



# City of Seattle

## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT APPLICATION

The use of this application is appropriate when a change in the specific text in the adopted City of Seattle Comprehensive Plan is desired. Applications are due to the Seattle City Council no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 20<sup>th</sup> for consideration in the same calendar year. If January 20<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend, the deadline is the Friday closest to that date. Any proposals received after January 20<sup>th</sup> will fall into the review process for the following year.

<p>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</p> <p>Application Received (stamp)</p>
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(Please Print or Type)

Date: 18 JAN 2008

Applicant: KIT O'NEILL CHERYL TRIMSON ILZE JONES

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Contact (if not applicant):

Mailing Address: N/A

Email:

City: State: Zip: Phone:

If Applicant, Name of General Area/Location/Site which would be affected by this proposed change in text (attached additional sheets if necessary)

CITY WIDE

If the application is approved for further consideration by the City Council, the applicant may be required to submit a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist. Acceptance of this application does not guarantee final approval

1) Provide a detailed description and explanation of the proposed text amendment. Include the Element (Land Use, Transportation, etc) and the specific goal or policy to be amended.

Proposed Amendment is the addition of an Element to the Comp Plan, the Element of Trees, which should be considered in combination with each of the existing Elements of the current Comp Plan. Trees are an essential component of Land Use, Urban Village, Transportation, Housing, Utilities, Capital Facilities, Neighborhood Planning, Economic Development, Human Development, Cultural Resources and Environment.

As our Mayor says in the Environmental Action Agenda 2006-2007, "While bounded by the mountains and water, Seattle is most of all a city of trees and green spaces." We want Seattle to live up to its Emerald City name.

2) Describe how the issue is currently addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. If the issue is not adequately addressed, describe the need for it.

Currently, the issue is not adequately addressed. Where it is addressed, it is in a piecemeal fashion such that effective implementation/realization is precluded. For example, although Environment Policy 11 states "strive", there is no provision for realization since there are no concomitant Land Use provisions which restrict cutting down of existing canopy or require preservation of existing canopy, much less the effective increase aimed for of the existing canopy.

We are losing our existing canopy at an alarming rate.

Trees are physical entities that require open land to live. We must have an overarching City policy that recognizes this fact.

Furthermore, in order to meet the stated goals of the City of Seattle Urban Forest Management Plan for new trees, the City of Seattle needs to dedicate land for trees to grow. The difference between current canopy cover and long-term canopy goals requires the dedication of land for trees to grow. In particular, to meet the goals of new trees for these categories: single-family, multi-family, commercial mixed-use, downtown Seattle and industrial, will require the dedication of some 48,000 acres.

Such dedication could be accomplished in part by converting our outmoded public Rights-of-Way to meet the conceptually admirable principles proposed under Complete Streets ordinance 122386, and by incorporating the environmental benefits of trees with respect to stormwater runoff, climate protection, absorption of air pollution, mitigation of the heat island effect of impervious city surfaces, all of which are environmental benefits conducive to Multi-Use.

3) Why is the proposed change the best means for meeting the identified public need? What other options are there for meeting the identified public need?

This is the best because trees are a basic and fundamental Element in this Emerald City.

Another option is creation of a new city department with a tree czar as its head, which would be responsible for trees throughout the city.

4) What do you anticipate will be the impacts caused by the change in text, including the geographic area affected and the issues presented? Why will the proposed change result in a net benefit to the community?

It will allow progress toward the goals of increased canopy cover.

5) How would the proposed change comply with the community vision statements, goals, objectives, and policies of the Comprehensive Plan? Include any data, research, or reasoning that supports the proposed amendments.

It would make Seattle a more livable and sustainable city.

6) Is there public support for this proposed text amendments (i.e. have you conducted community meetings, etc.)? Note: All applications will be subject to full public participation, notice and environmental review.

Seattle Urban Forest Stakeholders have been campaigning for this change, and holding public meetings to generate support.

Your comprehensive Plan Amendment Application must be received by the City Council no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 20<sup>th</sup> to be considered in that calendar year. You can send your application via e-mail (the preferred method) to [compplan@seattle.gov](mailto:compplan@seattle.gov), or via regular mail to:

**Office of the City Clerk  
600 Fourth Avenue, Floor 3  
PO Box 94728  
Seattle, WA 98124-4728**