



**SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

**Weston Brinkley** (Position #3 – University), Chair • **Sarah Rehder** (Position #4 – Hydrologist), Vice-chair  
**Julia Michalak** (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • **Elby Jones** (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist - ISA)  
**Stuart Niven** (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • **Michael Walton** (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)  
**Joshua Morris** (Position #7 – NGO) • **Blake Voorhees** (Position # 9 – Realtor)  
**Elena Arakaki** (Position #10 – Get Engaged) • **Jessica Hernandez** (Position #11 – Environmental Justice)  
**Jessica Jones** (Position # 12 – Public Health) • **Shari Selch** (Position # 13 – Community/Neighborhood)

*The Urban Forestry Commission was established to advise the Mayor and City Council concerning the establishment of policy and regulations governing the protection, management, and conservation of trees and vegetation in the City of Seattle*

**Meeting notes**

July 7, 2021, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Via Webex call  
(206) 207-1700  
Meeting number: 1466 15 8801  
Meeting password: 1234

*In-person meeting are not being held at this time due to the pandemic. Meeting participation is limited to access by joining the meeting through a computer or telephone conference line.*

**Attending**

Commissioners

Sarah Rehder - Vice-Chair  
Elena Arakaki  
Jessica Hernandez  
Julia Michalak  
David Moehring  
Josh Morris  
Stuart Niven  
Shari Selch  
Blake Voorhees  
Michael Walton  
Jessica Jones  
Elby Jones

Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE  
Terry Galiney – SHA  
Rachelle Montesano – SHA  
Chanda Emery – SDCI  
Brennon Staley – OPCD

Guests

Toby Thaler – CM Pedersen’s Office  
Elijah Selch

Absent- Excused

Weston Brinkley - Chair

Public

Steve Zemke

**NOTE: Meeting notes are not exhaustive. For more details, listen to the digital recording of the meeting at: <http://www.seattle.gov/urbanforestrycommission/meetingdocs.htm>**

**Call to order:** Vice-Chair Sarah Rehder led the meeting in Chair Weston Brinkley’s absence. Sarah called the meeting to order at 3:02 and took roll call.

**Public comment:**

Steve Zemke noted the severe climate impacts we've been continuing to see and reminded the Commission that trees are part of the solution. He noted that there is not a plan for how the city is going to meet the 30% canopy goal. Recommended changing the target year to 2030. Urges the city adopt an in-lieu fee option to fund tree work. Please think outside the box in looking at tree protection structure; the Commission should take the lead on this.

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

Sarah provided a land acknowledgement and noted there was nothing to report from the Chair.

Coordinator Report - Patti Bakker reported two items to cover:

- Regarding the Statement of Legislative Intent item on the agenda - Patti invited Brennon Staley from OPCD to be present for this item, so that he and Patti can be available to discuss and answer any questions Commissioners have.
- Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections and Office of Sustainability and Environment staff (Patti and Chanda) are scheduled to provide a briefing to City Council's Land Use and Neighborhoods Committee next week on July 14.

**Approval of June 9 meeting notes**

**ACTION: A motion to approve the June 9 meeting notes as written and amended was made, seconded, and approved.**

**Yesler Terrace Planned Action Ordinance briefing**

Terry Galiney started with high-level briefing of what SHA is and who they serve. He also provided an overview of the Yesler Terrace Project, including location, history and phases and outcomes of the project. There will be housing, office and retail units. Housing units will include low-income, workforce and market rate housing units. Relocation has been a big part of the project; Terry reported status and successes of this aspect of the project. They developed partnerships with community groups to create programs to focus on people; these programs cover work skills development, job finding, community building working with kids and families to break down barriers. Core Values guiding the project were developed by the Citizen Review Committee. Terry also covered funding sources and the current status of the project phases.

Rachelle Montesano provided details on the history and current status of the Planned Action Ordinance. She provided an overview of the City's planning process, and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that provides guidance for all parts of the process. The PAO is a State planning tool for large phased developments. This one covers a 20-year timeline; the EIS looks at impacts from all phases over the whole timeline. Environmental review covers the maximum possible development capacity.

Creating a mixed-income community was a major goal. Traffic flow was a big piece, so street grid was an important factor to achieve; a significant increase in Right-of-Way was able to be included in this. Public benefits include neighborhood connectivity, parks, pedestrian pathways and p-patches.

Rachelle covered tree preservation as called out in the PAO, including the existing tree cover on the site, the number of exceptional trees and the number of trees in the Tier 1 and 2 categories, and the replacement requirements for the categories. Current tree status: all demolition has been done; 348 trees were removed, 246,850 square feet of canopy was removed, 391,105 square feet of tree canopy planted as replacement. They don't yet have reports on tree health, but haven't had to replace any. They are bringing on an arborist to help ensure growth and maintenance of the trees.

There are several proposed legislative changes to the PAO. These include reclassifying some of the trees between the Tier 1 and Tier 2 categories. The language for the updates has been introduced to City Council's Land Use and Neighborhoods Committee and the project will go back to this Committee on July 28.

Questions from the Commission:

- Regarding environmental justice, on the proposed legislative changes, was the community involved in this process? Per Terry: this specific legislation did not have a public process but there is the benefit in the changes in tree categories; those trees will be on private property.
- Regarding the fact that this will be the highest density neighborhood, and a lot of space goes to pedestrian pathways, how will parking be accommodated? Will less parking be required than other projects? Terry explained the parking requirements and how they will be satisfied. This is a unique project in that there is actually a parking maximum.
- Regarding the p-patch space set aside, the accessibility of them and location relation to housing. The green spaces seem to be chopped up, so there is a high amount overall, but no larger spaces. Terry went back to the map of public benefits to describe process of developing.
- Regarding tree canopy replacement, tree canopy is 3-D, but it's described in the project as square feet. Was tree species considered and is there a timeline for reaching that 3-D volume of tree canopy the project is aiming for? Replacement ratios are determined based on the expected canopy of those tree species.
- Regarding replacement trees and canopy, conifers take more space – is there consideration for using conifers for the replacement trees? Staff will get back to the Commission on this question.
- Does the new ROW include planting strips? Yes
- Regarding mitigation planting offsite, are there any assurances to community that they'll be planted in certain proximity? WSDOT ROW adjacent is next preference; beyond that, areas have not been identified; they will look to find other areas in need of trees.

Terry offered a tour of the project if Commissioners are interested.

### **Commission Debrief on Presentation**

The Commission discussed timing of feedback they can provide on this project, relative to next steps for the proposed legislative changes, in case Council would like to hear the Commission's feedback. Not able to produce a letter today or before July 14, so can't really provide one before the public hearing on July 28.

Jessica Hernandez recommended incorporating community input on the legislative changes since staff indicated that hasn't happened.

Julia would like more clarification on how they defined the Tier category trees, protecting the trees, the criteria, and explanation for rationale for removing trees they did.

David has questions on the legislative changes and whether there was due diligence on tree canopy changes; in the platting and the proposed change in block 7 plat approval, what it's the number of trees retained versus loss. Need arborist report or assessment for what was proposed vs. current.

Sarah pointed out the Commission needs more information - on the platting process, the way they defined the Tier 1 and Tier 2 trees and why there needs to be the redefinition of the trees from 1 to 2. More explanation for slide 23 diagram.

### **Urban Forestry Consolidation Statement of Legislative Intent letter**

The Commission discussed the letter as drafted by Weston. Sarah pointed out that this request to consider restructuring urban forest management in the city is not new; there have been several similar requests previously. Commissioners worked through edits to the letter.

**Action:** A motion to adopt the letter as amended was made, seconded and approved.

**NOTE:** Meeting notes are not exhaustive. For more details, listen to the digital recording of the meeting at: <http://www.seattle.gov/urbanforestrycommission/meetingdocs.htm>

**Public comment:**

Steve Zemke – regarding the SLI and SDCI, there is no Urban Forestry department and no tree staff and it's a broken system. There is no accountability and SDCI has a conflict of interest in regulating trees. Toby Thaler provided some background on the language in the SLI, and expressed appreciation for the Commission's work and the letter approved regarding the SLI.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 PM.

**Meeting Chat:**

from Art Pederson to everyone: 3:06 PM

yes.

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:55 PM

great question! something I was wondering too!

from Jessica Jones to everyone: 3:58 PM

Thank you! I'm thrilled to hear there is an accessible p-patch

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:32 PM

maybe unclean rate of gain or loss

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:33 PM

maybe unclear rate of loss or gain

from Thaler, Toby to everyone: 4:47 PM

Thank you...

from David Moehring to everyone: 4:49 PM

FYI documented tree loss

<https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/Trees/Mangement/Canopy/Seattle2016CCAFinalReportFINAL.pdf> pages 2, 13, 14, 17

from David Moehring to everyone: 5:01 PM

[https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/UrbanForestryCommission/2021/2021docs/YeslerTerracePresentation070721.pdf?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/UrbanForestryCommission/2021/2021docs/YeslerTerracePresentation070721.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) see slide 23

from David Moehring to everyone: 5:04 PM

... relative to bullet 4 on slide 22 of 24. Not comfortable as a commissioner what this bullet means or why the legislative change.

**Public input: (see next page and posted notes):**

**From:** Jon Jaffe <[jonjaffe@msn.com](mailto:jonjaffe@msn.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 3:15 PM

**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <[Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees before it is too late to save our canopy

**CAUTION: External Email**

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Sandra Pinto de Bader,

This letter is written several weeks after a historic cedar was illegally cut down on 32nd by a developer. It's time to end the delay by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on presenting the Seattle City Council with an updated draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance. Over the last 12 years, the City Council has repeatedly asked SDCI for an updated workable and effective ordinance draft to consider and it is obvious SDCI is not responding as requested. In its recent Resolution 31902, the Council gave specific issues for SDCI to address.

If SDCI cannot respond in a timely manner, please remove tree and urban forestry protection from their Department. As the City Auditor proposed in 2009, transfer tree and urban forestry oversight and authority to the Office of Sustainability and the Environment. SDCI has a conflict of interest in tree oversight – their priority mission has been to help developers build, not protect trees. Years of inaction on effective oversight and protection of trees by SDCI demands that a separate entity like OSE take over the city's responsibility to protect and enhance our urban forest.

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.

Jon Jaffe

[jonjaffe@msn.com](mailto:jonjaffe@msn.com)

911 Yakima Ave S

Seattle, Washington 98144

**From:** Rivka Burstein-Stern <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2021 6:40:35 AM

**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <[Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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

Rivka Burstein-Stern

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

4914 47th Ave S

Seattle, Washington 98118

**From:** Ashley Woods <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2021 7:06:57 AM

**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <[Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** Save our Trees!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Sandra Pinto de Bader,

It's time to end the delay by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on presenting the Seattle City Council with an updated draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance. Over the last 12 years, the City Council has repeatedly asked SDCI for an updated workable and effective ordinance draft to consider and it is obvious SDCI is not responding as requested. In its recent Resolution 31902, the Council gave specific issues for SDCI to address.

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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:

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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.

Ashley Woods

[Thirtysevenart@hotmail.com](mailto:Thirtysevenart@hotmail.com)

12002 16th Ave S

Seattle, Washington 98168

**From:** PATRICIA JONES <HORNORJONES@COMCAST.NET>

**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2021 1:03 PM

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

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

**CAUTION: External Email**

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

I just read about developers tearing down a protected red cedar in Leschi. Apparently, the city had placed a stop-work order on the tree, but the developers tore it down anyway in a flagrant, nose-thumbing to the city and the Leschi community. For this, the developers received a fine of \$90,000 -- which is obviously not enough to deter them from doing it again.

Please work to change this situation by updating Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

The key provisions needing an update:

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.
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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
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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.

PATRICIA JONES

[HORNORJONES@COMCAST.NET](mailto:HORNORJONES@COMCAST.NET)

7707 Greenwood Ave N, Apt 205  
SEATTLE, Washington 98103-4653

**From:** Lyria Shaffer-Bauck <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2021 2:05 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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 12 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.

Lyria Shaffer-Bauck

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

1210 15th Avenue E, Unit 226

Seattle, Washington 98112

**From:** Lyria Shaffer-Bauck <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2021 2:06 PM

**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

**CAUTION: External Email**

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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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.

Lyria Shaffer-Bauck

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

1210 15th Avenue E, Unit 226

Seattle, Washington 98112

**From:** Yii-Hao Chen <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>

**Sent:** Sunday, July 4, 2021 5:57 PM

**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

As recent record temperatures have demonstrated, the climate crisis is real. Trees are a buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas.

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 12 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
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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.
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- 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.

Yii-Hao Chen

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

4518B Delridge Way SW

Seattle, Washington 98106

**From:** Caroline Swinehart <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, July 5, 2021 8:54 AM

**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

**CAUTION: External Email**

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

I am a former resident of Seattle and I live in Tacoma, which is directly connected to the environmental conditions in the Seattle area.

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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Caroline Swinehart

[carolineswinehart11@gmail.com](mailto:carolineswinehart11@gmail.com)

320 N Yakima Ave, Apt #1

Tacoma, Washington 98403

**From:** Iskra Johnson <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 6, 2021 9:35 PM

**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>

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

**CAUTION: External Email**

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

It's time to end the delay by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on presenting the Seattle City Council with an updated draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance. Over the last 12 years, the City Council has repeatedly asked SDCI for an updated workable and effective ordinance draft to consider and it is obvious SDCI is not responding as requested. In its recent Resolution 31902, the Council gave specific issues for SDCI to address.

If SDCI cannot respond in a timely manner, please remove tree and urban forestry protection from their Department. As the City Auditor proposed in 2009, transfer tree and urban forestry oversight and authority to the Office of Sustainability and the Environment. SDCI has a conflict of interest in tree oversight – their priority mission has been to help developers build, not protect trees. Years of inaction on effective oversight and protection of trees by SDCI demands that a separate entity like OSE take over the city's responsibility to protect and enhance our urban forest.

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.

Iskra Johnson  
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13730 First Ave NW  
Seattle, Washington 98177

**From:** Nora Kenworthy <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 7, 2021 2:27 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

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Nora Kenworthy  
[nora.kenworthy@gmail.com](mailto:nora.kenworthy@gmail.com)  
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SEATTLE, Washington 98105