopted in 2007. He recommends that a goal of “no net loss” be included in the Comp Plan. He also noted that the UFC positions are not all filled, which are important at this time.

Toby Thaler concurred that both the Comp Plan and the draft EIS should be reviewed and commented on.

Lois Martin noted that they will be sending a letter to the Land Use Committee about filling the vacant positions.

Martha Baskin (via email read by Josh) noted the importance of filling the vacant UFC positions so that the UFC can do its work effectively.

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

None

**One Seattle Plan – review of draft UFC feedback – discussion and possible action**

Commissioners reviewed, discussed and edited the UFC recommendations on the draft One Seattle Plan and associated draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**Action: A motion to adopt the recommendations on the draft One Seattle Plan and associated draft Environmental Impact Statement as amended 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 appreciated the work put into reviewing and making recommendations on the documents. He noted that the canopy loss numbers in the new tree ordinance were calculated before 2021, and those will now be different due to the effects of the State housing bill. He recommended folks stress and bring back the 40% goal.

Michael Oxman noted that the vacant positions represent folks not able to weigh in on the Comp Plan. He noted what he considers inconsistencies in the draft Plan that need to be aligned within city policy.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

**Meeting chat:**

from Adrienne Moore to everyone: 3:08 PM

Is anyone else getting a lot of feedback?

from Dave Moehring to everyone: 3:25 PM

Recap on existing 2035 Comp Plan sections about tree canopy that I could not find within the new One Seattle Plan: Existing LU 6.13 (limit parking in Parks), Existing EN1.2 -no longer seeking 40% canopy over the long-term time (side note: such as Singapore that aims for 50% on all new buildings); existing EN 1.3 using trees... to meet drainage needs and reduce the impacts of development; existing EN 1.5 promote

sustainable management of public and private open spaces... by preserving or planting native and naturalized vegetation, removing invasive plants,...; and finally removed is existing EN 1.7 Promote the care and retention of trees and groups of trees that enhance Seattle.....

from Dave Moehring to everyone: 3:38 PM

Also, have shared via email suggested six questions to the Comp Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement: (1) impact of removed policies --- as noted above; (2) does the DEIS consider achieving the 30% citywide canopy cover by 2037; (3) does the DEIS consider average 2021 canopy cover in Neighborhood zones at 33.6% coverage compared to Multifamily zones at just 22% coverage --- especially in the light that the One Seattle Plan will be converting all of the city to multifamily density levels; (4) does the DEIS consider how much of the City's 1,600 acres of park land without canopy has the potential to plant trees; (5) does the DEIS consider tree retention within privately-owned land; and similarly (6) does the DEIS assume a long-term shift of canopy to right-of-way... and , if so, has the DEIS considered what portion of Seattle's 11,000 acres of Right of way WITHOUT trees has a physical and logistical potential to add tree canopy --- such as Cambridge MA has studied and shared with the UFC in 2022.

from steve zemke to everyone: 3:39 PM

Any consideration of urban canopy volume? Important for reducing stormwater runoff for example.

from Jennifer to everyone: 3:50 PM

Speaking of root zones, I'd love if we go back to the actual drip line tpa vs the current double dsh TPA that allows developers to more easily remove trees in the new ordinance, like Astra.

from Dave Moehring to everyone: 3:51 PM

To Patti's point on Neighborhood Residential... limit of structure coverage for Neighborhood Residential zones is just 35% today with a minimum 20-foot front yard. When one looks at RSL zones, the maximum lot coverage allowed today is 50%. And in Seattle's LR multifamily zones, there is no lot coverage maximum, but the average rowhouse and townhouse structure lot coverage is typically 40 to 45%. Multifamily zones do have a 12.5% to 25% minimum exterior amenity area that trees may be included. Therefore, any lot coverage over 50% with lowrise multifamily of future 6-homes per lot would be unnecessary to achieve density and space for trees.

from Lia Hall UFC13 to everyone: 3:57 PM

<https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/OPCD/SeattlePlan/OneSeattlePlanDraftPlan2024.pdf>

from Dave Moehring to everyone: 3:58 PM

Michael Hubner of OPCD shared last night at a One Seattle event that the OPCD is considering a policy similar to Portland Oregon that identifies minimum tree retention and planting areas. Assume that the UFC would also want to support that idea. Portland's Table 50.1 sets minimum at least 20% of lot area when more than 4-dwellings on a lot, or minimum of 40% of lot area when 4-dwellings or less on a lot. If a large tree is roughly 700 to 900 sq ft in canopy area, and a typical lot is about 5000 sq feet, those percentages of minimum lot areas per lot for trees sounds reasonable.

from steve zemke to everyone: 3:59 PM

Past tree loss under the previous ordinance is not comparable. The new Tree Protection definition using "basic tree protection area" which "cannot be modified" already significantly diminishes the ability to save large existing trees.

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:02 PM

Tacoma is actually proposing a 30% tree retention and planting area. Other cities require minimum number of trees on lots being developed.

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 4:04 PM

From Dave Moehring: Michael Hubner of OPCD shared last night at a One Seattle event that the OPCD is considering a policy similar to Portland Oregon that identifies minimum tree retention and planting areas. Assume that the UFC would also want to support that idea." However, if the concept is not included in the EIS analysis, the Council (probably) cannot adopt it without more SEPA process later.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:06 PM

Agree! Bellevue is doing updates every two years!

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 4:07 PM

Regularly update the tree canopy analysis to monitor changes and trends in the amount, distribution, and condition of the urban forest and use this information to shape urban forestry management plans, decisions and actions.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:07 PM

Bellevue wrapped 2-year updates into their every-five year canopy study contract with PlanIt Geo, the urban forestry consultant. These were very affordable--just a few thousand dollars.

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:07 PM

I believe the city is going to do yearly updates on tree loss and tree replacement.

from Dave Moehring to everyone: 4:07 PM

Michael Hubner also mentioned today's minimum front yard set-back will reduce from 20-foot depth to just 10-foot depth... which will impact neighborhoods that do not have space within the right-of-way of trees to grow. Link to 28-page illustrated document

<https://seattle.gov/documents/Departments/OPCD/SeattlePlan/OneSeattlePlanNeighborhoodResidentialConceptsDRAFT2024.pdf> (see pages of diagrams how Open Spaces include paved areas that do not include space for tree retention and planting). The proposal for new zoning, which is described in the "Updating Seattle's Neighborhood Residential Zones" companion document, would allow for at least four units on all lots, and at least six units on lots near major transit or if a project has at least two affordable units on site. Examples of middle housing types include: fourplexes, sixplexes, cottage housing, townhomes, and stacked flats

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 4:08 PM

You could consider a catch all for ensuring comments on Comp Plan are incorporated into UFC's desire for an adequate EIS: "Please address our proposed edits to the draft Comprehensive Plan as requests for incorporation into the analysis of impacts, and as potential mitigation for adverse impacts that might not otherwise be addressed."

from Michael Oxman to everyone: 4:08 PM

Tree Inventory definition considers: Species; Size; Condition; and Location. This is a qualitative analysis.

Definition of Canopy Assessment is Location only, which is a quantitative analysis.

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:16 PM

EIS does not take into account also the guaranteed development areas in 2023 ordinance not in effect in 2021 canopy study. Guaranteed 85% development in low rise zones and 100% in midrise, Seattle mixed zone, and commercial zones.

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:22 PM

add "flooding" to section informing public by identifying seismic and volcanic hazard areas

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:26 PM

It was in land use element

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:28 PM

It's not such a stretch if you look across the US. Other cities have 40% goals and we need to go above 30 to have room to lose our largest trees, which are making up an even bigger proportion of our canopy and will likely all be dying around the same time, from both age and our novel pests and pathogens.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:29 PM

ever not even

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:30 PM

Consider pocket parks less than 10,000 sq ft if there are not larger parks within a reasonable distance.

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:32 PM

Are you going to file this document to both One Seattle draft Comprehensive Plan and also as a document to respond to the draft EIS?

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:32 PM

Other cities have higher goals than 30%

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:34 PM

It was in the Comprehensive Plan however.

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:35 PM

I think the Comprehensive Plan is overriding document.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:35 PM

Atlanta is adding housing as fast as Seattle and they have a 40% goal. They have data.

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:36 PM

"strive to reach 40% over time"

from Michael Oxman to everyone: 4:37 PM

Atlanta Olympic games in 1994 used 40% as a minimum goal for running the Marathon in the shade.

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:37 PM

Kirland's goal is 40%

from b to everyone: 4:38 PM

"strive to reach 40% over time" provides the flexibility but indicates that 30% doesn't have to be the final mark.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:38 PM

This webinar is May 1 on the 3-30-300 rule we have discussed here before. The 30% canopy level is a minimum to realize the optimal health and ecosystem benefits. Shooting for the minimum is somewhat depressing so appreciate looking beyond that:

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:38 PM

Info on May 1 webinar: In this webinar, Cecil Konijnendijk, Director of the Nature Based Solutions Institute, and Joost Verhagen, CEO of Cobra Groeninzicht, will discuss the 3-30-300 rule, a new rule of thumb for urban greening. Cecil and Joost will explore how urban greening benchmarks are evolving, including urban forest quality indicators, better integration of social and health benefits, and a greater focus on crown volume.

from b to everyone: 4:39 PM

"strive to reach 40% and beyond over time", "strive to reach 40% over time" provides the flexibility while indicating that 30% shouldn't have to be the final mark, as it's a bare minimum.

from Michael Oxman to everyone: 4:40 PM

Stand firm on the 40% Canopy Cover goal. Don't wimp out!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:41 PM

Thankyou everyone, I need to leave a few minutes early. I really appreciate your amazing work, it's so valuable and appreciated.

from Michael Oxman to everyone: 4:42 PM

40% is necessary to provide contiguous habitat corridors and creek shading.

from Michael Oxman to everyone: 4:42 PM

40%% reserves space for trees to enlarge into.

from Hao Liang to everyone: 4:46 PM

UFC recommends improving connectivity together with tree planting, and prioritizing routes from high-density residential areas to public parks and green spaces. This encourages creating green corridors, enhancing pedestrian and bicycle paths, and ensuring safe, accessible, and equitable transportation for all residents.

from Michael Oxman to everyone: 4:47 PM

Of the 4 vacant positions, some of them would have been promoting a 40% Canopy Cover goal.

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:48 PM

Tacoma has 20% canopy now and has a goal of 30% by 2030. Ambitious but forward thinking, not stepping back ward.

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 4:49 PM

Please address our proposed edits to the draft Comprehensive Plan as requests for incorporation into the analysis of impacts, and as potential mitigation for adverse impacts that might not otherwise be addressed.

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:50 PM

Just need to send to 2 separate e-mails and say please add these to the public record for draft EIS comments and One Seattle Comprehensive Plan

from steve zemke to everyone: 4:53 PM

Urge you also ask for specific Seattle environmental impacts rather than talking about regional impacts in the draft EIS

from Michael Oxman to everyone: 4:57 PM

Hao came the closest by asking for the Tree Inventory, which includes data for appraisal of financial contribution of trees to the economy.

from Dave Moehring to everyone: 4:59 PM

Deadline by OPCD is not forgiving  
from Michael Oxman to everyone: 5:00 PM  
Adopting today prevents the 4 new Commissioners from giving their opinions.  
from steve zemke to everyone: 5:01 PM  
Approve today and make additional comments later if you want. Can also send in your own comments.  
from b to everyone: 5:02 PM  
Is an option to have a 48 hour review and vote virtually.  
from Dave Moehring to everyone: 5:02 PM  
<https://engage.onesattleplan.com/en/projects/draftplan>  
from steve zemke to everyone: 5:03 PM  
May 6 for both at 5 PM  
from Dave Moehring to everyone: 5:05 PM  
Thank you Commissioners  
from Lia Hall to everyone: 5:08 PM  
Let's keep it respectful

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

**From:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2024 8:46 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; Becca Neumann <ufc.pos4@gmail.com>; Josh Morris <joshm@birdsconnectsea.org>; ufclandsscape@gmail.com  
**Cc:** sshettler@msn.com; Steve Zemke <stevezemke@msn.com>; Michael Oxman <michaeloxman@comcast.net>; SDOT\_LA Seattle <SDOT\_LA@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Canopy Potential in Seattle and pulled Director's Rule 11-2023  
**Importance:** High

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Patti and the Urban Forestry Commission chairs,

With am [Urban Forestry Management Plan](#) last updated in 2020, and a One Seattle draft which appears to have removed all references to tree canopy within private property, has the Urban Forestry Commission considered applying their recommendations on:

1) Impacts to the assumed mayor's request to **withdrawal of SDCI Director's Rule 11-2023** (see attached Compare Tree Area for difference of calculated tree are in development applications before and after 2023 changes fo SMC 25.11);

and

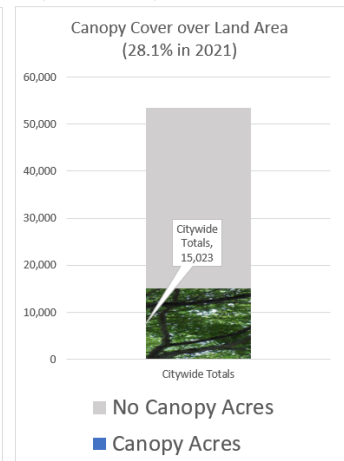
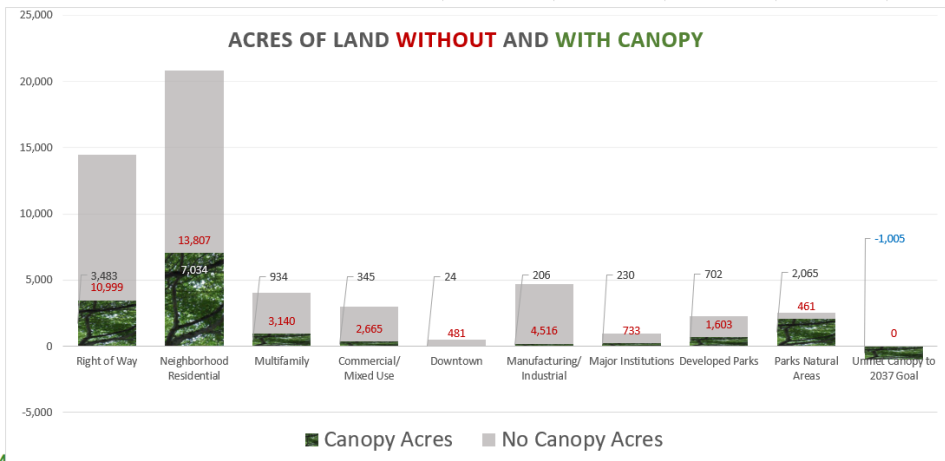
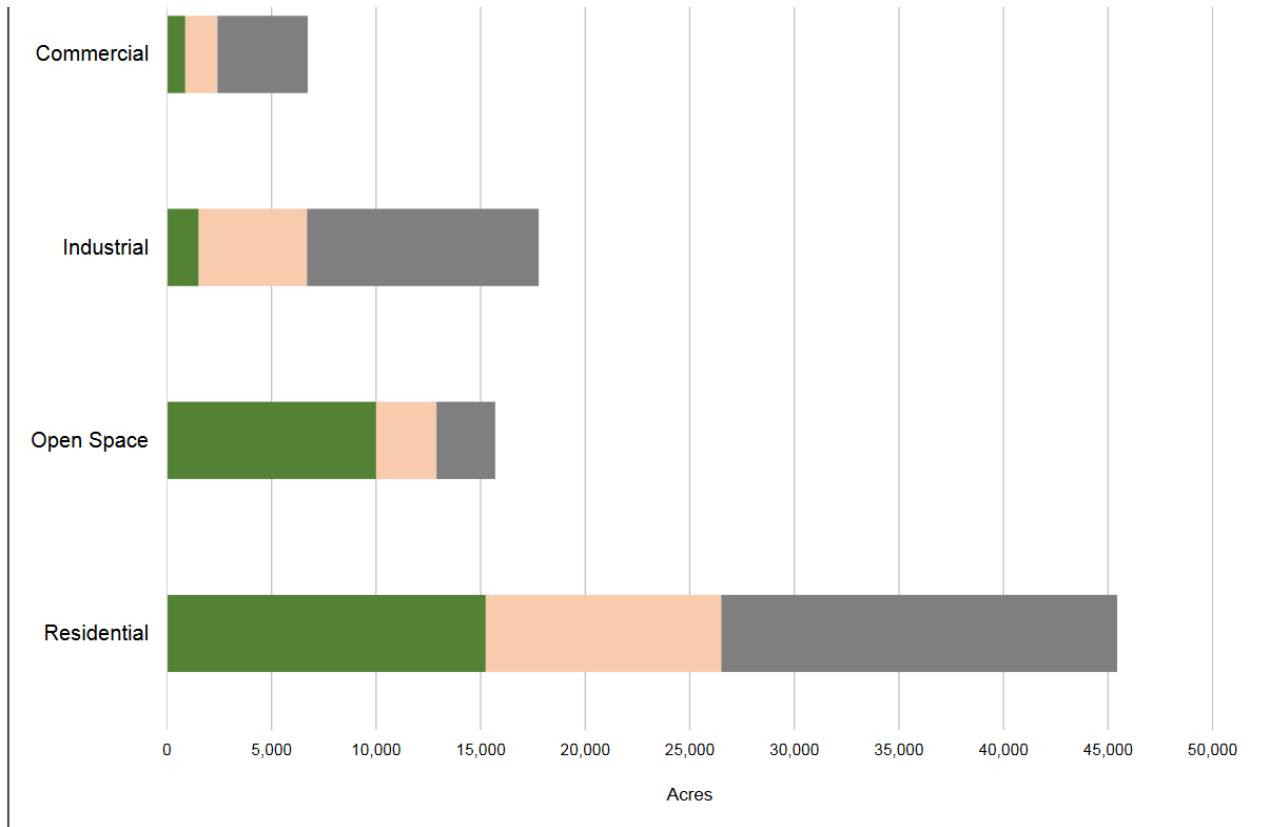
2) UFC earlier recommendations to study Seattle's acres of **tree canopy potential** within the different urban management units... especially within parks and street/alley right-of-ways (see below from Portland, OR). Perhaps the proportions of canopy actual to canopy potential from Portland would be applicable to Seattle... being similar.

Thank you,  
David Moehring AIA NCARB  
Past Urban Forestry Commissioner



Tree Canopy Potential  
<https://www.portland.gov/trees/documents/tree-canopy-and-potential-2018/download>

from  
<https://www.portland.gov/trees/tree-canopy-forest-management>



David Moehring  
312-965-0634

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

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 7:08 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>; 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>; Rivera, Maritza

<Maritza.Rivera@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Moore, Cathy

<Cathy.Moore@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Ko, Elaine <Elaine.Ko@seattle.gov>; Marx,

Heather <Heather.Marx@seattle.gov>; Gheisar, Leyla <Leyla.Gheisar@seattle.gov>; Turla, Alexis

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<Evelyn.Chow@seattle.gov>; Bowers, Logan <Logan.Bowers@seattle.gov>; Altshuler, Alex <Alex.Altshuler@seattle.gov>; Sykes, Wendy <Wendy.Sykes@seattle.gov>; Maxwell, Sasha <Sasha.Maxwell@seattle.gov>; Thoreson, Hannah <Hannah.Thoreson@seattle.gov>; Aldrich, Newell <Newell.Aldrich2@seattle.gov>; Enbysk, Amy <Amy.Enbysk@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Rodriguez, Anthony <Anthony.Rodriguez@seattle.gov>; Smith, Steven (LEG) <Steven.Smith@seattle.gov>; Duran, Rebecca <Rebecca.Duran@seattle.gov>; Lo, Brent <Brent.Lo@seattle.gov>; Mohn, Jeremy <Jeremy.Mohn@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; Beckerman, Melisa <Melisa.Beckerman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>

Subject: payday loans to pay for A/C?

CAUTION: External Email

why not just save big trees and plant more in disadvantaged areas, along with creating more parks - makes a lot more sense than forcing people into debt just to merely survive? Shade and cooler air are for everyone.

"Guillermina Molina, a 60-year-old retired housekeeper, visits the same Speedy Cash each month. During the summer months – which are becoming increasingly hot – she runs her air conditioner but frets about her utility bills. “It’s kind of hard because the [power bill] is coming up too high because you gotta have the air conditioner on,” Molina said.”

Climate change driving demand for predatory loans, research shows <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/apr/15/predatory-loans-heatwaves-cold-snaps>

kevin orme  
Seattle

**From:** Siegelbaum, Heidi <heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu>

**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 7:58 AM

**To:** Weston Brinkley <weston@streetsoundsecology.com>; Antupit, Stephen <SAntupit@cityoftacoma.org>; Elliott Barnett - City of Tacoma (elliott.barnett@cityoftacoma.org) <elliott.barnett@cityoftacoma.org>; Thompson, Ben (DNR) <Ben.Thompson@dnr.wa.gov>; Elizabeth Walker <ewtreelady@gmail.com>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; Phil Bennett (pbennett@snoqualmiewa.gov) <pbennett@snoqualmiewa.gov>; David Pater <David.Pater@commerce.wa.gov>; Brown, Rebecca (DNR) <Rebecca.Brown@dnr.wa.gov>

**Cc:** Siegelbaum, Heidi <heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu>

**Subject:** Tree planting barriers- for your records

**CAUTION: External Email**

Morning all,

I thought the attached document would be of interest- remember: Retention as a primacy order before seedlings, but coincident with them.

Heidi Siegelbaum  
Stormwater Strategic Initiative Lead

Washington Stormwater Center at Washington State University

[Heidi.Siegelbaum@wsu.edu](mailto:Heidi.Siegelbaum@wsu.edu)

(253) 445-4502



Home office: (206) 784-4265

<https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov>

<https://wastormwatercenter.org>



Barriers to Resident  
Tree Planint in urban :

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

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 6:05 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

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<Evelyn.Chow@seattle.gov>; Bowers, Logan <Logan.Bowers@seattle.gov>; Altshuler, Alex

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<Newell.Aldrich2@seattle.gov>; Enbysk, Amy <Amy.Enbysk@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate

<Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Rodriguez, Anthony <Anthony.Rodriguez@seattle.gov>; Smith, Steven (LEG)

<Steven.Smith@seattle.gov>; Duran, Rebecca <Rebecca.Duran@seattle.gov>; Lo, Brent

<Brent.Lo@seattle.gov>; Mohn, Jeremy <Jeremy.Mohn@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin

<Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; Beckerman, Melisa <Melisa.Beckerman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi

<Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>

Subject: Northeast Ohio cities work to reverse history and impacts of tree canopy loss

CAUTION: External Email

"In Cleveland's Central neighborhood, traffic whizzes by on Central Avenue, a street dotted with businesses. If you glance down any of the side streets, you'll see rows of homes. One thing that's hard to find, however -- trees.....

An ideal, healthy baseline for canopy is about 30%, she said, but Cleveland's numbers are closer to 18%.

"If you look at any redlining map, historical policy and practice -- especially disinvestment in Black and brown communities -- is a direct correlation to why there is a disproportionately low tree canopy in Black and brown neighborhoods, primarily concentrated on the east side of Cleveland," Malone said."

so thinking about Seattle - why would we throw away a still-existing (but rapidly getting clearcut) tree canopy only to have to put it back 20 years from now? Think about it.

<https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=31323334-50bba2bf-31321b84-4544474f5631-e71ec83b41ab1906&q=1&e=1994b8ac-f5cd-461f-8ed9->

[60fc5b67a447&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nytimes.com%2F2024-02-29%2Fnortheast-ohio-cities-works-to-reverse-history-and-impacts-of-tree-canopy-loss](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/22/opinion/trees-cities-earth-day.html)

kevin orme  
Seattle

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

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 9:53 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

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Heather <Heather.Marx@seattle.gov>; Gheisar, Leyla <Leyla.Gheisar@seattle.gov>; Turla, Alexis

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<Evelyn.Chow@seattle.gov>; Bowers, Logan <Logan.Bowers@seattle.gov>; Altshuler, Alex

<Alex.Altshuler@seattle.gov>; Sykes, Wendy <Wendy.Sykes@seattle.gov>; Maxwell, Sasha

<Sasha.Maxwell@seattle.gov>; Thoreson, Hannah <Hannah.Thoreson@seattle.gov>; Aldrich, Newell

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<Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Rodriguez, Anthony <Anthony.Rodriguez@seattle.gov>; Smith, Steven (LEG)

<Steven.Smith@seattle.gov>; Duran, Rebecca <Rebecca.Duran@seattle.gov>; Lo, Brent

<Brent.Lo@seattle.gov>; Mohn, Jeremy <Jeremy.Mohn@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin

<Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; Beckerman, Melisa <Melisa.Beckerman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi

<Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>

Subject: Why Aren't We Saving the Urban Forests? New York Times, 4/22/24

CAUTION: External Email

"Newly planted saplings can help, but with \*\*\*\*nowhere near the same effectiveness as mature trees\*\*\*\* (emphasis mine - kevin). And yet we have somehow gotten the idea that planting a tree in urban and suburban areas has the same practical effect and moral force — there, I said it — as preserving one. A tree is a tree, right? If one happens to be growing in a place where you don't want it to grow, just cut it down and plant another in a more convenient spot."

"There are ways to preserve the trees on construction sites, of course, but spec-house builders rarely bother."

".we don't have 150 years to wait for a black walnut seedling to reach its full glorious height before we start protecting the black walnut trees still among us. The parent tree of my own baby walnut lies across the street from a house that was recently torn down by a developer, along with every tree not in the public right of way. The tree surgeon who carted them off in pieces said the builder's instructions were to clear every tree from the lot."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/22/opinion/trees-cities-earth-day.html>

kevin orme  
Seattle

**From:** J G <plantkingdom1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 6:44 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Public comment via email from yesterday's meeting

**CAUTION: External Email**

Hi Patti,

First of all, thank you so much for all of your work and time. I missed the chance to comment at the beginning and I felt that it might be inhumane to add more comments at the end given how long the meeting already was.

I would echo the comments of many others from the public today who expressed interest in having the four vacant positions filled on the UFC. I am curious why those positions are still open.

Maybe this is an older draft and this has been corrected, but it seems that one of the comprehensive plan drops removed the canopy covered goal completely, which I would encourage reinstating or moving to 40% as others mentioned.

Regarding the DEIS, in a question and answer meeting including Brennan et al, there was no answer on why the DEIS excluded environmental impact study on the starving and polluted Southern Resident Killer Whales from development. As you all know, additional storm water created by the removal of majestic trees would result in greater pollutants into the home of the Southern Resident Killer Whales. And as we know, much of development results in the removal of the highest value conifers and otherwise mature trees. I found this very concerning that they did not address this given the critical state of the 73 remaining SRKWs. And of course all of the wildlife, like bird species, that require the tallest trees for habitat.

Thank you so much again for all of your work and for reading this,  
Jennifer Godfrey

**From:** Hope Sanford <hopesnopos@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 27, 2024 8:35 PM  
**To:** PCD\_OneSeattleCompPlan <OneSeattleCompPlan@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

**CAUTION: External Email**

The portion of the site that allows public comment has been down since yesterday, so I am emailing you. I read the 138 page report and attended the open house/mtng at Eckstein Middle School. I asked a couple of city employees about how the plan addresses preserving Seattle's tree canopy and was told, "Good question, The Plan doesn't address that issue".

The "tree ordinance" currently in place results in SDCI's granting permission to every developer to cut down any tree, regardless of size. Walking around Wedgwood and Maple Leaf illustrates this fact. As neither the One City Plan nor the "tree ordinance" protects Seattle's tree canopy, our tree canopy appears slated for destruction. This plan will create more urban heat islands as building progresses. Developers will rake in the big bucks, but Seattle residents will suffer.

Hope Sanford  
3230 NE 91st St  
Seattle, 98115

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

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 7:20 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>; 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>; Rivera, Maritza <Maritza.Rivera@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Moore, Cathy <Cathy.Moore@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Ko, Elaine <Elaine.Ko@seattle.gov>; Marx, Heather <Heather.Marx@seattle.gov>; Gheisar, Leyla <Leyla.Gheisar@seattle.gov>; Turla, Alexis <Alexis.Turla@seattle.gov>; Carey, Imani <imani.carey@seattle.gov>; Chow, Evelyn <Evelyn.Chow@seattle.gov>; Bowers, Logan <Logan.Bowers@seattle.gov>; Altshuler, Alex <Alex.Altshuler@seattle.gov>; Sykes, Wendy <Wendy.Sykes@seattle.gov>; Maxwell, Sasha <Sasha.Maxwell@seattle.gov>; Thoreson, Hannah <Hannah.Thoreson@seattle.gov>; Aldrich, Newell <Newell.Aldrich2@seattle.gov>; Enbysk, Amy <Amy.Enbysk@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Rodriguez, Anthony <Anthony.Rodriguez@seattle.gov>; Smith, Steven (LEG) <Steven.Smith@seattle.gov>; Duran, Rebecca <Rebecca.Duran@seattle.gov>; Lo, Brent <Brent.Lo@seattle.gov>; Mohn, Jeremy <Jeremy.Mohn@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; Beckerman, Melisa <Melisa.Beckerman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>

Subject: Why this summer may be especially hot in the United States - Washington Post, 4/23

CAUTION: External Email

"The highest odds for a hot summer stretch from Texas into the Pacific Northwest, as well as much of the Northeast."

and while many of us still don't have A/C in Seattle, we will be looking for the shade of a tree to help us out and to cool the surrounding air - unlike A/C, which vents heat to the surrounding air and actually heats up the vicinity where it is in operation, not to mention the amped-up energy use. Protect Seattle Trees!

Why this summer may be especially hot in the United States <https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/why-this-summer-may-be-especially-hot-in-the-united-states/>

kevin orme

Seattle

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

From: kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2024 8:45 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>; 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>; Rivera, Maritza <Maritza.Rivera@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Moore, Cathy

<Cathy.Moore@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Ko, Elaine <Elaine.Ko@seattle.gov>; Marx, Heather <Heather.Marx@seattle.gov>; Gheisar, Leyla <Leyla.Gheisar@seattle.gov>; Turla, Alexis <Alexis.Turla@seattle.gov>; Carey, Imani <imani.carey@seattle.gov>; Chow, Evelyn <Evelyn.Chow@seattle.gov>; Bowers, Logan <Logan.Bowers@seattle.gov>; Altshuler, Alex <Alex.Altshuler@seattle.gov>; Sykes, Wendy <Wendy.Sykes@seattle.gov>; Maxwell, Sasha <Sasha.Maxwell@seattle.gov>; Thoreson, Hannah <Hannah.Thoreson@seattle.gov>; Aldrich, Newell <Newell.Aldrich2@seattle.gov>; Enbysk, Amy <Amy.Enbysk@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Rodriguez, Anthony <Anthony.Rodriguez@seattle.gov>; Smith, Steven (LEG) <Steven.Smith@seattle.gov>; Duran, Rebecca <Rebecca.Duran@seattle.gov>; Lo, Brent <Brent.Lo@seattle.gov>; Mohn, Jeremy <Jeremy.Mohn@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; Beckerman, Melisa <Melisa.Beckerman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>

Subject: Does higher-density city development leave urban forests out on a limb?

CAUTION: External Email

it doesn't have to - if we stop letting MBAKS and SDCI write the rules...

"Current land-use policies support dispersed piecemeal redevelopment of individual lots in existing suburbs, which produces relatively few new homes (as below). At the same time, replacing an existing home with a larger house or with several townhouses typically results in all existing vegetation being stripped from the site."

"Land-use regulation should ensure that both low-yield and higher-density redevelopment maintains the contribution of private land to the urban forest."

<https://theconversation.com/does-higher-density-city-development-leave-urban-forests-out-on-a-limb-57106>

kevin orme  
seattle

**From:** SeattleUFC8 <SeattleUFC8@protonmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 8, 2024 5:43 AM

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

**Cc:** Becca Neumann <ufc.pos4@gmail.com>; Hao Liang <ufclandscape@gmail.com>; Josh Morris <joshm@seattleaudubon.org>; David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>

**Subject:** SMC 23 and 25 proposed code changes

**CAUTION: External Email**

Patti, please share with the UFC the need to reach out to SDCI's Mr. David Graves, and omnibus that includes tree modifications.

The Urban Forestry Commission are meeting Wednesday and should be consulted relative to the proposed Omnibus per SMC 3. The Omnibus tree provisions are not included in [the agenda for May 8<sup>th</sup>](#).

Please ask to David Graves <David.Graves3@seattle.gov> to reissue this public notice to include all relative sections of the Omnibus, as well as consult with the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission relative to RSL zones, including South Park, Wallingford, Ballard, and elsewhere.

Note: these four sections were **not included** in the Public notice description (attached) and require the Urban Forestry Commission to be consulted per SMC 3.

- 23.44.016 Parking and garages – removes requirements for a permanent covenant:

9 g. Providing alley access would require removal of a tree on private  
 10 property that is ((an exceptional tree or a tree greater than 2 feet in diameter measured 4.5 feet  
 11 above the ground, provided that a permanent covenant meeting the standard in subsection  
 12 25.11.050.C is recorded and all other applicable criteria for tree protection in Chapter 25.11 are  
 13 met)) a Tier 1 or Tier 2 tree, as defined in Section 25.11.130. p.16

- 23.44.020 - Tree requirements –Two changes are proposed. Update to Table A for 23.44.020 to include updated tree species for the **tree requirements in RSL zones**. The second change is to correct code reference to reflect updated tree code language in subsection 23.44.020.C.
- 23.44.041 - Accessory dwelling units - The change to the nomenclature for **protected trees from exceptional to Tier 1 and Tier 2** trees consistent with recent tree code update (Ord. 126821) in Table A for 23.44.041 footnote 2. The change provides clarification at Table A for 23.44.041 footnote 4 to make plain the **setbacks along alleys**. The existing code allows DADUs to be built up to an alley line. This amendment will clarify that should include architectural features such as eaves and chimneys that are also allowed up to but not over the property line. The amendment to subsection 23.44.041.C.2 resolves inconsistent language that would disallow flexibility in covering existing structures to detached accessory units in the preceding table A.
- 23.84A – definitions, page 123

Travis Saunders/Emily Lofstedt/Brandon Isleib  
 SDCI 2024 Omnibus ORD  
 D1a

1 **23.84A.038 "T"**  
 2 \* \* \*  
 3 (~~"Tree, exceptional" means a tree designated as such per Chapter 25.11.~~)

The public notice only covers these sections:

25.05.444, 25.05.675, 25.05.714, 25.09.045, 25.09.160, 25.11.020, 25.11.030, 25.11.040, 25.11.050, 25.11.060, 25.11.070, 25.16.080, 25.16.115, 25.16.150, 25.22.070, 25.22.135, 25.24.060, 25.28.230, and 25.28.290

These sections should be reviewed with the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission in advance of review by the City Council and Mayor per SMC 3:

**Tree Protection**

- 25.11.020 Exemptions- Changes to section 25.11.020 to clarify the **existing tree removal exemption** that applies in Environmentally Critical Areas and provide correct code reference to the process for approval in Section 25.09.070.
- 25.11.030 Emergency actions- Changes to section to 25.11.030 to provide correct reference to the qualifications and industry standard for Tree Risk Assessments consistent with Ordinance 126821.
- 25.11.040 - Hazardous tree removal – Amendment subsection 25.11.040.B.3 to clarify that normal and routine pruning shall be completed to mitigate hazards.
- 25.11.050 General provisions for regulated tree categories – Updates to Table A for 25.11.050 are provided to correctly implement tree removal regulations in Neighborhood Residential, Lowrise, Midrise, commercial, and Seattle Mixed Zones, to provide corrected reference notation and provide correct code references. Include clarifying footnote 1 that indicates which zones that table does not apply.

Tree related activities on developed lots <u>in Neighborhood Residential, Lowrise, Midrise, commercial, and Seattle Mixed Zones</u> including but not limited to removal and topping by tree category <sup>1</sup>		
Tree category	Not part of a permit application <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>2</sup>	During development—Part of a permit application
Tier 1 Includes trees designated as heritage trees	May not be removed unless deemed hazardous or in need of emergency action with documentation required	May not be removed unless deemed hazardous or in need of emergency action with documentation required
Tier 2 Includes trees 24 inches at DSH or greater, tree groves, and specific tree species as provided by Director's Rule	May not be removed unless deemed hazardous or in need of emergency action with documentation required	Approval for removal is part of overall development permit <u>consistent with Sections 25.11.070 or 25.11.080</u>  Documentation required for hazardous and emergency actions
Tier 3 Includes trees 12 inches at DSH or greater but less than 24 inches at DSH that are not considered Tier 2 trees as provided by Director's Rule	May not be removed unless deemed hazardous or in need of emergency action with documentation required, except as provided in subsections 25.11.050.B ( <del>and</del> ), 25.11.050.C, and 25.11.050.D.	Approval for removal is part of overall development permit  Documentation required for hazardous and emergency actions

- 25.11.060 Requirements for trees when development is proposed- Changes to section 25.11.060 to provide corrected reference to indicate which portion of the Tree Protection Area may be reduced by the Director consistent with the language in Ordinance 126821.
- 25.11.070 Tree protection on sites undergoing development in Neighborhood Residential, Lowrise, Midrise, commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones- Three changes are proposed. The first amendment is to subsection 25.11.070.A.2 to provide clarity around reducing yards and setbacks in order to voluntarily protect Tier 1,2,3 and 4 trees. The second amendment is in subsection 25.11.070.A.3 address the calculation of maximum lot coverage and that minimum width of structure that must be able to be achieved in order to determine of a tree may be removed. The third change is to subsection 25.11.070.B.2.b to clarify that developments identified are for low-income housing meeting the definition in Title 23.

4 c. Tree removal is necessary for the construction of new structures~~((7))~~;  
5 vehicle and pedestrian access, utilities, retaining wall, or other similar improvements associated  
6 with development.

7 2. ~~((Permitted extension into front or rear yards shall be limited to an area equal to  
8 the amount of the basic tree protection area not located within required yards.))~~ For purposes of  
9 retaining an existing on-site and off-site Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, or Tier 4 tree, extension into front  
10 or rear yards is permitted but limited to an area equal to the amount of the tree protection area of  
11 those trees not located within required yards. The maximum projection into the required front or  
12 rear yard shall be 50 percent of the yard requirement.

13 3. If the maximum lot coverage permitted on the site can be achieved or a  
14 structure will be less than 15 feet in width without extending into required front and/or rear  
15 yards, then no such extension into required yards shall be permitted.

#### 25.11.030 Emergency actions

Emergency actions may be undertaken without obtaining ~~((a permit))~~ approval in advance from the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections. Prior to an emergency action, a registered tree service provider, that has an employee or a person on retainer who is currently credentialed with an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Tree Risk Assessment Qualification, must determine if there is an extreme risk of imminent failure for the tree or tree part ~~((using the TRAQ method in its most current form))~~. Any person undertaking an emergency action must ~~((complete the following))~~:

=====

[https://www.seattle.gov/dpd/luib/SDCI132\\_PublicNoticesSummary.pdf?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.seattle.gov/dpd/luib/SDCI132_PublicNoticesSummary.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

#### Project Description:

Pursuant to SMC 25.05.340 and WAC 197-11-340 Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) is proposing to amend the Land Use Code (Title 23) and related land use regulations in Chapters 25.05.444, 25.05.675, 25.05.714, 25.09.045, 25.09.160, 25.11.020, 25.11.030, 25.11.040, 25.11.050, 25.11.060, 25.11.070, 25.16.080, 25.16.115, 25.16.150, 25.22.070, 25.22.135, 25.24.060, 25.28.230, and 25.28.290 to clarify and improve the function of various provisions. The proposed amendments generally include “clean-up” amendments that correct inadvertent clerical errors, incorrect cross-references and clarification of



existing Code language. The need for these amendments has been identified by citizens, elected officials and City staff. ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION After review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file, the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) has determined that the amendments described above will not have a probable significant adverse environmental impact and has issued a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) under the State Environmental Policy Act (no Environmental Impact Statement required).

David Moehring, AIA, NCARB