



SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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

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

Julia Michalak (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • **Falisha Kurji** (Position #3 – Natural Resource Agency)

Stuart Niven (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • **Hao Liang** (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)

David Moehring (Position # 8 – Development) • **Blake Voorhees** (Position # 9 – Realtor)

Laura Keil (Position #10 – Get Engaged) • **Jessica Hernandez** (Position #11 – Environmental Justice)

Jessica Jones (Position # 12 – Public Health) • **Lia Hall** (Position #13 – Community/Neighborhood)

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

Meeting notes

December 21, 2022, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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

(206) 207-1700

Meeting number: 2485 755 9599

Meeting password: 1234

Attending

Commissioners

Josh Morris – Co-Chair

Becca Neumann – Co-Chair

Julia Michalak

Stuart Niven

Hao Liang

Laura Keil

Lia Hall

Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE

Guests

Absent- Excused

Joe Sisneros

Falisha Kurji

David Moehring

Blake Voorhees

Jessica Hernandez

Jessica Jones

Public

Sandy Shettler

Steve Zemke

Barbara Bernard

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

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

Public comment:

Sandy Shettler noted that one thing is missing in the tree ordinance is tree inventories for development projects. These would streamline SDCI's permit process and save trees since everyone involved would be aware of all tree issues and opportunities from the start of the process. These are required in other cities; urge the UFC to recommend this in the ordinance.

Barbara Bernard thanked the Commissioners for their work and providing the strong voice for trees. They encourage Commissioners to also serve as strong individual voices by contacting elected officials, posting on social media, etc.

Steve Zemke commented on two areas: 1) last week the special meeting of the Land Use Committee was held to consider possible amendments to the Tree Service Provider Registration legislation. He provided information on this that will be shared with Commissioners. Councilmember Strauss wants to consult with UFC on the potential amendments, including changing the three-day noticing and what is defined as tree work. Their next meeting in January is after the first UFC meeting, so the UFC can consider input then. Another possibility is online reporting. CM Strauss did say that fines will go into Tree Planting and Replacement and not in the city budget; 2) regarding the ordinance, he seconds Barbara's note that Commissioners can provide input as individuals as well. The one-to-one tree replacement is inadequate; urge higher replacement requirements and higher in-lieu payment amounts. Residents' removal amount should also be reduced, and Downtown and Industrial zones should be included in the ordinance.

Chair, Committees, and Coordinator report:

Patti noted that there has been another large influx of emails around tree concerns lately, with more than 300 emails coming in the last month and a half. These include continued encouragement for passing an updated ordinance, continued concern for the Meadowbrook trees, and new concern for one of the Maple Leaf Mother Groves. There is a residential block in the Maple Leaf area that contains several groves of trees. One of those groves is on a parcel with a proposed development project.

Patti also reported that Julia has indicated that she will need to step down from her position after all, given the demands of her new position. Patti will include recruitment for position 1 with the recruitment efforts for Position 2, which will start in January.

The subgroup working on development of a one-pager, informational document for the UFC to use in community engagement efforts reported on their efforts to date on this work. Hao walked through the content and layout of the current draft of the document and reviewed the subgroup's efforts in developing it. The group noted that there has already been an invitation for some UFC members to join a community group meeting. The Rainier Beach Community Club has invited the UFC to its February meeting. Lia will share the details on that meeting.

Josh provided an update on the status of David Moehring's position. He provided a recap on the process to reappoint David to a second term in Position 8. That reappointment process began in May but was delayed due initially to public comment made in the Land Use Committee meeting. There has not been updates on this process since then, until David received news last week that the Mayor had decided not to move forward with his reappointment. Since there was not information shared with the UFC, the coordinator or David, there are remaining questions on this process, and it will likely be brought back to the Commission for a full discussion at a later meeting.

Trees for Seattle program updates

Ali Lakehart provided an overview of the Trees for Seattle team and how they fit in with the citywide urban forestry structure. The team sits within SPU but is funded by various sources. They do a wide variety of work, including their top 5 areas:

- Grow Seattle's canopy in residential areas to increase the many benefits trees provide.
- Support residents in Tree Care skills; increasing the health of Seattle's forest.

- Engage Seattleites in stewardship of Seattle’s forest.
- Communicate important Urban Forestry messages to residents.
- Support Urban Forestry efforts across departments and with program partners.

They talk to folks a lot about trees in parks, and a lot of great forest areas are in parks. But 70% of our canopy is located on residential lands, so their programmatic efforts are focused on working with residents and considering how management and care and stewardship happens in residential properties.

The Trees for Neighborhoods program works to plant 1,000 trees each year, including 300 powerline approved trees. They provide the trees, watering bags, and mulch. Arborist Lou Stubecki works with the UW Botanical Gardens group on all of the logistics. They’ve been focusing on where people live, but places of worship and schools can also apply, as well as businesses and apartments.

Another major focus is tree care education. This includes the “right tree, right place” messaging and they include not just where a tree should go, but making sure it’s a place it can grow for 100+ years. They teach people how to plant, and to prune when it’s time for that. They present to partner organizations, getting the word out on what they can offer and why the urban forest is important. They table, do “Ask an Arborist”, answer questions like why it’s important to remove ivy from trees. They provide the “Ask an Expert” service online.

They also provide interdepartmental messaging and support. They manage the Trees for Seattle website, monthly newsletter, social media, and the Tree Walk app where 50 tree walks are supported and updated. They answer about 700 public inquiries annually, focused mostly on tree care, but also other concerns they connect to other staff. They respond to media requests and support people’s interest in and concern for their trees and community trees.

The Tree Ambassadors program has been dormant and will evolve into something else yet to be determined. The goal is to support volunteer stewardship and there is a need to determine exactly what that should look like. We know that tree canopy isn’t equitably distributed, and it is also not equitably healthy. So the team conducted a Racial Equity Toolkit for their volunteer programming. Insights from this process include:

- There are barriers around tree canopy:
 - o Having trees on properties requires investment.
 - o The obligation to care for trees in the right of way, including undeveloped right of way.
- Prioritize school-based canopy equity and cooling.
- There is a desire for job pathways; these paid opportunities can reduce some of those barriers.
- There is a desire for community participation in Trees for Seattle at all scales not just volunteer stewardship.

Resulting actions that have been agreed upon include:

- Support trees on priority neighborhoods
- Support SPU asset lands and SDOT ROW in these neighborhoods
- Support Seattle Public Schools to grow trees
- Engage people in a variety of ways

They have identified four goals along a spectrum, moving people from community aware and education, through outreach and engagement and eventually to community ownership.

Current actions the team works on include actions around external communication, tree care and volunteer stewardship. They are also working to support Seattle Public Schools to grow trees on school grounds, and expanding Trees for Neighborhoods program actions. Ali also shared some ideas for future Trees for Seattle work, including:

- Guarantee trees for High Heat/Low Canopy Neighborhoods
- Provide additional support in high heat neighborhoods to all participants

- Site visits, planting demonstrations
- Watering support and maintenance
- Neighborhood Steward Program

Questions posed by Commissioners included:

- Could the UFC get information on the Trees for Seattle budget so they could keep track of it during the budget process?
- When working in high heat areas, do they consider soil quality?
- What are the community responses when working on tree equity and educating communities?
- Can the team include education regarding need for and how to remove ivy?
- What is the survival rate of trees planted in high-heat areas?
- Are there any conifer trees that are approved for under powerlines?
- What are the most common pests they are hearing about?

Presentation debrief

Follow-ups to include in a response letter include the request for budget information. Josh will draft a follow up letter.

Follow-up letters

- **Trees for Seattle Parks program presentation**
Becca walked through the draft letter she prepared for this. Commissioners discussed the letter and made additional edits.

Action: a motion to adopt the Trees for Seattle Parks program response letter as amended was made, seconded and approved.

- **Urban forest protection ordinance update discussion**
Josh walked through the draft letter he prepared for this. Commissioners discussed the letter and made edits to it to clarify and expand the recommendations included. There is a need to continue discussing the recommendations and content of the letter, so it will be picked up again at the next meeting.

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

Public comment:

Steve noted that it is helpful if draft letters to be discussed at meetings can be posted ahead of time. Also, he heard from Councilmember Strauss that they expect to get the ordinance in the next couple of months. Passing ordinances is a two-step process; first there is introduction of the draft ordinance for discussion, and then it gets voted on at the second meeting. Commissioners can attend the Land Use Committee meetings and either make a statement as a spokesperson for the UFC or as individual Commissioners giving comments. It's important that people provide their input on this as we get to the end of this 13-year process.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 PM.

Meeting Chat:

from Julia Michalak She/Her to everyone: 3:17 PM

Yes - sorry to be late!

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 3:18 PM

Thank you so much for all your work, Julia! I enjoyed working with you! We'll miss you!

from Lia Hall to everyone: 3:19 PM

Thank you Julia!

from Laura Keil she/her to everyone: 3:19 PM

Thank you Julia, you've been a really valuable asset to the UFC!

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 3:21 PM

I have a brief report as well. OK if I jump in after Hao?

from Julia Michalak She/Her to everyone: 3:21 PM

Thank you everyone! I will miss you all as well, such a great group of people to work with. So very inspiring.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:25 PM

what time at RBCC?

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:26 PM

Will it be the same time, 3 pm?

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:29 PM

Thank you Josh for updating everyone and hopefully coordinating a response.

from Barbara to everyone: 3:31 PM

It seems so unusual that a single caller with allegations could have such an impact.

Thank you for looking into this further.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:44 PM

Could Trees for Seattle consider putting together some easily accessible info on why/how to remove ivy?

Could be online and also in one of the pamphlets you're already publishing. More public education needed on this--people are unaware of best way to handle.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:52 PM

past efforts to have Seattle Public Schools come to UFC for discussion has not happened.. Any help here would be great.

from Dinushi Samarasekara to everyone: 3:57 PM

Working on tree equity and educating or empowering communities are admirable! What are the community's responses? How do you use their responses to accelerate the expanding tree canopy in such vulnerable areas? responses? How do you use their responses to accelerate expanding tree canopy

from Dinushi Samarasekara to everyone: 3:58 PM

Working on tree equity and educating or empowering communities are admirable! What are the community's responses? How do you use their responses to accelerate the expanding tree canopy in such vulnerable areas?

from Barbara to everyone: 4:01 PM

Thank you Ali, for working with the schools!

from Dinushi Samarasekara to everyone: 4:05 PM

Involving schoolchildren in tree planting and maintenance is a good way to educate them!

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:05 PM

Great presentation and work Ali! Thanks.

from Chris Gaul to everyone: 4:05 PM

Thanks, Ali, for a great presentation. Your enthusiasm is going to increase our urban canopy!

from Dinushi Samarasekara to everyone: 4:06 PM

great presentation, Thank you, Ali!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:08 PM

Thank you Hao for emphasizing the need to integrate preservation of existing trees with planting new ones!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:12 PM

I would love some of those pamphlets! I know many volunteers who could distribute. The Seattle Ivy League is active and out cutting!

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:13 PM

One way is to require developers to remove all ivy and invasive plants when they are developing a property.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:15 PM

can you put the photo back up?

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:16 PM

Oh yes I've seen those! Greg Spotts said he's collecting sidewalk strategies from all over the US

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:17 PM

Street is north of 135th to 145th NE and east of Lake City Way

from Hao Liang to everyone: 4:17 PM

Thank you Sandy and Steve!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:20 PM

Arbutus unedo - not the compact one.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:31 PM

Sidewalk is on NE 30th in Lake City running from above 130th NE to 145th NE

from Barbara to everyone: 4:37 PM

Thanks everyone, have to sign off.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:40 PM

Would be good that actual text under consideration be presented to UFC so that can discuss specific language, not just concepts like in lieu fees without actual language being considered

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:43 PM

also have in-lieu fees increase with size of trees removed

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:43 PM

Glad for the reduction in tree removal limits. I read through the listening sessions and it was barely mentioned and far outweighed by concern over tree loss.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:44 PM

Yes, Tree Inventories!

from Martha Baskin to everyone: 4:44 PM

Given that the loss of trees is most critical on residential lots undergoing development why is there no mention of this? Or am I missing it?

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:45 PM

urge tree inventory and landscape plans be done prior to granting building permits

from Martha Baskin to everyone: 4:46 PM

For sure Steve. Site inspections must include trees otherwise the city's commitment to climate mitigation and heat islands is mute.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:46 PM

Tree Inventories will result in much less need for active enforcement. Right now the SDCI arborists and some of the planners are chasing down info and checking Google street views.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:46 PM

require maximizing retention of existing trees on lot throughout development process not just on platting and shortplatting process

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:47 PM

Tree Inventories will level the playing field. And they don't cost very much relative to other development costs.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:48 PM

is separate bill currently

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:53 PM

Can draft letters be posted on agenda prior to meeting so public can think about possible comments.? This has been done in the past.

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 4:54 PM

Thanks, Steve, part of the issue is time and capacity. I'll try to do a better job on that in 2023 :)

from Dinushi Samarasekara to everyone: 4:57 PM

Thank you everyone for your hard work!

from Stuart Niven to everyone: 4:57 PM

Happy holidays to everyone!

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

From: Bonnie Bledsoe <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 6:14 PM

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

Subject: Save Meadowbrook's Iconic True-Love Trees

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

Please...save the Meadowbrook True-Love trees, an exceptional cedar-fir pair in Meadowbrook, and the grove nearby. We love the Tru-Love trees...their unusual relationship a positive reminder to us all. These trees and grove nearby enhance the north fork of Thornton Creek to form a vital little forest.

While a developer want to cut the trees down, (SDCI's portal under 004386-22PA) a respected architect has made up plans which include the trees...which homeowners, children, birds and the environment like much better!

These huge native conifers are our last link to the vast, ancient coastal forest which covered this land before settlement. Now, we benefit from the seedlings of that time, which have grown and reached the size and grandeur of their ancestors. They cool us in our increasingly hot summers, provide habitat for native birds and wildlife, filter pollutants from the air and stormwater, and provide amazing public health benefits.

With thoughtful planning, Seattle can preserve its forest and build new homes. Please use your authority to ask the developer to include these trees on the development plan, instead of cutting them down.

Bonnie Bledsoe
bonnielynnseattle@gmail.com
11010 28th Ave NE
Seattle, Washington 98125

From: Kristen Faiferlick <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 7:58 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Protect the Maple Leaf Mother Groves!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

I am a Maple Leaf resident and deeply value the trees in our area for their shade, wildlife habitat, appearance, and more. I am distressed to hear that there is a risk that several mature trees will be needlessly cut down. Specifically, one of the Maple Leaf "Mother Groves," at 1211 NE 104th St, is at risk due to arborist report errors, poor site design, and lack of protection during construction. With thoughtful planning, the developer of this property can achieve maximum density while retaining these groves, a win-win for people and nature.

Because trees are dependant and connected on each other down on both a macro and microscopical level, removing or damaging even several trees that comprise a "Mother Grove" at this area could impact and damage other trees. Given the stress of climate change and the important cooling factor trees have on our neighborhood, it's deeply important that we do all we can to preserve *every* tree.

To preserve this amazing community resource, please ensure the following:

1. Require a new arborist report. The arborist report submitted by the developer lists only 13 trees, yet 20 trees grow on this site. The report also omits an entire grove of 13 western red cedars, which are shared with adjacent properties.

2. Request that the Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit (DADU) be built on the generous amount of land available near the proposed new home, rather than where it is currently planned in the cedar grove. Both tree groves are conveniently located on the periphery and small panhandle of the site, leaving a large buildable expanse!

3. Protect the groves during construction with rigid fencing. Currently only vinyl netting is required, which provides little protection for trees and is often moved. Construction damage to roots could send these verdant groves into a cycle of decline. If trees at the edge of the grove die, others within the grove often follow.

Climate change has brought Seattle hotter, dryer summers and stronger winter storms. The Maple Leaf Mother Groves provide the community with resilient reservoirs of cooling nature, benefitting both the community and our larger ecosystem. Please ensure they are protected and continue to thrive for the health and safety of future generations.

Kristen Faiferlick
kfaiferlick@gmail.com
1013 NE 80th St
Seattle, Washington 98115

From: Brooke Krolick <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 10:34 PM

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

Subject: Protect the Maple Leaf Mother Groves!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

One of the Maple Leaf Mother Groves, at 1211 NE 104th St, is at risk due to arborist report errors, poor site design, and lack of protection during construction. With thoughtful planning, the developer of this property can achieve maximum density while retaining these groves, a win-win for people and nature.

The Maple Leaf Mother Groves are 22 "super-groves" which span entire city blocks in the Maple Leaf neighborhood. The City defines "groves" as eight or more large (12 inch dbh or larger) trees whose canopies touch. In contrast, Mother Groves span most of the properties on their blocks, and function as intact native PNW ecosystems. Because trees in groves cool each other and share defense from disease through their root network, we can count on them to be the most resilient part of our entire urban forest! They are also reservoirs of biodiversity for iconic native species which rely on forests to survive, rather than single trees along streets or in front yards.

The two groves at 1211 NE 104th St form an important part of a Mother Grove. Their removal or damage could launch a cycle of decline leading to the loss of the entire block's grove. To preserve this amazing community resource, please ensure the following:

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Brooke Krolick
brooke.krolick@gmail.com
9233 17th Ave NE
Seattle, Washington 98115

From: Lydia Baumgardner <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 12:02 AM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Protect the Maple Leaf Mother Groves!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

One of the Maple Leaf Mother Groves, at 1211 NE 104th St, is at risk due to arborist report errors, poor site design, and lack of protection during construction. With thoughtful planning, the developer of this property can achieve maximum density while retaining these groves, a win-win for people and nature.

The Maple Leaf Mother Groves are 22 "super-groves" which span entire city blocks in the Maple Leaf neighborhood. The City defines "groves" as eight or more large (12 inch dbh or larger) trees whose canopies touch. In contrast, Mother Groves span most of the properties on their blocks, and function as intact native PNW ecosystems. Because trees in groves cool each other and share defense from disease through their root network, we can count on them to be the most resilient part of our entire urban forest!

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Lydia Baumgardner
lbaumgardner@gmail.com
1119 21st Ave S, Unit #E
Seattle, Washington 98144

From: Russell Rhodes <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 5:57 AM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Protect the Maple Leaf Mother Groves!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

One of the Maple Leaf Mother Groves, at 1211 NE 104th St, is at risk due to arborist report errors, poor site design, and lack of protection during construction. With thoughtful planning, the developer of this property can achieve maximum density while retaining these groves, a win-win for people and nature.

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Russell Rhodes
russell.rhodes@gmail.com
9116 170th Ave NE
Redmond , Washington 98052

From: Anna Frazer <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 8:15 AM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Keep Seattle Livable!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

The iconic PNW trees are part of what makes my neighborhood in Seattle so special, and it should be the case across the city. Please act to update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance. It's been 13 years since the Seattle City Council first urged the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) to update the ordinance. We appreciate the recent enactment by the Seattle City Council and Mayor to

adopt registration of Tree Service Providers in the city as a first step. We also appreciate action finally by SDCI to release a more complete draft of an updated Tree Protection Ordinance.

We believe that Seattle needs to protect its existing trees while planting more trees in underserved areas with low tree canopy to address adverse climate impacts while also increasing affordable housing. It is not a question of one or the other. We need to do both.

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city and people livable and healthy. 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. A robust urban forest is critical for climate resilience and environmental equity.

Seattle's rapid growth and increased density combined with an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed without serious consideration of ways to incorporate more of them in the development. Unless exceptional there is no real effort to save them. And what replacement requirements were in the ordinance since 2001 appears to have seldom been enforced. It is urgent to act now to reduce this continued loss of existing trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity by retaining as many trees as possible and replacing those removed for climate resiliency.

We support the following provisions in SDCI's draft ordinance.

1. Lowering the upper limit for exceptional trees to 24" Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) from 30" DBH.
2. Continuing protection for exceptional trees less than 24" DBH and tree groves and heritage trees
3. Defining any tree 6" DBH and larger that is not exceptional as a significant tree
4. Continuing prohibition on removal of trees 6" DBH and larger on undeveloped lots.
5. Requiring replacement of 12" DBH and larger trees removed by developers
6. Creating an in-lieu fee for developers to replace trees 12" DBH and larger that cannot be replaced on the development site.
7. Requiring in lieu fees be used to replace and maintain newly planted trees
8. Limiting removal of significant trees outside development to those less than 12" DBH
9. Protected trees and replaced trees are covered by a covenant for life of project

Here are key provisions that need to be added to the draft ordinance

1. Expand the existing Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program using the Accela database system to include SDCI to cover all significant trees 6" DBH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require SDCI submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree removal and replacement as required by other City Departments
3. Require 2-week public notice posting, as SDOT does on-site, and add online, of any 6" DBH and

- larger tree removal and replacement permit requests and keep posted on a lot for 1 week after removal
4. Require that tree replacement numbers increase with the size of the removed tree such that in 25 years or less they will reach equivalent canopy volume lost – either on site or pay a replacement fee that also increases with the size of the tree removed
 5. All replacement in lieu fees and fines should go into a dedicated Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund (not SDCI budget or city general fund), that yearly reports on their budget to the City Council and Mayor.
 6. Allow the Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants, purchase land, set up covenants and for educational purposes.
 7. Require 5-year maintenance of replanted trees
 8. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-exceptional trees in 3 years per lot outside development
 9. Require developers throughout the total development process to maximize the retention of existing trees with adequate space for trees to grow and survive.
 10. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6" DBH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan prior to any building permits being approved.
 11. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Industrial, Downtown and Institutions
 12. Keep requirement that all 6" DBH and larger trees be on site plans
 13. Require tree replacement or in lieu fees by developers for trees removed 1 year prior to property purchase
 14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity
 15. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance
 16. All trees relaced are protected trees and not subject to removal
 17. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, from development sites

Anna Frazer
abfrazer@yahoo.com
1536 NE 92nd St.
Seattle, Washington 98115

From: Anna Frazer <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 8:19 AM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Save Meadowbrook's Iconic True-Love Trees

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

I am writing to ask you to support preservation of the Meadowbrook True-Love trees, an exceptional cedar-fir pair in Meadowbrook, and their nearby grove. Because of the True-Love trees' remarkable union and visibility on a busy street, they are well-known and beloved by the community, with over 500 signatures on a recent petition to save them. Together with the adjacent grove, they shelter the north fork of Thornton Creek's and form a vibrant urban forest. This is especially important to me as a resident of

NE Seattle, who lives just a few blocks from the Thornton Creek greenway. I greatly appreciate the work that has been done in recent years to restore this waterway and hope that it can continue.

Development plans have been filed for this project on SDCI's portal under 004386-22PA. The plans call for the removal of the trees to achieve maximum development potential. Yet, a respected local architect has drawn plans which would include the trees in the development, a win-win for the homes' future residents, the community, and the environment!

These huge native conifers are our last link to the vast, ancient coastal forest which covered this land before settlement. Now, we benefit from the seedlings of that time, which have grown and reached the size and grandeur of their ancestors. They cool us in our increasingly hot summers, provide habitat for native birds and wildlife, filter pollutants from the air and stormwater, and provide amazing public health benefits.

With thoughtful planning, Seattle can preserve its forest and build new homes. Please use your authority to ask the developer to include these trees on the development plan, instead of cutting them down.

Anna Frazer
abfrazer@yahoo.com
1536 NE 92nd St.
Seattle, Washington 98115

From: heidi calyxsite.com <heidi@calyxsite.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 9:28 AM
To: LEG_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>
Cc: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; Pedersen, Alex <Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Heidi Siegelbaum (heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu) <heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu>
Subject: You should NOT drop notice requirements in Tree provider legislation

<https://seattle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11505252&GUID=52E48322-375C-43ED-9D06-F10B7DB99763>

1. What is "normal?" This is not an appropriate prescription for legislation. You must refer to standard best management practices for arborists
2. You must keep the posting requirements because otherwise neighbors will not understand what is happening in their neighborhood. Because SDCI does not enforce its own laws and it's impossible to reach any one, we are left with caring neighbors only to enforce our laws. That's what led to this situation. The City is obviously responding to lobbying from developers on this one. It must stay in.

You know for all the space and time you spend on platitudes about health, racial equity and justice, you manage to pass laws that have the opposite effect. Let's call the Supreme Court syndrome. I recently attended a behavioral science conference and the top takeaway was a significant mistrust in government. This makes doing any public policy work impossible. Excisions like this make the public not trust the city and that is something you should be very concerned about.

Sincerely,

Heidi Siegelbaum

Heidi Siegelbaum

Heidi@calyxsite.com

(206) 784-4265

[Heidi on LinkedIn](#)

From: Ellen Peterson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

Sent: Sunday, December 11, 2022 2:15 PM

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

Subject: Protect the Maple Leaf Mother Groves!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

One of the Maple Leaf Mother Groves, at 1211 NE 104th St, is at risk due to arborist report errors, poor site design, and lack of protection during construction. With thoughtful planning, the developer of this property can achieve maximum density while retaining these groves, a win-win for people and nature.

The Maple Leaf Mother Groves are 22 "super-groves" which span entire city blocks in the Maple Leaf neighborhood. The City defines "groves" as eight or more large (12 inch dbh or larger) trees whose canopies touch. In contrast, Mother Groves span most of the properties on their blocks, and function as intact native PNW ecosystems. Because trees in groves cool each other and share defense from disease through their root network, we can count on them to be the most resilient part of our entire urban forest! They are also reservoirs of biodiversity for iconic native species which rely on forests to survive, rather than single trees along streets or in front yards.

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2. Request that the Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit (DADU) be built on the generous amount of land available near the proposed new home, rather than where it is currently planned in the cedar grove. Both tree groves are conveniently located on the periphery and small panhandle of the site, leaving a large buildable expanse!
3. Protect the groves during construction with rigid fencing. Currently only vinyl netting is required, which provides little protection for trees and is often moved. Construction damage to roots could send these

verdant groves into a cycle of decline. If trees at the edge of the grove die, others within the grove often follow.

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Ellen Peterson
ellenandkim@protonmail.com
4201 NE 105th St
Seattle, Washington 98125

From: Whitney Neufeld-Kaiser <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, December 11, 2022 5:34 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Protect the Maple Leaf Mother Groves!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

One of the Maple Leaf Mother Groves, at 1211 NE 104th St, is at risk due to arborist report errors, poor site design, and lack of protection during construction. With thoughtful planning, the developer of this property can achieve maximum density while retaining these groves, a win-win for people and nature.

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Whitney Neufeld-Kaiser
whitney.n.k@gmail.com
6540 31st Ave NE
Seattle, Washington 98115

From: Noemie Maxwell Vassilakis <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Sunday, December 11, 2022 8:16 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Keep Seattle Livable!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

Please act to update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance. It's been 13 years since the Seattle City Council first urged the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) to update the ordinance. We appreciate the recent enactment by the Seattle City Council and Mayor to adopt registration of Tree Service Providers in the city as a first step. We also appreciate action finally by SDCI to release a more complete draft of an updated Tree Protection Ordinance.

We believe that Seattle needs to protect its existing trees while planting more trees in underserved areas with low tree canopy to address adverse climate impacts while also increasing affordable housing. It is not a question of one or the other. We need to do both.

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city and people livable and healthy. 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. A robust urban forest is critical for climate resilience and environmental equity.

Seattle's rapid growth and increased density combined with an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed without serious consideration of ways to incorporate more of them in the development. Unless exceptional there is no real effort to save them. And what replacement requirements were in the ordinance since 2001 appears to have seldom been enforced. It is urgent to act now to reduce this continued loss of existing trees, particularly large mature trees and tree

groves. It is important to promote environmental equity by retaining as many trees as possible and replacing those removed for climate resiliency.

We support the following provisions in SDCI's draft ordinance.

1. Lowering the upper limit for exceptional trees to 24" Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) from 30" DBH.
2. Continuing protection for exceptional trees less than 24" DBH and tree groves and heritage trees
3. Defining any tree 6" DBH and larger that is not exceptional as a significant tree
4. Continuing prohibition on removal of trees 6" DBH and larger on undeveloped lots.
5. Requiring replacement of 12" DBH and larger trees removed by developers
6. Creating an in-lieu fee for developers to replace trees 12" DBH and larger that cannot be replaced on the development site.
7. Requiring in lieu fees be used to replace and maintain newly planted trees
8. Limiting removal of significant trees outside development to those less than 12" DBH
9. Protected trees and replaced trees are covered by a covenant for life of project

Here are key provisions that need to be added to the draft ordinance

1. Expand the existing Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program using the Accela database system to include SDCI to cover all significant trees 6" DBH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require SDCI submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree removal and replacement as required by other City Departments
3. Require 2-week public notice posting, as SDOT does on-site, and add online, of any 6" DBH and larger tree removal and replacement permit requests and keep posted on a lot for 1 week after removal
4. Require that tree replacement numbers increase with the size of the removed tree such that in 25 years or less they will reach equivalent canopy volume lost – either on site or pay a replacement fee that also increases with the size of the tree removed
5. All replacement in lieu fees and fines should go into a dedicated Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund (not SDCI budget or city general fund), that yearly reports on their budget to the City Council and Mayor.
6. Allow the Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants, purchase land, set up covenants and for educational purposes.
7. Require 5-year maintenance of replanted trees
8. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-exceptional trees in 3 years per lot outside development
9. Require developers throughout the total development process to maximize the retention of existing trees with adequate space for trees to grow and survive.
10. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6" DBH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan prior to any building permits being approved.
11. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Industrial, Downtown and Institutions

12. Keep requirement that all 6" DBH and larger trees be on site plans
13. Require tree replacement or in lieu fees by developers for trees removed 1 year prior to property purchase
14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity
15. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance
16. All trees related are protected trees and not subject to removal
17. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, from development sites

Noemie Maxwell Vassilakis
noemie_maxwell@yahoo.com
12239 Des Moines Memorial Dr., South
Burien, Washington 98168

From: Shawn Morales <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 3:46 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Protect the Maple Leaf Mother Groves!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

One of the Maple Leaf Mother Groves, at 1211 NE 104th St, is at risk due to arborist report errors, poor site design, and lack of protection during construction. With thoughtful planning, the developer of this property can achieve maximum density while retaining these groves, a win-win for people and nature.

The Maple Leaf Mother Groves are 22 "super-groves" which span entire city blocks in the Maple Leaf neighborhood. The City defines "groves" as eight or more large (12 inch dbh or larger) trees whose canopies touch. In contrast, Mother Groves span most of the properties on their blocks, and function as intact native PNW ecosystems. Because trees in groves cool each other and share defense from disease through their root network, we can count on them to be the most resilient part of our entire urban forest! They are also reservoirs of biodiversity for iconic native species which rely on forests to survive, rather than single trees along streets or in front yards.

The two groves at 1211 NE 104th St form an important part of a Mother Grove. Their removal or damage could launch a cycle of decline leading to the loss of the entire block's grove. To preserve this amazing community resource, please ensure the following:

1. Require a new arborist report. The arborist report submitted by the developer lists only 13 trees, yet 20 trees grow on this site. The report also omits an entire grove of 13 western red cedars, which are shared with adjacent properties.
2. Request that the Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit (DADU) be built on the generous amount of land available near the proposed new home, rather than where it is currently planned in the cedar grove. Both tree groves are conveniently located on the periphery and small panhandle of the site, leaving a large buildable expanse!

3. Protect the groves during construction with rigid fencing. Currently only vinyl netting is required, which provides little protection for trees and is often moved. Construction damage to roots could send these verdant groves into a cycle of decline. If trees at the edge of the grove die, others within the grove often follow.

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Shawn Morales
lakethree@hotmail.com
2636 22nd AVE W #301
Seattle, Washington 98199

From: linneaescott@gmail.com <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2022 5:46 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Protect the Maple Leaf Mother Groves!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

One of the Maple Leaf Mother Groves, at 1211 NE 104th St, is at risk due to arborist report errors, poor site design, and lack of protection during construction. With thoughtful planning, the developer of this property can achieve maximum density while retaining these groves, a win-win for people and nature.

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linneaescott@gmail.com

417 NW 127th St
Seattle, Washington 98177

From: Sandy Shettler <sshettler@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 6:50 AM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Protect the Maple Leaf Mother Groves!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

One of the Maple Leaf Mother Groves, at 1211 NE 104th St, is at risk due to arborist report errors, poor site design, and lack of protection during construction. With thoughtful planning, the developer of this property can achieve maximum density while retaining these groves, a win-win for people and nature.

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Sandy Shettler
sshettler@msn.com
7419 Woodlawn Ave NE
Seattle, Washington 98115

From: Fred Bidelspach <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 9:41 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Protect the Maple Leaf Mother Groves!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

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Fred Bidelspach
ab9114@yahoo.com
8918 15th Ave NE
Seattle, Washington 98115

From: James Moran <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 8:53 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Protect the Maple Leaf Mother Groves!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

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James Moran
jamiemoran2000@icloud.com
7712 33rd Ave NE
Seattle, Washington 98115

From: James Moran <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 8:56 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Save Meadowbrook's Iconic True-Love Trees

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

I am writing to ask you to support preservation of the Meadowbrook True-Love trees, an exceptional cedar-fir pair in Meadowbrook, and their nearby grove. Because of the True-Love trees' remarkable union and visibility on a busy street, they are well-known and beloved by the community, with over 500 signatures on a recent petition to save them. Together with the adjacent grove, they shelter the north fork of Thornton Creek's and form a vibrant urban forest.

Development plans have been filed for this project on SDCI's portal under 004386-22PA. The plans call for the removal of the trees to achieve maximum development potential. Yet, a respected local architect has drawn plans which would include the trees in the development, a win-win for the homes' future

residents, the community, and the environment!

These huge native conifers are our last link to the vast, ancient coastal forest which covered this land before settlement. Now, we benefit from the seedlings of that time, which have grown and reached the size and grandeur of their ancestors. They cool us in our increasingly hot summers, provide habitat for native birds and wildlife, filter pollutants from the air and stormwater, and provide amazing public health benefits.

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James Moran
jamiemoran2000@icloud.com
7712 33rd Ave NE
Seattle, Washington 98115

From: James Moran <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 8:57 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Save Our Trees!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

Please act to update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance. It's been 13 years since the Seattle City Council first urged the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) to update the ordinance. We appreciate the recent enactment by the Seattle City Council and Mayor to adopt registration of Tree Service Providers in the city as a first step. We also appreciate action finally by SDCI to release a more complete draft of an updated Tree Protection Ordinance.

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We support the following provisions in SDCI's draft ordinance.

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2. Require SDCI submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree removal and replacement as required by other City Departments
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10. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6" DBH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan prior to any building permits being approved.
11. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Industrial, Downtown and Institutions

12. Keep requirement that all 6" DBH and larger trees be on site plans
13. Require tree replacement or in lieu fees by developers for trees removed 1 year prior to property purchase
14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity
15. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance
16. All trees related are protected trees and not subject to removal
17. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, from development sites

James Moran
jamiemoran2000@icloud.com
7712 33rd Ave NE
Seattle, Washington 98115

From: Antoinette Ferrara <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2022 9:23 AM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Please Update Seattle's Tree Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

Please act to update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance. It's been 13 years since the Seattle City Council first urged the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) to update the ordinance. We appreciate the recent enactment by the Seattle City Council and Mayor to adopt registration of Tree Service Providers in the city as a first step. We also appreciate action finally by SDCI to release a more complete draft of an updated Tree Protection Ordinance.

We believe that Seattle needs to protect its existing trees while planting more trees in underserved areas with low tree canopy to address adverse climate impacts while also increasing affordable housing. It is not a question of one or the other. We need to do both.

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city and people livable and healthy. 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. A robust urban forest is critical for climate resilience and environmental equity.

Seattle's rapid growth and increased density combined with an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed without serious consideration of ways to incorporate more of them in the development. Unless exceptional there is no real effort to save them. And what replacement requirements were in the ordinance since 2001 appears to have seldom been enforced. It is urgent to act now to reduce this continued loss of existing trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity by retaining as many trees as possible and replacing those removed for climate resiliency.

We support the following provisions in SDCI's draft ordinance.

1. Lowering the upper limit for exceptional trees to 24" Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) from 30" DBH.
2. Continuing protection for exceptional trees less than 24" DBH and tree groves and heritage trees
3. Defining any tree 6" DBH and larger that is not exceptional as a significant tree
4. Continuing prohibition on removal of trees 6" DBH and larger on undeveloped lots.
5. Requiring replacement of 12" DBH and larger trees removed by developers
6. Creating an in-lieu fee for developers to replace trees 12" DBH and larger that cannot be replaced on the development site.
7. Requiring in lieu fees be used to replace and maintain newly planted trees
8. Limiting removal of significant trees outside development to those less than 12" DBH
9. Protected trees and replaced trees are covered by a covenant for life of project

Here are key provisions that need to be added to the draft ordinance

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Antoinette Ferrara
antoinette.ferrara@gmail.com
2707 Nob Hill Avenue N
Seattle, Washington 98109-1747

From: Antoinette Ferrara <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2022 9:24 AM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Protect the Maple Leaf Mother Groves!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

One of the Maple Leaf Mother Groves, at 1211 NE 104th St, is at risk due to arborist report errors, poor site design, and lack of protection during construction. With thoughtful planning, the developer of this property can achieve maximum density while retaining these groves, a win-win for people and nature.

The Maple Leaf Mother Groves are 22 "super-groves" which span entire city blocks in the Maple Leaf neighborhood. The City defines "groves" as eight or more large (12 inch dbh or larger) trees whose canopies touch. In contrast, Mother Groves span most of the properties on their blocks, and function as intact native PNW ecosystems. Because trees in groves cool each other and share defense from disease through their root network, we can count on them to be the most resilient part of our entire urban forest! They are also reservoirs of biodiversity for iconic native species which rely on forests to survive, rather than single trees along streets or in front yards.

The two groves at 1211 NE 104th St form an important part of a Mother Grove. Their removal or damage could launch a cycle of decline leading to the loss of the entire block's grove. To preserve this amazing community resource, please ensure the following:

1. Require a new arborist report. The arborist report submitted by the developer lists only 13 trees, yet 20 trees grow on this site. The report also omits an entire grove of 13 western red cedars, which are shared with adjacent properties.
2. Request that the Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit (DADU) be built on the generous amount of land available near the proposed new home, rather than where it is currently planned in the cedar grove. Both tree groves are conveniently located on the periphery and small panhandle of the site, leaving a large buildable expanse!
3. Protect the groves during construction with rigid fencing. Currently only vinyl netting is required, which provides little protection for trees and is often moved. Construction damage to roots could send these

verdant groves into a cycle of decline. If trees at the edge of the grove die, others within the grove often follow.

Climate change has brought Seattle hotter, dryer summers and stronger winter storms. The Maple Leaf Mother Groves provide the community with resilient reservoirs of cooling nature, benefitting both the community and our larger ecosystem. Please ensure they are protected and continue to thrive for the health and safety of future generations.

Antoinette Ferrara
antoinette.ferrara@gmail.com
2707 Nob Hill Avenue N
Seattle, Washington 98109-1747

From: Antoinette Ferrara <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2022 9:25 AM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Save Meadowbrook's Iconic True-Love Trees

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

I am writing to ask you to support preservation of the Meadowbrook True-Love trees, an exceptional cedar-fir pair in Meadowbrook, and their nearby grove. Because of the True-Love trees' remarkable union and visibility on a busy street, they are well-known and beloved by the community, with over 500 signatures on a recent petition to save them. Together with the adjacent grove, they shelter the north fork of Thornton Creek's and form a vibrant urban forest.

Development plans have been filed for this project on SDCI's portal under 004386-22PA. The plans call for the removal of the trees to achieve maximum development potential. Yet, a respected local architect has drawn plans which would include the trees in the development, a win-win for the homes' future residents, the community, and the environment!

These huge native conifers are our last link to the vast, ancient coastal forest which covered this land before settlement. Now, we benefit from the seedlings of that time, which have grown and reached the size and grandeur of their ancestors. They cool us in our increasingly hot summers, provide habitat for native birds and wildlife, filter pollutants from the air and stormwater, and provide amazing public health benefits.

With thoughtful planning, Seattle can preserve its forest and build new homes. Please use your authority to ask the developer to include these trees on the development plan, instead of cutting them down.

Antoinette Ferrara
antoinette.ferrara@gmail.com
2707 Nob Hill Avenue N
Seattle, Washington 98109-1747

From: Jennifer Godfrey <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

Sent: Saturday, December 17, 2022 12:16 PM

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

Subject: Please Update Seattle's Tree Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

Please act to update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance. It's been 13 years since the Seattle City Council first urged the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) to update the ordinance. We appreciate the recent enactment by the Seattle City Council and Mayor to adopt registration of Tree Service Providers in the city as a first step. We also appreciate action finally by SDCI to release a more complete draft of an updated Tree Protection Ordinance.

We believe that Seattle needs to protect its existing trees while planting more trees in underserved areas with low tree canopy to address adverse climate impacts while also increasing affordable housing. It is not a question of one or the other. We need to do both. And priority needs to be in protecting the oldest trees as studies have shown repeatedly carbon sequestration is radically higher in older trees.

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city and people livable and healthy. 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. A robust urban forest is critical for climate resilience and environmental equity.

Seattle's rapid growth and increased density combined with an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed without serious consideration of ways to incorporate more of them in the development. Unless exceptional there is no real effort to save them. And what replacement requirements were in the ordinance since 2001 appears to have seldom been enforced. It is urgent to act now to reduce this continued loss of existing trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity by retaining as many trees as possible and replacing those removed for climate resiliency.

We support the following provisions in SDCI's draft ordinance.

1. Lowering the upper limit for exceptional trees to 20" Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) from 30" DBH.
2. Continuing protection for exceptional trees less than 24" DBH and tree groves and heritage trees
3. Defining any tree 6" DBH and larger that is not exceptional as a significant tree
4. Continuing prohibition on removal of trees 6" DBH and larger on undeveloped lots.
5. Requiring replacement of 12" DBH and larger trees removed by developers
6. Creating a 1 million dollar in-lieu fee for developers to replace trees 12" DBH and larger that cannot be replaced on the development site.
7. Requiring in lieu fees be used to replace and maintain newly planted trees

8. Limiting removal of significant trees outside development to those less than 12" DBH
9. Protected trees and replaced trees are covered by a covenant for life of project

Here are key provisions that need to be added to the draft ordinance

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17. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, from development sites

Jennifer Godfrey

plantkingdom1@gmail.com

1900 W NICKERSON ST, STE 116 PMB 206
Seattle, Washington 98119

From: Leah Eister-Hargrave <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

Sent: Sunday, December 18, 2022 12:37 AM

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

Subject: Save Our Trees!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

Please act to update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance. It's been 13 years since the Seattle City Council first urged the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) to update the ordinance. We appreciate the recent enactment by the Seattle City Council and Mayor to adopt registration of Tree Service Providers in the city as a first step. We also appreciate action finally by SDCI to release a more complete draft of an updated Tree Protection Ordinance.

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Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city and people livable and healthy. 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. A robust urban forest is critical for climate resilience and environmental equity.

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Leah Eister-Hargrave
leaheisterhargrave@gmail.com
2622 3rd Ave n
Seattle, Washington 98109

From: Muriel Lawty <m.g.lawty@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 3:05 PM

To: Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>;

LEG_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>

Cc: David Moehring <dmoehring@consultant.com>

Subject: Please reinstate David Moehring to the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission (UFC)

It appears that Mr. Moehring was removed from the commission due to a man, identifying himself as Rob - a townhome developer, who spoke against Mr. Moehring implying that he is anti development. I have attended several meetings where Mr. Moehring has presented plans for development projects where he shows that development and saving trees can be compatible. Mr. Moehring is clearly pro thoughtful development that increases housing and creates a healthy environment by preserving and maintaining green space and our tree canopy. We need him on the commission. We need careful thought about how we can create flexible setback, height, and density standards that preserve our green space. This is necessary for healthy clean environment that is the foundation of our basic right to life.

Thank you,

--

Muriel Lawty community volunteer

206 328 5206

m.g.lawty@gmail.com

From: Muriel Lawty <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 10:48 AM

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

Subject: Protect the Maple Leaf Mother Groves!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

I agree with the statement below. Trees are essential to our health and well being, both physical and mental. What we need in our codes is flexible guidelines on setbacks, height and density that encourage new affordable housing and protect our green space and trees

One of the Maple Leaf Mother Groves, at 1211 NE 104th St, is at risk due to arborist report errors, poor site design, and lack of protection during construction. With thoughtful planning, the developer of this property can achieve maximum density while retaining these groves, a win-win for people and nature.

The Maple Leaf Mother Groves are 22 "super-groves" which span entire city blocks in the Maple Leaf neighborhood. The City defines "groves" as eight or more large (12 inch dbh or larger) trees whose canopies touch. In contrast, Mother Groves span most of the properties on their blocks, and function as intact native PNW ecosystems. Because trees in groves cool each other and share defense from disease through their root network, we can count on them to be the most resilient part of our entire urban forest! They are also reservoirs of biodiversity for iconic native species which rely on forests to survive, rather than single trees along streets or in front yards.

The two groves at 1211 NE 104th St form an important part of a Mother Grove. Their removal or damage could launch a cycle of decline leading to the loss of the entire block's grove. To preserve this amazing community resource, please ensure the following:

1. Require a new arborist report. The arborist report submitted by the developer lists only 13 trees, yet 20 trees grow on this site. The report also omits an entire grove of 13 western red cedars, which are shared with adjacent properties.

2. Request that the Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit (DADU) be built on the generous amount of land available near the proposed new home, rather than where it is currently planned in the cedar grove. Both tree groves are conveniently located on the periphery and small panhandle of the site, leaving a large buildable expanse!

3. Protect the groves during construction with rigid fencing. Currently only vinyl netting is required, which provides little protection for trees and is often moved. Construction damage to roots could send these verdant groves into a cycle of decline. If trees at the edge of the grove die, others within the grove often follow.

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Muriel Lawty
m.g.lawty@gmail.com
3018 NE 137th St #3
Seattle, Washington 98125

From: Pat Limberg <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 11:41 AM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Protect the Maple Leaf Mother Groves!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

One of the Maple Leaf Mother Groves, at 1211 NE 104th St, is at risk due to arborist report errors, poor site design, and lack of protection during construction. With thoughtful planning, the developer of this property can achieve maximum density while retaining these groves, a win-win for people and nature.

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Pat Limberg
patlimberg@gmail.com
816 NE 95th St
Seattle , Washington 98115

From: Janice Brookshier <janice@seattlejobs.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 12:57 PM
To: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>
Subject: Protect the Maple Leaf Mother Groves!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Urban Forestry Commission c/o Patti Bakker,

You know the right thing to do here: Stop this mindless and lazy destruction of Seattle's embarrassingly low tree canopy. Here we are, case by case, tree by tree, citizens begging our construction department, city council and developers to stop contributing to it. Who owns this problem? SDIC, City Council, Tree Cutters, uninformed and lazy property owners. Stop it, stop it, stop it.

Janice Brookshier
206.295.8710

One of the Maple Leaf Mother Groves, at 1211 NE 104th St, is at risk due to arborist report errors, poor site design, and lack of protection during construction. With thoughtful planning, the developer of this property can achieve maximum density while retaining these groves, a win-win for people and nature.

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Janice Brookshier
janice@seattlejobs.org
2212 Queen Anne Ave N. #311
Seattle, Washington 98109

From: Stuart Niven <tree.protection.activist@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 3:59 PM

To: Sandy Shettler <sshettler@msn.com>

Cc: Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>; Kersti Muul <kersti.e.muul@gmail.com>; Bakker,

Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Ruth Williams <ruthalice@comcast.net>; TreePAC Board <TreePACBoard@groups.outlook.com>; John Lombard <jlombardwriter@gmail.com>; Juarez, Debora <Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov>; Young, Robert <Robert.Young@seattle.gov>; heidi calyxsite.com <heidi@calyxsite.com>; mobaskin@earthlink.net; LEG_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Humphries, Paul <Paul.Humphries@seattle.gov>; McGarry, Deborah <Deborah.McGarry@seattle.gov>; Last 6000 <thelast6000@gmail.com>; Akalaitis.net <judy@akalaitis.net>

Subject: Re: Riparian forest which survived illegal clearcut now at risk - 12011 36th Ave NE

CAUTION: External Email

It remains shockingly unbelievable that these clear and blatant violations of the tree protection code end abruptly once an SDCI code violation site inspector claims "no violation", despite there being clear evidence to the contrary. Is it down to SDCI not properly training their employees to be able to make a simple check of photographs, looking at Google Maps or similar to see what was there before removal, and/or because SDCI does not want these violations to be recorded and developers / tree removal companies to be adequately fined by claiming that site inspections cannot happen without permission from a property owner?! It is important to consider the fact that SDCI inspectors can access property to inspect prior to, during and after projects happen to check other elements of the process to make sure codes are being adhered to. Why are trees not given the same respect and level of scrutiny as where the side of a building is located?!

On Sun, Nov 13, 2022 at 9:54 PM Sandy Shettler <sshettler@msn.com> wrote:
Dear Director Torgelson,

We are asking that the proposed project at 12011 36th Ave NE be re-evaluated, in light of the ecological damage which has already occurred through the illegal removal of a riparian cedar forest.

On the weekend of January 29/30, a crew spent the entirety of both days removing five exceptional western red cedars and one exceptional Pacific dogwood. They reportedly told the many concerned neighbors that "the City is requiring us to do this." The DBHs appear to have all been exceptional, with one in particular of massive size. Stumps were ground immediately.

A complaint was filed with SDCI and on February 2 the inspector's visit "did not find the cutting of an exceptional tree." We are perplexed that anyone could fail to notice multiple large piles of stump-grinder shreadings, crushed landscape plants, conifer debris and the telltale lopsided growth patterns of adjacent trees growing away from the missing trees. King County Parcel Viewer, Google Earth and Google Street View all confirm the previous existence of many large trees.

The developer is now proposing to remove a substantial portion of the remaining trees and has or will soon request a waiver to build into a percentage of the riparian buffer/ECA. These requests must be denied given the environmental damage which has already occurred.

We are also asking that the tree removal violation be thoroughly investigated. In addition to fines, mitigation in the form of restoration work in the creekside buffer should be required, as this critical natural area in the Thornton Creek watershed has been degraded by the loss of so many native trees which protected the stream.

New homes can and should be built around existing trees, particularly in such a sensitive ecological area. In addition to the significant environmental damage done here, allowing the wholesale removal of an entire urban forest with no penalty creates an uneven playing field. It is unfair to ethical developers who respect city codes and build housing in a thoughtful and sustainable way.

Photos with captions below are further evidence of the trees which were removed, and the removal process. Neighbors are now collectively assembling photos and can provide many more images if needed.

Sincerely,
Sandy Shettler and Kersti Muul
Friends of Seattle's Urban Forest

Photos:

King County parcel viewer with removed trees marked:



Google aerial view:



One of the cedars, as removal began:



Large tree, north central part of 120...
Photo taken January 29, 2022.

Removal:



Large cedar at north edge of 12011 ...
Photo taken January 29, 2022.

Photo of stump with shoe for perspective:



Work crew:



Three cedars cut along far property line, one in foreground:



Stump of cedar cut near north pro...
Note stumps of three other trees cut on

Additional exceptional cedar between existing homes:



Large cedar tree between the houses
Photo taken January 29, 2022.

Stump of cedar between homes:



Stump of large cedar between 12017 and 12011
Photo taken Jan. 30, 2022.

Trees which remain and must be retained, adjacent to creek:



Even today, piles of stump grinder shavings remain and confirm removal:



More stump grinder shavings, within marked area. Vines have covered other residue.



SDCI Complaint:

Complaint Location:

12011 36TH AVE NE
SEATTLE, WA 98125

Record Number: 000970-22CP

Complaint Type: Land Use, Tree

Complaint Outcome: No Violation Observed

Resolution Date: Feb 02, 2022

Alleged Complaint Description: 2 large tress cut down over the weekend 1/29 or 1/30 no until today

Additional Information: ZONING - TREE

Inspections:

Type	Date	Result	Result Comments
HZW Investigation (Housing, Zoning, Weeds)	2/2/2022	Completed	inspection did not find the cutting of an exceptional tree.