

**Emails sent by Seattle residents regarding the tree protection ordinance through December 20, 2020.**

**From:** jebendich@comcast.net <jebendich@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Thursday, November 5, 2020 1:15 PM

**To:** Mosqueda, Teresa <Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov>; LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Pedersen, Alex <Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Parikh, Sejal <Sejal.Parikh@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Budget meeting on November 10, 2020. Please approve Councilmember Pederson's proposals re tree canopy.

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Chairperson Mosqueda and Members of the City Council,

Thank you for your leadership for people of color and underserved communities. Among the needs of these communities is additional tree canopy.

Seattle has been losing large quantities of tree canopy due to lack of enforcement of the tree ordinance that now exists and because the current tree ordinance (over 12 years-old), despite Council resolutions and mayoral orders, has not been amended. Additionally, due to a dearth of tree canopy in areas of the City that are predominantly people of color and people with few economic resources, these suffer the brunt of continued pollution, warmer temperatures, greater water run-off, increased wealth problems and well-being, that can be vastly improved by trees. The so-called “Emerald City” needs to get real about tree-canopy loss and its impact on marginalized communities. I urge you to approve Councilmember Petersen’s proposals:

- Please approve these two budget actions put forward by Councilmember Pedersen to better understand displacement and affordable housing in Seattle:
  - SLI-OSE-006-A-001 to explore consolidating tree protections under the Office of Sustainability and Environment with involvement of the Urban Forestry Commission; and
  - CBA-SDCI-011-A-001 to require SDCI to produce the stronger tree ordinance as soon as possible.
- The City has for many years tried to make a multi-departmental approach to tree management work, currently spread across 9 departments! The auditor indicated in a 2009 report that multiple managers of the resource was not working. An extensive multi-agency study completed in 2017 concluded that “Current code is not supporting tree protection.” During that time, the tree canopy has been declining and we are losing numerous large trees. Decentralized oversight of Seattle’s urban forest has had its chance, but it is not working.

- In 2019, the Council passed Resolution 31902 spelling out the elements and timeline for SDCI to prepare a new tree ordinance and transmit it to the Council for consideration. It is time for the Council to use its ‘power of the purse’ to require compliance with its policies.
- Loss of the ecological services provided by urban forests adversely impacts the City’s infrastructure and communities. Impacts are greatest on BIPOC and low income communities; this is an equity issue and must be addressed now.
- Washington is the "Evergreen State" and Seattle is the "Emerald City." Trees provide numerous benefits including carbon sequestration, absorption of rainwater to reduce harmful runoff into Puget Sound and Lake Washington, shade for cooling during the warmer months, and proven health benefits. The bigger the tree, the better. As we take a long overdue, serious look at racial injustice issues, we know some communities of color have fewer large trees and are having them removed more often.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Judith E. Bendich  
1754 NE 62<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Seattle, WA 98115  
(206) 525-5914

---

**From:** heidi calyxsite.com <heidi@calyxsite.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 9, 2020 11:13 AM  
**To:** Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
**Cc:** Vasquez, Colin <Colin.Vasquez@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Adaptive management webinars in 2021

**CAUTION: External Email**

Greetings

I wanted to bring to your attention some very useful and relevant training before offered next year through a number of state agencies including Commerce.

My concern is the vast network of endless exemptions to our Critical Areas Ordinances in Seattle and how we continue to permit building on steep slopes and in areas with previous seeps and landslides. I would like to know more about how you track your exemptions, the process you use to update the CAO, and whether building on steep slopes has exacerbated flooding and stormwater runoff to local streams and Puget Sound.

Of the workshop, the following ones stand out to me for follow up:

1. 1/20/21: Critical areas and adaptive management with permits
2. 2/17/21: Frequent Flooding
3. 3/10/21: Permit Implementation and Efficiency

Mr. Torgelson, please make sure this is spread throughout your networks.

Sandra, Please make sure this makes it into the record.

I also wanted to make sure you were aware of a Commerce/Puget Sound Regional Council document and Jurisdiction Guidance called Building Green Cities.

All the best,  
Heidi Siegelbaum

Heidi Siegelbaum  
[Heidi@calyxsite.com](mailto:Heidi@calyxsite.com)

(206) 784-4265

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/HeidiSiegelbaum>

---

**From:** Helen Barker <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 4:10 PM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated

Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 11 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as "a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns." Include street trees in groves.
- Add "Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages."
- Add "All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can't be removed."
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to "TREE PROTECTION". Remove references to "Exceptional Trees" only and change to "Trees". e.g., change "Exceptional Tree Protection

Areas” to ”Tree Protection Areas”.

- SECTION 4. Add “The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle’s Equity and Environment Initiative.”
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director’s Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT’s registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor’s license to ensure they have workers’ compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Helen Barker

[hdbarker99@gmail.com](mailto:hdbarker99@gmail.com)

1225 12th Ct

Fox Island, Washington 98333-9649

**From:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 11, 2020 5:42 PM  
**To:** Mosqueda, Teresa <Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov>; Parikh, Sejal <Sejal.Parikh@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** Pedersen, Alex <Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>;  
TreesForNeighborhoods <TreesForNeighborhoods@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa  
<Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Andrew <Andrew.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Magnolia Community  
Council <magnoliacommunityclub@gmail.com>; Dawson, Parker <Parker.Dawson@seattle.gov>;  
Treepac <Treepac@groups.outlook.com>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>;  
Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; An, Noah <Noah.An@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Why the Urban Forest Budget proposals are worth it!

CAUTION: External Email



## Seattle Tree Governance Alert

Dear City Budget Chair, Teresa Mosqueda, and the supporting City Council members~

Please enjoy today's release of a **4-minute educational interview** of UW's Kathleen Wolf that distinctly identifies the significance of Seattle's Urban Forest as an ally to Seattle's urban growth.

<https://www.dontclearcutseattle.org/urban-forest/trees-essential-urban-allies/>

This story composed by journalist M. Baskin with videography by L. Brady provides extensive reasons to support Councilmember's

Alex Pedersen's two budget proposals that will help to protect trees that combat climate change!

- Please approve these two budget actions put forward by Councilmember Pedersen to better understand displacement and affordable housing in Seattle:
  - SLI-OSE-006-A-001 to explore consolidating tree protections under the Office of Sustainability and Environment with involvement of the Urban Forestry Commission; and
  - CBA-SDCI-011-A-001 to require SDCI to produce the stronger tree ordinance as soon as possible.
- The City has for many years tried to make a multi-departmental approach to tree management work, currently spread across 9 departments!
- The auditor indicated in a 2009 report that multiple managers of the resource was not working.
- An extensive multi-agency study completed in 2017 concluded that "Current code is not supporting tree protection." During that time, the tree canopy has been declining and we are losing numerous large trees.
- Decentralized oversight of Seattle's urban forest has had its chance, but it is not working.
- In 2019, the Council passed Resolution 31902 spelling out the elements and timeline for SDCI to prepare a new tree ordinance and transmit it to the Council for consideration.
- It is time for the Council to use its 'power of the purse' to require compliance with its policies.
- Loss of the ecological services provided by urban forests adversely impacts the City's infrastructure and communities.
- Impacts are greatest on BIPOC and low income communities; this is an equity issue and must be addressed now.
- Washington is the "Evergreen State" and Seattle is the "Emerald City." Trees provide numerous benefits including

carbon sequestration, absorption of rainwater to reduce harmful runoff into Puget Sound and Lake Washington, shade for cooling during the warmer months, and proven health benefits. Environmentally, the bigger the tree, the better.

- As we take a long overdue, serious look at racial injustice issues, we know some communities of color have fewer large trees and are having them removed more often.



The current language of both proposals (subject to change):

Urban Forest Governance

<http://seattle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8879218&GUID=F16B70C8-E022-485B-B575-54800DB0C24B>

This Statement of Legislative Intent would request that the Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE), in consultation with the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) and the Urban Forestry Interdepartmental Team, develop a plan to consolidate the City's urban forest management functions within OSE. Currently, there are nine City departments that have a role in managing Seattle's urban forest:



- OSE coordinates citywide policy development, updates the Urban Forest Management Plan and monitors its implementation, and provides administrative support for the UFC;
- Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) manages trees in the public right-of-way.
- Department of Finance and Administrative Services, Seattle Center, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) manage trees on their property;
- SPU engages community in urban forest stewardship on both private property and in the right-of-way;
- Seattle City Light maintains trees near power lines;
- Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) and the Office of Planning and Community Development develop policies and plans; and
- SDCI enforces regulations for trees on private property.

Specifically, the plan should address how to transfer staff and regulatory authority, particularly in regards to the removal of trees, from SDCI and SDOT to OSE. The plan should also: (1) include a potential timeline for implementation; (2) consider staff involved in policy development, permitting and inspections, maintenance, community engagement, and stewardship; (3) identify code amendments needed to effectuate this change; and (4) provide an estimate of costs, including potential savings, for implementing the proposed reorganization.

OSE should submit the report to the Land Use & Neighborhoods Committee and the Central Staff Director by September 15, 2021.

### Tree Ordinance Required by Resolution 31902

<http://seattle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8879248&GUID=F090C7F7-37FB-44FF-A566-6307B19E34F3>

This Council Budget Action would impose a proviso on \$758,663, one third of the proposed 2021 appropriations to the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections' Government Policy, Safety, and Support Budget Control Level (BCL). Among other things, appropriations in that BCL fund development of council bills establishing new development regulations. The 2021 Proposed Budget would appropriate \$2,275,989 to that BCL. Approximately, \$916,000 of that appropriation is General Fund; the remainder is Construction and Inspections Fund.

The proviso would be automatically released when a council bill called for by Resolution 31902 is delivered to the City Council. Resolution 31902

establishes a work program for updating the City's tree protection regulations.

This Council Budget Action imposes the following proviso:

"Of the appropriations to the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections' Government Policy, Safety and Support BCL, \$758,663 may not be expended until the Mayor transmits a council bill to the City Clerk that updates the City's tree protection regulations, as contemplated by Resolution 31902."

---

**From:** Stuart Niven <panorarbor@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 12, 2020 3:49 PM  
**To:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
**Cc:** Mosqueda, Teresa <Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov>; Parikh, Sejal <Sejal.Parikh@seattle.gov>; Pedersen, Alex <Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; TreesForNeighborhoods <TreesForNeighborhoods@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Andrew <Andrew.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Magnolia Community Council <magnoliacommunityclub@gmail.com>; Dawson, Parker <Parker.Dawson@seattle.gov>; Treepac <Treepac@groups.outlook.com>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; An, Noah <Noah.An@seattle.gov>; LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [TREE LOSS] Why the Urban Forest Budget proposals are worth it!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Thank you David, I second your comments and requests.

Thank you and kind regards,

Stuart Niven, BA (Hons)  
*PanorArborist*  
[www.panorarbor.com](http://www.panorarbor.com)

---

**From:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 13, 2020 11:05 AM  
**To:** seattle-tree-ordinance-working-grouplists riseup. net <seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net>  
**Cc:** seattletreelossgooglegroups.com <seattletreeloss@googlegroups.com>; treepac\_seattlelists.riseup.net <treepac\_seattle@lists.riseup.net>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra

<Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Tree groves clearing at 4800 South block of MLK Drive (#3033464-LU et Al.)

**CAUTION: External Email**

Please check this area out at the **4800 South block of MLK Drive** (west side of Drive) for the repeating pattern of more tree grove clearings within the area of Seattle.

The City (via King County) has sold these 16 lots of undeveloped tree grove at the 4800 south block of MLK Drive.

Please write into [PRC@seattle.gov](mailto:PRC@seattle.gov) by November 26th asking to apply the principles of tree canopy conservation. Development on Seattle's acres of brownfield and rundown sites is always better than greenfield urban forest areas.

Seattle needs a **moratorium to halt unrestrained tree clearings** on undeveloped urban forest lands - especially land like this that was formerly owned by the City/County.



**Address: 3021 S EDMUNDS ST**

**Project: 3033464-LU**

**Area: South Notice Date: 11/12/2020**

**Project Description: Land Use Application to allow a 2-story single-family residence. Parking for 2 vehicles proposed.**

**City sells 16 lots of undeveloped tree grove at 4800 South block of MLK Drive**

David Moehring  
312-965-0634

**From:** "Land Use Information Bulletin" <[dpdmailer@seattle.gov](mailto:dpdmailer@seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** The Land Use Information Bulletin is Now Available



[View this email in your browser.](#)  
Seattle Department of  
Construction & Inspections

# Land Use Information Bulletin

*Public notices from the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections.*

---

January 27, 2020



LUIB is Now Available

Today's [Public Notices Summary](#) is now available for you to review.

*The link above will give you the most recently published Public Notice Summary.*

To create a custom notice summary by publish date, use our new [custom public notice report tool](#).

To view the notices:

1. Click on [Public Notices](#) under Find Existing on the portal home page.
2. Select the Publish Date - From and Publish Date - To date range.  
**Tip:** Click the calendar and then select the Today link at the very bottom to quickly navigate to the correct date.
3. You will get a list of the public notices for the date range.

This email was sent from a send-only mailbox. Please do NOT reply to this e-mail.



---

*Copyright © 2020 Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email because you opted in to be sent regular updates to the Land Use Information

Bulletin.

**Our mailing address is:**

Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections  
700 5th Avenue Suite 2000  
P.O. Box 34019  
Seattle, WA 98124-4019

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

---

**From:** Kevin Gerrity <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Saturday, November 14, 2020 3:40 PM

**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

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

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Kevin Gerrity

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

63 W Etruria St., Apt. 6

Seattle, Washington 98119

---

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

**Sent:** Monday, November 16, 2020 12:43 PM

**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Brazier, Maketa <Maketa.Brazier@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Global Tree Cover in Cities Declining Despite Increasing Need

**CAUTION: External Email**

Attention Seattle City Council and Mayor - yet again, proof is provided beyond our local activism as to the importance of PROTECTING Seattle's existing urban tree canopy, not just paying lip service to it via 'plant more trees' and in lieu fees that never address the real problem?. What more proof do you need to \*enforce\* the Seattle Tree Ordinance instead of chipping away at it via DCI while turning a blind eye to their lack of enforcement and lack of data capture as to tree loss citywide, \*\*year after year\*\*? The direct study link from USFS noted in the caption below is linked here as well as the PDF attached already for convenience:

**Global Tree Cover in Cities Declining Despite Increasing Need**

ABSTRACT: Trees in cities reduce energy costs, mitigate air pollution, boost housing values, provide wildlife habitat, and increase life expectancies. Yet globally, tree cover in cities is declining, according to recent Forest Service research.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/treearch/pubs/59488>

[https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2020/nrs\\_2020\\_nowak\\_002.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2020/nrs_2020_nowak_002.pdf)

The Partners in Community Forestry Conference is occurring (virtually) this week in the midwest, registration is still possible, conference is tomorrow-rest of the week, btw - might be helpful to have a City representative (or far better, \*\*several\*\*) attend??

<https://www.arboday.org/programs/pcf/>

Kevin Orme  
Greenwood

Link to article: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S161886671930295X>

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

---

**From:** Steve Zemke <stevezemke@msn.com>

**Sent:** Monday, November 16, 2020 8:12 PM

**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Portland, Oregon Again Leading the Way on Tree Protection

**CAUTION: External Email**

Hi Sandra,



Could you please forward this to the Urban Forestry Commission and other interested parties? Thanks.

Portland, Oregon last week took another strong step toward strengthening their Tree Ordinance.

"On Nov. 12, the Portland City Council adopted an ordinance that updates the city's tree policies to promote greater preservation of trees when development occurs in certain types of commercial, employment and industrial areas, and to further incentivize preservation of larger trees in other development situations."

Among the provisions of the updated ordinance, it

- "Reduces the threshold for required preservation of private trees from 36 inches to 20 inches in diameter at breast height (dbh) wherever tree preservation is required
- Reduces the threshold for the application of an inch-per-inch fee in lieu of preservation for private trees from 36 inches dbh to 20 inches dbh ...
- Directs Portland Parks and Recreation to bring a scope of work for future updates to the city's tree code ([Title 11](#) of Portland City Code) to City Council by March 31, 2021 and directs the City Council to consider funding for that work during the fiscal year 2021-22 City budget process."

Link to full Portland news article below, which has a link to the amended ordinance text for Chapter 11.50 -Trees in Development Situations and accompanying documentation of the adoption process.

Portland.gov - [Portland City Council adopts updates to city's tree code, strengthening tree preservation](#)

Note that Portland will now require as of Dec 12th, that developers pay a Fee in Lieu of 2 for 1 replacement cost for removed trees 12-20 inches diameter and inch for inch cost for trees removed that are over 20 inches in diameter.

The amended ordinance in Exhibit C, of the [accompanying document](#) shows the new amended Fee in Lieu cost:

**Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry Title 11, Trees Fee Schedule  
DEVELOPMENT effective December 12, 2020**

**DEVELOPMENT**

**preservation, Fee in Lieu private trees**

trees >12 inches and <20 inches in diameter .... \$1800/tree

trees >20 inches in diameter ..... \$450/inch

**NON-DEVELOPMENT**

planting and establishment Fee in Lieu .... \$450/inch

With budget shortfalls this year note that Seattle continues to lose potential revenue to support our urban forest infrastructure as lots during development are frequently clear-cut. Portland, Oregon meanwhile is generating revenue to help reduce tree loss and counter it by replacing trees. Here is a link to Portland's latest report. [Urban Forestry Title 11 Fund Report Fiscal Year 2018-2019](#).

**Portland reported that they generated \$1,444,426 for their Tree Planting and Preservation Fund and \$981,720 for their Urban Forestry Fund for revenue in fiscal year 2018-2019 totaling \$2,426,149.**

These number will go up as Portland has lowered its threshold for its Fee in Lieu for tree loss during development from 36 inches DBH to 20 inches DBH. Private homeowner's Fees in Lieu start at 12 inches DHB but are seldom used as it appears as they choose to replace the removed tree and thus not have to pay a Fee in Lieu.

Seattle has put off updating SMC 25.11 - its Tree Protection Ordinance now for 11 years. Even going by Portland's latest figures Seattle has probably forgone \$25 - \$30 million since 2009 in potential revenue for urban forestry by not updating its tree ordinance as other cities are doing.

Steve Zemke  
Chair - Tree PAC

[stevezemke@TreePAC.org](mailto:stevezemke@TreePAC.org)

---

**From:** Paulette Kidder <pwkidder@seattleu.edu>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 12:53 PM

**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

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

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.

4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Paulette Kidder

[pwkidder@seattleu.edu](mailto:pwkidder@seattleu.edu)

2122 N 88th Street

Seattle , Washington 98103

---

**From:** Del Lausa <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 5:41 PM

**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 11 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as "a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns." Include street trees in groves.
- Add "Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages."
- Add "All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can't be removed."
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to "TREE PROTECTION". Remove references to "Exceptional Trees" only and change to "Trees". e.g., change "Exceptional Tree Protection Areas" to "Tree Protection Areas".
- SECTION 4. Add "The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under

Seattle's Equity and Environment Initiative.”

- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director’s Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT’s registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor’s license to ensure they have workers’ compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Del Lausa

[lausadel@yahoo.com](mailto:lausadel@yahoo.com)

408 Aurora Avenue N, #405

Seattle, Washington 98109

---

**From:** heidi calyxsite.com <heidi@calyxsite.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 6:05 PM

**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** heidi calyxsite.com <heidi@calyxsite.com>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments on City Budget

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Council and Mayor Durkan:

Attached please find comments regarding the City Budget focusing on tree issues.

All the best,  
Heidi Siegelbaum

Heidi Siegelbaum  
[Heidi@calyxsite.com](mailto:Heidi@calyxsite.com)

(206) 784-4265

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/HeidiSiegelbaum>

November 17, 2020

Dear Council and Mayor Durkan:

Again, we enlist your support for greatly enhanced tree protection in the City of Seattle. Mature tree protection in all places, including private property and during development/redevelopment:

- Supports Climate Change work (seedlings do not replace large, mature trees with carbon sequestration)
- Supports our public health infrastructure at a time of diminishing air quality and wildlife smoke
- Supports your Equity work to protect BIPOC communities where the tree canopy and natural resources are being ravaged.

We support the following budget items:

- SLI -MO-001-A-002 - Requests that the executive recommends strategies for consolidating urban forestry functions
- CBA- OSE- 002-A-003 - Add \$132,000 to OSE for the Green New Deal Advisor Position
- CBA- OSE-004-A-003 - Add \$140,000 to the Climate Advisory Position
- SLI - SPU-002-A-003 - request SPU to explore an expansion of the Tree Ambassador program (which needs to address current mature tree protection and not just planting seedlings)

Budget items you need to restore:

- CBA-SDCI-002-A-001- Add1 FTE arborist and 1 FTE Housing and Zoning inspector to SDCI and \$275,237 General Fund to fund the positions to improve enforcement of tree regulations. This omission is egregious given the City Auditor's report and two interdisciplinary tree regulation reports which indicate a wild uptick in violations, the lack of enforcement and "suspicious" hazard tree determinations. While staffing OSE and the Climate Advisory positions are important, your lack of budgetary support for these items evidence your lack of seriousness about the gravity of these issues.
- CBA SDCI-011-A-001 - Provision \$758,563 be withheld from SDCI until they present an updated Tree Protection Ordinance to the Council by the end of Sept 2021. What is the City's excuse now for failure to pass this Ordinance?

Sincerely,

Heidi Siegelbaum and Rob Hyman, Seattle (Ballard- the clearcut location from the turn of the century, never re-treed, and with our remaining large trees being removed through re-development).



**From:** Rita Childs <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 7:39 PM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 11 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This

requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city.”

- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as “a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns.” Include street trees in groves.
- Add “Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages.”
- Add “All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can’t be removed.”
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to “TREE PROTECTION”. Remove references to “Exceptional Trees” only and change to “Trees”. e.g., change “Exceptional Tree Protection Areas” to “Tree Protection Areas”.
- SECTION 4. Add “The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle’s Equity and Environment Initiative.”
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director’s Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT’s registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor’s license to ensure

they have workers' compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Rita Childs

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

1200 Westlake Ave NE

Seattle, Washington 98109

---

**From:** Sara Schillinger <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 8:40 PM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Sara Schillinger

[sara.schillinger@gmail.com](mailto:sara.schillinger@gmail.com)

6113 Roosevelt Way NE #201

Seattle, Washington 98115

---

**From:** Jill Hamilton <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 9:04 PM

**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 11 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as "a group of 3 or more significant trees with

overlapping or touching crowns.” Include street trees in groves.

- Add “Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages.”
- Add “All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can’t be removed.”
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to “TREE PROTECTION”. Remove references to “Exceptional Trees” only and change to “Trees”. e.g., change “Exceptional Tree Protection Areas” to “Tree Protection Areas”.
- SECTION 4. Add “The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle’s Equity and Environment Initiative.”
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director’s Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT’s registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor’s license to ensure they have workers’ compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Jill Hamilton

[jckress@yahoo.com](mailto:jckress@yahoo.com)

4985 Naomi St NW

Bremerton, Washington 98311

---

**From:** Tracey French <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 9:40 PM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation

- (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6” and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
  3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24” DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
  4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
  5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
  6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
  7. Expand SDOT’s existing tree service provider’s registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
  8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Tracey French

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

749 south Sullivan

Seattle, Washington 98108

---

**From:** Lisa Clark <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 5:54 AM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI’s Director’s Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**



Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 11 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as "a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns." Include street trees in groves.

- Add “Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages.”
- Add “All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can’t be removed.”
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to “TREE PROTECTION”. Remove references to “Exceptional Trees” only and change to “Trees”. e.g., change “Exceptional Tree Protection Areas” to “Tree Protection Areas”.
- SECTION 4. Add “The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle’s Equity and Environment Initiative.”
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director’s Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT’s registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor’s license to ensure they have workers’ compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Lisa Clark

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

PO Box 23286

Seattle , Washington 98102

---

**From:** Thom Laz <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 6:20 AM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 11 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires

- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove

- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090

- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director’s Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words “land division” and replace with “Development”

- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add “SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city.”

- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as “a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns.” Include street trees in groves.

- Add “Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages.”

- Add “All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can’t be removed.”

- SECTION 2. Change the heading to “TREE PROTECTION”. Remove references to “Exceptional Trees” only and change to “Trees”. e.g., change “Exceptional Tree Protection Areas” to “Tree Protection Areas”.

- SECTION 4. Add “The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle’s Equity and Environment Initiative.”

- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are

removed during development.

- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director's Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT's registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor's license to ensure they have workers' compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Thom Laz

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

2321 Fairview ave E

Seattle , Washington 98102

---

**From:** Judith Leshner <jack2729rabbit@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 10:28 AM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Remembering TREES in the budget considerations

**CAUTION: External Email**

Dear Ms. Pinto de Bader:

I sent this email today as stated below.

Judith Leshner

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Judith Leshner <[jack2729rabbit@earthlink.net](mailto:jack2729rabbit@earthlink.net)>  
**Subject: Remembering TREES in the budget considerations**  
**Date:** November 18, 2020 at 10:17:17 AM PST  
**To:** [jenny.durkan@seattle.gov](mailto:jenny.durkan@seattle.gov)

Dear Mayor Durkan:

Please note that I have sent the following email to all City Council Members and I ask that you, too, include Our Tree Canopy in your budget considerations. Thank you.

Dear Councilmember Lewis (my representative but sent individually to each member):

Just a few days ago I responded to the survey that the City's "Trees For Seattle" office sent out about the draft Urban Forest Management Plan. I have been following the City Council's long-time efforts to study, maintain, increase and protect our **tree canopy** for many years and am involved with the group efforts of Friends of Seattle's Urban Forest and TreePAC. Now I learn that you Council Members are finalizing the budget today so I want to express my support for the following budget items.

Please support these following budget items:

- SLI -MO-001-A-002 - Requests that the executive recommend strategies for consolidating urban forestry functions
- CBA- OSE- 002-A-003 - Add \$132,000 to OSE for the Green New Deal Advisor Position
- CBA- OSE-004-A-003 - Add \$140,000 to the Climate Advisory Position
- SLI - SPU-002-A-003 - request SPU to explore an expansion of the Tree Ambassador program

Two other important items should be added to your budget. The SDCI is too slow on presenting the updated Tree Protection Ordinance. How about spurring them along?

- CBA-SDCI-002-A-001- Add1 FTE arborist and 1 FTE Housing and Zoning inspector to SDCI and \$275,237 General Fund to fund the positions to improve enforcement of tree regulations
- CBA SDCI-011-A-001 - Provisio \$758,563 be withheld from SDCI until they present an updated Tree Protection Ordinance to the Council by the end of Sept 2021

Surely you City Council Members do not need further convincing about the importance of our city's trees and the important functions that they provide for us. It is time for you to act and provide the regulations and funds to follow through.

Thank you for your commitment to our tree environment.

Sincerely,

Judith Leshner  
2568 10th Ave W  
Seattle, WA 98119  
[jack2729rabbit@earthlink.net](mailto:jack2729rabbit@earthlink.net)

---

**From:** Joanne Moring <joiemoring@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 11:40 AM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 11 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words “land division” and replace with “Development”
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add “SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city.”
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as “a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns.” Include street trees in groves.
- Add “Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages.”
- Add “All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can’t be removed.”
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to “TREE PROTECTION”. Remove references to “Exceptional Trees” only and change to “Trees”. e.g., change “Exceptional Tree Protection Areas” to “Tree Protection Areas”.
- SECTION 4. Add “The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle’s Equity and Environment Initiative.”
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director’s Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT’s registration process and requirements to assist



Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor's license to ensure they have workers' compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Joanne Moring

[joiemoring@comcast.net](mailto:joiemoring@comcast.net)

1011 N 38th St

Seattle, Washington 98103

---

**From:** Cody McDonald <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 12:37 PM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection

for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 11 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as "a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns." Include street trees in groves.
- Add "Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages."
- Add "All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can't be removed."
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to "TREE PROTECTION". Remove references to "Exceptional Trees" only and change to "Trees". e.g., change "Exceptional Tree Protection Areas" to "Tree Protection Areas".

- SECTION 4. Add “The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle’s Equity and Environment Initiative.”
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director’s Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT’s registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor’s license to ensure they have workers’ compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Cody McDonald

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

902 N 93rd St

Seattle, Washington 98103

---

**From:** Stuart Niven <panorarbor@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 1:06 PM

**To:** council@seattle.gov; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Essential budget items to help our trees and environment

**CAUTION: External Email**

Good afternoon,

Please take this email as my support for the following items:

- SLI -MO-001-A-002 - Requests that the executive recommend strategies for consolidating urban forestry functions
- CBA- OSE- 002-A-003 - Add \$132,000 to OSE for the Green New Deal Advisor Position
- CBA- OSE-004-A-003 - Add \$140,000 to the Climate Advisory Position
- SLI - SPU-002-A-003 - request SPU to explore an expansion of the Tree Ambassador program

The above will be positive for the future management and care of our local environment and urban canopy, however there are two significant items not being considered which I strongly urge you to add into the budget:

- CBA-SDCI-002-A-001- Add1 FTE arborist and 1 FTE Housing and Zoning inspector to SDCI and \$275,237 General Fund to fund the positions to improve enforcement of tree regulations
- CBA SDCI-011-A-001 - Provisio \$758,563 be withheld from SDCI until they present an updated Tree Protection Ordinance to the Council by the end of Sept 2021

While other items may seem more important that trees and the environment, without them we all die so technically, a healthy, unpolluted and growing environment with as many trees as is practical and possible, is the most important item we should all be talking about.

The Trump administration has been successful in introducing over 100 bills to rape and pillage the environment; please do not let Seattle's refusal to care enough about the environment be another one on the list.

Thank you and kind regards,

Stuart Niven, BA (Hons)

*PanorArborist*

[www.panorarbor.com](http://www.panorarbor.com)

[ISA Certified Arborist PN-7245A & Tree Risk Assessment Qualification \(TRAQ\)](#)

[Arborist on Seattle Audubon Society Conservation Committee](#)

[Arborist on Seattle's Urban Forestry Commission](#)

**From:** DANIEL ERICKSON <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2020 3:13 PM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 11 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words “land division” and replace with “Development”
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add “SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city.”
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as “a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns.” Include street trees in groves.
- Add “Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages.”
- Add “All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can’t be removed.”
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to “TREE PROTECTION”. Remove references to “Exceptional Trees” only and change to “Trees”. e.g., change “Exceptional Tree Protection Areas” to “Tree Protection Areas”.
- SECTION 4. Add “The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle’s Equity and Environment Initiative.”
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director’s Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT’s registration process and requirements to assist

Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor's license to ensure they have workers' compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

DANIEL ERICKSON

[seattles2r800@gmail.com](mailto:seattles2r800@gmail.com)

1011 NW 122ND ST

SEATTLE, Washington 98177

---

**From:** Elliot Leliaert <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 20, 2020 6:52 AM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection

for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 11 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as "a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns." Include street trees in groves.
- Add "Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages."
- Add "All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can't be removed."
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to "TREE PROTECTION". Remove references to "Exceptional Trees" only and change to "Trees". e.g., change "Exceptional Tree Protection Areas" to "Tree Protection Areas".



- SECTION 4. Add “The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle’s Equity and Environment Initiative.”
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director’s Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT’s registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor’s license to ensure they have workers’ compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Elliot Leliaert

[valkyrie808@yahoo.com](mailto:valkyrie808@yahoo.com)

15521 Stone Ave n

Shoreline, Washington 98133

---

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

**Sent:** Friday, November 27, 2020 7:40 AM

To: SCI\_Code\_Compliance <SCI\_Code\_Compliance@seattle.gov>; PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>  
Cc: Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
Subject: Covering up the tree-crime scene 6754334-CN and 005294-19PA

**CAUTION: External Email**

Near completion in Seattle is a **single-family lot with 1 house, 1 attached dwelling, and 1 backyard house** just 8 feet away in Phinney at **536 N 67th St.**

- This house+2 ADU is the same site TreePAC was contacted about on Oct 1, 2019 concerning a large tree in the process of being removed.
- Revealing the freshly cut large tree stump, the City of Seattle photographed the entire site with the permit application on Oct 10, 2019
- A few days later on October 18, an application for a permit was recorded.
- Months later, on January 9, 2020, Tony Shoffner ISA Certified Arborist #PN-0909A, wrote a report stating "*No trees on site, so no tree protections are necessary.*"

This process of tree-removal-cover-up and post-documentation that no trees exist is a real travesty to the idea the building and land-use codes matter in Seattle. There are just good-ol-boyz laughing at what they can get away with.

An explanation from anyone involved in this would be appreciated.

[Records](#) show that no tree review was conducted.

David Moehring  
312-965-0634

Public comments on October 2019 about large tree removed 3 days before a permit application was submitted for three dwellings on one single-family lot. Today, 2 car parking spaces are provided where the tree once stood. Permit #6754334-CN

<a href="#">Public Comment: D. Moehring 10-20-2019</a>	30 KB	10/21/19	<a href="#">6754334-CN</a>	Construction Permit
<a href="#">Public Comment: Niven 10282019</a>	46 KB	10/30/19	<a href="#">005294-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
<a href="#">Public Comment: Siems 10282019</a>	47 KB	10/30/19	<a href="#">005294-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
<a href="#">Public Comment: Thaler 10282019</a>	48 KB	10/30/19	<a href="#">005294-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
<a href="#">Public Comment: Thoe 10282019</a>	49 KB	10/30/19	<a href="#">005294-19PA</a>	Building & Land Use Pre-Application

From Jan 9, 2020, Tony Shoffner ISA Certified Arborist #PN-0909A

## SHOFFNER CONSULTING

6741 NE 182ND ST. UNIT C414 KENMORE, WA 98028 MOBILE:(206)755-9407 EMAIL: TONY@TONYSHOFFNER.COM

January 9, 2020

Roque Deherrera  
Phinney Cooper, LLC  
400 112th Ave. NE. #400.  
Bellevue, WA  
98004

RE: Tree Inventory report - 536 N. 67th, Seattle.

Roque:

This report is provided to address the recent inventory I conducted of the tree on the property at the address of 536 N. 67th St. in Seattle, WA. I visited the property recently to gather information on the trees. There are no trees off-site with drip lines that extend onto the property.

### 1.0 Tree Assessment Methods

I conducted visual, level 2 basic evaluations of all the trees according to ISA standards and based upon many years conducting such evaluations on trees in the Pacific Northwest. I observed trees up close to inspect conditions of the trunk and from afar to inspect conditions in the crowns. All assessments were conducted according to the methods specified in the ISA Tree Risk Assessment Manual and on nearly 20 years experience conducting such evaluations.

The investigations involved the gathering of the following information:

- Tree species
- Trunk diameter
- Crown spread diameter
- Location factors
- Health and condition notes (general level of vigor, defects, disease or pest problems)

The City of Seattle's regulations of trees are provided in DPD Director's Rule 16-2008 and in chapter 19.25 of the SMC.

### 2.0 Tree Inventory

There is currently no trees on this property, therefore, no tree retention or protection is required.

### 3.0 Use of This Report and Limitations

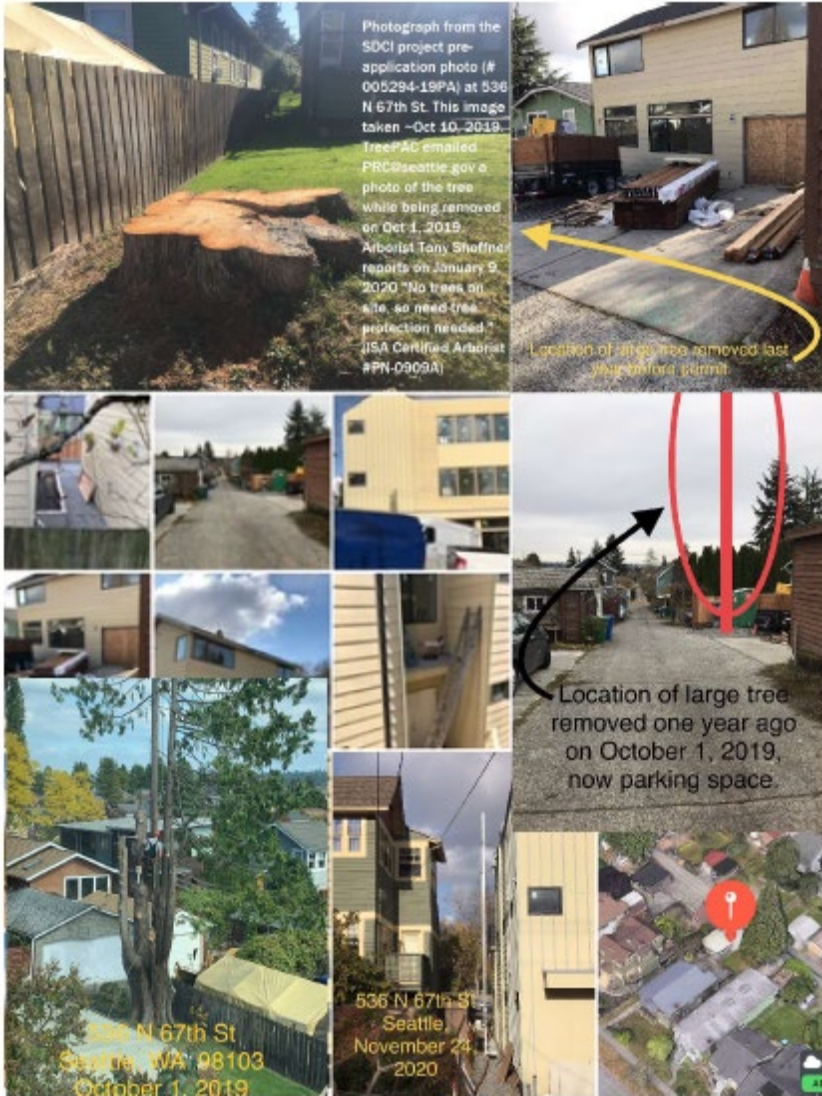
This report is provided to MGT Builders to address the City of Seattle's requirements for tree inventories on lots proposed for development. Natural decline and failure of trees

following development is not predictable, therefore, Shoffner Consulting and Tony Shoffner cannot be held liable for retained trees that die or fail prior to or following development of the property.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Shoffner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tony" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Shoffner".

Tony Shoffner  
ISA Certified Arborist #PN-0909A  
TRAQ



**From:** [Stuart Niven](#)  
**To:** [David Moehring](#)  
**Cc:** [O'Brien, Mike](#); [PRC](#); [Pacheco, Abel](#); [neighborhoodtreekeepers@gmail.com](#); [seattle-tree-ordinance-working-group@lists.riseup.net](#); [treepac\\_seattle@lists.riseup.net](#); [Carolyn Rodenberg](#); [Lynn Fitz-Hugh](#); [Jessica Dixon-Horton](#); [Anne Siems](#); [Jan Katzenberger](#); [Kaplan, Martin](#); [sabrosio@comcast.net](#); [ediehirik@gmail.com](#); [carriefrankenburg@gmail.com](#); [chuckaross@gmail.com](#); [BetsyL.Ross@gmail.com](#); [sarahconelli@gmail.com](#); [Dihong Shao](#); [sdeforest@foxrothschild.com](#); [lfsnider200@yahoo.com](#); [Kim@kim-mulligan.com](#); [mblums@gmail.com](#); [Jud@writeguru.com](#); [astanko@comcast.net](#); [carldahlman1@comcast.net](#); [brpoxmail@nrlifson.com](#); [patti.loesche@gmail.com](#); [hsplinazze@shoqglobal.net](#); "Barbara Bernard" via Magnolia Tree Keepers - All messages; [Pinto de Bader, Sandra](#); [Durkan, Jenny](#); [LEG\\_CouncilMembers](#); [Ragshaw, Sally](#); [Harrell, Bruce](#); [Gonzalez, Lorena](#); [Herbold, Lisa](#); [Juarez, Debora](#); [Mosqueda, Teresa](#); [Sawant, Kshama](#); [Holmes, Peter](#); [Emery, Chanda](#); [Pederson, Art](#); [SCL\\_Code\\_Compliance](#); [Humphries, Paul](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Oct 1 massive tree removed before DADU application 3 days later  
**Date:** Monday, October 28, 2019 2:47:28 PM

---

**CAUTION: External Email**

I second David's comments and remain shocked at the number of 'exceptional' trees being removed illegally and without punishment, as well as how many trees are permitted for removal without question simply to allow developers to raze properties without having to create tree protection zones, or consider existing trees in their plans.

Trees do not need humans but humans need trees. No trees; humans die. It is that simple.

Since SDCI is managed by complaints, I submitted a complaint about the removal of the exceptional tree which is visible in David's attached photographs, and on Google Maps street view. It was a large native Western red cedar which was a valuable asset to the neighbourhood and it is now gone, forever. Seemingly the inspector who looked at the property could not see the tree. SDCI really needs to improve the way it looks at plans for development so that all sites are checked for trees or evidence of tree removals related to the development so that property owners can be punished for removing trees and encouraged to retain trees as per SMC 25.11 and DR16-2008.

Please hire more arborists that know what trees are and how important they are, so that arborists look at plans involving trees and can work with developers to protect trees rather than having reviewers who know nothing about trees rubber stamp every plan without regard for the trees on a site. The current management of development in Seattle is not sustainable.

Since SDCI is funded by fees for permits; may I suggest attaching a considerable fee for the removal of trees, so much so that developers will want to remove fewer or those who can afford to remove them, are at least paying back into the department so these fees can pay for more arborists and a better system of tree protection?!

Thank you and kind regards,

Stuart Niven, BA(Hons)

*Panor.Arborist*

ISA Certified Arborist PN-7245A & Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)

Arborist on Seattle's Urban Forestry Commission

[www.panorarbor.com](http://www.panorarbor.com)

Tel/Text: 206 501 9659

WA Lic# PANORL\*852P1

On Sun, Oct 20, 2019 at 8:45 AM David Moehring <[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)> wrote:

Yet another example that Seattle residents have been deceived and why a stronger tree ordinance and stronger enforcement are long overdue:

536 N 67TH ST

On Oct 1st 2019, TreePAC reported a massive tree in the process of being removed without a permit or any sign of a development. No reaction from the city except 'not my problem'.

Surprise, what shows up at the Department of Construction and Inspections just 3 days later after the tree chopping on October 4th is an DADU application along with several parking spaces being including within the area where the once massive environmental workhorse stood. In fact, the Department's recent EDMS record now clearly shows the stump of the removed casualty.

Primary Applicant: Akasha Whooley has done many of these projects in the city of Seattle. Is this okay for our City stewards to look the other way? How will this be remedied for urban heat island, carbon sequestration, and natural habitats/ pathways?

This is an embarrassment.

David Moehring  
TreePAC Board member

Per <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/>

Check out the Record 005294-19PA:

Preliminary Assessment Report	136 KB	10/17/19	005294-19PA	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
Site Photos	36 MB	10/11/19	005294-19PA	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
PASV Authorization Letter	18 KB	10/08/19	005294-19PA	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
PASV Authorization Letter	18 KB	10/08/19	005294-19PA	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
PASV Authorization Letter	18 KB	10/08/19	005294-19PA	Building & Land Use Pre-Application
Site Plan	105 KB	10/04/19		

---


From: dmoehring@consultant.com <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
Sent: Sunday, November 29, 2020 11:44 AM  
To: PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>  
Cc: Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; Treepac <Treepac@groups.outlook.com>  
Subject: 2521 29TH AVE S

CAUTION: External Email

Thank you to SDCI , the owner and the architect for a design that retains at least 2 large trees on the parking lot site on 2521 29TH AVE S!

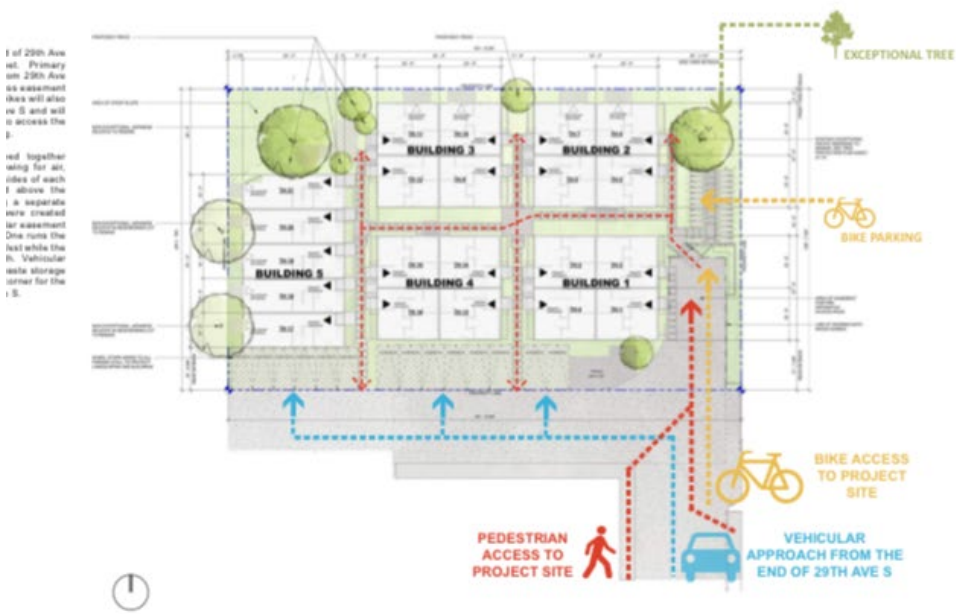
The only thing the arborist report seemed to mid is whether a combination of 8 trees 1-10 qualified as a tree grove. It also appears a cluster including an adjacent lot to the northeast might be considered for a grove.

David Moehring

TreePAC  Board member



JRE MOUNT BAKERSVILLE #3033511-40



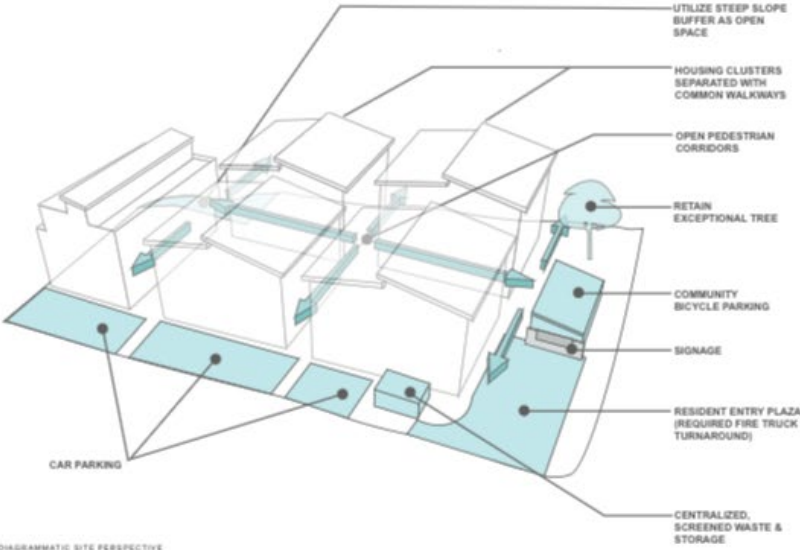
JRE MOUNT BAKERSVILLE #3033511-40

BY DESIGN GUIDANCE PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FIG.

**PUBLIC REALM:**  
 concept which bundles the  
 small clusters, allowing for  
 l, air, and open space on  
 ings. The placement of the  
 ed by the steep slope embank-  
 r and the exceptional tree at  
 of which are to be preserved.  
 e trash and recycle storage  
 vehicular parking are located  
 of use for all units. The site  
 ated is supported (Option  
 3D packet), C51-B, C51-D.

een maintained. Buildings are  
 than pathways, air, light, and  
 with building. The steep slope  
 been undisturbed. We have  
 spaces around these natural  
 residents' experience. Bicycle  
 and trash and recycling storage  
 with east corner of the property  
 services and to all residents.



**ELINES:**  
 1 Ventilation  
 2 Hills  
 3 Cyclists

DIAGRAMMATIC SITE PERSPECTIVE

**John Kenney**

ISA Certified Arborist/ Municipal Specialist # PN-6601AM

ISA Tree Risk Qualified

Certificate in Stream Restoration

Certificate in Project Management

(206) 547-1177

[john.kenney123@gmail.com](mailto:john.kenney123@gmail.com)



[Tree Inventory](#)

To: Dave Biddle  
Blueprint Capital Services, LLC

Job Site: 2521 29th Ave S, Seattle WA  
Date: 12/19/2018 updated 4/9/19

Prepared By: John Kenney, Owner, Steep Slope Tree Consulting  
ISA Certified Arborist/ Municipal Specialist # PN-6601AM

**Contents**

**Summary Assignment & Scope of Report**

**Observations**

**Conclusions**

**Methods**

**Assumptions and Limiting Conditions**

**Summary**

I was asked to produce a tree inventory report before proposed development. No site plan was reviewed. One exceptional tree (tree 10) and no exceptional grove onsite. One exceptional tree on adjacent property with encroaching dripline (tree 12). No trees over 24" in diameter onsite. No known street trees adjacent. The survey was updated and I went back on site to determine if any other trees were on site or adjacent encroaching 4/9/19

**Assignment & Scope of Report**

This report outlines the site inspections by John A. Kenney, of Steep Slope Tree Consulting, LLC.  
Observations

12/19/2018

Steep Slope Tree Consulting, LLC

Tree #	Species	Size Inches	Exceptional	Drip line radius all sides unless noted in feet (For Exceptional trees)	Condition (Poor, fair, good, excellent)	Comments
1	Japanese zelkova <i>Zelkova serrata</i>	18	No Exceptional at 21"		Fair	Adjacent property's tree
2	Japanese zelkova <i>Zelkova serrata</i>	13.2	No Exceptional at 21"		Fair	Adjacent property's tree
3	Japanese zelkova <i>Zelkova serrata</i>	15.3	No Exceptional at 21"		Fair	Surface roots
4	American arborvitae, <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Estimate 8	No Exceptional at 30"		Fair	Adjacent property's tree
5	Japanese zelkova <i>Zelkova serrata</i>	16.8	No Exceptional at 21"		Fair	Some twig dieback
6	Japanese zelkova <i>Zelkova serrata</i>	13.3	No Exceptional at 21"		Fair	
7	doodar cedar, <i>Cedrus deodara</i>	8.8	No Exceptional at 30"		Fair	
8	doodar cedar, <i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Estimate 18	No Exceptional at 30"		Fair	Adjacent property's tree
9	hawthorn, <i>Crataegus spp</i>	Estimate 13	No Exceptional at 16"		Fair	Adjacent property's tree
10	Pacific madrone, <i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	10.1	Yes Exceptional at 6"	11	Fair	At least 20% leaf dieback. Discarded oil from car maintenance near tree. Old tree tag #9170. Ivy at base, remove and mulch.
11	Japanese zelkova <i>Zelkova serrata</i>	3	No Exceptional at 21"		Fair	Inadequate soil volume. Surface roots.
12	atlas cedar, <i>Cedrus atlanticaatlans</i>	32 estimate	Yes Exceptional at 30"	22	Fair	Adjacent tree. Typical branch rip outs.

#### Conclusions

One exceptional tree (tree 10) and no exceptional grove onsite. One exceptional tree on adjacent property with encroaching dripline (tree 12). No trees over 24" in diameter onsite. No known street trees adjacent.



2521 29th Ave S  
12/19/2018  
Steep Slope Tree Consulting, LLC  
John Kenney

4 of 6

Owner, Steep Slope Tree Consulting  
ISA Certified Arborist/ Municipal Specialist # PN-6601AM  
ISA Tree Risk Qualified  
Certificate in Stream Restoration  
Certificate in Project Management

## Methods

### What I did do

I measured each numbered tree with a diameter tape. Tree height is only obtained for tree assessment, not for the tree inventory's. I did however note any observed defects, this includes.

- The main stem or stems is inspected for decay, cavities, cracks, wounds and fruiting bodies.
- The crown of the tree and branches were observed with the eye and if an abnormality was noticed I use binoculars.
- The root collar and area around the roots were observed. I look for damage and fruiting bodies. And if the original grade was recently changed.

Based on these factors a determination of condition is made. Four condition categories are described below, based on species traits.

1. Excellent= free of defects and disease. Excellent structure and form for that species. The right tree for the location. Will be wind firm if isolated.
2. Good=No significant structural defects, no disease concerns. Normal structure and canopy color. Suitable for location. Will be wind firm if isolated.
3. Fair=Minor structural defects, not expected to contribute to failure in the near future, no disease concerns, moderate foliage density, cannot be isolated if in group, mostly suitable for location.
4. Poor= major structural defects expected to fail in the near future, in decline, significant issues. Wrong species for space.

I followed City of Seattle regulations cited below.

### Tree Measurement

Measurement of Tree Diameter Diameter at breast height (dbh), which means the diameter of a tree trunk measured at 4.5 feet above average grade, is used in determining the diameter of existing trees. Where a tree has a branch(es) or swelling that interferes with measurement at 4.5 feet above average grade or where a tree tapers below this point, the diameter is measured at the most narrow point below 4.5 feet. For trees located on a slope, the 4.5 feet is measured from the average of the highest and lowest ground points or, on very steep slopes where this is not possible, the lowest practical point on the uphill side. Where a tree splits into several trunks close to ground level, the dbh for the tree is the square root of the sum of the dbh for each individual stem squared (example with 3 stems:  $dbh = \text{square root } [(stem1)^2 +$

#### Size Threshold

"I documented the diameter and species of each significant tree on site or close border tree. I then referenced The City of Seattle Director's rule 16-2008 and noted if any trees measured are Exceptional. I also followed the directors rule following statement.

"Trees with a diameter at breast height (dbh), defined in this rule, that is equal to or greater than the threshold diameters listed in Table 1 are considered exceptional unless they fail to meet the risk criteria discussed in the following section. For all species not listed in Table 1, the threshold diameter is 30" or 75% of the largest documented diameter for a tree of that species in Seattle, whichever is less, as noted in Trees of Seattle, 2nd edition by Arthur Lee Jacobson. If no tree diameter or circumference is listed in this source, the threshold diameter is 30" or 65% of the largest documented diameter for a tree of that species in Washington, whichever is less, as noted in Champion Trees of Washington State by Robert Van Pelt". (DPD 2)

#### Tree Grove

"A grove means a group of 8 or more trees 12" in diameter or greater that form a continuous canopy. Trees that are part of a grove shall also be considered exceptional unless they fail to meet the risk criteria discussed in the following section. Trees that are less than 12" in diameter that are part of a grove's continuous canopy cannot be removed if their removal may damage the health of the grove. Street trees shall not be included in determining whether a group of trees is a grove".(DPD 2)

#### Risk Assessment

"Trees that meet the size threshold or grove definition discussed above shall be considered exceptional unless DPD finds that the tree or trees should be removed based on a risk assessment produced by a qualified professional. In making this determination, a qualified professional will consider crown size, structure, disease, past maintenance practice, potential damage to existing or future targets, risk mitigation options, and, when development is proposed, the likelihood of survival after construction. Red alders, black cottonwoods, and bitter cherries shall not be considered exceptional trees except as part of a grove".(DPD 3)

I then documented the diameter and species of each significant tree on site or close border tree. Border trees and trees on adjacent property's from the work site were estimated.

**Previous tree measurements and ID from the surveyor were ignored, locations were used.**

I measured the drip lines of all Exceptional trees and most border trees. All tree diameter measurement in inches.

#### **What I did not do**

Shrubs defined in the book Trees and Shrubs by Philip Edinger and published by Sunset Books, were not measured because they are not considered trees.

I did not use GPS or GIS.

I did not trespass.

I did not assess any tree for risk.

#### **Assumptions and Limiting Conditions**

1. A Field examination of the site was made 12/19/2018. My observations and conclusions are as of that date.

2. Any legal description provided to the consultant is assumed to be correct. It is assumed that this property is not in violation of any codes, statutes, ordinances, or other governmental regulations. No responsibility is assumed for legal matters.
3. Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. However, the consultant can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information provided by others.
4. The consultant shall not be required to give testimony or attend court by reason of this report unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made, including additional fees.
5. This report and any values expressed herein represent the opinion of the consultant, and the consultant fee is in no way contingent upon the reporting of a specified value, a stipulated result, the occurrence of a subsequent event, nor upon any finding to be reported.
6. All trees possess the risk of failure. Trees can fail at any time, with or without obvious defects, and with or without applied stress.
7. Drawings and information contained in this report may not be to scale and are intended to be used as points of reference only. The reproduction of information generated by other consultants is for coordination and ease of reference. Inclusion of such information does not constitute a representation by the consulting arborist, as to the sufficiency or accuracy of the information.
8. Unless expressed otherwise, information in this report covers only items that were examined, and reflects the condition of those items at the time of inspection. The inspection is limited to visual examination of accessible items without laboratory analysis, dissection, excavation, probing, or coring, unless otherwise stated.
9. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the plants or property in question may not arise in the future.
10. The consultant's role is only to make recommendations; actions or inaction's on the part of the client are not the responsibility of the consultant.
11. Loss or alteration of any part of this report invalidates the entire report.

---

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

**Sent:** Sunday, November 29, 2020 1:53 PM

**To:** SCI\_Code\_Compliance <SCI\_Code\_Compliance@seattle.gov>; PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Treepac <Treepac@groups.outlook.com>; mattloharris@gmail.com; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; bakerstreetcommunitygroup@gmail.com

**Subject:** 1140 and 1142 NW 59TH ST

**CAUTION: External Email**

That's not the Seattle building code prohibit the removal of exceptional trees without a permit?

If so, it does not appear to be enforced for the address listed in the subject line within Ballard. Notices of Applications - 4 unit lots on parent lot of with 2 of 3 trees removed just before permit application.

Address:1140 NW 59TH ST

Project:3037308-LU

Area: North/Northwest

Notice Date:11/23/2020

Project Description Land Use Application to subdivide one development site into two unit lots. The construction of residential units is under Project #6790325-CN. This subdivision of property is only for the purpose of allowing sale or lease of the unit lots. Development standards will be applied to the original parcel and not to each of the new unit lots. Comments may be submitted through:12/07/2020

with

Application for project 3037309-LU(Click for complete notice information)

Address:1142 NW 59TH STProject:3037309-LUArea: North/NorthwestNotice

Date:11/23/2020Project DescriptionLand Use Application to subdivide one

development site into two unit lots. The construction of residential units is under Project #6790387-CN. This subdivision of property is only for the purpose of allowing sale or lease of the unit lots. Development standards will be applied to the original parcel and not to each of the new unit lots.

The submitted site plan fail to show the existence of the tree that may have been a city of Seattle exceptional tree. By the look at the stump and it's crown from aerial Imaging, it appears of the large removed tree was indeed exceptional and possibly removed as a condition of the sale of the property.



Also note that the criteria for subdivisions require the owner to consider the maximum retention of existing trees.

I guess they won't have to worry about that if they have the trees removed before hand.

Please investigate if this warrants a fee per the directors role.

David Moehring

TreePAC 

[Dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:Dmoehring@consultant.com)





1140 NW 59th St

NW 59th St

☁ 46°  
AQI 56

Marked Location  
2.4 mi



From: Barbara Downward <lavender@mindspring.com>  
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 3:16 PM  
To: Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
Subject: tree legislation

CAUTION: External Email

thank you for the notice about new tree legislation. It is a lengthy document.

As a Seattle homeowner and former Seattle Park volunteer, I am acquainted with City of Seattle bureaucracy. I do not want to be subject to complaint driven regulation. If the City isn't able to adequately enforce a new regulation, I don't want that regulation.

We have 34 trees on our small City lot. Some are larger than 6" dbh. I hope for more carrots than sticks in new rules, like property tax reduction for a percentage of canopy cover over a lot. I think King County has rules like that.

good luck Sandra,

Barbara Downward

---

**From:** Forest Brooks <forest\_74@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 30, 2020 3:23 PM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Seattle's Tree's

CAUTION: External Email

As a twenty plus year resident of Fremont. living in Rich Beyers development he and Margaret built in 1978. He would be sick with the amount of urban canopy being downed for population density and profit. If he where with us he'd want to find a compromise that would retain the livability of the trees and that of our city.

But alas he's dead.

Forest Brooks

Sent from iPony

---

**From:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 30, 2020 11:13 PM  
**To:** SCI\_Code\_Compliance <SCI\_Code\_Compliance@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** seattletreelossgooglegroups.com <seattletreeloss@googlegroups.com>  
**Subject:** Photos of exceptional tree removed on Oct 1 2019 in order to provide 2 of 5 parking spaces for an ADU and DADU  
**Importance:** High

CAUTION: External Email

Supplament to last week's and last year's complaint:  
How was this large tree removed simply to provide parking for two cars off the alley?  
536 N 67th St



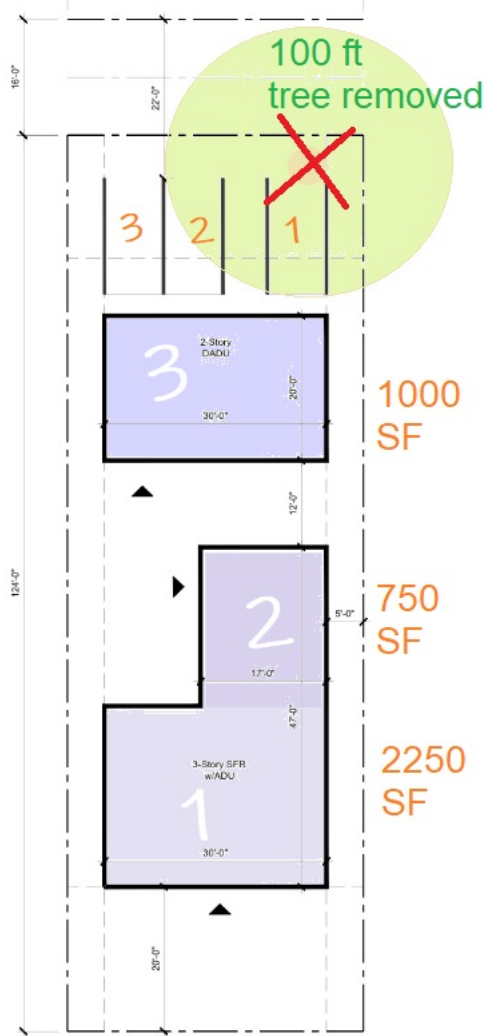








Lot area = 4960; FAR = 0.8



536 N 67TH ST N 67th St SEATTLE

**From:** Stuart Niven <panorabor@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 1, 2020 8:32 AM

**To:** David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>

**Cc:** SCI\_Code\_Compliance <SCI\_Code\_Compliance@seattle.gov>; seattletreelossgooglegroups.com <seattletreeloss@googlegroups.com>; LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Durkan, Jenny <Jenny.Durkan@seattle.gov>; Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>; McGarry, Deborah <Deborah.McGarry@seattle.gov>; Humphries, Paul <Paul.Humphries@seattle.gov>; Emery, Chanda <Chanda.Emery@Seattle.gov>; Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>; DOT\_SeattleTrees <Seattle.Trees@seattle.gov>; PRC <PRC@seattle.gov>; Martha Baskin <mobaskin@earthlink.net>; Josh Morris <Joshm@seattleaudubon.org>; Maria Batayola

<mbjumpstart@msn.com>; Suzanne Grant <suzgrant206@gmail.com>; info@DontClearcutSeattle.org; Treepac <Treepac@groups.outlook.com>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Re: [TREE LOSS] Photos of exceptional tree removed on Oct 1 2019 in order to provide 2 of 5 parking spaces for an ADU and DADU

**CAUTION: External Email**

Thank you David,

Despite seeing this before, it is still incredibly shocking to see such a healthy, large, native Western red cedar being removed for nothing more than a measly parking space, not to mention how neither SDCI or a consulting arborist could find evidence of its existence, despite there being evidence in numerous photographs and on Google Maps.

Looking at the base of the tree, there is absolutely no indication of any internal problems with the tree which would suggest any future decline was imminent, meaning this was a fully functioning and beneficial organism, likely home to a myriad of lifeforms.

What is more disturbing, as SDCI continues to discuss options of the update to the Director's Rule for Exceptional Trees, is the clear L&I infractions being committed by the tree removal crew, which if this had been observed and reported in time, would have resulted in L&I site safety inspectors shutting down the operation. This crew is most likely an 'out of town' operation with potentially the incorrect level of insurance and L&I coverage to be working on trees. It is unlikely they have an ISA Certified Arborist on site or even in the 'company', which are all items which could be put into place by SDCI to ensure trees are only being pruned and removed by registered, licensed and insured companies, which can therefore be held accountable for their illegal actions.

As this situation clearly demonstrates, the healthy, exceptional cedar tree was not permitted for removal in relation to this development and so both the tree removal service and the property owner are in violation of SMC25.11 and DR 2008-16, so should be found in violation of this crime and fined accordingly. Evidence is evidence, whether or not it comes from an SDCI site inspector, who may or may not understand how to look for evidence of the existence of large and 'protected' trees.

Large, healthy trees, including native conifers are being removed on a daily basis, many of them without permits and it is not a surprise why, as tree removal companies know they can come into Seattle and remove a tree in a matter of hours and even if they leave a huge stump as evidence, they are not being found in violation.

I recently read an article (<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2020/nov/30/international-lawyers-draft-plan-to-criminalise-ecosystem-destruction>) about a group of international lawyers who are seeking to start taking companies to international courts for 'ecocide' if and when they destroy the environment for profit and selfish gain, which gives me hope that in time this will expand to taking countries, states, counties and even municipalities to the same courts for wanton destruction of the environment.

Seattle can and must do better. There are only so many of these amazing trees left in the City and how embarrassing it will be when our leaders are the ones having to defend their (in)actions in an international tribunal because the last 'exceptional' tree in Seattle has declined because it finally succumbed to the stresses of climate change which could have been prevented if only one action had been carried out; place an immediate moratorium on all tree removals until a comprehensive and practical tree protection ordinance can be implemented and enforced?

Step One; development must adhere to the same rules as 'regular' property owners. The fact this is not the case is the biggest, single reason we are losing trees by the thousands annually. Profit for the few, to the detriment of all does not make sense and it is not sustainable.

Children understand the need for trees, so why cannot our decision making adults. It truly is embarrassing.

Thank you and kind regards,

Stuart Niven, BA (Hons)

*PanorArborist*

[www.panorarbor.com](http://www.panorarbor.com)

[ISA Certified Arborist PN-7245A & Tree Risk Assessment Qualification \(TRAQ\)](#)

[Arborist on Seattle Audubon Society Conservation Committee](#)

[Arborist on Seattle's Urban Forestry Commission](#)

[Board Member of TreePAC](#)

[WA Lic# PANORL\\*852P1](#) (Click to link to WA L&I's Verify a Contractor Page)

On Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 11:12 PM David Moehring <[dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com)> wrote:  
Supplement to last week's and last year's complaint:  
How was this large tree removed simply to provide parking for two cars off the alley?  
536 N 67th St









--

=====

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?>

---

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "SeattleTreeLoss" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [seattletreeeoss+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:seattletreeeoss+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com).

To view this discussion on the web visit

<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/seattletreeeoss/trinity-57cb2598-ede4-4b05-a280-ef5f31e160b1-1606806770307%403c-app-mailcom-lxa14>

---

**From:** Kathy Capalener <capalener@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 3:07 PM

**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants



and set up easements.

3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Kathy Capalener

[capalener@comcast.net](mailto:capalener@comcast.net)

2207 N 80th St

Seattle, Washington 98103

---

**From:** Peyton Mays <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 10:54 AM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water

runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Peyton Mays

[peytonmays@outlook.com](mailto:peytonmays@outlook.com)

2131 NE 81ST PL.  
Seattle, Washington 98115

---

**From:** Anna Pedroso <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 1:37 PM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Update Seattle's Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Sandra Pinto de Bader,

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Not only are they important for slowing climate change, they also benefit human health and mental well-being. Moreover, it has been proven time and again that tree loss disproportionately affects lower-income neighborhoods. This is known as the "urban canopy gap." According to Jad Daley, president and CEO of American Forests, "A map of tree cover in virtually any city in America is also effectively a map of income and race."

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing all beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation

(SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6” and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.

2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.

3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24” DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.

4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development

5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.

6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.

7. Expand SDOT’s existing tree service provider’s registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.

8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Anna Pedroso

[anna.pedroso02@gmail.com](mailto:anna.pedroso02@gmail.com)

3815 35th Ave. W

Seattle, Washington 98199