



City of Seattle
Urban Forestry Commission

Aaron Clark (Position 1 – Wildlife Biologist) • **Alicia Kellogg** (Position 2 – UrbanEcologist)
• **LaniChang** (Position 3 - Natural Resource Agency or University) • **Drue Epping** (Position 5 –
Arborist) • **Tristan Fields** (Position 6 – Landscape Architect) • **David Baker** (Position 8 –
Development) • **Nathan Collins** (Position 9 – Financial Analyst) • **Timothy Randazzo**
(Position 10 – Get Engaged) • **Melanie Ocasio** (Position 11 – Environmental Justice) • **Andrea
Starbird** (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.

Draft meeting notes

May 14, 2025, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Via Webex meeting and in-person at the
Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 1872 (18th floor)
700 5th Avenue, Seattle

(206) 207-1700

Meeting number: 2503 580 2233

Meeting password: 1234

Attending

Commissioners

Aaron Clark
Lani Chang
Drue Epping
Tristan Fields
David Baker
Nathan Collins
Timothy Randazzo
Melanie Ocasio
Andrea Starbird
Lia Hall

Public

Steve Zemke
June BlueSpruce
Sandy Shettler
Mike Oxman
Dave Moehring

Absent

Alicia Kellogg

Staff

Lauren Urgenson – OSE

Evelyn Shapiro - Consultant

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:

Amy Burtaine called the meeting to order, conducted a roll call of the commissioners and reviewed the agenda.

Public Comment:

Steve Zemke who has been involved with the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) for 6 ½ years, shared his experience of helping establish the UFC in 1989 with the support of Councilmember Nick Licata, following Portland's model. He welcomed the new commissioners, noting that their involvement is a positive sign for the city's efforts to address tree issues. Steve emphasized that there's still much work to be done, particularly in finalizing the comprehensive plan this year and addressing issues with the urban tree ordinance. He pointed out that while a revision of the ordinance was made several years ago, it still contains problems, especially with the definition of the tree protection area. This provision has led to the removal of most trees on lots being developed, as it allows for large tree protection areas that do not accommodate tree retention when building up to four units on a lot. He stressed the need to explore ways to protect more trees, such as by adjusting tree protection areas and maintaining setbacks that allow for tree planting. Steve concluded by welcoming the new commissioners and encouraging them to contribute their time and effort to help protect and expand the city's tree canopy.

June Blue Spruce, representing the Trees and People Coalition, spoke to express concerns about the lack of tree protection in the interim Comprehensive Plan, which the council plans to vote on next week. She congratulated and welcomed the new members of the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC), expressing confidence in their work to protect the tree canopy. Her main concern was the drastic reduction in residential property setback requirements in the plan, which leaves little room for trees. Despite the plan being enforced for only a year, she warned that the impact could extend far beyond that, as developers are allowed to choose their own vesting dates. June mentioned that several organizations, including the Trees and People Coalition and the Tree Equity Network, are writing to the council urging retention of current setback requirements or, at the very least, adopting the reduced setbacks from the state's model plan instead of the drastic reductions proposed in the interim legislation. She encouraged the UFC to advocate for this change and suggested that it would be better if the legislation included a minimum of 20% of the lot area designated for tree planting. Additionally, she expressed concern that the city seems to be sidelining the UFC, noting that it's crucial for the

mayor and council to seek recommendations from this expert body on tree-related land use policies, as required by law. She called for collective action to address this issue.

Sandy Shettler expressed excitement about the new commissioners and their important role in urban forestry. She thanked them for volunteering for this work, emphasizing its significance. Sandy shared her experience of spending the day witnessing the removal of a 68-inch diameter Sequoia tree to make way for a driveway for a single-family home. She explained that the current tree protection ordinance does not allow for alterations in site designs to save trees, a situation that is becoming increasingly common across the city as development continues. Sandy stressed that the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) can play a critical role in advocating for changes to this ordinance.

She also addressed concerns raised by June and Steve regarding the interim plan passed by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) in December 2023, which allows developers to choose their vesting date. This means that even in the future, developers can use the interim code, which currently includes setbacks as small as 10 feet in the front, and either zero or 10 feet in the back, depending on the presence of an alley. The code even permits removing side setbacks. Sandy criticized this approach, noting that it goes against the trend in other progressive cities across North America, such as Toronto, Vancouver, Washington, D.C., New York City, and Boston, where policies are moving toward more creative development that accommodates space for trees. She concluded by urging the new commissioners to advocate for changes to the comprehensive plan, interim plan, and tree ordinance to ensure Seattle moves in a more sustainable direction.

UFC Commissioner and Liaison updates

Lia Hall:

Lia mentioned meeting with Councilmember Hollingsworth, former UFC commissioner Josh Morris, and Lauren to discuss previous recommendations for the comprehensive plan. Lia asked if the letter with their recommendations had been shared with everyone, as she was unsure. The letter highlighted three recommendations made in the spring of the previous year, which they hoped would be included in the current version of the plan. Lia offered to share the letter again for those who may not have seen it and expressed excitement about working with the nearly full commission.

Liaison Laura Urgenson Updates:

- Lauren expressed excitement about the new commissioners joining the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) and welcomed them.
- She provided an overview of changes and transitions within the Urban Forestry team at OSE.
- The team now includes several new staff members and a new temporary staff member coming soon, with three staff working on a five-year grant program.

- Lauren clarified that Amy will be facilitating UFC meetings and conversations for the next few months.
- Sharon Lerman, the Healthy Communities Director at OSE, directs OSE's Urban Forestry team, the Food Policy Team, Fresh Bucks Program, and Duwamish Valley Program and has already met some commissioners at council meetings.
- In the coming months, a temporary staff person will take over the liaison role after Amy's time with the UFC ends.
- Lauren encouraged the commissioners to reach out to her for any questions and reassured them that she would route inquiries to the right place.
- She emphasized the importance of communication and collaboration, as the team is in a period of flux but is working to provide a variety of perspectives to the commissioners.

Welcome Exercise and Sharing from Each Commissioner

The facilitator Amy invited each of the commissioners to share with the group based on the following prompts:

- ***Tell us a little bit about yourselves, your work and your position on this commission***
- ***What is your first memory (or a profound or deep memory you have) of trees?***
- ***Why is this work meaningful to you / what drew you to want to serve on this Commission?***

Tristan Fields: Tristan Fields introduced herself as the new commissioner filling the landscape architecture position (position #6). She shared her first memory of trees, growing up in Lacey, WA, where her family had a purple plum tree. She described how they would climb it almost every day during the summer and have their own spots to sit, fondly remembering the experience. She expressed her deep passion for trees, stating that she views them as essential to the world and feels that they offer solutions to many of the challenges we face. She mentioned how meaningful this work is to her and expressed excitement about being part of the board.

Drue Epping: Drue introduced herself as the arborist for position #5 on the Urban Forestry Commission. She works as an urban forest planner for Lake Forest Park and also teaches at South Seattle College. Drue shared that her passion for trees started with her grandparents in Wisconsin, who were part of the family forest landowner program through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Growing up, they instilled in her the importance of tree stewardship and caring for forested areas.

Drue explained that her motivation for applying to the UFC stemmed from her career in forestry and her passion for trees. She also expressed her belief that housing and trees do not need to be competing priorities. She is passionate about finding ways to support both tree preservation and housing development in the city, without making them feel like opposing goals.

Lani Chang: Lani introduced herself as the new commissioner stepping into position #3. She previously worked for the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest region, focusing on equitable wildfire risk reduction and resiliency. Lani shared her first memory of trees, which involved growing up in the Central Valley of California with two large apricot trees in her yard. These trees produced so much fruit that her family would invite neighbors to come and pick it, creating a sense of community around the trees.

She explained that her work in forestry has typically been on a large landscape scale, addressing the benefits and challenges trees pose to communities. However, being part of the Urban Forestry Commission offers her the opportunity to engage with trees and forestry at a hyperlocal level, understanding how urban trees and the canopy can impact public health and contribute to livable community spaces. She expressed excitement about applying her landscape-level experience to the urban context.

David Baker: David Baker introduced himself as a housing developer with Bellwether Housing in Seattle, representing position #8 on the Commission, which is for real estate development professionals. He shared his first memory of trees, recalling how his childhood neighborhood had many mature trees, which he appreciated. He also remembered driving through his hometown of Detroit with his parents, who told stories about tree-lined streets that had been devastated by invasive species like the emerald ash borer and Dutch elm disease. This experience of seeing the stark difference between tree-filled neighborhoods and barren ones had a lasting impact on him.

David explained that his professional background in housing development, urban planning, and local government, combined with his personal experience, motivated him to join the Commission. He is passionate about contributing to development practices that are more environmentally friendly, especially with regard to trees, which he believes hold the answers to many of our problems. He has been on the Commission for about two years and is excited to see new members joining.

Timothy Randazzo: Timothy introduced themselves as a representative for position #10, the Get Engaged Commission. They shared their early memory of trees, recalling their childhood in California. Although they didn't have a deep connection to trees, they did have a tree in their yard where they and their twin sister would pretend to be characters from *Star Wars*. A more meaningful memory was watching a large Redwood tree in their neighborhood being cut down, which caused them to feel devastated as they saw the animals and birds fleeing the tree. This memory stuck with Timothy and helped shape their understanding of the important role trees play as habitats for animals.

Timothy works as a Green Building Program Manager for King County and was drawn to the green building field because of their interest in urban forestry. During college, they analyzed tree cover and the equitable distribution of trees in Seaside, California, and learned about the public health benefits of trees, including their support for mental and physical well-being. However, after working in the green building sector, they realized that trees are often overlooked in this field, as it focuses more on building materials and infrastructure. They strive to advocate for the

inclusion of trees as infrastructure in design, promoting biophilic design principles. This desire to do more with trees and their recognition of the importance of trees in the built environment led them to join the Commission.

Andrea Starbird: Andrea introduced herself as a representative for position #12, which focuses on public health. She is a certified arborist, tree risk assessor, and urban forestry consultant. Andrea shared her first memories of trees, recalling climbing trees at family members' houses. These trees included an apple tree in Southeast Michigan, a Japanese Maple at her grandparents' house on the East Coast, and a beloved Mulberry tree.

Andrea explained that her work in urban forestry is meaningful to her because she is drawn to its interdisciplinary nature. She emphasized how trees provide community benefits and help balance the needs for housing and recreational spaces. One of her key concerns is the urban heat island effect, which was highlighted during the heat dome event a few years ago. This experience sparked her interest in trees on a larger scale. Andrea was also involved in tree code update discussions and is excited to continue working in this field, as she believes there is still much work to be done.

Aaron Clark: Aaron Clark introduced himself as the representative for position #1, the wildlife biologist role. He holds a PhD in biology but has shifted away from wildlife work to focus on environmental restoration and green infrastructure, particularly stormwater management. For the past two years, Aaron has been working in Indigenous Land return and technology funds.

Aaron mentioned visiting the forest canopy crane in southern Washington in the late 90s, which provided him with an eye-opening perspective on the layers of the world above the earth's surface. This experience deepened his appreciation for the role of trees in the environment.

Aaron explained that he was inspired to join the commission because he believes in the need to balance both housing and trees. He feels it's important to continue moving the conversation forward, as he doesn't believe that housing and trees are inherently oppositional. Instead, both are needed for creating livable spaces, and he emphasized that a world without either would not be ideal.

Nathan Collins: Nathan Collins shared that he represents position #9. He began by recalling his first memory of trees, which was from his childhood. He lived in a house with a cherry tree in the backyard, and he remembers the day it was blooming. This moment marked the first time he saw a tree as something to appreciate, not just as something to climb and play on. It became a formative experience for him.

As for why the work is meaningful to him, Nathan shared a recent moment when a friend visiting from out of town remarked on how many trees there were in Seattle. While Nathan acknowledged that there is still much work to be done, he felt a sense of pride in the trees around the city. His friend's perspective, coming from the East Coast and not used to seeing so many trees, helped Nathan appreciate the beauty and value of the urban canopy even more. It

reminded him of the positive environmental and personal impact trees have on people and communities.

Lia Hall: Lia Hall represents position #13 as the community neighborhood representative. She shared that she was born and raised in Seattle and has always been surrounded by trees. She fondly remembers using branches as brooms and leaves as money, spending a lot of time outdoors. Growing up with a yard full of trees, Lia developed a deep sense of stewardship and respect for nature at an early age.

She emphasized how vital trees are, providing the air we breathe and shelter for both humans and non-humans. Despite being a small business owner in a field unrelated to trees, Lia became increasingly activated by witnessing the changes in the city over the decades. Learning more about the history of the land and the first peoples made her feel a responsibility to take action. She sees this as an opportunity to shift how humans impact the environment, especially the urban landscape, waterways, and forests. Lia highlighted the importance of protecting and learning more about trees and plants to avoid creating a "desert" in the urban forest. She feels a strong desire to help maintain the lush, green beauty of the area that attracts so many people to Seattle.

Melanie Ocasio: Melanie shared her journey and connection with environmentalism and trees. She recalled her first memory of interacting with trees during a youth summer camp in upstate New York, where she was introduced to outdoor activities like camping and fishing. This sparked her ongoing interest in nature and environmentalism. Melanie went on to attend SUNY ESF, a college known for its forestry specialization. After moving to Washington two years ago, she engaged in nonprofit work focusing on education and outreach. She currently works in utility forestry consulting for Asplan LLC and continues community outreach with Sound Bio Lab LLC. Melanie emphasized her work in environmental justice, particularly in South King County, where she focused on supporting bipoc communities with urban farming, food resources, and connecting them to local resources for food security. She hopes to continue her efforts and share her knowledge with these communities.

Seattle Urban Forestry Part I - Lauren Urgenson

Purpose of the Presentation

- This was the first in a series to introduce new Commission members to the City of Seattle's urban forestry work.
- The goal is to "pull back the curtain" on how urban forestry is managed across city departments, to help inform the Commission's recommendations.

High-Level Overview

- **Urban forestry is a cross-departmental effort** involving:
 - Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE)
 - Seattle Parks and Recreation

- Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections (SDCI)
- Office of Planning & Community Development
- Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)
- Seattle City Light
- Seattle Public Utilities
- Other departments like Seattle Center

OSE Urban Forestry's Role (Lauren's Team)

Collaboratively leads Citywide urban forestry efforts across departments.

- Leads citywide strategy, planning, and implementation via the **Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) and other long-range planning efforts.**
- Oversees **citywide data collection, monitoring, reporting,** and policy analysis.
- Serves as liaison for the UFC
- Runs **two key geographic programs:**
 - **Duwamish Valley Industrial Greening**
 - **Foresting Seattle**

Current Priorities

- Shift to **neighborhood-focused, community-led approach.**
- Prioritize areas with **low canopy coverage and high heat exposure.**
- Two major initiatives under this direction:
 1. **Foresting Seattle** – led by Nate (details to follow from him).
 2. **Canopy Equity and Resilience Plan** – integrating equity into long-term urban canopy planning.

Meet Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment's Urban Forestry Team

Team Introductions and Project Highlights

- **Lauren** introduced her team: **Nate, Katalina, Weston,** and **Gina** — who are part of Seattle's urban forestry efforts within OSE.
- The purpose of their introductions was to let **new commissioners** know who's behind the work and help build relationships.

Key Initiative Highlights from Nate, Foresting Seattle Program Manager

1. **Community Collaboration for Recommendations:**
 - They're beginning with a strong list of community contacts to help shape recommendations for 15-member teams.
 - The Commission will be looped back in as teams form and action plans develop.
2. **Workforce Development Component:**
 - Partnering with **Seattle Parks Youth Green Corps.**
 - Focused on training **young people (ages 18–24)** in urban forestry and trail building.

- Emphasis on **hands-on experience** and building **career pathways** both within and outside city government.
- 3. **Excitement Around Pathways:**
 - Nate emphasized the importance of offering real opportunities into urban forestry and related fields.
 - The team is eager to share progress with the Commission as the program develops.

Commission Support Update

- Lauren mentioned they're **hiring a temporary Boards & Commissions Liaison**, who will:
 - Support the **Urban Forestry Commission (UFC)**.
 - Also support the **Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (CAB)**.
 - Start date is anticipated in the coming months.

Onboarding Part 1: Evelyn Shapiro

Discussion: Purpose and Audience of Commission's Work

- **Qualitative Data Adds Value**
 - David emphasized the importance of *qualitative data* (like personal stories and lived experiences) to provide emotional depth and context to the Commission's recommendations.
 - Numbers alone are not always persuasive—*human connection* matters when influencing decisions.
- **Advice Is Directed to People**
 - The Commission's recommendations are not just for policies—they're aimed at *real people* with feelings, values, and experiences.
 - Recalling early tree memories (as done at the beginning of the meeting) helps ground the work in personal connection and emotion, which strengthens the case for action.
- **Persuasive Advocacy**
 - Future sessions will focus on how to build strong, persuasive recommendations using both *quantitative* (data, trends) and *qualitative* (stories, testimonials) approaches.
 - "Decisions are not made just on numbers... We are sending our advice to people, and we want them to take it."

Primary Audiences for Commission Recommendations:

1. City Council – Legislative branch that enacts policies.
2. Mayor – Executive decision-maker for the city.
3. City Departments – Agencies implementing or influencing urban forestry work (e.g., SDOT, Parks, OSE).
4. Public & Interest Groups – External stakeholders who may advocate for or be impacted by Commission recommendations.

Discussion on Board Commitments and Expectations

- **Time Commitment:**
 - Commissioners are expected to dedicate about 10 hours/month for board duties. This includes time spent in meetings but also in various behind-the-scenes work such as engaging with constituents and working with stakeholders.
 - The commitment is flexible; some months may require more, some less. It is not about sitting in meetings for hours but about effective, meaningful work.
- **Creating a Positive Environment:**
 - The Commission aims to create a respectful and enjoyable space where commissioners feel comfortable and motivated to collaborate.
 - Commitment to engagement: It's about *active participation*, including being present (either in person or via Zoom) and engaging with each other personally.
 - Group culture and commitments: Future sessions (like a retreat) will allow commissioners to discuss what kind of culture they want to cultivate within the group.
- **Practical Participation Guidelines:**
 - While it's recognized that everyone is busy, commissioners should aim to engage fully in meetings (on-screen if possible) and attend in-person meetings when scheduled.
 - If unable to attend, commissioners should notify the group in advance.

From questions asked by commissioners and clarifications offered:

- **Bylaws and In-Person Meetings:**
 - There is currently no explicit requirement in the bylaws mandating in-person meetings.
 - Commissioners have flexibility to determine meeting formats based on what works best for their work and community engagement.
 - Minimum baseline requirements exist, and more discussion will follow in future sessions.
- **Accessibility and Public Engagement:**
 - Past discussions have included ideas like hosting meetings in various neighborhoods to increase public accessibility.
 - Barriers identified include AV and public notice requirements, but these are considered manageable.
- **Transition to OPMA Discussion:**

- Introduction to the **Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA)**, enacted in Washington State in 1971.
- OPMA mandates:
 - Meetings must be open and accessible to the public.
 - Proper notice (typically 24 hours in advance) must be given and posted in approved ways.
 - Decisions must be made transparently during public sessions.
 - Communications such as emails and texts may be considered public records.
- Purpose: To ensure government transparency and protect public trust.
- Commissioners are expected to comply and will receive more detailed training in upcoming sessions.
- **Next Steps:**
 - The current session is part of a brief onboarding overview.
 - Future sessions will delve deeper into compliance and commissioner responsibilities.
 - Coordinators (Lauren and the speaker) will plan follow-up training based on what's most effective for the group.

Public Comment

Dave Moehring welcomed the new commissioners and expressed appreciation for their commitment and service. He contributed several planning-related materials to the Commission's shared folder, aimed at supporting tree preservation alongside urban growth in Seattle.

- Shared diagrams from the architectural planning firm Makers, commissioned by the State of Washington, demonstrating how large trees can coexist with increased housing density (e.g., 3–4 homes per lot). Some layouts were effective, while others were not.

Dave suggested the Commission consider what practical advice it can offer the City Council and Mayor to support both urban tree canopy and housing goals. He referenced an additional example from Tacoma, prepared by Mithun (a nationally recognized architecture firm), which outlined strategies for allocating lot space between buildings, trees, and open areas based on building design and lot shape.

Michael Oxman shared strong concerns about the **influence of developers** on city policy regarding urban trees and development:

- **Founding Context:** Referenced a video from ~8 months after the Commission's formation, explaining it was created in response to the **undue influence of the development community** on the City Council.
- **Developer Impact:** Criticized how development interests dominate city messaging, resulting in tree removals to allow **lucrative construction projects**—citing potential profits of millions and the high inherent value of mature trees (\$50,000–\$75,000 each).

- **Policy Issues:**
 - Expressed alarm over **state legislation** that limits the ability to appeal the Comprehensive Plan, arguing it effectively weakens or eliminates protections for Seattle’s trees.
 - Asserted that “**no tree is safe in Seattle**” under current regulatory conditions.
- **Commission Functioning & Quorum:**
 - Noted past difficulty in achieving a quorum due to **40% commission vacancies**, which previously led to reducing meeting frequency from **twice monthly to once per month**.
 - Strongly **recommended returning to twice-monthly meetings** to address the volume of work and counter current policy dynamics at City Hall.

Micheael applauded the addition of **certified arborists** to the Commission, a role that was vacant when the original tree ordinance was passed. He encouraged commissioners to maintain strong **follow-through** and reassured them of **public support**.

Steve Zemke:

- **Historical Context:** Emphasized that the **Commission was designed to be expertise-based**, rather than representing geographic or interest groups.
 1. Intended members include arborists, hydrologists, developers, wildlife biologists, etc., to handle urban forest complexities.
- **Authority of the Commission:** Reminded members they can **invite external experts** to present on specific issues (e.g., transportation-related tree concerns).
- **Suggested Resources for New Members:**
 1. Draft Comprehensive Plan (currently under review by the city)
 2. 2021 Tree Canopy Study
 3. Urban Forest Management Plan
 4. Urban Forestry Commission website (for meeting minutes, past positions, etc.)
 5. SMC 25.11 – Tree Protection Ordinance
 6. SDOT tree-related policies
 7. SPCI’s client assistance memos and director’s rules (for regulatory clarity)
- **Additional Information Sources:**
 1. Recommended watching **Seattle City Council meetings** on tree-related topics, available via the **Seattle Channel**. Emphasized that these resources provide valuable background to help commissioners prepare for upcoming work.
- **Acknowledgment and Support:** Expressed appreciation for the new commissioners' enthusiasm and expertise. Noted that the recent expansion to six team members brings valuable capacity for progress.

Commissioners were advised that they can participate in public discussions **as individuals** (not on behalf of the Commission), such as during an event on **May 19**.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58

Meeting Chat:

June BlueSpruce 5/14/2025 3:08 PM • I would like to comment

Amy Burtaine (she/her) 5/14/2025 3:21 PM • What is your first memory of trees? Why is this work meaningful to you? / What drew you to this board/commission?
Amy Burtaine (she/her) 5/14/2025 3:45 PM • What is your first memory of trees? Why is this work meaningful to you? / What drew you to this board/commission?

Gina Lee 5/14/2025 3:58 PM • my camera isn't working sadly!

Michael Oxman 5/14/2025 4:00 PM • "70% of trees in the right of way" are not maintained by the adjacent landowner. This may be the intent, but the actuality is that citizens either do not know what city policy about responsibility is, don't believe trees require maintenance, can't afford maintenance, or believe the permit process is too cumbersome.
Amy Burtaine (she/her) 5/14/2025 4:09 PM • Back at 4:15

Dave Moehring AIA 5/14/2025 4:15 PM • So good to see a full house of Commissioners! Thank you to the new commissioners here today Andrea, Aaron, Lani, Drue, Tristan, Melanie, and Amy. Thank you, Lauren, for the orientation! To highlight the locations of canopy in Seattle, I uploaded figure 11 of the 2021 Seattle Canopy Assessment. The left-hand bar shows 7000 canopy acres within the neighborhood residential zones - about half of all of the city's urban forest canopy. The public right-of-way and natural areas follow at 3500 and 2000 acres respectively.

Amy Burtaine (she/her) 5/14/2025 4:18 PM • Just a quick reminder Dave, I (Amy) am a consultant who is helping to facilitate the UFC meetings through August. I am not a new commissioner.

Michael Oxman 5/14/2025 4:31 PM • The key point in several recent issues is the Commission has been excluded from policy development, as required by Seattle Municipal Code" Title ADMINISTRATION SubTitle IV. Commissions. Chapter 3.72. URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION "3. To provide recommendations on legislation concerning urban forestry management, sustainability and protection of associated trees and understory vegetation and related habitat on public or private property prior to its introduction and referral to any Council committee;" The point is that Mayors staff have been submitting drafts without adequate participation with the Commission.

Dave Moehring AIA 5/14/2025 4:40 PM • Thank you, Amy! It was also encouraging to hear Weston may be leading up a 2026 Seattle Tree Canopy Assessment. Finally, if there is public comment later, included within 'Content' folder three other reference documents relative to the May 19, 2025 City Council public meetings for the upcoming 'middle housing' legislation: Image of the 9 generic middle housing types; and annotated PDF of how to integrate large tree species with three and four dwellings added within a standard property (Makers architects/planners);

and a generic study for City of Tacoma of incorporating areas for trees within a property (Mithun architects). Note the site layouts that work verses those site layouts that limit exterior amenity areas and space for the urban forest within private land. Thank you, again, for your efforts in seeking a balance as Seattle grows.

Michael Oxman 5/14/2025 4:46 PM • Less than a year after the Urban Forestry Commission was formed, this 2010 video shows the disconnect between City Council's intent to protect trees in Resolution 31138 and staff's interpretation of city forestry policy. https://youtu.be/Z-V8lv-XnP8k?si=EC_P82iq-YwaLXa

Lia 5/14/2025 4:57 PM • Just one comment to say that if commissioners want to speak as individuals (not on behalf of ufc) you can participate in public hearing on comp plan 5/19. Sorry don't have all details here. Can share offline via Lauren.

Michael Oxman 5/14/2025 5:00 PM • The Comp Plan appeal documents are online, and show that citizen participation in this process is precluded by state law. I urge you to follow this appeal. Thanks!