



## SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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

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

**Laura Keil** (Position #10 – Get Engaged), 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 Baker** (Position #8 – Development) • **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

May 17, 2023, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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

(206) 207-1700

Meeting number: 2490 550 6366

Meeting password: 1234

### Attending

#### Commissioners

Becca Neumann – Co-Chair

Josh Morris – Co-Chair

Falisha Kurji

Hao Liang

Jessica Hernandez

Lia Hall

#### Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE

#### Guests

Toby Thaler

#### Absent- Excused

Laura Keil – Co-Chair

Julia Michalak

Stuart Niven

David Baker

Jessica Jones

#### Public

David Moehring

Steve Zemke

Francisca

Sage Miller

Sandy Shettler

**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:** Josh called the meeting to order and offered a land acknowledgement.

## **Public comment:**

Steve Zemke urged the UFC to consider in relation to the ordinance response, three amendments TreePAC is recommending: 1) remove the 85% and 100% lot coverage as this issue wasn't evaluated accurately in the DNS addendum, 2) evaluating impacts of data, since they did not include an amendment for that, 3) issue of maximizing retention of existing trees; there is no reason to allow developers to cut all trees 6-24" if they don't have to. Also, the DNS did not include evaluation of potential impacts of House Bill 1110; that will dramatically impact tree canopy across the city.

David Moehring noted regarding the UFC recommendations and the amendments related to them – the city is close to having a new tree protection ordinance that might establish tree equity, just needs an amendment to make it more effective. A possible change to Chapter 25.11.070, where the 85% and 100% rules have been integrated, is to allow more flexibilities in development in higher canopy areas with lower displacement risk.

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

Patti provided an update regarding federal funding opportunities, as it was recently announced that there is \$1.5 billion available for urban forestry projects nationwide, through the US Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program. This funding focuses on climate, equity and workforce development – all things that fit well with our urban forest focuses here in Seattle as well. There is a lot of coordination happening right now with city departments, non-profit organizations and other community groups, so that there is a good understanding of the various projects and applications that could be submitted by various groups, and so that groups are all supporting each other as much as possible. The city is looking at submitting an application with several components to it, including:

- Holistic natural area management component, working across departments and jurisdictions.
- A neighborhood residential component – working to expand our canopy expansion work in neighborhoods – involving youth job training and working with community.
- Community engagement and development of the Canopy Equity and Resilience Plan, adding federal funds to the city's funds in order to deepen the community engagement work we want to do with that project.

Patti noted that the new date scheduled for confirmation of the appointees for positions 1 and 2 is June 14.

## **Adoption of April 5, 7 and 19 meeting notes**

**Action: A motion to approve the April 5, 2023 meeting notes as written was made, seconded and approved.**

**Action: A motion to approve the April 7, 2023 meeting notes as written was made, seconded and approved.**

**Action: A motion to approve the April 19, 2023 meeting notes as amended was made, seconded and approved.**

## **SA/ANSI standards related to the tree protection ordinance – Seattle Arborist Association**

Allen Taylor provided background information on what the ANSI standards are. There are ANSI standards covering many topics, arboriculture being one of them. The process to develop ANSI standards brings together practitioners, academics and government folks to develop standards that everyone can agree is how things should be done in the different disciplines. The standards are very technical and precise. They then also develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) that provide more detail, are more informative and readable. For arboriculture, the BMPs are written by the International Society for Arboriculture.

Most pertinent to arboriculture are the ANSI Z133-2017 – Safety standard, and ANSI A300 – various parts, including Pruning Standards, Tree Risk Assessment, Tree Support Systems, and Managing Trees During Construction.

The standards get updated regularly, and many are consulted and involved when updates happen, including commercial groups and organizations. There is a very large amount of content in the standards and all practitioners should be familiar with them. However, getting the standards can be frustrating. Hardcopies have to be purchased from ISA. Free online versions are often out of date. This creates a barrier for folks who are more tangentially interested and it makes it harder to encourage folks to defer to the standards if non-practitioners find it hard to get them.

Where do the standards fit in? Anywhere where the government or other authorities say they need to be adhered to. A lot of work goes into them and very knowledgeable people develop them. SAA has been advocating for referring to the standards that already exist rather than creating new standards. Opportunities to defer to the ANSI standards happen at all levels – federal, state, local governments, local companies.

The standards are used in a variety of ways: to inform arborists' discretionary work, to protect arborists from liability, for practitioners to learn how to do things correctly, and more. The words "should" and "shall" are important and specific in the standards, where "should" is a recommendation and "shall" is a requirement. That makes a really big difference in adhering to the standards and carrying out the work.

ANSI standards and construction – ANSI A300 Part 5 lays out guidelines for setting up tree protection zones during construction, along with many other construction-related requirements. 55.1.3 states that the TPZ radius should be 6-18 times the trunk diameter and gives considerable discretion to the arborist to modify the TPZ because of the word "should". Professional discretion could make the TPZ larger or smaller, and some trees may get more protection than they need, and some trees may not get enough protection. It's hard to put a hard and fast rule to natural systems and have it work.

TPZs vary quite a bit in real life; some fail miserably, some are very effective. How they're written out and how they're implemented matter. Starting with good standards and best practices for setting up the zones matters, and then having them adequately used during construction.

The standards are the foundation of a learning process that has no end and should never end. They and the implementation of them should be continually evolving.

Questions and comments related to the presentation included:

- Aside from the TPZ, are there other parts of the proposed ordinance update that you feel would have been improved by referring to the standards?
- Given the dynamic situation of the tree protection ordinance, accessibility and clarity within the code are very important. Updates of the ANSI standards happen more frequently than the city's tree code is updated. How can the city's code keep up with those changes? The ordinance should include the words "or successor" whenever ANSI standards are referenced.
- Seattle is using Tree Protection Area instead of Tree Protection Zone as referenced in ANSI and most other cities.
- Are there particular standards the UFC should become familiar with?

### **Presentation debrief**

Becca volunteered to draft a follow-up letter. Josh offered some points to be included:

- Thanking Allen for the presentation, the relationship building and sharing information with the UFC.
- It was interesting to learn the rationale for why the standards are such high quality in caliber and why it makes sense to often refer to them or try to defer to them as often as possible.

### **Tree protection ordinance process reflection**

Josh provided a recap of the ordinance process, particularly in the short window to review and respond to the 50 or so amendments and how they were dealt with by the Land Use Committee. Lia shared her feedback on the process and expressed the desire for the UFC to agree on the most important issue areas and unify the

messages. Josh and Lia relayed that from conversations with Councilmembers, they had a hard time absorbing all of the amendments and issues due to the timeline.

Josh walked through the draft letter he prepared for the UFC's input regarding the tree protection ordinance process. The letter includes appreciating that the provisions in the ordinance are a big step forward in how the city is managing trees on private property and that it includes many provisions advocated for by the UFC for many years. However, the letter requests additional time so that all the provisions can be considered carefully and good code can be created. Commissioners discussed the process and their recommendations, and edited the letter.

**Action: a motion to adopt the tree protection ordinance process letter as amended was made, seconded and approved.**

#### **Cambridge Urban Forest Master Plan briefing follow-up**

Josh summarized the draft letter Laura prepared for this follow-up, which includes appreciation for the informative presentation and notes on the relevance of the work.

**Action: a motion to adopt this follow up letter as written 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:**

David Moehring noted what can happen related to trees with lot subdivision. Applying the new 85% hardscape coverage, all trees can be removed from a lot during subdivision. If the 85% rule passes, it shouldn't allow the process of subdivision to be applied before the tree removal 85% is applied.

Steve Zemke noted to keep in mind other opportunities to be involved moving forward. There was an attachment to the bill which had a lot of issues to look at including the issue of oversight of trees, options for which include creating a Division within SDCI, keeping oversight in OSE or creating a department of Climate and Environment that has an urban forestry division in it. SDCI's primary mission is to help builders build projects; there's no clear division with a mission to balance that out. He urges looking at the issues and putting in requests for revisiting the issues in January-February that need to be looked at. Between now and then, the UFC can invite people to brief them on issues to more fully inform future action.

Francisca noted that there were many tree advocates speaking at the Land Use Committee meetings. They were surprised and disheartened that so many of UFC's recommendations were voted down. They follow the UFC's lead, especially today in your optimism and persistence, and they needed that today.

Sage Miller noted that the last opportunity to weigh in on this with Council is at the meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Sandy Shettler supported the request to delay the vote on the ordinance, because there are things that need to be analyzed, such as the provision around homes or ADUs being less than 15 feet wide that would allow removal of exceptional trees.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 PM.

#### **Meeting chat:**

from Francisca to everyone: 3:03 PM

Francisca no public comment

from Jessica Hernandez #11 to everyone: 3:16 PM

Is anyone else hearing static?

from David Moehring to everyone: 3:18 PM

My apologies... I hope to check back in later ... back to a work deadline. Stay strong during each of your hard work efforts, Commissioners!

from sage miller to everyone: 3:21 PM

sorry for joining late. I was wondering about the status of the citizens complaint about tree cutting at 7019 23rd nw.

from sage miller to everyone: 3:22 PM

The complaint was submitted by Virginia Hassinger

from sage miller to everyone: 3:39 PM

A bit of clarity- complaint was submitted to Darren Morgan, Maintenance and urban forestry division .

Violation- removal of tree protection fence and excavator trenching in tree protection area #6860433-NC

from Lia Hall to everyone: 3:42 PM

Hi Sage, Sorry to hear about the tree cutting. Unfortunately we do not oversee these complaints. You would have to follow up with SDCI.

from Hao Liang to everyone: 3:54 PM

<https://www.portland.gov/trees/trees-development/construction-and-tree-preservation/prescriptive-path>

from Hao Liang to everyone: 3:54 PM

<https://www.austintexas.gov/permitingatx/residential-toolkit/building-near-a-tree#CRZ>

from Jessica Hernandez #11 to everyone: 4:04 PM

No comments from me -Jessica

from Allen Taylor to everyone: 4:07 PM

Most relevant ANSI Standards: ANSI A300 (Part 5) - 2019 Construction, ANSI A300 (Part 1) - 2017 Pruning, ANSI A300 (Part 8) - 2013 Root Management, Be sure to also read accompanying BMPs. All found here:

<https://www.isa-arbor.com/store/category/117/>

from Allen Taylor to everyone: 4:08 PM

I gotta run, thanks so much for having me!

from Hao Liang to everyone: 4:08 PM

Thank you Allen!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:08 PM

Thanks Allen, awesome presentation!!

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:12 PM

Need city plan on how the city is going to reach 30% tree canopy goal, No intermediate goals given, only 2037.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:14 PM

Like Tree Service Provider legislation, can ask for review and possible amendments next Jan/Feb.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:15 PM

The UFC draft of 2019 is relevant--was the product of several years of analysis of best practices nationwide

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:16 PM

Key to delay and evaluate 85% and 100% guaranteed development area implementation now.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:16 PM

City takes August off and shifts rest of year to mostly budget. Few meeting in Sept.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:17 PM

So basically have June and July for any delay and reevaluation. and vote

from Antieau, Clayton (privately): 4:17 PM

Dft letter is vague and provides scant actionable information. Needs to be very specific wrt UFC 'concerns,' asks, actions...

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:20 PM

Need to protect more existing trees. People need trees where they live and that already are there. Planting new trees for removed trees is expensive, not all survive and can take decades to provide needed by environmental services.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:21 PM

I don't think public comment will help--there was a deluge of emails and many public comments, mostly in favor of UFC recommendations, did not have an impact

from June BlueSpruce to everyone: 4:22 PM

Agree that key focus of delay time should be hardscape allowance. It's an untested strategy that could have a brutal impact.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:23 PM

Or that were never presented, such as maximizing the retention of existing trees throughout development.

The UFC has pushed for this for years

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:23 PM

Council Chair and Land Use Chair can state don't want amendments but you have the right to ask they consider them. They have allowed amendments in the past. at the full Council.

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 4:24 PM

Calendar info: CM Juarez will not be chairing Council on 23rd; per Resolution 32036, Pro Tem chair will be CM Herbold.

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 4:24 PM

Because CM Juarez will not be present.

from June BlueSpruce to everyone: 4:24 PM

Council members feel frustrated by process too. May support this.

from Taha Ebrahimi to everyone: 4:25 PM

Hi all. I'm just listening in because I'm concerned about this issue. I'm glad to hear what Lia Hall just mentioned. My biggest concern is that this bill will basically ensure that any potential affordable housing will be without the benefit of trees. Affordable housing needs to be physically and psychologically safe housing also. It will be key to address that.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:25 PM

That's a great idea

from Lia Hall to everyone: 4:29 PM

Thank you for this feedback Taha. We would love to hear your comments at the end regarding affordable housing.

from Barbara to everyone: 4:29 PM

Yes Taha, I have asked councilmembers why people in affordable housing do not deserve the guarantee of the benefits the existing mature trees provide. I have never received a reply.

from June BlueSpruce to everyone: 4:31 PM

Thank you, Taha and Barbara. Agree and its verly important that the council hear this perspective.

from June BlueSpruce to everyone: 4:31 PM

it's very

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:33 PM

City has no plan as to how to reach 30%, no intermediate goals,

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:36 PM

Ned to include tree inventory on front end and tree Plan. Have to know what you have and what is being removed and what is being replaced. Need baseline dat!

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:36 PM

Need baseline date!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:40 PM

The fact that the UFC had a comprehensive ordinance already written shouldn't be ignored--only the DBH reduction for exceptional trees was carried over.

from Jessica Hernandez #11 to everyone: 4:40 PM

The Indigenous stakeholders question is not clear to me. I added comments to the document. Is this speaking about washington state tribes? or urban Indigenous communities?

from Jessica Hernandez #11 to everyone: 4:43 PM

Indigenous communities are not a monolith. This is important.

from Lia Hall to everyone: 4:43 PM

Very much understood, Jessica

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:45 PM

Thanks Josh!

from Jessica Hernandez #11 to everyone: 4:46 PM

I think it is important to note that we do not represent Indigenous communities as UFC

from Jessica Hernandez #11 to everyone: 4:46 PM

Maybe refer them to the tribes

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:49 PM

In terms of intention, asking that development prioritize the retention of existing trees would support preservation

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:49 PM

"maximize the retention of existing trees"--no requirement

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:50 PM

Can you add also "maximize retention of existing tree through total development process

from sage miller to everyone: 4:50 PM

will this letter be in the archive meeting?

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 4:52 PM

Sage, the letter will be posted to the UFC website under the 5/17 meeting materials and on the recommendations page.

from sage miller to everyone: 4:53 PM

good

from sage miller to everyone: 4:53 PM

public meeting?

from Jessica Hernandez #11 to everyone: 4:54 PM

I will have to request time off so not sure

from Hao Liang to everyone: 4:59 PM

Excellent explanation David! Thanks!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:59 PM

That is super helpful

from Taha Ebrahimi to everyone: 5:00 PM

That was awesome. Thank you.

from Francisca to everyone: 5:00 PM

I just wanted to say for public comment...like Sandy, there were many of us tree advocates speaking at the LU meetings. I was surprised and disheartened that so many of UFC's recommendations were voted down. I follow UFC lead, especially today in your optimism and persistence. I needed that today.

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 5:03 PM

I have a quick comment,

from David Moehring to everyone: 5:04 PM

Per public notice from City, last day for written comment may be this Friday.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 5:04 PM

have 1 minute usually

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 5:05 PM

Public comment will be accepted up until the meeting; Councilmembers just would prefer them to be in by Friday so that they have time to consider them.

**Public input (additional comments received):**

**From:** Debra Daniels <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 2:38 AM

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

**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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.

Please take the following action on these priority amendments:

#### Group A. Development Capacity and Development Standard Modifications

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES A6 - Maintain current FAR method for determining when trees can be removed in Lowrise, Midrise and Seattle Mixed Zones - Continue using the FAR or floor area ratio standard which allows for departures outside the building to save exceptional trees (Tier 2). Builders are pushing for a guaranteed 85% development area which would remove the city's flexibility in saving existing exceptional trees. Trees are already scarce in these areas and this amendment would help save trees in these areas and reduce urban heat island impacts.

##### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.

- VOTE NO A5 - Tier 2 tree removal allowance and accessory dwelling units - Many accessory dwelling units are less than 15 feet wide. Builders do not need a guaranteed 15 feet. Amendment would be another guaranteed reason to remove exceptional trees. Let the city keep its flexibility to decide based on the trees on a lot.

#### Group G. Tree Protection During Development

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES G2 - Tree protection area delineation - This is the recommended ANSI-A300 methodology recommended that takes into account tree species and age of tree in determining the tree protection area.

- VOTE YES G3 - Temporary reduction of tree protection areas - would result in less tree removal by allowing temporary intrusion under supervision.

- VOTE YES G4 - Off-site trees during development - would require protection of off-site trees during development.

##### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A4 - Calculation of lot coverage standard - tree protection area - Canopy drip line for tree protection areas and no temporary extensions into tree protection area would result in more tree removals.



## Group C. Permit Review Process

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

## Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO E2 - Minimum in-lieu fee payment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trees - Does not cover estimated Parks Dept. \$4000 cost to plant and maintain Tier 3 trees at recommended \$2800 fee

## Group F. Tree Service Providers

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Debra Daniels  
[dmdaniels2012@gmail.com](mailto:dmdaniels2012@gmail.com)  
9520 1st Ave Ne  
Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** Lisa Mazzola <lmazzola@tampabay.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 3:12 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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- VOTE YES A6 - Maintain current FAR method for determining when trees can be removed in Lowrise, Midrise and Seattle Mixed Zones - Continue using the FAR or floor area ratio standard which allows for departures outside the building to save exceptional trees (Tier 2). Builders are pushing for a guaranteed 85% development area which would remove the city's flexibility in saving existing exceptional trees. Trees are already scarce in these areas and this amendment would help save trees in these areas and reduce urban heat island impacts.

##### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.
- VOTE NO A5 - Tier 2 tree removal allowance and accessory dwelling units - Many accessory dwelling units are less than 15 feet wide. Builders do not need a guaranteed 15 feet. Amendment would be another guaranteed reason to remove exceptional trees. Let the city keep its flexibility to decide based on the trees on a lot.

#### Group G. Tree Protection During Development

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES G2 - Tree protection area delineation - This is the recommended ANSI-A300 methodology recommended that takes into account tree species and age of tree in determining the tree protection area.
- VOTE YES G3 - Temporary reduction of tree protection areas - would result in less tree removal by allowing temporary intrusion under supervision.
- VOTE YES G4 - Off-site trees during development - would require protection of off-site trees during development.

##### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A4 - Calculation of lot coverage standard - tree protection area - Canopy drip line for tree protection areas and no temporary extensions into tree protection area would result in more tree removals.

#### Group C. Permit Review Process

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

VOTE NO

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VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
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Lisa Mazzola  
[lmazzola@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:lmazzola@tampabay.rr.com)  
1723 W Followthru Dr  
Tampa, Florida 33612

**From:** Christian Fulghum <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 4:46 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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##### VOTE NO

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- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

VOTE NO

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- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
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Christian Fulghum  
[zenkichi95@gmail.com](mailto:zenkichi95@gmail.com)  
14700 Burke Ave N  
Shoreline , Washington 98133

**From:** Antoinette Ferrara <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 5:16 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
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- VOTE NO A5 - Tier 2 tree removal allowance and accessory dwelling units - Many accessory dwelling units are less than 15 feet wide. Builders do not need a guaranteed 15 feet. Amendment would be another guaranteed reason to remove exceptional trees. Let the city keep its flexibility to decide based on the trees on a lot.

#### Group G. Tree Protection During Development

##### VOTE YES

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- VOTE YES G3 - Temporary reduction of tree protection areas - would result in less tree removal by allowing temporary intrusion under supervision.
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##### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A4 - Calculation of lot coverage standard - tree protection area - Canopy drip line for tree protection areas and no temporary extensions into tree protection area would result in more tree removals.

#### Group C. Permit Review Process

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO E2 - Minimum in-lieu fee payment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trees - Does not cover estimated Parks Dept. \$4000 cost to plant and maintain Tier 3 trees at recommended \$2800 fee

Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Antoinette Ferrara  
[antoinette.ferrara@gmail.com](mailto:antoinette.ferrara@gmail.com)  
2707 Nob Hill Avenue N  
Seattle, Washington 98109-1747

**From:** Richard Shugerman <rpshug@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 5:18 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

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##### VOTE YES

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VOTE YES

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- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Richard Shugerman  
[rpshug@msn.com](mailto:rpshug@msn.com)  
6219 21st Ave NE Seattle  
Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** Melissa Huelsman <mhuelsman@predatorylendinglaw.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 5:47 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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Melissa Huelsman  
[mhuelsman@predatorylendinglaw.com](mailto:mhuelsman@predatorylendinglaw.com)  
7525 28th Avenue SW  
Seattle , Washington 98126

**From:** Marian Wineman <mwineman@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 5:49 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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Group F. Tree Service Providers

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Marian Wineman  
[mwineman@comcast.net](mailto:mwineman@comcast.net)  
3611 45th Ave W  
Seattle, Washington 98199

**From:** Patricia Murphy <murphy.patricia@live.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 6:04 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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Patricia Murphy  
[murphy.patricia@live.com](mailto:murphy.patricia@live.com)  
8835 Burke Ave N  
Seattle, Washington 98103

**From:** Amelia Petersen <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 6:09 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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Amelia Petersen  
[amelia.a.petersen@gmail.com](mailto:amelia.a.petersen@gmail.com)  
3513 S Genesee St  
Seattle , Washington 98118

**From:** Thomas McPharlin <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 6:14 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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Thomas McPharlin  
[tommcp1@yahoo.com](mailto:tommcp1@yahoo.com)  
205 22nd Ave  
Seattle, Washington 98122

**From:** REBECCA COLLIAS <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 6:15 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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REBECCA COLLIAS  
[rlcdancer@gmail.com](mailto:rlcdancer@gmail.com)  
6003 Greenwood Ave N  
Seattle, Washington 98103

**From:** cristienstorm@gmail.com <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 6:24 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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

128 22nd Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98122

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

**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 6:33 AM

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

**Subject:** Racist amendments

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

Climate change impacts Black and brown neighborhoods disproportionately. There are plenty of data around that. Seattle should be doing everything in its power to preserve existing tree canopy and to increase tree canopy in south end neighborhoods like the CD and Rainier Beach. Anything less is racist pandering to developers. Do the right thing or stop claiming to support climate justice and equity. Either you're selling the city to developers, in which case you certainly can't claim to support climate justice and racial equity, or you're committed to making this city more climate resilient and liveable for ALL Seattle residents, in which case you'll disappoint developers. You decide which legacy you want.

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- VOTE YES A6 - Maintain current FAR method for determining when trees can be removed in Lowrise, Midrise and Seattle Mixed Zones - Continue using the FAR or floor area ratio standard which allows for departures outside the building to save exceptional trees (Tier 2). Builders are pushing for a guaranteed 85% development area which would remove the city's flexibility in saving existing exceptional trees. Trees are already scarce in these areas and this amendment would help save trees in these areas and reduce urban heat island impacts.

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- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.
- VOTE NO A5 - Tier 2 tree removal allowance and accessory dwelling units - Many accessory dwelling units are less than 15 feet wide. Builders do not need a guaranteed 15 feet. Amendment would be another guaranteed reason to remove exceptional trees. Let the city keep its flexibility to decide based on the trees on a lot.

#### Group G. Tree Protection During Development

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES G2 - Tree protection area delineation - This is the recommended ANSI-A300 methodology recommended that takes into account tree species and age of tree in determining the tree protection area.
- VOTE YES G3 - Temporary reduction of tree protection areas - would result in less tree removal by allowing temporary intrusion under supervision.
- VOTE YES G4 - Off-site trees during development - would require protection of off-site trees during development.

##### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A4 - Calculation of lot coverage standard - tree protection area - Canopy drip line for tree protection areas and no temporary extensions into tree protection area would result in more tree removals.

#### Group C. Permit Review Process



VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO E2 - Minimum in-lieu fee payment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trees - Does not cover estimated Parks Dept. \$4000 cost to plant and maintain Tier 3 trees at recommended \$2800 fee

Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Thank you

Jill Freidberg  
98122

Jill Freidberg  
[jill.freidberg@gmail.com](mailto:jill.freidberg@gmail.com)  
151 22nd Ave  
Seattle, Washington 98122

**From:** Robert Blumenthal <rblument@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 6:33 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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.

Please take the following action on these priority amendments:

#### Group A. Development Capacity and Development Standard Modifications

##### VOTE YES

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VOTE YES

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Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

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VOTE NO

- VOTE NO E2 - Minimum in-lieu fee payment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trees - Does not cover estimated Parks Dept. \$4000 cost to plant and maintain Tier 3 trees at recommended \$2800 fee

Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Robert Blumenthal  
[rblument@comcast.net](mailto:rblument@comcast.net)  
2812 ne 62nd St.  
Seattle , Washington 98115

**From:** David Powell <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 6:49 AM

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

**Subject:** Dear City Council - Please support amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance today. Thank you!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Dear Seattle City Council:

We need trees where we live!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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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Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

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Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Thank you!

David Powell

588 Bell St.

David Powell  
[davidpowell123@yahoo.com](mailto:davidpowell123@yahoo.com)  
5815 Ann Arbor Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98105

**From:** Andrea Lin <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 7:01 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
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## Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

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## Group F. Tree Service Providers

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Andrea Lin  
[asdf.lina@gmail.com](mailto:asdf.lina@gmail.com)  
815 W Argand St  
Seattle, Washington 98119

**From:** Anna Chlebowski Giulietti <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 7:09 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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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VOTE YES

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VOTE YES

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Anna Chlebowski Giulietti  
[sarracenia.chlebowskianna@gmail.com](mailto:sarracenia.chlebowskianna@gmail.com)  
4049 35th Ave sw  
SEATTLE, Washington 98126

**From:** Fritz Wollett <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 7:13 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live! I am the proud owner of two heritage trees - a sitka spruce and a hedge maple. We need more heritage trees! Read the Seattle Times editorial last Wednesday asking the Council to pass a tree protection ordinance, not a "profit protection" ordinance. This is not the time to kowtow to the Master Builders who are destroying our small livable homes and replacing them with mega monsters that take over a lot and are unaffordable for most of us. Vote for the amendments noted below and protect the trees we have today for their future and ours. Thank you.

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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.

Please take the following action on these priority amendments:

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##### VOTE YES

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## Group C. Permit Review Process

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- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
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## Group F. Tree Service Providers

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Fritz Wollett  
[fritz.wollett@gmail.com](mailto:fritz.wollett@gmail.com)  
7340 24th Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** Nancy Lenaburg <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 7:14 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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Nancy Lenaburg  
[nlenaburg@gmail.com](mailto:nlenaburg@gmail.com)  
4013 39th Ave SW  
Seattle , Washington 98116

**From:** Leslie Wright <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 7:21 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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Leslie Wright  
[wright\\_leslie@hotmail.com](mailto:wright_leslie@hotmail.com)  
4721 47th Avenue NE  
Seattle, Washington 98105

**From:** Ellen Hale <us\_chickens@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 7:30 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

I can't attend weekday meetings of city council and its committee but please, please ensure that this long-awaited ordinance preserves trees and space for trees. Incorporate amendments as recommended below, so when passed it does what it set out to do.

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city livable and healthy. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing

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Ellen Hale  
[us\\_chickens@earthlink.net](mailto:us_chickens@earthlink.net)  
13740 19th Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98125

**From:** Ericka Berg <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 7:31 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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.

Please take the following action on these priority amendments:

#### Group A. Development Capacity and Development Standard Modifications

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES A6 - Maintain current FAR method for determining when trees can be removed in Lowrise, Midrise and Seattle Mixed Zones - Continue using the FAR or floor area ratio standard which allows for departures outside the building to save exceptional trees (Tier 2). Builders are pushing for a guaranteed 85% development area which would remove the city's flexibility in saving existing exceptional trees. Trees are already scarce in these areas and this amendment would help save trees in these areas and reduce urban heat island impacts.

##### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.
- VOTE NO A5 - Tier 2 tree removal allowance and accessory dwelling units - Many accessory dwelling units are less than 15 feet wide. Builders do not need a guaranteed 15 feet. Amendment would be another guaranteed reason to remove exceptional trees. Let the city keep its flexibility to decide based on the trees on a lot.

#### Group G. Tree Protection During Development

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES G2 - Tree protection area delineation - This is the recommended ANSI-A300 methodology recommended that takes into account tree species and age of tree in determining the tree protection area.
- VOTE YES G3 - Temporary reduction of tree protection areas - would result in less tree removal by allowing temporary intrusion under supervision.
- VOTE YES G4 - Off-site trees during development - would require protection of off-site trees during development.

##### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A4 - Calculation of lot coverage standard - tree protection area - Canopy drip line for tree protection areas and no temporary extensions into tree protection area would result in more tree removals.

#### Group C. Permit Review Process

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO E2 - Minimum in-lieu fee payment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trees - Does not cover estimated Parks Dept. \$4000 cost to plant and maintain Tier 3 trees at recommended \$2800 fee

Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Ericka Berg  
[ericka98115@gmail.com](mailto:ericka98115@gmail.com)  
14035 Burke Ave N  
Seattle, Washington 98133

**From:** Andrew Powell <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 7:32 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Andrew Powell  
[morgan.istanbul@gmail.com](mailto:morgan.istanbul@gmail.com)  
819 Virginia st  
Seattle, Washington 98101

**From:** valentina warner <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 7:49 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

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Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

valentina warner  
[valentinawarner@gmail.com](mailto:valentinawarner@gmail.com)  
3273 MCclintock ave S  
seattle , Washington 98144

**From:** Jonathan Pasley <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 7:50 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we actually live, here in the city, not just outside city limits.\*

I am particularly concerned about the 15 foot allowance for ADUs. We are going to build one. Not only is not 15 ft, but it is exactly because we WANT to preserve the trees in our backyard. For shade, for coolness, for water absorption, for the feel good that trees bring. We do not need a one size fits all, just for developers. We must do the work to keep our trees -- and developers can afford it, they just don't want to. Thanks for listening and working on this very complex issue.

Please take the following action on these priority amendments:

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Group F. Tree Service Providers

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Jonathan Pasley  
[mrconnecto@yahoo.com](mailto:mrconnecto@yahoo.com)  
3916 NE 109th ST  
North Seattle/Lake City, Washington 98125

**From:** Catherine Ruha <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 7:51 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live! We need the life giving oxygen they breathe into our carbon heavy human lifestyles. Life. Trees heal and benefit lives.

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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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- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
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## Group F. Tree Service Providers

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Voting for the above will show some love for us citizens. We live here. Many of the developers you cater to, do not. And, Seattle should be beautiful - a place I want to walk and bike around, a place where I can look up and see the green of trees and know, no matter my financial circumstances, that I can enjoy their life giving energy.

May we be blessed with more trees,  
Catherine

Catherine Ruha  
[ruhac@outlook.com](mailto:ruhac@outlook.com)  
1541 NE 91st Street  
Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** Jean Trent <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 7:54 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

## Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live and we need you to vote in favor of saving as many trees as possible. Our supply is dwindling. We cannot thrive as a city with future heat unless we have trees! Save what you can, don't let development drive your decision, you are our last hope for a sustainable world.

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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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Thanks you for your service. Jean Trent

Jean Trent

[jean.trent@gmail.com](mailto:jean.trent@gmail.com)

9100 Roosevelt Way NE.

Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** Anna Pedroso <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 7:59 AM

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

**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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Anna Pedroso  
[anna.pedroso02@gmail.com](mailto:anna.pedroso02@gmail.com)  
3815 35th Ave. W  
Seattle, Washington 98199

**From:** Jacob Ramos <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 8:01 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please amend the 2023 Draft Tree Ordinance - No "guaranteed 85%!"

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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. With middle-housing zoning updates, neighborhood residential (34% tree canopy) will change to multi-family (23% tree canopy) and Seattle tree canopy will plummet unless strong and effective efforts are made to preserve trees.

We urge you to adopt these amendments to the 2023 draft Tree Protection Ordinance.

-----

TOP PRIORITY -- We need trees where we live!

1. Require 20% lot allowance for "tree preservation and tree planting areas" in multifamily areas and 40% lot allowance for 1-4 units in the neighborhood residential zone as Portland Oregon does in their family residential zone. Portland passed legislation in 2020 to allow up to 4plexes in their neighborhoods after the state mandated zoning updates. Portland responded in Nov 2022 to update their tree protection legislation. <https://www.portland.gov/code/11/50/050>

2. Remove the guaranteed "85% lot development area" provision. If the current middle housing legislation passes in Olympia, almost all of Seattle would be affected by this change, with a significant loss of tree canopy city wide. The city needs flexibility to evaluate development and protecting trees lot by lot, not one size fits all circumstances.

-----

3. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6" DSH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan be submitted by developers, as Portland Oregon does, prior to any building permits being approved. This information fits with collecting in lieu fees prior to issuing building permits and facilitates reporting and tracking of tree loss and replacement, rather than city workers having to pull this information from site plans. Mayor Harrell's Executive Order asked for data on trees removed and replaced. Getting this information up front from developers is the best way to do this.

4. Require developers throughout the total development process to maximize the retention of existing trees 6" DSH and larger with adequate space for trees to grow and survive. The current draft removes consideration of protecting 6"-12" DSH trees and also removes them from site plans. Keep them on the site plans and protect them during development. Trees 6" DSH and larger represent 45% of trees in the NR zone according to Seattle's Ecosystem Values Report. Most of these trees are established potential replacement trees for existing large trees that die. Trees 12" DSH and larger only represent 18% of the trees in the NR zone. A diversity of ages and species for trees is essential for a healthy urban forest.



5. Retain definitions and use of exceptional and significant trees. Remove the confusing and biased proposed new classification of trees as Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4. The use and understanding of trees as exceptional has been in the Tree Protection Ordinance since 2001 and described in more detail in the 2008 Director's Rule. 16-2008. Significant trees are understood to be those 6" DSH and larger that are not exceptional. Many other cities, including in this region, use these definitions.
6. Require for replacement 2 trees for 12-24" DSH trees removed, 3 trees for 24 – 36" DSH and 4 trees for above 36" DSH for more equivalency of the increasing value of services trees provide as they increase in size. One for one replacement is no equivalency for what is lost as trees increase in size. Require that tree replacement numbers increase with the size and canopy volume of the removed tree. such that in 25 years or less they will reach equivalent canopy volume lost. Waiting 80 years to replace an 80-year-old tree is too long.
7. Increase in lieu fee schedule to require the \$17.87/square inch of trunk in-lieu fees to start with 12" DSH trees rather than 24" DSH trees. In-Lieu fees need to adequately cover the city's additional cost of planting and maintaining the trees for 5 years.
8. All replacement in lieu fees and fines should go into a One Seattle Tree Fund as stated in Mayor Harrell's 's Executive Order. It should be a dedicated Tree Planting and Preservation Fund like Portland, Oregon has (not into SDCI's budget). The Fund should be added to this draft. The Fund should report yearly on its budget to the City Council and Mayor. The One Seattle Tree Fund should be overseen by the City Urban Forester located in OSE because the distribution of funds would be interdepartmental. Allow the One Seattle Tree Fund (Tree Planting and Preservation Fund) to also accept fines, donations, grants, purchase land, set up covenants and for educational purposes as Portland, Oregon does.
9. The role of the new City Forester position created by the Seattle City Council in OSE should be defined in this ordinance.
10. Create an Urban Forestry Division within SDCI with additional staff as recommended in a separate budget provision or expand the Urban Forestry staff and responsibility in the Office of sustainability and Environment for independent oversight of trees.
11. 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" DSH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, removed both during development and outside development. The proposed ordinance remains a complaint-based system relying on citizens which has been proven to not be effective in code compliance. SDCI only has 2 arborists who are mostly deskbound.to check site plans and in the field.
12. Require SDCI to submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree

removal and replacement as currently required by other City Departments and yearly as required yearly by Mayor Harrell's Executive Order.

13. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Highrise, Industrial, Downtown and Institutions.
14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity.
15. Expand the required tree protection covenant to include a replacement requirement for a tree that dies. Make it a permanent "protected tree planting site" for the life of the building.
16. Remove or clarify language of tree drip line "may be irregular in shape to reflect variation in branch outer limits" Dripline is used to determine tree protection area and branches shortened in some areas may not reflect root structure or may have been removed in certain areas if tree has been limbed up.
17. Require that maintenance of relocated and replacement trees include "watering as needed".
18. Require street trees be planted if ADU's are added to a lot. ADU's reduce space for trees on site and increase tree removal. They are currently exempt from original lot coverage limits in the NR zone.
19. Remove the 1000 square feet addition to an existing structure exemption requiring planting street trees. Additions increasing the building footprint are removing existing or potential tree planting and preservation space.
20. Give the SDCI Director the authority to reduce or waive any fees assessed by this ordinance, taking into account a homeowner's financial circumstances or ability to pay.
21. Split the purpose and intent section. Add to intent "address climate resiliency and reduce heat island impacts across the city"
22. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, scotch broom, and holly from development sites to help stop the spread of invasive species in our city that add to maintenance costs and replacement of dying trees.

Jacob Ramos  
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2615 E. Cherry St. #3B  
Seattle, Washington 98122

**From:** Sharon Higgins <sharon.higgins@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 8:02 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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.

Please take the following action on these priority amendments:

Group A. Development Capacity and Development Standard Modifications

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES A6 - Maintain current FAR method for determining when trees can be removed in Lowrise, Midrise and Seattle Mixed Zones - Continue using the FAR or floor area ratio standard which allows for departures outside the building to save exceptional trees (Tier 2). Builders are pushing for a guaranteed 85% development area which would remove the city's flexibility in saving existing exceptional trees. Trees are already scarce in these areas and this amendment would help save trees in these areas and reduce urban heat island impacts.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.
- VOTE NO A5 - Tier 2 tree removal allowance and accessory dwelling units - Many accessory dwelling units are less than 15 feet wide. Builders do not need a guaranteed 15 feet. Amendment would be another guaranteed reason to remove exceptional trees. Let the city keep its flexibility to decide based on the trees on a lot.

Group G. Tree Protection During Development

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES G2 - Tree protection area delineation - This is the recommended ANSI-A300 methodology recommended that takes into account tree species and age of tree in determining the tree protection area.
- VOTE YES G3 - Temporary reduction of tree protection areas - would result in less tree removal by allowing temporary intrusion under supervision.

- VOTE YES G4 - Off-site trees during development - would require protection of off-site trees during development.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A4 - Calculation of lot coverage standard - tree protection area - Canopy drip line for tree protection areas and no temporary extensions into tree protection area would result in more tree removals.

Group C. Permit Review Process

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments

- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO E2 - Minimum in-lieu fee payment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trees - Does not cover estimated Parks Dept. \$4000 cost to plant and maintain Tier 3 trees at recommended \$2800 fee

Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers

- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Sharon Higgins  
[sharon.higgins@comcast.net](mailto:sharon.higgins@comcast.net)  
415 N 157th CT  
Shoreline, Washington 98133

**From:** Judith Henchy <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 8:02 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

## Memo to Seattle City Council

I am writing as a concerned citizen, a 35 year resident of Seattle, who loves this city because of its tree cover. I understand that I am lucky to live in a community where I can enjoy trees -- the 9 mature evergreens in my own yard that I have nurtured over these several decades, as well as those in environmentally sensitive creek areas down the street. I want everyone to enjoy this natural environment, and hope that the Council will not sacrifice these crucial engines of environmental and climate stability under the false banners of development and equity-- which, as currently encoded are simply gifts to the building industry. Little of this destruction is helping our housing crisis, and developers need to be held accountable to neighborhood residents and the city more widely for the building choices they make. Your votes today are critical in asserting that accountability on behalf of the residents who voted you into office.

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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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Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Judith Henchy  
[henchyj@outlook.com](mailto:henchyj@outlook.com)  
9717 17th Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** Judith Sanderman <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 8:03 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers

- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Judith Sanderman  
[judyden@gmail.com](mailto:judyden@gmail.com)  
5623 Seaview Ave NW  
Seattle, Washington 98107

**From:** Rob Zisette <rzisette@herrerainc.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 8:07 AM



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

**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

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Rob Zisette

[rzisette@herrerainc.com](mailto:rzisette@herrerainc.com)

3519 Burke Ave N

Seattle, Washington 98103

**From:** Carolyn Rodenberg <carolynrodenberg@mindspring.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 8:16 AM

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

**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

## Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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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### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
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## Group F. Tree Service Providers

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Carolyn Rodenberg  
[carolynrodenberg@mindspring.com](mailto:carolynrodenberg@mindspring.com)  
2121 8th Ave West  
Seattle, Washington 98119

**From:** tristan.fields@gmail.com <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 8:17 AM

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

**Subject:** Please Amend Mayor Harrell's draft Tree Protection Ordinance - no 85% guarantee

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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. With middle-housing zoning updates, neighborhood residential (34% tree canopy) will change to multi-family (23% tree canopy) and Seattle tree canopy will plummet unless strong and effective efforts are made to preserve trees.

We urge you to adopt these amendments to the 2023 draft Tree Protection Ordinance.

-----  
TOP PRIORITY -- We need trees where we live!

1. Require 20% lot allowance for "tree preservation and tree planting areas" in multifamily areas and 40% lot allowance for 1-4 units in the neighborhood residential zone as Portland Oregon does in their family residential zone. Portland passed legislation in 2020 to allow up to 4plexes in their neighborhoods after the state mandated zoning updates. Portland responded in Nov 2022 to update their tree protection legislation. <https://www.portland.gov/code/11/50/050>

2. Remove the guaranteed "85% lot development area" provision. If the current middle housing legislation passes in Olympia, almost all of Seattle would be affected by this change, with a significant loss of tree canopy city wide. The city needs flexibility to evaluate development and protecting trees lot by lot, not one size fits all circumstances.

-----  
3. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6" DSH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan be submitted by developers, as Portland Oregon does, prior to any building permits being approved. This information fits with collecting in lieu fees prior to issuing building permits and facilitates reporting and tracking of tree loss and replacement, rather than city workers having to pull this information from site plans. Mayor Harrell's Executive Order asked for data on trees removed and replaced. Getting this information up front from developers is the best way to do this.

4. Require developers throughout the total development process to maximize the retention of existing trees 6" DSH and larger with adequate space for trees to grow and survive. The current draft removes consideration of protecting 6"-12" DSH trees and also removes them from site plans. Keep them on the site plans and protect them during development. Trees 6" DSH and larger represent 45% of trees in the NR zone according to Seattle's Ecosystem Values Report. Most of these trees are established potential replacement trees for existing large trees that die. Trees 12" DSH and larger only represent 18% of the trees in the NR zone. A diversity of ages and species for trees is essential for a healthy urban forest.

5. Retain definitions and use of exceptional and significant trees. Remove the confusing and biased proposed new classification of trees as Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4. The use and understanding of

trees as exceptional has been in the Tree Protection Ordinance since 2001 and described in more detail in the 2008 Director's Rule. 16-2008. Significant trees are understood to be those 6" DSH and larger that are not exceptional. Many other cities, including in this region, use these definitions.

6. Require for replacement 2 trees for 12-24" DSH trees removed, 3 trees for 24 – 36" DSH and 4 trees for above 36" DSH for more equivalency of the increasing value of services trees provide as they increase in size. One for one replacement is no equivalency for what is lost as trees increase in size. Require that tree replacement numbers increase with the size and canopy volume of the removed tree. such that in 25 years or less they will reach equivalent canopy volume lost. Waiting 80 years to replace an 80-year-old tree is too long.

7. Increase in lieu fee schedule to require the \$17.87/square inch of trunk in-lieu fees to start with 12" DSH trees rather than 24" DSH trees. In-Lieu fees need to adequately cover the city's additional cost of planting and maintaining the trees for 5 years.

8. All replacement in lieu fees and fines should go into a One Seattle Tree Fund as stated in Mayor Harrell's 's Executive Order. It should be a dedicated Tree Planting and Preservation Fund like Portland, Oregon has (not into SDCI's budget). The Fund should be added to this draft. The Fund should report yearly on its budget to the City Council and Mayor. The One Seattle Tree Fund should be overseen by the City Urban Forester located in OSE because the distribution of funds would be interdepartmental. Allow the One Seattle Tree Fund (Tree Planting and Preservation Fund) to also accept fines, donations, grants, purchase land, set up covenants and for educational purposes as Portland, Oregon does.

9. The role of the new City Forester position created by the Seattle City Council in OSE should be defined in this ordinance.

10. Create an Urban Forestry Division within SDCI with additional staff as recommended in a separate budget provision or expand the Urban Forestry staff and responsibility in the Office of sustainability and Environment for independent oversight of trees.

11. 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" DSH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, removed both during development and outside development. The proposed ordinance remains a complaint-based system relying on citizens which has been proven to not be effective in code compliance. SDCI only has 2 arborists who are mostly deskbound.to check site plans and in the field.

12. Require SDCI to submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree removal and replacement as currently required by other City Departments and yearly as required yearly by Mayor Harrell's Executive Order.

13. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Highrise, Industrial, Downtown and Institutions.
14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity.
15. Expand the required tree protection covenant to include a replacement requirement for a tree that dies. Make it a permanent “protected tree planting site” for the life of the building.
16. Remove or clarify language of tree drip line “may be irregular in shape to reflect variation in branch outer limits” Dripline is used to determine tree protection area and branches shortened in some areas may not reflect root structure or may have been removed in certain areas if tree has been limbed up.
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22. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, scotch broom, and holly from development sites to help stop the spread of invasive species in our city that add to maintenance costs and replacement of dying trees.

[tristan.fields@gmail.com](mailto:tristan.fields@gmail.com)  
2212 Walnut Ave sW  
Seattle, Washington 98116

**From:** Dinushi Samarasekara <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 8:20 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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Dinushi Samarasekara  
[dinushi.samarasekara@gmail.com](mailto:dinushi.samarasekara@gmail.com)  
9905 156th PI NE  
Redmond , WA 98052

**From:** Carolyn Crockett <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 8:32 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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- VOTE NO A5 - Tier 2 tree removal allowance and accessory dwelling units - Many accessory dwelling units are less than 15 feet wide. Builders do not need a guaranteed 15 feet. Amendment would be another guaranteed reason to remove exceptional trees. Let the city keep its flexibility to decide based on the trees on a lot.

#### Group G. Tree Protection During Development

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES G2 - Tree protection area delineation - This is the recommended ANSI-A300 methodology recommended that takes into account tree species and age of tree in determining the tree protection area.

- VOTE YES G3 - Temporary reduction of tree protection areas - would result in less tree removal by allowing temporary intrusion under supervision.

- VOTE YES G4 - Off-site trees during development - would require protection of off-site trees during development.

##### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A4 - Calculation of lot coverage standard - tree protection area - Canopy drip line for tree protection areas and no temporary extensions into tree protection area would result in more tree removals.

## Group C. Permit Review Process

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

## Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO E2 - Minimum in-lieu fee payment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trees - Does not cover estimated Parks Dept. \$4000 cost to plant and maintain Tier 3 trees at recommended \$2800 fee

## Group F. Tree Service Providers

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Thank you,

Carolyn Crockett  
Haller Lake neighborhood

Carolyn Crockett  
[ccrockett@mac.com](mailto:ccrockett@mac.com)  
13034 1st Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98125-3005

**From:** Sophia Keller <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 8:32 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live! As a resident of Seattle since 1961, I endorse each of the recommendations in this letter. I have read the statements for and against each amendment, and I approve the choices indicated below. Thank you for your attention.

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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.

Please take the following action on these priority amendments:

Group A. Development Capacity and Development Standard Modifications

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES A6 - Maintain current FAR method for determining when trees can be removed in Lowrise, Midrise and Seattle Mixed Zones - Continue using the FAR or floor area ratio standard which allows for departures outside the building to save exceptional trees (Tier 2). Builders are pushing for a guaranteed 85% development area which would remove the city's flexibility in saving existing exceptional trees. Trees are already scarce in these areas and this amendment would help save trees in these areas and reduce urban heat island impacts.

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- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.

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Sophia Keller  
[keltiawind@gmail.com](mailto:keltiawind@gmail.com)  
851 SW 127th Street  
Seattle, Washington 98146

**From:** Susan Samuelson <suesam@duck.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 8:44 AM

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

**Subject:** Please Amend Mayor Harrell's draft Tree Protection Ordinance - no 85% guarantee

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

You know the importance of tree canopy, especially in a growing city like Seattle. We urge you to adopt these amendments to the 2023 draft Tree Protection Ordinance.

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TOP PRIORITY -- We need trees where we live!

1. Require 20% lot allowance for “tree preservation and tree planting areas” in multifamily areas and 40% lot allowance for 1-4 units in the neighborhood residential zone as Portland Oregon does in their family residential zone. Portland passed legislation in 2020 to allow up to 4plexes in their neighborhoods after the state mandated zoning updates. Portland responded in Nov 2022 to update their tree protection legislation. <https://www.portland.gov/code/11/50/050>

2. Remove the guaranteed “85% lot development area” provision. If the current middle housing legislation passes in Olympia, almost all of Seattle would be affected by this change, with a significant loss of tree canopy city wide. The city needs flexibility to evaluate development and protecting trees lot by lot, not one size fits all circumstances.

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3. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6” DSH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan be submitted by developers, as Portland Oregon does, prior to any building permits being approved. This information fits with collecting in lieu fees prior to issuing building permits and facilitates reporting and tracking of tree loss and replacement, rather than city workers having to pull this information from site plans. Mayor Harrell's Executive Order asked for data on trees removed and replaced. Getting this information up front from developers is the best way to do this.

4. Require developers throughout the total development process to maximize the retention of existing trees 6” DSH and larger with adequate space for trees to grow and survive. The current draft removes consideration of protecting 6”-12” DSH trees and also removes them from site plans. Keep them on the site plans and protect them during development. Trees 6” DSH and larger represent 45% of trees in the NR zone according to Seattle’s Ecosystem Values Report. Most of these trees are established potential replacement trees for existing large trees that die. Trees 12” DSH and larger only represent 18% of the trees in the NR zone. A diversity of ages and species for trees is essential for a healthy urban forest.

5. Retain definitions and use of exceptional and significant trees. Remove the confusing and biased proposed new classification of trees as Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4. The use and understanding of trees as exceptional has been in the Tree Protection Ordinance since 2001 and described in more detail in the 2008 Director’s Rule. 16-2008. Significant trees are understood to be those 6” DSH and larger that are not exceptional. Many other cities, including in this region, use these definitions.

6. Require for replacement 2 trees for 12-24” DSH trees removed, 3 trees for 24 – 36” DSH and 4 trees for above 36” DSH for more equivalency of the increasing value of services trees provide as they increase in size. One for one replacement is no equivalency for what is lost as trees increase in size. Require that tree replacement numbers increase with the size and canopy volume of the removed tree. such that in 25 years or less they will reach equivalent canopy volume lost. Waiting 80 years to replace an 80-year-old tree is too long.

7. Increase in lieu fee schedule to require the \$17.87/square inch of trunk in-lieu fees to start with 12" DSH trees rather than 24" DSH trees. In-Lieu fees need to adequately cover the city's additional cost of planting and maintaining the trees for 5 years.

8. All replacement in lieu fees and fines should go into a One Seattle Tree Fund as stated in Mayor Harrell's 's Executive Order. It should be a dedicated Tree Planting and Preservation Fund like Portland, Oregon has (not into SDCI's budget). The Fund should be added to this draft. The Fund should report yearly on its budget to the City Council and Mayor. The One Seattle Tree Fund should be overseen by the City Urban Forester located in OSE because the distribution of funds would be interdepartmental. Allow the One Seattle Tree Fund (Tree Planting and Preservation Fund) to also accept fines, donations, grants, purchase land, set up covenants and for educational purposes as Portland, Oregon does.

9. The role of the new City Forester position created by the Seattle City Council in OSE should be defined in this ordinance.

10. Create an Urban Forestry Division within SDCI with additional staff as recommended in a separate budget provision or expand the Urban Forestry staff and responsibility in the Office of sustainability and Environment for independent oversight of trees.

11. 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" DSH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, removed both during development and outside development. The proposed ordinance remains a complaint-based system relying on citizens which has been proven to not be effective in code compliance. SDCI only has 2 arborists who are mostly deskbound to check site plans and in the field.

12. Require SDCI to submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree removal and replacement as currently required by other City Departments and yearly as required yearly by Mayor Harrell's Executive Order.

13. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Highrise, Industrial, Downtown and Institutions.

14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity.

15. Expand the required tree protection covenant to include a replacement requirement for a tree that dies. Make it a permanent "protected tree planting site" for the life of the building.

16. Remove or clarify language of tree drip line "may be irregular in shape to reflect variation in branch outer limits" Dripline is used to determine tree protection area and branches shortened in some areas may not reflect root structure or may have been removed in certain areas if tree has been limbed up.

17. Require that maintenance of relocated and replacement trees include "watering as needed".
18. Require street trees be planted if ADU's are added to a lot. ADU's reduce space for trees on site and increase tree removal. They are currently exempt from original lot coverage limits in the NR zone.
19. Remove the 1000 square feet addition to an existing structure exemption requiring planting street trees. Additions increasing the building footprint are removing existing or potential tree planting and preservation space.
20. Give the SDCI Director the authority to reduce or waive any fees assessed by this ordinance, taking into account a homeowner's financial circumstances or ability to pay.
21. Split the purpose and intent section. Add to intent "address climate resiliency and reduce heat island impacts across the city"
22. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, scotch broom, and holly from development sites to help stop the spread of invasive species in our city that add to maintenance costs and replacement of dying trees.

Susan Samuelson  
[suesam@duck.com](mailto:suesam@duck.com)  
6318 17th Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** Nancy Churillo <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 8:46 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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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Group A. Development Capacity and Development Standard Modifications



## VOTE YES

- VOTE YES A6 - Maintain current FAR method for determining when trees can be removed in Lowrise, Midrise and Seattle Mixed Zones - Continue using the FAR or floor area ratio standard which allows for departures outside the building to save exceptional trees (Tier 2). Builders are pushing for a guaranteed 85% development area which would remove the city's flexibility in saving existing exceptional trees. Trees are already scarce in these areas and this amendment would help save trees in these areas and reduce urban heat island impacts.

## VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.

- VOTE NO A5 - Tier 2 tree removal allowance and accessory dwelling units - Many accessory dwelling units are less than 15 feet wide. Builders do not need a guaranteed 15 feet. Amendment would be another guaranteed reason to remove exceptional trees. Let the city keep its flexibility to decide based on the trees on a lot.

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- VOTE YES G2 - Tree protection area delineation - This is the recommended ANSI-A300 methodology recommended that takes into account tree species and age of tree in determining the tree protection area.

- VOTE YES G3 - Temporary reduction of tree protection areas - would result in less tree removal by allowing temporary intrusion under supervision.

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- VOTE NO A4 - Calculation of lot coverage standard - tree protection area - Canopy drip line for tree protection areas and no temporary extensions into tree protection area would result in more tree removals.

## Group C. Permit Review Process

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments

- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

## Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

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- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

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## Group F. Tree Service Providers

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Nancy Churillo  
[hiddenstaircase@mac.com](mailto:hiddenstaircase@mac.com)  
8010 11th Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** wm waldman <wwaldmanmd@erols.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 9:02 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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wm waldman  
[wwaldmanmd@erols.com](mailto:wwaldmanmd@erols.com)  
3701 South Hudson Street  
Seattle, Washington 98118

**From:** Elizabeth Sokol <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 9:05 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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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Elizabeth Sokol  
[eli\\_sokol@yahoo.com](mailto:eli_sokol@yahoo.com)  
17722 28th Ave NE  
Lake Forest Park, Washington 98155

**From:** Bridget Albright <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 9:22 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance Equity Issue

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live! And we need to make sure our policies do not have inequitable different residential neighborhoods. Please review which communities have less foliage currently and how this policy would adversely effect lower income and BIPOC communities.

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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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Bridget Albright  
[bridgetbba@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetbba@gmail.com)  
154 22nd Ave  
Seattle, Washington 98122-6036

**From:** Cynthia Young <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 9:29 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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Cynthia Young  
[pearl206@aol.com](mailto:pearl206@aol.com)  
1523 NE 98th ST  
Maple Leaf in North Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** charles williams <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 9:30 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.

- VOTE NO A5 - Tier 2 tree removal allowance and accessory dwelling units - Many accessory dwelling units are less than 15 feet wide. Builders do not need a guaranteed 15 feet. Amendment would be another guaranteed reason to remove exceptional trees. Let the city keep its flexibility to decide based on the trees on a lot.

#### Group G. Tree Protection During Development

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES G2 - Tree protection area delineation - This is the recommended ANSI-A300 methodology recommended that takes into account tree species and age of tree in determining the tree protection area.
- VOTE YES G3 - Temporary reduction of tree protection areas - would result in less tree removal by allowing temporary intrusion under supervision.
- VOTE YES G4 - Off-site trees during development - would require protection of off-site trees during development.

##### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A4 - Calculation of lot coverage standard - tree protection area - Canopy drip line for tree protection areas and no temporary extensions into tree protection area would result in more tree removals.

#### Group C. Permit Review Process

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

#### Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

##### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO E2 - Minimum in-lieu fee payment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trees - Does not cover estimated Parks Dept. \$4000 cost to plant and maintain Tier 3 trees at recommended \$2800 fee

#### Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

charles williams  
[chuckwilliams1@me.com](mailto:chuckwilliams1@me.com)  
7850 E. Green Lake Dr. N., #102  
Seattle, Washington 98103

**From:** Richard Nicol <[rlnicol@msn.com](mailto:rlnicol@msn.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 9:31 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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.

Please take the following action on these priority amendments:

Group A. Development Capacity and Development Standard Modifications

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES A6 - Maintain current FAR method for determining when trees can be removed in Lowrise, Midrise and Seattle Mixed Zones - Continue using the FAR or floor area ratio standard which allows for departures outside the building to save exceptional trees (Tier 2). Builders are pushing for a guaranteed 85% development area which would remove the city's flexibility in saving existing exceptional trees. Trees are already scarce in these areas and this amendment would help save trees in these areas and reduce urban heat island impacts.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.
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- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

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##### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO E2 - Minimum in-lieu fee payment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trees - Does not cover estimated Parks Dept. \$4000 cost to plant and maintain Tier 3 trees at recommended \$2800 fee

#### Group F. Tree Service Providers

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers

- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Richard Nicol  
[rlnicol@msn.com](mailto:rlnicol@msn.com)  
1414 Northwest 62nd Street  
Seattle, Washington 98107

**From:** Robert Gensley <[rtreater@msn.com](mailto:rtreater@msn.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:14 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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#### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

#### Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

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#### Group F. Tree Service Providers

#### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

1119 ne 43 st, 101  
seattle, Washington 98105

**From:** Lois Martin <lamartin1@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:16 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please amend the 2023 Draft Tree Ordinance - No "guaranteed 85%!"

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

As a legacy Black resident and early learning educator from the Central District, I am hopeful the council, since no environmental impact study was conducted, will, at a minimum, adhere to the recommendations laid out by the city's own Urban Forestry Commission in the letter sent to council on Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

Historically, we know it will be members of my community whose neighborhoods will be most impacted by the proposed 85% and/or 100% lot coverage. Unlike what some developers testified to today, there is quite a bit of canopy loss due to residential development. You can simply drive thru my neighborhood and see the lack of mature trees because of market rate development. New trees DO NOT provide the same carbon filtration of mature trees, turning lower to middle income neighborhoods into heat islands. It will be YEARS before communities reap their health benefits and our children will be the ones who suffer.

Please do not bend to the legal threats of an organization (MBAKS) whose members stand to benefit financially from reduced tree protection rules. There is money to be made – they will build. We don't want Seattle to make Portland's mistake and have to backtrack on approved ordinances to protect trees. Once a mature tree is gone there is no turning back. Learn from their example - don't repeat it.

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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. With middle-housing zoning updates, neighborhood residential (34% tree canopy) will change to multi-family (23% tree canopy) and Seattle tree canopy will plummet unless strong and effective efforts are made to preserve trees.

We urge you to adopt these amendments to the 2023 draft Tree Protection Ordinance.

-----

TOP PRIORITY -- We need trees where we live!

1. Require 20% lot allowance for "tree preservation and tree planting areas" in multifamily areas and 40% lot allowance for 1-4 units in the neighborhood residential zone as Portland Oregon does in their family



residential zone. Portland passed legislation in 2020 to allow up to 4plexes in their neighborhoods after the state mandated zoning updates. Portland responded in Nov 2022 to update their tree protection legislation. <https://www.portland.gov/code/11/50/050>

2. Remove the guaranteed “85% lot development area” provision. If the current middle housing legislation passes in Olympia, almost all of Seattle would be affected by this change, with a significant loss of tree canopy city wide. The city needs flexibility to evaluate development and protecting trees lot by lot, not one size fits all circumstances.

-----

3. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6” DSH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan be submitted by developers, as Portland Oregon does, prior to any building permits being approved. This information fits with collecting in lieu fees prior to issuing building permits and facilitates reporting and tracking of tree loss and replacement, rather than city workers having to pull this information from site plans. Mayor Harrell's Executive Order asked for data on trees removed and replaced. Getting this information up front from developers is the best way to do this.

4. Require developers throughout the total development process to maximize the retention of existing trees 6” DSH and larger with adequate space for trees to grow and survive. The current draft removes consideration of protecting 6”-12” DSH trees and also removes them from site plans. Keep them on the site plans and protect them during development. Trees 6” DSH and larger represent 45% of trees in the NR zone according to Seattle’s Ecosystem Values Report. Most of these trees are established potential replacement trees for existing large trees that die. Trees 12” DSH and larger only represent 18% of the trees in the NR zone. A diversity of ages and species for trees is essential for a healthy urban forest.

5. Retain definitions and use of exceptional and significant trees. Remove the confusing and biased proposed new classification of trees as Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4. The use and understanding of trees as exceptional has been in the Tree Protection Ordinance since 2001 and described in more detail in the 2008 Director’s Rule. 16-2008. Significant trees are understood to be those 6” DSH and larger that are not exceptional. Many other cities, including in this region, use these definitions.

6. Require for replacement 2 trees for 12-24” DSH trees removed, 3 trees for 24 – 36” DSH and 4 trees for above 36” DSH for more equivalency of the increasing value of services trees provide as they increase in size. One for one replacement is no equivalency for what is lost as trees increase in size. Require that tree replacement numbers increase with the size and canopy volume of the removed tree. such that in 25 years or less they will reach equivalent canopy volume lost. Waiting 80 years to replace an 80-year-old tree is too long.

7. Increase in lieu fee schedule to require the \$17.87/square inch of trunk in-lieu fees to start with 12” DSH trees rather than 24” DSH trees. In-Lieu fees need to adequately cover the city’s additional cost of planting and maintaining the trees for 5 years.

8. All replacement in lieu fees and fines should go into a One Seattle Tree Fund as stated in Mayor Harrell's Executive Order. It should be a dedicated Tree Planting and Preservation Fund like Portland, Oregon has (not into SDCI's budget). The Fund should be added to this draft. The Fund should report yearly on its budget to the City Council and Mayor. The One Seattle Tree Fund should be overseen by the City Urban Forester located in OSE because the distribution of funds would be interdepartmental. Allow the One Seattle Tree Fund (Tree Planting and Preservation Fund) to also accept fines, donations, grants, purchase land, set up covenants and for educational purposes as Portland, Oregon does.

9. The role of the new City Forester position created by the Seattle City Council in OSE should be defined in this ordinance.

10. Create an Urban Forestry Division within SDCI with additional staff as recommended in a separate budget provision or expand the Urban Forestry staff and responsibility in the Office of sustainability and Environment for independent oversight of trees.

11. 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" DSH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, removed both during development and outside development. The proposed ordinance remains a complaint-based system relying on citizens which has been proven to not be effective in code compliance. SDCI only has 2 arborists who are mostly deskbound to check site plans and in the field.

12. Require SDCI to submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree removal and replacement as currently required by other City Departments and yearly as required yearly by Mayor Harrell's Executive Order.

13. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Highrise, Industrial, Downtown and Institutions.

14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity.

15. Expand the required tree protection covenant to include a replacement requirement for a tree that dies. Make it a permanent "protected tree planting site" for the life of the building.

16. Remove or clarify language of tree drip line "may be irregular in shape to reflect variation in branch outer limits" Dripline is used to determine tree protection area and branches shortened in some areas may not reflect root structure or may have been removed in certain areas if tree has been limbed up.

17. Require that maintenance of relocated and replacement trees include "watering as needed".

18. Require street trees be planted if ADU's are added to a lot. ADU's reduce space for trees on site and increase tree removal. They are currently exempt from original lot coverage limits in the NR zone.

19. Remove the 1000 square feet addition to an existing structure exemption requiring planting street trees. Additions increasing the building footprint are removing existing or potential tree planting and preservation space.

20. Give the SDCI Director the authority to reduce or waive any fees assessed by this ordinance, taking into account a homeowner's financial circumstances or ability to pay.

21. Split the purpose and intent section. Add to intent "address climate resiliency and reduce heat island impacts across the city"

22. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, scotch broom, and holly from development sites to help stop the spread of invasive species in our city that add to maintenance costs and replacement of dying trees.

Lois Martin  
[lamartin1@msn.com](mailto:lamartin1@msn.com)  
129 21st Ave  
Seattle, Washington 98122-5911

**From:** Lucy Flanagan <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:17 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

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Group A. Development Capacity and Development Standard Modifications

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES A6 - Maintain current FAR method for determining when trees can be removed in Lowrise, Midrise and Seattle Mixed Zones - Continue using the FAR or floor area ratio standard which allows for

departures outside the building to save exceptional trees (Tier 2). Builders are pushing for a guaranteed 85% development area which would remove the city's flexibility in saving existing exceptional trees. Trees are already scarce in these areas and this amendment would help save trees in these areas and reduce urban heat island impacts.

#### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.
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##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
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Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Lucy Flanagan  
[lflanaganski@gmail.com](mailto:lflanaganski@gmail.com)  
12030 4th Ave NW #A  
Seattle, Washington 98177

**From:** Margaret Nims <margot888@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:17 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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Margaret Nims  
[margot888@comcast.net](mailto:margot888@comcast.net)  
2722 N.E 87th Street  
Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** Latoya Oneal <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:22 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** No "guaranteed 85%"! Amend the draft tree ordinance

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20. Give the SDCI Director the authority to reduce or waive any fees assessed by this ordinance, taking into account a homeowner's financial circumstances or ability to pay.

21. Split the purpose and intent section. Add to intent "address climate resiliency and reduce heat island impacts across the city"

22. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, scotch broom, and holly from development sites to help stop the spread of invasive species in our city that add to maintenance costs and replacement of dying trees.

Latoya Oneal  
[latoyaoneal25@yahoo.com](mailto:latoyaoneal25@yahoo.com)  
1229 SW 126th St , Apt.11  
Burien, Washington 98146

**From:** Benjamin Menzies <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:23 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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.

Please take the following action on these priority amendments:

Group A. Development Capacity and Development Standard Modifications

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES A6 - Maintain current FAR method for determining when trees can be removed in Lowrise, Midrise and Seattle Mixed Zones - Continue using the FAR or floor area ratio standard which allows for departures outside the building to save exceptional trees (Tier 2). Builders are pushing for a guaranteed 85% development area which would remove the city's flexibility in saving existing exceptional trees. Trees

are already scarce in these areas and this amendment would help save trees in these areas and reduce urban heat island impacts.

#### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.
- VOTE NO A5 - Tier 2 tree removal allowance and accessory dwelling units - Many accessory dwelling units are less than 15 feet wide. Builders do not need a guaranteed 15 feet. Amendment would be another guaranteed reason to remove exceptional trees. Let the city keep its flexibility to decide based on the trees on a lot.

#### Group G. Tree Protection During Development

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES G2 - Tree protection area delineation - This is the recommended ANSI-A300 methodology recommended that takes into account tree species and age of tree in determining the tree protection area.
- VOTE YES G3 - Temporary reduction of tree protection areas - would result in less tree removal by allowing temporary intrusion under supervision.
- VOTE YES G4 - Off-site trees during development - would require protection of off-site trees during development.

##### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A4 - Calculation of lot coverage standard - tree protection area - Canopy drip line for tree protection areas and no temporary extensions into tree protection area would result in more tree removals.

#### Group C. Permit Review Process

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

#### Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain

trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO E2 - Minimum in-lieu fee payment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trees - Does not cover estimated Parks Dept. \$4000 cost to plant and maintain Tier 3 trees at recommended \$2800 fee

Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Benjamin Menzies  
[bentoddm@hotmail.com](mailto:bentoddm@hotmail.com)  
4411 S HUDSON ST  
Seattle, Washington 98118

**From:** Lassie Webster <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:23 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live! We MUST protect them, and we are counting on the Seattle City Council to do the right thing!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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.

Please take the following action on these priority amendments:

Group A. Development Capacity and Development Standard Modifications

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES A6 - Maintain current FAR method for determining when trees can be removed in Lowrise, Midrise and Seattle Mixed Zones - Continue using the FAR or floor area ratio standard which allows for departures outside the building to save exceptional trees (Tier 2). Builders are pushing for a guaranteed 85% development area which would remove the city's flexibility in saving existing exceptional trees. Trees

are already scarce in these areas and this amendment would help save trees in these areas and reduce urban heat island impacts.

#### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.
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#### Group G. Tree Protection During Development

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- VOTE NO A4 - Calculation of lot coverage standard - tree protection area - Canopy drip line for tree protection areas and no temporary extensions into tree protection area would result in more tree removals.

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##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

#### Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain

trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO E2 - Minimum in-lieu fee payment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trees - Does not cover estimated Parks Dept. \$4000 cost to plant and maintain Tier 3 trees at recommended \$2800 fee

Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Lassie Webster  
[lassiewebster@gmail.com](mailto:lassiewebster@gmail.com)  
2727 NE 91st Street  
Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** Sally Sehmsdorf <sallyse@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:24 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Amend Mayor Harrell's draft Tree Protection Ordinance - no 85% guarantee

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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. With middle-housing zoning updates, neighborhood residential (34% tree canopy) will change to multi-family (23% tree canopy) and Seattle tree canopy will plummet unless strong and effective efforts are made to preserve trees.

We urge you to adopt these amendments to the 2023 draft Tree Protection Ordinance.

-----

TOP PRIORITY -- We need trees where we live!

1. Require 20% lot allowance for "tree preservation and tree planting areas" in multifamily areas and 40% lot allowance for 1-4 units in the neighborhood residential zone as Portland Oregon does in their family residential zone. Portland passed legislation in 2020 to allow up to 4plexes in their neighborhoods after the state mandated zoning updates. Portland responded in Nov 2022 to update their tree protection

legislation. <https://www.portland.gov/code/11/50/050>

2. Remove the guaranteed “85% lot development area” provision. If the current middle housing legislation passes in Olympia, almost all of Seattle would be affected by this change, with a significant loss of tree canopy city wide. The city needs flexibility to evaluate development and protecting trees lot by lot, not one size fits all circumstances.

-----

3. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6” DSH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan be submitted by developers, as Portland Oregon does, prior to any building permits being approved. This information fits with collecting in lieu fees prior to issuing building permits and facilitates reporting and tracking of tree loss and replacement, rather than city workers having to pull this information from site plans. Mayor Harrell's Executive Order asked for data on trees removed and replaced. Getting this information up front from developers is the best way to do this.

4. Require developers throughout the total development process to maximize the retention of existing trees 6” DSH and larger with adequate space for trees to grow and survive. The current draft removes consideration of protecting 6”-12” DSH trees and also removes them from site plans. Keep them on the site plans and protect them during development. Trees 6” DSH and larger represent 45% of trees in the NR zone according to Seattle’s Ecosystem Values Report. Most of these trees are established potential replacement trees for existing large trees that die. Trees 12” DSH and larger only represent 18% of the trees in the NR zone. A diversity of ages and species for trees is essential for a healthy urban forest.

5. Retain definitions and use of exceptional and significant trees. Remove the confusing and biased proposed new classification of trees as Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4. The use and understanding of trees as exceptional has been in the Tree Protection Ordinance since 2001 and described in more detail in the 2008 Director’s Rule. 16-2008. Significant trees are understood to be those 6” DSH and larger that are not exceptional. Many other cities, including in this region, use these definitions.

6. Require for replacement 2 trees for 12-24” DSH trees removed, 3 trees for 24 – 36” DSH and 4 trees for above 36” DSH for more equivalency of the increasing value of services trees provide as they increase in size. One for one replacement is no equivalency for what is lost as trees increase in size. Require that tree replacement numbers increase with the size and canopy volume of the removed tree. such that in 25 years or less they will reach equivalent canopy volume lost. Waiting 80 years to replace an 80-year-old tree is too long.

7. Increase in lieu fee schedule to require the \$17.87/square inch of trunk in-lieu fees to start with 12” DSH trees rather than 24” DSH trees. In-Lieu fees need to adequately cover the city’s additional cost of planting and maintaining the trees for 5 years.

8. All replacement in lieu fees and fines should go into a One Seattle Tree Fund as stated in Mayor Harrell’s ‘s Executive Order. It should be a dedicated Tree Planting and Preservation Fund like Portland,

Oregon has (not into SDCI's budget). The Fund should be added to this draft. The Fund should report yearly on its budget to the City Council and Mayor. The One Seattle Tree Fund should be overseen by the City Urban Forester located in OSE because the distribution of funds would be interdepartmental. Allow the One Seattle Tree Fund (Tree Planting and Preservation Fund) to also accept fines, donations, grants, purchase land, set up covenants and for educational purposes as Portland, Oregon does.

9. The role of the new City Forester position created by the Seattle City Council in OSE should be defined in this ordinance.

10. Create an Urban Forestry Division within SDCI with additional staff as recommended in a separate budget provision or expand the Urban Forestry staff and responsibility in the Office of sustainability and Environment for independent oversight of trees.

11. 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" DSH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, removed both during development and outside development. The proposed ordinance remains a complaint-based system relying on citizens which has been proven to not be effective in code compliance. SDCI only has 2 arborists who are mostly deskbound to check site plans and in the field.

12. Require SDCI to submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree removal and replacement as currently required by other City Departments and yearly as required yearly by Mayor Harrell's Executive Order.

13. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Highrise, Industrial, Downtown and Institutions.

14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity.

15. Expand the required tree protection covenant to include a replacement requirement for a tree that dies. Make it a permanent "protected tree planting site" for the life of the building.

16. Remove or clarify language of tree drip line "may be irregular in shape to reflect variation in branch outer limits" Dripline is used to determine tree protection area and branches shortened in some areas may not reflect root structure or may have been removed in certain areas if tree has been limbed up.

17. Require that maintenance of relocated and replacement trees include "watering as needed".

18. Require street trees be planted if ADU's are added to a lot. ADU's reduce space for trees on site and increase tree removal. They are currently exempt from original lot coverage limits in the NR zone.



19. Remove the 1000 square feet addition to an existing structure exemption requiring planting street trees. Additions increasing the building footprint are removing existing or potential tree planting and preservation space.

20. Give the SDCI Director the authority to reduce or waive any fees assessed by this ordinance, taking into account a homeowner's financial circumstances or ability to pay.

21. Split the purpose and intent section. Add to intent "address climate resiliency and reduce heat island impacts across the city"

22. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, scotch broom, and holly from development sites to help stop the spread of invasive species in our city that add to maintenance costs and replacement of dying trees.

Sally Sehmsdorf  
[sallyse@comcast.net](mailto:sallyse@comcast.net)  
6272 19th Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** Athena Bautista <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:28 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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.

Please take the following action on these priority amendments:

Group A. Development Capacity and Development Standard Modifications

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES A6 - Maintain current FAR method for determining when trees can be removed in Lowrise, Midrise and Seattle Mixed Zones - Continue using the FAR or floor area ratio standard which allows for departures outside the building to save exceptional trees (Tier 2). Builders are pushing for a guaranteed 85% development area which would remove the city's flexibility in saving existing exceptional trees. Trees

are already scarce in these areas and this amendment would help save trees in these areas and reduce urban heat island impacts.

#### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.
- VOTE NO A5 - Tier 2 tree removal allowance and accessory dwelling units - Many accessory dwelling units are less than 15 feet wide. Builders do not need a guaranteed 15 feet. Amendment would be another guaranteed reason to remove exceptional trees. Let the city keep its flexibility to decide based on the trees on a lot.

#### Group G. Tree Protection During Development

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES G2 - Tree protection area delineation - This is the recommended ANSI-A300 methodology recommended that takes into account tree species and age of tree in determining the tree protection area.
- VOTE YES G3 - Temporary reduction of tree protection areas - would result in less tree removal by allowing temporary intrusion under supervision.
- VOTE YES G4 - Off-site trees during development - would require protection of off-site trees during development.

##### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A4 - Calculation of lot coverage standard - tree protection area - Canopy drip line for tree protection areas and no temporary extensions into tree protection area would result in more tree removals.

#### Group C. Permit Review Process

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

#### Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain

trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO E2 - Minimum in-lieu fee payment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trees - Does not cover estimated Parks Dept. \$4000 cost to plant and maintain Tier 3 trees at recommended \$2800 fee

Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Athena Bautista  
[myluv2206@gmail.com](mailto:myluv2206@gmail.com)  
5954 Beach Dr SW  
SEATTLE, Washington 98136-1348

**From:** John Rito <John.rito@ymail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:28 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
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Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

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John Rito

[John.rito@ymail.com](mailto:John.rito@ymail.com)

5954 Beach Dr sw

Seattle, Washington 98136

**From:** Kenai Bautista <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:29 AM

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

**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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Kenai Bautista  
[kenai.a.bautista@gmail.com](mailto:kenai.a.bautista@gmail.com)  
5954 Beach Dr SW  
Seattle, Washington 98136-1348

**From:** Justine Webster <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:44 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Amend Mayor Harrell's draft Tree Protection Ordinance - no 85% guarantee

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TOP PRIORITY -- We need trees where we live!

1. Require 20% lot allowance for "tree preservation and tree planting areas" in multifamily areas and 40% lot allowance for 1-4 units in the neighborhood residential zone as Portland Oregon does in their family residential zone. Portland passed legislation in 2020 to allow up to 4plexes in their neighborhoods after the state mandated zoning updates. Portland responded in Nov 2022 to update their tree protection legislation. <https://www.portland.gov/code/11/50/050>
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3. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6" DSH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan be submitted by developers, as Portland Oregon does, prior to any building permits being approved. This information fits with collecting in lieu fees prior to issuing building permits and facilitates reporting and tracking of tree loss and replacement, rather than city workers having to pull this information from site plans. Mayor Harrell's Executive Order asked for data on trees removed and replaced. Getting this information up front from developers is the best way to do this.

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7. Increase in lieu fee schedule to require the \$17.87/square inch of trunk in-lieu fees to start with 12" DSH trees rather than 24" DSH trees. In-Lieu fees need to adequately cover the city's additional cost of planting and maintaining the trees for 5 years.

8. All replacement in lieu fees and fines should go into a One Seattle Tree Fund as stated in Mayor Harrell's 's Executive Order. It should be a dedicated Tree Planting and Preservation Fund like Portland, Oregon has (not into SDCI's budget). The Fund should be added to this draft. The Fund should report yearly on its budget to the City Council and Mayor. The One Seattle Tree Fund should be overseen by the City Urban Forester located in OSE because the distribution of funds would be interdepartmental. Allow the One Seattle Tree Fund (Tree Planting and Preservation Fund) to also accept fines, donations, grants, purchase land, set up covenants and for educational purposes as Portland, Oregon does.



9. The role of the new City Forester position created by the Seattle City Council in OSE should be defined in this ordinance.
10. Create an Urban Forestry Division within SDCI with additional staff as recommended in a separate budget provision or expand the Urban Forestry staff and responsibility in the Office of sustainability and Environment for independent oversight of trees.
11. 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" DSH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, removed both during development and outside development. The proposed ordinance remains a complaint-based system relying on citizens which has been proven to not be effective in code compliance. SDCI only has 2 arborists who are mostly deskbound to check site plans and in the field.
12. Require SDCI to submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree removal and replacement as currently required by other City Departments and yearly as required yearly by Mayor Harrell's Executive Order.
13. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Highrise, Industrial, Downtown and Institutions.
14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity.
15. Expand the required tree protection covenant to include a replacement requirement for a tree that dies. Make it a permanent "protected tree planting site" for the life of the building.
16. Remove or clarify language of tree drip line "may be irregular in shape to reflect variation in branch outer limits" Dripline is used to determine tree protection area and branches shortened in some areas may not reflect root structure or may have been removed in certain areas if tree has been limbed up.
17. Require that maintenance of relocated and replacement trees include "watering as needed".
18. Require street trees be planted if ADU's are added to a lot. ADU's reduce space for trees on site and increase tree removal. They are currently exempt from original lot coverage limits in the NR zone.
19. Remove the 1000 square feet addition to an existing structure exemption requiring planting street trees. Additions increasing the building footprint are removing existing or potential tree planting and preservation space.
20. Give the SDCI Director the authority to reduce or waive any fees assessed by this ordinance, taking into account a homeowner's financial circumstances or ability to pay.

21. Split the purpose and intent section. Add to intent “address climate resiliency and reduce heat island impacts across the city”

22. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, scotch broom, and holly from development sites to help stop the spread of invasive species in our city that add to maintenance costs and replacement of dying trees.

Justine Webster  
[justinewebster@yahoo.com](mailto:justinewebster@yahoo.com)  
6252 27th Ave NE, BACK HOUSE  
Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** Scott Granlund <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:50 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

Having read through all of the proposed ideas in the following message and find that I completely agree. We can't be a 'green city' by words alone. We must act accordingly. Please for the guidelines below when voting on these important issues. Thank you.

-----

We need trees where we live!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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.

Please take the following action on these priority amendments:

Group A. Development Capacity and Development Standard Modifications

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES A6 - Maintain current FAR method for determining when trees can be removed in Lowrise, Midrise and Seattle Mixed Zones - Continue using the FAR or floor area ratio standard which allows for departures outside the building to save exceptional trees (Tier 2). Builders are pushing for a guaranteed 85% development area which would remove the city's flexibility in saving existing exceptional trees. Trees are already scarce in these areas and this amendment would help save trees in these areas and reduce urban heat island impacts.

## VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.
- VOTE NO A5 - Tier 2 tree removal allowance and accessory dwelling units - Many accessory dwelling units are less than 15 feet wide. Builders do not need a guaranteed 15 feet. Amendment would be another guaranteed reason to remove exceptional trees. Let the city keep its flexibility to decide based on the trees on a lot.

## Group G. Tree Protection During Development

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES G2 - Tree protection area delineation - This is the recommended ANSI-A300 methodology recommended that takes into account tree species and age of tree in determining the tree protection area.
- VOTE YES G3 - Temporary reduction of tree protection areas - would result in less tree removal by allowing temporary intrusion under supervision.
- VOTE YES G4 - Off-site trees during development - would require protection of off-site trees during development.

### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A4 - Calculation of lot coverage standard - tree protection area - Canopy drip line for tree protection areas and no temporary extensions into tree protection area would result in more tree removals.

## Group C. Permit Review Process

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

## Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO E2 - Minimum in-lieu fee payment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trees - Does not cover estimated Parks Dept. \$4000 cost to plant and maintain Tier 3 trees at recommended \$2800 fee

Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Scott Granlund  
[sgranlund@gmail.com](mailto:sgranlund@gmail.com)  
8612 Wabash Ave. S.  
Seattle, Washington 98118

**From:** Anita Barcklow <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:51 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

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Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

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- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Anita Barcklow  
[amdbarcklow@gmail.com](mailto:amdbarcklow@gmail.com)  
10738 Bartlett Ave. N.E.  
Seattle, Washington 98125

**From:** Mickey Riley <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:54 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

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Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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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#### Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Mickey Riley  
[mickeyriley40@gmail.com](mailto:mickeyriley40@gmail.com)  
5006 37 Ave NE  
Seattle , Washington 98105

**From:** Martin Davidson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 11:11 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please amend the 2023 Draft Tree Ordinance - No "guaranteed 85%!"

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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. With middle-housing zoning updates, neighborhood residential (34% tree canopy) will change to multi-family (23% tree canopy) and Seattle tree canopy will plummet unless strong and effective efforts are made to preserve trees.

We urge you to adopt these amendments to the 2023 draft Tree Protection Ordinance.

-----

TOP PRIORITY -- We need trees where we live!

1. Require 20% lot allowance for “tree preservation and tree planting areas” in multifamily areas and 40% lot allowance for 1-4 units in the neighborhood residential zone as Portland Oregon does in their family residential zone. Portland passed legislation in 2020 to allow up to 4plexes in their neighborhoods after the state mandated zoning updates. Portland responded in Nov 2022 to update their tree protection legislation. <https://www.portland.gov/code/11/50/050>
2. Remove the guaranteed “85% lot development area” provision. If the current middle housing legislation passes in Olympia, almost all of Seattle would be affected by this change, with a significant loss of tree canopy city wide. The city needs flexibility to evaluate development and protecting trees lot by lot, not one size fits all circumstances.

-----

3. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6” DSH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan be submitted by



developers, as Portland Oregon does, prior to any building permits being approved. This information fits with collecting in lieu fees prior to issuing building permits and facilitates reporting and tracking of tree loss and replacement, rather than city workers having to pull this information from site plans. Mayor Harrell's Executive Order asked for data on trees removed and replaced. Getting this information up front from developers is the best way to do this.

4. Require developers throughout the total development process to maximize the retention of existing trees 6" DSH and larger with adequate space for trees to grow and survive. The current draft removes consideration of protecting 6"-12" DSH trees and also removes them from site plans. Keep them on the site plans and protect them during development. Trees 6" DSH and larger represent 45% of trees in the NR zone according to Seattle's Ecosystem Values Report. Most of these trees are established potential replacement trees for existing large trees that die. Trees 12" DSH and larger only represent 18% of the trees in the NR zone. A diversity of ages and species for trees is essential for a healthy urban forest.

5. Retain definitions and use of exceptional and significant trees. Remove the confusing and biased proposed new classification of trees as Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4. The use and understanding of trees as exceptional has been in the Tree Protection Ordinance since 2001 and described in more detail in the 2008 Director's Rule. 16-2008. Significant trees are understood to be those 6" DSH and larger that are not exceptional. Many other cities, including in this region, use these definitions.

6. Require for replacement 2 trees for 12-24" DSH trees removed, 3 trees for 24 – 36" DSH and 4 trees for above 36" DSH for more equivalency of the increasing value of services trees provide as they increase in size. One for one replacement is no equivalency for what is lost as trees increase in size. Require that tree replacement numbers increase with the size and canopy volume of the removed tree. such that in 25 years or less they will reach equivalent canopy volume lost. Waiting 80 years to replace an 80-year-old tree is too long.

7. Increase in lieu fee schedule to require the \$17.87/square inch of trunk in-lieu fees to start with 12" DSH trees rather than 24" DSH trees. In-Lieu fees need to adequately cover the city's additional cost of planting and maintaining the trees for 5 years.

8. All replacement in lieu fees and fines should go into a One Seattle Tree Fund as stated in Mayor Harrell's 's Executive Order. It should be a dedicated Tree Planting and Preservation Fund like Portland, Oregon has (not into SDCI's budget). The Fund should be added to this draft. The Fund should report yearly on its budget to the City Council and Mayor. The One Seattle Tree Fund should be overseen by the City Urban Forester located in OSE because the distribution of funds would be interdepartmental. Allow the One Seattle Tree Fund (Tree Planting and Preservation Fund) to also accept fines, donations, grants, purchase land, set up covenants and for educational purposes as Portland, Oregon does.

9. The role of the new City Forester position created by the Seattle City Council in OSE should be defined in this ordinance.

10. Create an Urban Forestry Division within SDCI with additional staff as recommended in a separate budget provision or expand the Urban Forestry staff and responsibility in the Office of sustainability and Environment for independent oversight of trees.

11. 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" DSH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, removed both during development and outside development. The proposed ordinance remains a complaint-based system relying on citizens which has been proven to not be effective in code compliance. SDCI only has 2 arborists who are mostly deskbound to check site plans and in the field.

12. Require SDCI to submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree removal and replacement as currently required by other City Departments and yearly as required yearly by Mayor Harrell's Executive Order.

13. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Highrise, Industrial, Downtown and Institutions.

14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity.

15. Expand the required tree protection covenant to include a replacement requirement for a tree that dies. Make it a permanent "protected tree planting site" for the life of the building.

16. Remove or clarify language of tree drip line "may be irregular in shape to reflect variation in branch outer limits" Dripline is used to determine tree protection area and branches shortened in some areas may not reflect root structure or may have been removed in certain areas if tree has been limbed up.

17. Require that maintenance of relocated and replacement trees include "watering as needed".

18. Require street trees be planted if ADU's are added to a lot. ADU's reduce space for trees on site and increase tree removal. They are currently exempt from original lot coverage limits in the NR zone.

19. Remove the 1000 square feet addition to an existing structure exemption requiring planting street trees. Additions increasing the building footprint are removing existing or potential tree planting and preservation space.

20. Give the SDCI Director the authority to reduce or waive any fees assessed by this ordinance, taking into account a homeowner's financial circumstances or ability to pay.

21. Split the purpose and intent section. Add to intent “address climate resiliency and reduce heat island impacts across the city”

22. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, scotch broom, and holly from development sites to help stop the spread of invasive species in our city that add to maintenance costs and replacement of dying trees.

Martin Davidson  
[marty.s.davidson@gmail.com](mailto:marty.s.davidson@gmail.com)  
2320 Walnut Ave SW  
Seattle, Washington 98116

**From:** Barbara O'Steen <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 11:33 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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.

Please take the following action on these priority amendments:

Group A. Development Capacity and Development Standard Modifications

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES A6 - Maintain current FAR method for determining when trees can be removed in Lowrise, Midrise and Seattle Mixed Zones - Continue using the FAR or floor area ratio standard which allows for departures outside the building to save exceptional trees (Tier 2). Builders are pushing for a guaranteed 85% development area which would remove the city's flexibility in saving existing exceptional trees. Trees are already scarce in these areas and this amendment would help save trees in these areas and reduce urban heat island impacts.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.

- VOTE NO A5 - Tier 2 tree removal allowance and accessory dwelling units - Many accessory dwelling units are less than 15 feet wide. Builders do not need a guaranteed 15 feet. Amendment would be another guaranteed reason to remove exceptional trees. Let the city keep its flexibility to decide based on the trees on a lot.

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- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
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##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

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#### Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Barbara O'Steen  
[barbarajosteen@yahoo.com](mailto:barbarajosteen@yahoo.com)  
4364 SW Cloverdale St  
Seattle, Washington 98136

**From:** Margaret Thomas <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 11:54 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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Margaret Thomas  
[margaretthomas@outlook.com](mailto:margaretthomas@outlook.com)  
2351 Fairview Ave E #C  
Seattle, Washington 98102

**From:** NANCY PEACOCK <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 12:53 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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NANCY PEACOCK  
[nbpeacock@gmail.com](mailto:nbpeacock@gmail.com)



2504 NE 117TH ST  
SEATTLE, Washington 98125-530

**From:** Yvonne Pastika <yvonka88@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 1:31 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** No "guaranteed 85%"! Please amend the draft tree ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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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. With middle-housing zoning updates, neighborhood residential (34% tree canopy) will change to multi-family (23% tree canopy) and Seattle tree canopy will plummet unless strong and effective efforts are made to preserve trees.

We urge you to adopt these amendments to the 2023 draft Tree Protection Ordinance.

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TOP PRIORITY -- We need trees where we live!

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3. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6" DSH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan be submitted by developers, as Portland Oregon does, prior to any building permits being approved. This information fits with collecting in lieu fees prior to issuing building permits and facilitates reporting and tracking of tree loss and replacement, rather than city workers having to pull this information from site plans. Mayor Harrell's Executive Order asked for data on trees removed and replaced. Getting this information up front from developers is the best way to do this.

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5. Retain definitions and use of exceptional and significant trees. Remove the confusing and biased proposed new classification of trees as Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4. The use and understanding of trees as exceptional has been in the Tree Protection Ordinance since 2001 and described in more detail in the 2008 Director's Rule. 16-2008. Significant trees are understood to be those 6" DSH and larger that are not exceptional. Many other cities, including in this region, use these definitions.

6. Require for replacement 2 trees for 12-24" DSH trees removed, 3 trees for 24 – 36" DSH and 4 trees for above 36" DSH for more equivalency of the increasing value of services trees provide as they increase in size. One for one replacement is no equivalency for what is lost as trees increase in size. Require that tree replacement numbers increase with the size and canopy volume of the removed tree. such that in 25 years or less they will reach equivalent canopy volume lost. Waiting 80 years to replace an 80-year-old tree is too long.

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10. Create an Urban Forestry Division within SDCI with additional staff as recommended in a separate budget provision or expand the Urban Forestry staff and responsibility in the Office of sustainability and Environment for independent oversight of trees.

11. 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" DSH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, removed both during development and outside development. The proposed ordinance remains a complaint-based system relying on citizens which has been proven to not be effective in code compliance. SDCI only has 2 arborists who are mostly deskbound to check site plans and in the field.

12. Require SDCI to submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree removal and replacement as currently required by other City Departments and yearly as required yearly by Mayor Harrell's Executive Order.

13. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Highrise, Industrial, Downtown and Institutions.

14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity.

15. Expand the required tree protection covenant to include a replacement requirement for a tree that dies. Make it a permanent "protected tree planting site" for the life of the building.

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18. Require street trees be planted if ADU's are added to a lot. ADU's reduce space for trees on site and increase tree removal. They are currently exempt from original lot coverage limits in the NR zone.

19. Remove the 1000 square feet addition to an existing structure exemption requiring planting street trees. Additions increasing the building footprint are removing existing or potential tree planting and preservation space.

20. Give the SDCI Director the authority to reduce or waive any fees assessed by this ordinance, taking into account a homeowner's financial circumstances or ability to pay.

21. Split the purpose and intent section. Add to intent "address climate resiliency and reduce heat island impacts across the city"

22. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, scotch broom, and holly from development sites to help stop the spread of invasive species in our city that add to maintenance costs and replacement of dying trees.

Yvonne Pastika  
[yvonka88@msn.com](mailto:yvonka88@msn.com)  
1610 33rd Ave  
Seattle, Washington 98122

**From:** Michael Lyons <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 2:28 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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.

Please take the following action on these priority amendments:

Group A. Development Capacity and Development Standard Modifications

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES A6 - Maintain current FAR method for determining when trees can be removed in Lowrise, Midrise and Seattle Mixed Zones - Continue using the FAR or floor area ratio standard which allows for departures outside the building to save exceptional trees (Tier 2). Builders are pushing for a guaranteed 85% development area which would remove the city's flexibility in saving existing exceptional trees. Trees are already scarce in these areas and this amendment would help save trees in these areas and reduce urban heat island impacts.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.
- VOTE NO A5 - Tier 2 tree removal allowance and accessory dwelling units - Many accessory dwelling units are less than 15 feet wide. Builders do not need a guaranteed 15 feet. Amendment would be another guaranteed reason to remove exceptional trees. Let the city keep its flexibility to decide based on the trees on a lot.

Group G. Tree Protection During Development

#### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES G2 - Tree protection area delineation - This is the recommended ANSI-A300 methodology recommended that takes into account tree species and age of tree in determining the tree protection area.
- VOTE YES G3 - Temporary reduction of tree protection areas - would result in less tree removal by allowing temporary intrusion under supervision.
- VOTE YES G4 - Off-site trees during development - would require protection of off-site trees during development.

#### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A4 - Calculation of lot coverage standard - tree protection area - Canopy drip line for tree protection areas and no temporary extensions into tree protection area would result in more tree removals.

#### Group C. Permit Review Process

#### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

#### Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

#### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

#### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO E2 - Minimum in-lieu fee payment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trees - Does not cover estimated Parks Dept. \$4000 cost to plant and maintain Tier 3 trees at recommended \$2800 fee

#### Group F. Tree Service Providers

#### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

2144 5th Ave W  
Seattle , Washington 98119

**From:** Ann Manly <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 4:07 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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I know I'm tardy getting this sent to you, so I hope my comments still count. Thank you for your work.

Ann Manly

Ann Manly  
[annalects2@aol.com](mailto:annalects2@aol.com)

739 34th Ave.  
Seattle, Washington 98122

**From:** Geneva Wheeler <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 4:16 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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Geneva Wheeler  
[ggwheel@yahoo.com](mailto:ggwheel@yahoo.com)  
1060 NE 98th St.  
Seattle , Washington 98115

**From:** TyKera Williams <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 5:25 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please amend the 2023 Draft Tree Ordinance - No "guaranteed 85%!"

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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. With middle-housing zoning updates, neighborhood residential (34% tree canopy) will change to multi-family (23% tree canopy) and Seattle tree canopy will plummet unless strong and effective efforts are made to preserve trees.

We urge you to adopt these amendments to the 2023 draft Tree Protection Ordinance.

-----

TOP PRIORITY -- We need trees where we live!

1. Require 20% lot allowance for "tree preservation and tree planting areas" in multifamily areas and 40% lot allowance for 1-4 units in the neighborhood residential zone as Portland Oregon does in their family residential zone. Portland passed legislation in 2020 to allow up to 4plexes in their neighborhoods after the state mandated zoning updates. Portland responded in Nov 2022 to update their tree protection legislation. <https://www.portland.gov/code/11/50/050>
2. Remove the guaranteed "85% lot development area" provision. If the current middle housing legislation passes in Olympia, almost all of Seattle would be affected by this change, with a significant loss of tree canopy city wide. The city needs flexibility to evaluate development and protecting trees lot by lot, not one size fits all circumstances.

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3. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6" DSH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan be submitted by developers, as Portland Oregon does, prior to any building permits being approved. This information fits with collecting in lieu fees prior to issuing building permits and facilitates reporting and tracking of tree loss and replacement, rather than city workers having to pull this information from site plans. Mayor Harrell's Executive Order asked for data on trees removed and replaced. Getting this information up front from developers is the best way to do this.

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TyKera Williams  
[tjcwiliams1@gmail.com](mailto:tjcwiliams1@gmail.com)  
75067 Ravenwood Drive  
Yulee, Florida 32097

**From:** Karyn Schwartz <sugarpills@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 5:33 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** No "guaranteed 85%"! Please amend the draft tree ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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Karyn Schwartz  
[sugarpills@earthlink.net](mailto:sugarpills@earthlink.net)

1815 S King St #B  
Seattle , Washington 98144

**From:** Garrett Michael <me@gwmichael.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 5:57 PM

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

**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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recommended that takes into account tree species and age of tree in determining the tree protection area.

- VOTE YES G3 - Temporary reduction of tree protection areas - would result in less tree removal by allowing temporary intrusion under supervision.
- VOTE YES G4 - Off-site trees during development - would require protection of off-site trees during development.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A4 - Calculation of lot coverage standard - tree protection area - Canopy drip line for tree protection areas and no temporary extensions into tree protection area would result in more tree removals.

Group C. Permit Review Process

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO E2 - Minimum in-lieu fee payment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trees - Does not cover estimated Parks Dept. \$4000 cost to plant and maintain Tier 3 trees at recommended \$2800 fee

Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Garrett Michael  
[me@gwmichael.com](mailto:me@gwmichael.com)  
2212 E Spruce St  
Seattle, Washington 98122

**From:** MaryJean Mariano <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 6:00 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

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VOTE YES

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VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.

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MaryJean Mariano  
[doctormjm@aol.com](mailto:doctormjm@aol.com)  
7806 fauntleroy Way Sw  
Seattle, Washington 98136

**From:** Ruth Hooper <ruthhooper1948@earthlink.net>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 7:29 PM

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

**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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Ruth Hooper  
[ruthhooper1948@earthlink.net](mailto:ruthhooper1948@earthlink.net)  
7331 48th Ave S  
Seattle, Washington 98118

**From:** Caley Shem-Crumrine <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 8:03 PM

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

**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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Caley Shem-Crumrine  
[caleyshemc@gmail.com](mailto:caleyshemc@gmail.com)  
937 NW 59th St  
Seattle, Washington 98107

**From:** Sarah Taylor <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 9:32 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** No "guaranteed 85%"! Amend the draft tree ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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. With middle-housing zoning updates, neighborhood residential (34% tree canopy) will change to multi-family (23% tree canopy) and Seattle tree canopy will plummet unless strong and effective efforts are made to preserve trees.

We urge you to adopt these amendments to the 2023 draft Tree Protection Ordinance.

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TOP PRIORITY -- We need trees where we live!

1. Require 20% lot allowance for "tree preservation and tree planting areas" in multifamily areas and 40% lot allowance for 1-4 units in the neighborhood residential zone as Portland Oregon does in their family residential zone. Portland passed legislation in 2020 to allow up to 4plexes in their neighborhoods after the state mandated zoning updates. Portland responded in Nov 2022 to update their tree protection legislation. <https://www.portland.gov/code/11/50/050>

2. Remove the guaranteed "85% lot development area" provision. If the current middle housing legislation passes in Olympia, almost all of Seattle would be affected by this change, with a significant loss of tree canopy city wide. The city needs flexibility to evaluate development and protecting trees lot by lot, not one size fits all circumstances.

-----  
3. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6" DSH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan be submitted by developers, as Portland Oregon does, prior to any building permits being approved. This information fits with collecting in lieu fees prior to issuing building permits and facilitates reporting and tracking of tree loss and replacement, rather than city workers having to pull this information from site plans. Mayor Harrell's Executive Order asked for data on trees removed and replaced. Getting this information up front from developers is the best way to do this.

4. Require developers throughout the total development process to maximize the retention of existing trees 6" DSH and larger with adequate space for trees to grow and survive. The current draft removes consideration of protecting 6"-12" DSH trees and also removes them from site plans. Keep them on the site plans and protect them during development. Trees 6" DSH and larger represent 45% of trees in the NR zone according to Seattle's Ecosystem Values Report. Most of these trees are established potential replacement trees for existing large trees that die. Trees 12" DSH and larger only represent 18% of the trees in the NR zone. A diversity of ages and species for trees is essential for a healthy urban forest.

5. Retain definitions and use of exceptional and significant trees. Remove the confusing and biased proposed new classification of trees as Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4. The use and understanding of



trees as exceptional has been in the Tree Protection Ordinance since 2001 and described in more detail in the 2008 Director's Rule. 16-2008. Significant trees are understood to be those 6" DSH and larger that are not exceptional. Many other cities, including in this region, use these definitions.

6. Require for replacement 2 trees for 12-24" DSH trees removed, 3 trees for 24 – 36" DSH and 4 trees for above 36" DSH for more equivalency of the increasing value of services trees provide as they increase in size. One for one replacement is no equivalency for what is lost as trees increase in size. Require that tree replacement numbers increase with the size and canopy volume of the removed tree. such that in 25 years or less they will reach equivalent canopy volume lost. Waiting 80 years to replace an 80-year-old tree is too long.

7. Increase in lieu fee schedule to require the \$17.87/square inch of trunk in-lieu fees to start with 12" DSH trees rather than 24" DSH trees. In-Lieu fees need to adequately cover the city's additional cost of planting and maintaining the trees for 5 years.

8. All replacement in lieu fees and fines should go into a One Seattle Tree Fund as stated in Mayor Harrell's 's Executive Order. It should be a dedicated Tree Planting and Preservation Fund like Portland, Oregon has (not into SDCI's budget). The Fund should be added to this draft. The Fund should report yearly on its budget to the City Council and Mayor. The One Seattle Tree Fund should be overseen by the City Urban Forester located in OSE because the distribution of funds would be interdepartmental. Allow the One Seattle Tree Fund (Tree Planting and Preservation Fund) to also accept fines, donations, grants, purchase land, set up covenants and for educational purposes as Portland, Oregon does.

9. The role of the new City Forester position created by the Seattle City Council in OSE should be defined in this ordinance.

10. Create an Urban Forestry Division within SDCI with additional staff as recommended in a separate budget provision or expand the Urban Forestry staff and responsibility in the Office of sustainability and Environment for independent oversight of trees.

11. 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" DSH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, removed both during development and outside development. The proposed ordinance remains a complaint-based system relying on citizens which has been proven to not be effective in code compliance. SDCI only has 2 arborists who are mostly deskbound.to check site plans and in the field.

12. Require SDCI to submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree removal and replacement as currently required by other City Departments and yearly as required yearly by Mayor Harrell's Executive Order.

13. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Highrise, Industrial, Downtown and Institutions.
14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity.
15. Expand the required tree protection covenant to include a replacement requirement for a tree that dies. Make it a permanent “protected tree planting site” for the life of the building.
16. Remove or clarify language of tree drip line “may be irregular in shape to reflect variation in branch outer limits” Dripline is used to determine tree protection area and branches shortened in some areas may not reflect root structure or may have been removed in certain areas if tree has been limbed up.
17. Require that maintenance of relocated and replacement trees include “watering as needed”.
18. Require street trees be planted if ADU’s are added to a lot. ADU’s reduce space for trees on site and increase tree removal. They are currently exempt from original lot coverage limits in the NR zone.
19. Remove the 1000 square feet addition to an existing structure exemption requiring planting street trees. Additions increasing the building footprint are removing existing or potential tree planting and preservation space.
20. Give the SDCI Director the authority to reduce or waive any fees assessed by this ordinance, taking into account a homeowner's financial circumstances or ability to pay.
21. Split the purpose and intent section. Add to intent “address climate resiliency and reduce heat island impacts across the city”
22. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, scotch broom, and holly from development sites to help stop the spread of invasive species in our city that add to maintenance costs and replacement of dying trees.

Sarah Taylor  
[sunbella6@icloud.com](mailto:sunbella6@icloud.com)  
8302 Linden N  
Seattle, Washington 98103

**From:** Paul Grekin <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 9:56 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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VOTE YES

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Paul Grekin  
[pgrekin@me.com](mailto:pgrekin@me.com)  
4131 Woodlawn Ave N  
Seattle, Washington 98103-8224

**From:** Leah Eister <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 9:58 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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Leah Eister  
[leaheisterhargrave@gmail.com](mailto:leaheisterhargrave@gmail.com)  
2622 3rd Ave n  
Seattle, Washington 98109

**From:** Maggie Everett <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:07 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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Maggie Everett  
[mags909@hotmail.com](mailto:mags909@hotmail.com)  
12019 Evanston,  
Seattle, Washington 98133

**From:** Leonora Clarke <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 11:06 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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- VOTE YES G2 - Tree protection area delineation - This is the recommended ANSI-A300 methodology recommended that takes into account tree species and age of tree in determining the tree protection area.
- VOTE YES G3 - Temporary reduction of tree protection areas - would result in less tree removal by allowing temporary intrusion under supervision.
- VOTE YES G4 - Off-site trees during development - would require protection of off-site trees during development.

##### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A4 - Calculation of lot coverage standard - tree protection area - Canopy drip line for tree protection areas and no temporary extensions into tree protection area would result in more tree removals.

#### Group C. Permit Review Process

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO E2 - Minimum in-lieu fee payment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trees - Does not cover estimated Parks Dept. \$4000 cost to plant and maintain Tier 3 trees at recommended \$2800 fee

Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Leonora Clarke  
[leonora.clarke3@gmail.com](mailto:leonora.clarke3@gmail.com)  
10 23rd Ave. unit B  
Seattle, 98122

**From:** Jane Mason <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 5, 2023 6:12 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** No "guaranteed 85%"! Amend the draft tree ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

We should follow the example of Portland. We need protection from property developers who blacktop/pave over or build housing with little room for trees. Trees are a positive for many reasons but for me trees promote mental health and a sense of community. Walk the neighborhood around Volunteer Park and then walk a neighborhood either west or east of north Aurora avenue. One has birds, little animals, promotes relaxation, speaking to neighbors. The other does not. In my own block one lot has been cleared of all trees and the house remodeled. Across the street two lots have been cleared of trees, the houses demolished and new houses built.

Jane Mason  
[masonj4@gmail.com](mailto:masonj4@gmail.com)

12737 27th ne  
Seattle, Washington 98125

**From:** Marissa Escandor <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 5, 2023 10:25 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Amend Mayor Harrell's draft Tree Protection Ordinance - no 85% guarantee

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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. With middle-housing zoning updates, neighborhood residential (34% tree canopy) will change to multi-family (23% tree canopy) and Seattle tree canopy will plummet unless strong and effective efforts are made to preserve trees.

We urge you to adopt these amendments to the 2023 draft Tree Protection Ordinance.

-----  
TOP PRIORITY -- We need trees where we live!

1. Require 20% lot allowance for "tree preservation and tree planting areas" in multifamily areas and 40% lot allowance for 1-4 units in the neighborhood residential zone as Portland Oregon does in their family residential zone. Portland passed legislation in 2020 to allow up to 4plexes in their neighborhoods after the state mandated zoning updates. Portland responded in Nov 2022 to update their tree protection legislation. <https://www.portland.gov/code/11/50/050>
2. Remove the guaranteed "85% lot development area" provision. If the current middle housing legislation passes in Olympia, almost all of Seattle would be affected by this change, with a significant loss of tree canopy city wide. The city needs flexibility to evaluate development and protecting trees lot by lot, not one size fits all circumstances.

- 
3. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6" DSH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan be submitted by developers, as Portland Oregon does, prior to any building permits being approved. This information fits with collecting in lieu fees prior to issuing building permits and facilitates reporting and tracking of tree loss and replacement, rather than city workers having to pull this information from site plans. Mayor Harrell's Executive Order asked for data on trees removed and replaced. Getting this information up front from developers is the best way to do this.

4. Require developers throughout the total development process to maximize the retention of existing trees 6" DSH and larger with adequate space for trees to grow and survive. The current draft removes consideration of protecting 6"-12" DSH trees and also removes them from site plans. Keep them on the site plans and protect them during development. Trees 6" DSH and larger represent 45% of trees in the NR zone according to Seattle's Ecosystem Values Report. Most of these trees are established potential replacement trees for existing large trees that die. Trees 12" DSH and larger only represent 18% of the trees in the NR zone. A diversity of ages and species for trees is essential for a healthy urban forest.

5. Retain definitions and use of exceptional and significant trees. Remove the confusing and biased proposed new classification of trees as Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4. The use and understanding of trees as exceptional has been in the Tree Protection Ordinance since 2001 and described in more detail in the 2008 Director's Rule. 16-2008. Significant trees are understood to be those 6" DSH and larger that are not exceptional. Many other cities, including in this region, use these definitions.

6. Require for replacement 2 trees for 12-24" DSH trees removed, 3 trees for 24 – 36" DSH and 4 trees for above 36" DSH for more equivalency of the increasing value of services trees provide as they increase in size. One for one replacement is no equivalency for what is lost as trees increase in size. Require that tree replacement numbers increase with the size and canopy volume of the removed tree. such that in 25 years or less they will reach equivalent canopy volume lost. Waiting 80 years to replace an 80-year-old tree is too long.

7. Increase in lieu fee schedule to require the \$17.87/square inch of trunk in-lieu fees to start with 12" DSH trees rather than 24" DSH trees. In-Lieu fees need to adequately cover the city's additional cost of planting and maintaining the trees for 5 years.

8. All replacement in lieu fees and fines should go into a One Seattle Tree Fund as stated in Mayor Harrell's 's Executive Order. It should be a dedicated Tree Planting and Preservation Fund like Portland, Oregon has (not into SDCI's budget). The Fund should be added to this draft. The Fund should report yearly on its budget to the City Council and Mayor. The One Seattle Tree Fund should be overseen by the City Urban Forester located in OSE because the distribution of funds would be interdepartmental. Allow the One Seattle Tree Fund (Tree Planting and Preservation Fund) to also accept fines, donations, grants, purchase land, set up covenants and for educational purposes as Portland, Oregon does.

9. The role of the new City Forester position created by the Seattle City Council in OSE should be defined in this ordinance.

10. Create an Urban Forestry Division within SDCI with additional staff as recommended in a separate budget provision or expand the Urban Forestry staff and responsibility in the Office of sustainability and Environment for independent oversight of trees.

11. 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" DSH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, removed both during development and outside development. The proposed ordinance remains a complaint-based system relying on citizens which has been proven to not be effective in code compliance. SDCI only has 2 arborists who are mostly deskbound to check site plans and in the field.

12. Require SDCI to submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree removal and replacement as currently required by other City Departments and yearly as required yearly by Mayor Harrell's Executive Order.

13. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Highrise, Industrial, Downtown and Institutions.

14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity.

15. Expand the required tree protection covenant to include a replacement requirement for a tree that dies. Make it a permanent "protected tree planting site" for the life of the building.

16. Remove or clarify language of tree drip line "may be irregular in shape to reflect variation in branch outer limits" Dripline is used to determine tree protection area and branches shortened in some areas may not reflect root structure or may have been removed in certain areas if tree has been limbed up.

17. Require that maintenance of relocated and replacement trees include "watering as needed".

18. Require street trees be planted if ADU's are added to a lot. ADU's reduce space for trees on site and increase tree removal. They are currently exempt from original lot coverage limits in the NR zone.

19. Remove the 1000 square feet addition to an existing structure exemption requiring planting street trees. Additions increasing the building footprint are removing existing or potential tree planting and preservation space.

20. Give the SDCI Director the authority to reduce or waive any fees assessed by this ordinance, taking into account a homeowner's financial circumstances or ability to pay.

21. Split the purpose and intent section. Add to intent "address climate resiliency and reduce heat island impacts across the city"

22. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, scotch broom, and holly from development sites to help stop the spread of invasive species in our city that add to maintenance costs and replacement of dying trees.

Marissa Escandor  
[babes0826@hotmail.com](mailto:babes0826@hotmail.com)  
10435 14th Ave S  
Seattle, Washington 98168

**From:** Mike Schock <[schock1@illinois.edu](mailto:schock1@illinois.edu)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 5, 2023 3:00 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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.

Please take the following action on these priority amendments:

Group A. Development Capacity and Development Standard Modifications

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES A6 - Maintain current FAR method for determining when trees can be removed in Lowrise, Midrise and Seattle Mixed Zones - Continue using the FAR or floor area ratio standard which allows for departures outside the building to save exceptional trees (Tier 2). Builders are pushing for a guaranteed 85% development area which would remove the city's flexibility in saving existing exceptional trees. Trees are already scarce in these areas and this amendment would help save trees in these areas and reduce urban heat island impacts.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.

- VOTE NO A5 - Tier 2 tree removal allowance and accessory dwelling units - Many accessory dwelling units are less than 15 feet wide. Builders do not need a guaranteed 15 feet. Amendment would be another guaranteed reason to remove exceptional trees. Let the city keep its flexibility to decide based on the trees on a lot.

Group G. Tree Protection During Development

## VOTE YES

- VOTE YES G2 - Tree protection area delineation - This is the recommended ANSI-A300 methodology recommended that takes into account tree species and age of tree in determining the tree protection area.
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## Group C. Permit Review Process

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

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## Group F. Tree Service Providers

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

6744 40th Avenue south  
Seattle, Washington 98118

**From:** Cynthia Johnson <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 5, 2023 3:16 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

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Cynthia Johnson  
[britdanhuj@aol.com](mailto:britdanhuj@aol.com)  
5105 1st Ave Nw  
Seattle, Washington 98107

**From:** Martha Jackson <m145@zipcon.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 7, 2023 8:15 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Draft tree ordinance---No "guaranteed 85%!"

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Martha Jackson  
[m145@zipcon.com](mailto:m145@zipcon.com)  
911 NW 122 Street  
Seattle, Washington 98177

**From:** Patricia Murphy <pattimurph3@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 7, 2023 10:35 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Amend Mayor Harrell's draft Tree Protection Ordinance - no 85% guarantee

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Patricia Murphy  
[pattimurph3@comcast.net](mailto:pattimurph3@comcast.net)  
12523 10th Ave Nw  
Seattle, Washington 98177

**From:** ANGELIQUE Godley <ANGELIQUE.ANDALOUSSI@GMAIL.COM>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 7, 2023 12:11 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
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We urge you to adopt these amendments to the 2023 draft Tree Protection Ordinance.

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ANGELIQUE Godley  
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114 N 122ND ST  
SEATTLE, Washington 98133

**From:** Mark Hillman <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 7, 2023 12:13 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please amend the 2023 Draft Tree Ordinance - No "guaranteed 85%!"

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Mark Hillman  
[cykelturist@gmail.com](mailto:cykelturist@gmail.com)  
12718-4th Ave NW  
Seattle , Washington 98177

**From:** Judy Davison <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 7, 2023 1:03 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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.

Please take the following action on these priority amendments:

Group A. Development Capacity and Development Standard Modifications

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES A6 - Maintain current FAR method for determining when trees can be removed in Lowrise, Midrise and Seattle Mixed Zones - Continue using the FAR or floor area ratio standard which allows for departures outside the building to save exceptional trees (Tier 2). Builders are pushing for a guaranteed 85% development area which would remove the city's flexibility in saving existing exceptional trees. Trees are already scarce in these areas and this amendment would help save trees in these areas and reduce urban heat island impacts.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.
- VOTE NO A5 - Tier 2 tree removal allowance and accessory dwelling units - Many accessory dwelling units are less than 15 feet wide. Builders do not need a guaranteed 15 feet. Amendment would be another guaranteed reason to remove exceptional trees. Let the city keep its flexibility to decide based on the trees on a lot.

Group G. Tree Protection During Development

## VOTE YES

- VOTE YES G2 - Tree protection area delineation - This is the recommended ANSI-A300 methodology recommended that takes into account tree species and age of tree in determining the tree protection area.
- VOTE YES G3 - Temporary reduction of tree protection areas - would result in less tree removal by allowing temporary intrusion under supervision.
- VOTE YES G4 - Off-site trees during development - would require protection of off-site trees during development.

## VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A4 - Calculation of lot coverage standard - tree protection area - Canopy drip line for tree protection areas and no temporary extensions into tree protection area would result in more tree removals.

## Group C. Permit Review Process

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

## Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO E2 - Minimum in-lieu fee payment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trees - Does not cover estimated Parks Dept. \$4000 cost to plant and maintain Tier 3 trees at recommended \$2800 fee

## Group F. Tree Service Providers

### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

1155 19th Ave. East  
Seattle, Washington 98112

**From:** Robin Samaras <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 7, 2023 4:00 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** No "guaranteed 85%"! Amend the draft tree ordinance

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Robin Samaras  
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11004 2nd ave nw  
Seattle, Washington 98177

**From:** Lisa Anderson <lisanderson@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 7, 2023 7:26 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** No "guaranteed 85%"! Amend the draft tree ordinance

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Lisa Anderson  
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13202 4th Avenue NW  
Seattle , Washington 98177

**From:** dmoehring@consultant.com <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 8, 2023 7:09 AM  
**To:** Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; samantham@aiaseattle.org; Morales, Tammy <Tammy.Morales@seattle.gov>; Nelson, Sara <Sara.Nelson@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Andrew <Andrew.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Dawson, Parker <Parker.Dawson@seattle.gov>; MelissaN@aiaseattle.org  
**Cc:** Nguyen, Sonny <Sonny.Nguyen@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; Emery, Chanda <Chanda.Emery@Seattle.gov>; andrea@seattlearbortistassociation.org; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>; Josh Morris <joshm@seattleaudubon.org>; LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Full disclosure required on SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL - Record No: CB 120534

**CAUTION: External Email**

Honorable Councilmember Strauss,

So far there appears to exist no public and City Council Notification and discussion (nor mayor or Urban Forestry Commission disclosure) to the revised version of SMC25.11.070.B.2.

Which states: “If an **applicant chooses** to retain Tier 2 trees that would otherwise be allowed to be removed under subsection 25.11.070.B.1, modifications to development standards are allowed...”

This makes a current housing and design requirement as simply an option. That change is significant and will yield increased removal of exceptional Tier 2 trees.

Since not covered with the city council land use committee and UFC, it is prudent and necessary to remove the revision 2 language for this section unless an Environmental Impact Study is completed.

Thank you again for your hard work on this effort. Unfortunately the land use committee and UFC had only 1 or 2 days to respond to those items that were communicated in advance. In general, the substantive changes (beyond policy and administrative items) will impact the Seattle Comp Plan and Urban Forestry Management Plan for an equitable canopy cover by 2023. As such, perhaps the city Attorneys office should review relative to the RCW [43.21C.031](#)

**Significant impacts.**

(1) An environmental impact statement (the detailed statement required by RCW [43.21C.030](#)(2)(c)) shall be prepared on proposals for legislation and other major actions having a probable significant, adverse environmental impact.

PS- Waiting for that meeting date whenever you may be available.

Sincerely,  
David Moehring AIA

Note: As a member of the AIA, this message may not reflect the Seattle AIA's thoughts or opinions. We all seek

On Thursday, April 27, 2023, 6:14 AM, [dmoehring@consultant.com](mailto:dmoehring@consultant.com) wrote:

City Council, Mayor, and Urban Forestry Commission,

Missing full disclosure of significant changes in design departures currently required to retain Exceptional (tier 2) trees: SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL - Record No: CB 120534

**Title:** AN ORDINANCE relating to tree protection; balancing the need for housing production and increasing tree protections; and amending Sections 23.44.020, 23.47A.016, 23.48.055, 23.76.004, 23.76.006, and Chapter 25.11 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

**Sponsors:** [Dan Strauss](#)

The **summary is inadequate describing** the version 2 edits to SMC 25.11.070.B.2. The summary only describes "Clarify that portions of a lot located in a biodiversity area or corridor, riparian corridor, priority habitat, wetland, wetland buffer, or steep slope erosion hazard area are excluded from development area calculations for the purposes Ch. 25.11, unless the applicant has a critical areas ordinance modification." This statement excluded significant revisions.

It references this change as "25.11.070 Tree protection on sites undergoing development in Neighborhood Residential, Lowrise, Midrise, commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones (p.28, l.13-17 and p.29, l.10- 14)"

But the summary fails to identify a significant change of this section SMC25.11.070.B.2.

Which states: "If an **applicant chooses** to retain Tier 2 trees that would otherwise be allowed to be removed under subsection 25.11.070.B.1, modifications to development standards are allowed as follows:

- a. For development not subject to design review, the following Type I modifications to standards:
- 1) Setbacks and separation requirements, if applicable, may be reduced by a maximum of 50 percent;
  - 2) Amenity areas may be reduced by a maximum of ten percent;"
- Etc....

**Why would exterior amenity areas be reduced with the current code that already allows trees and vegetation within exterior amenity areas?**

**Why does current requirement to look at design departures now become a development choice by the applicant rather than a determination by the Director?**

Above linked from:

<http://seattle.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6073330&GUID=FE6B6E0E-F9F3-4BFF-98C5-10B035A517FC>



From the 'Summary Att 1 – Expanded Summary of Code Changes V1b':

Item 11 states in paragraph 2 that the existing design departure requirements are maintained, as well as shown in the text of the code amendment:

“Maintains and clarifies incentives for the retention of Tier 2 trees through a menu of adjustments to development standards. For development not subject to design review:

- a. Setbacks and separation requirements may be reduced by a maximum of 50 percent
- b. Amenity areas may be reduced by a maximum of 10 percent
- c. Landscaping and screening may be reduced by a maximum of 25 percent
- d. Structure width, structure depth, and façade length limits may be increased by a maximum of 10 percent

For development subject to design review, there are departures permitted in Section 23.41.012.

Reduction in parking quantity required by Section 23.54.015 is allowed if the reduction would result in avoidance of the tree protection area and the modification of standards for safe access.”

**The above text verifies that the current requirement by Director of SDCI is for the architect / Applicant to study design departures rather than become a development choice by the applicant. Why is this significant change not being mentioned in the summary?**

**Why is it relative to change tree decisions from TYPE II (notice and appealable) to TYPE I (no public notice, no comment , not appealable)?**

“2. Adds that the application of the tree provisions pursuant to Chapter 25.11 is regulated as a Type I decision: This would simplify provisions, including allowing development standards to be modified to aid in tree preservation as an **administrative process without requiring Design Review**, while maintaining Design Review as an option in multifamily and commercial zones. This means that new development projects would use an administrative Type I review (**non-appealable**, which is the same decision type as compliance with zoning).”

From <http://seattle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11759405&GUID=71C7ADF8-A69C-40F5-B965-534E05556736>

**From:** Laura Riedel <plriedel@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Monday, May 8, 2023 8:03 AM

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

**Subject:** Please amend the 2023 Draft Tree Ordinance - No "guaranteed 85%!"

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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. With middle-housing zoning updates, neighborhood residential (34% tree canopy) will change to multi-family (23% tree canopy) and Seattle tree canopy will plummet unless strong and effective efforts are made to preserve trees.

We urge you to adopt these amendments to the 2023 draft Tree Protection Ordinance.

-----

TOP PRIORITY -- We need trees where we live!

1. Require 20% lot allowance for "tree preservation and tree planting areas" in multifamily areas and 40% lot allowance for 1-4 units in the neighborhood residential zone as Portland Oregon does in their family residential zone. Portland passed legislation in 2020 to allow up to 4plexes in their neighborhoods after the state mandated zoning updates. Portland responded in Nov 2022 to update their tree protection legislation. <https://www.portland.gov/code/11/50/050>
2. Remove the guaranteed "85% lot development area" provision. If the current middle housing legislation passes in Olympia, almost all of Seattle would be affected by this change, with a significant loss of tree canopy city wide. The city needs flexibility to evaluate development and protecting trees lot by lot, not one size fits all circumstances.

-----

3. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6" DSH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan be submitted by developers, as Portland Oregon does, prior to any building permits being approved. This information fits with collecting in lieu fees prior to issuing building permits and facilitates reporting and tracking of tree loss and replacement, rather than city workers having to pull this information from site plans. Mayor Harrell's Executive Order asked for data on trees removed and replaced. Getting this information up front from developers is the best way to do this.
4. Require developers throughout the total development process to maximize the retention of existing trees 6" DSH and larger with adequate space for trees to grow and survive. The current draft removes consideration of protecting 6"-12" DSH trees and also removes them from site plans. Keep them on the site plans and protect them during development. Trees 6" DSH and larger represent 45% of trees in the NR zone according to Seattle's Ecosystem Values Report. Most of these trees are established potential replacement trees for existing large trees that die. Trees 12" DSH and larger only represent 18% of the trees in the NR zone. A diversity of ages and species for trees is essential for a healthy urban forest.
5. Retain definitions and use of exceptional and significant trees. Remove the confusing and biased proposed new classification of trees as Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4. The use and understanding of

trees as exceptional has been in the Tree Protection Ordinance since 2001 and described in more detail in the 2008 Director's Rule. 16-2008. Significant trees are understood to be those 6" DSH and larger that are not exceptional. Many other cities, including in this region, use these definitions.

6. Require for replacement 2 trees for 12-24" DSH trees removed, 3 trees for 24 – 36" DSH and 4 trees for above 36" DSH for more equivalency of the increasing value of services trees provide as they increase in size. One for one replacement is no equivalency for what is lost as trees increase in size. Require that tree replacement numbers increase with the size and canopy volume of the removed tree. such that in 25 years or less they will reach equivalent canopy volume lost. Waiting 80 years to replace an 80-year-old tree is too long.

7. Increase in lieu fee schedule to require the \$17.87/square inch of trunk in-lieu fees to start with 12" DSH trees rather than 24" DSH trees. In-Lieu fees need to adequately cover the city's additional cost of planting and maintaining the trees for 5 years.

8. All replacement in lieu fees and fines should go into a One Seattle Tree Fund as stated in Mayor Harrell's 's Executive Order. It should be a dedicated Tree Planting and Preservation Fund like Portland, Oregon has (not into SDCI's budget). The Fund should be added to this draft. The Fund should report yearly on its budget to the City Council and Mayor. The One Seattle Tree Fund should be overseen by the City Urban Forester located in OSE because the distribution of funds would be interdepartmental. Allow the One Seattle Tree Fund (Tree Planting and Preservation Fund) to also accept fines, donations, grants, purchase land, set up covenants and for educational purposes as Portland, Oregon does.

9. The role of the new City Forester position created by the Seattle City Council in OSE should be defined in this ordinance.

10. Create an Urban Forestry Division within SDCI with additional staff as recommended in a separate budget provision or expand the Urban Forestry staff and responsibility in the Office of sustainability and Environment for independent oversight of trees.

11. 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" DSH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, removed both during development and outside development. The proposed ordinance remains a complaint-based system relying on citizens which has been proven to not be effective in code compliance. SDCI only has 2 arborists who are mostly deskbound.to check site plans and in the field.

12. Require SDCI to submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree removal and replacement as currently required by other City Departments and yearly as required yearly by Mayor Harrell's Executive Order.

13. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Highrise, Industrial, Downtown and Institutions.
14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity.
15. Expand the required tree protection covenant to include a replacement requirement for a tree that dies. Make it a permanent “protected tree planting site” for the life of the building.
16. Remove or clarify language of tree drip line “may be irregular in shape to reflect variation in branch outer limits” Dripline is used to determine tree protection area and branches shortened in some areas may not reflect root structure or may have been removed in certain areas if tree has been limbed up.
17. Require that maintenance of relocated and replacement trees include “watering as needed”.
18. Require street trees be planted if ADU’s are added to a lot. ADU’s reduce space for trees on site and increase tree removal. They are currently exempt from original lot coverage limits in the NR zone.
19. Remove the 1000 square feet addition to an existing structure exemption requiring planting street trees. Additions increasing the building footprint are removing existing or potential tree planting and preservation space.
20. Give the SDCI Director the authority to reduce or waive any fees assessed by this ordinance, taking into account a homeowner's financial circumstances or ability to pay.
21. Split the purpose and intent section. Add to intent “address climate resiliency and reduce heat island impacts across the city”
22. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, scotch broom, and holly from development sites to help stop the spread of invasive species in our city that add to maintenance costs and replacement of dying trees.

Laura Riedel  
[plriedel@comcast.net](mailto:plriedel@comcast.net)  
12215 11th Ave NW, Seattle WA 98177  
Seattle, Washington 98177

**From:** Elizabeth Brown <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 8, 2023 12:42 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Amend Mayor Harrell's draft Tree Protection Ordinance - no 85% guarantee

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Seattle has a beautiful treescape that's quickly disappearing. Some of the worst things I see is "tear-down" land purchases that level all the foliage as well as hardscapes before they even start. I'm very worried about the Talaris site. I think whatever development is allowed should negotiate before any tree is removed.

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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. With middle-housing zoning updates, neighborhood residential (34% tree canopy) will change to multi-family (23% tree canopy) and Seattle tree canopy will plummet unless strong and effective efforts are made to preserve trees.

We urge you to adopt these amendments to the 2023 draft Tree Protection Ordinance.

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2. Remove the guaranteed "85% lot development area" provision. If the current middle housing legislation passes in Olympia, almost all of Seattle would be affected by this change, with a significant loss of tree canopy city wide. The city needs flexibility to evaluate development and protecting trees lot by lot, not one size fits all circumstances.

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3. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6" DSH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan be submitted by developers, as Portland Oregon does, prior to any building permits being approved. This information fits with collecting in lieu fees prior to issuing building permits and facilitates reporting and tracking of tree loss and replacement, rather than city workers having to pull this information from site plans. Mayor Harrell's Executive Order asked for data on trees removed and replaced. Getting this information up front from developers is the best way to do this.

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Elizabeth Brown  
[brownliz555@gmail.com](mailto:brownliz555@gmail.com)  
1402 South Bennett Str  
Seattle, Washington 98108

**From:** MICHAEL OXMAN <michaeloxman@comcast.net>

**Sent:** Monday, May 8, 2023 4:56 PM

**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; Herbold, Lisa <Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov>; Morales, Tammy <Tammy.Morales@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Andrew <Andrew.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Nelson, Sara <Sara.Nelson@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>; Pedersen, Alex <Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov>; Mosqueda, Teresa <Teresa.Mosqueda@seattle.gov>; Juarez, Debora <Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov>; Sawant, Kshama <Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Lois Martin <lamartin1@me.com>; mobaskin@earthlink.net; Steve Zemke <stevezemke@msn.com>; Katy - Trees! <katygr@msn.com>; Sandy Shettler <sshettler@msn.com>; David Trees! <dmoehring@consultant.com>; Chris Gaul <chrisgaul7@outlook.com>; June BlueSpruce <jbluespruce@gmail.com>; James Davis <jamesdavis1400@gmail.com>; Jessica Dixon <bardjess@msn.com>; Dinushi Samarasekara <dinushi.samarasekara@gmail.com>; Ruth Williams <ruthalice@comcast.net>; Mary K Manous <mmanous@me.com>; Lia - Trees! <liayaranon@gmail.com>; Josh Morris <joshm@seattleudubon.org>; heidi calyxsite.com <heidi@calyxsite.com>; ovaltinelatte@hotmail.com; artartart@seanet.com; Andrea Starbird <andrea@seattlearbortassociation.org>

**Subject:** Re: Organizing strategies/sit-ins/ etc post yesterday's tragic vote..... Re: Tree Protection Bill Update

**CAUTION: External Email**

Howdy, Urban Forestry Commissioners, Mayor and City Councilmembers,

WELCOME:

I wanted to invite everyone to a podcast Wednesday at noon. [Fake Green Cities: Developing Away Clean Living \(callin.com\)](#)

Tree advocates should be convening our own meeting around the beginning of next week, because the full City Council will be voting on the draft Tree Ordinance May 23rd.

THE PROBLEM:

Our 'audience' perceives the forest as vast & inexhaustible.

Long term goals remove urgency from our pace.

TIMELINE:

The 2007 Urban Forest Management Plan UFMP set the 30 year goal of 30% canopy cover, expiring in 2037.

The citywide Comprehensive Plan goal was established to require a 1% per year increase in canopy cover.

That 1% goal statement was removed a few years later, after no money for a tree inventory was allocated by the Council.

With no ability to track tree populations, the Comp Plan was changed again another few years later, to require a vague 'annual net increase' in canopy cover.

Still later, the timeline for monitoring ecosystem services in the Comp Plan was changed again, requiring no new action, just a new canopy cover survey every 5 years.

Unfortunately, confidence in these aerial photo surveys collapsed due to incompatible technology methods using laser and photography.

The tracking interval after the 2015 canopy cover survey stretched to 8 years when the current survey results were released in February 2023, in violation of the 5 year Comp Plan requirement.

Here are 3 examples of problems with remote sensing of urban forests. No information about tree health, size or species can be seen from this angle and distance. The margin of error should be about 2% for camera-mounted lasers on satellites in orbit 120 miles above the surface of the earth. The city claims accuracy of hundredths of a percent, which is hard to believe.

1) The initial 10% canopy cover claim for Industrial neighborhoods was found to be actually 4%, due to accidental inclusion of the forested hillsides on Beacon Hill.

2) The cloud cover during aerial photography prevented a clear view of the trees, which introduced a high error rate one year.

3) Staff claimed good policy was the cause of increased tree counts, not revising these erroneous data collection methods. A 'retraction' was later issued for the misrepresented facts.

#### ACTION:

The 2015 Statement of Legislative Intent SLI to conduct a Natural Capital Assessment NCA was funded by the 2019 budget, but dropped a few months later when revenue declined from the pandemic recession. The funding was never restored for the NCA, but we are asking that this proposal's fiscal note includes it.

Future ability to track loss of trees is dependent on the current fiscal note, which would add 2 staff arborists by the Department of Construction & Inspection DCI next year.

We have no idea if 2 more tree inspectors will be enough to process permits for the hundreds of trees worked on every day by city staff and private sector Tree Service Providers.

The proposed hiring of a Chief Arborist by the Office of Sustainability & Environment OSE will not actually give that person authority to direct operations of arborists in the other 8 departments.

A current SLI to poll the 9 departments on their funding for urban forestry projects may not add any control over those budgets.

The city continues to sell off surplus land, without regard for it's potential value in achieving environmental integrity & connectivity to wildlife corridors.

Downtown construction & conversion of office space into residential towers does not build new parks, or provide for soil for dog walkers use, yet crime is rampant on unactivated space. The Viaduct replacement projects at the bottom of a steep hill continue to suck all funding away from any other downtown tree planting and other urban forestry improvements.

Huge plumbing projects consume our utility budgets to prevent fines from violation by Washington Department of Ecology for sewage overflows. At the same time, crumbling underground pipes & culverts throughout our neighborhoods cause threats from infrastructure collapse.

The council sends out congratulatory missives about it's accomplishments in urban forest land use policy, without mentioning either affordable housing displacement, or racial and economic disparity resulting in urban 'heat domes' and 'tree deserts'.

2 simple solutions to problems caused by poor land use policy that would save trees are:

1) Require owner-occupancy for Accessory Dwelling Unit ADU construction.



2) Require all Attached Accessory Dwelling Units AADU's to actually be 'attached' to the main residence, NOT free-standing in the yard, connected by a breezeway to the primary residence.

I hope some of these statements can refresh our viewpoint about the essential nature of vegetation, creeks and wildlife habitat.

Arboreally yours,

Michael Oxman  
(206) 949-8733

**From:** David Shuckerow <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023 11:47 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Amendments for 2023 draft Tree Protection Ordinance, nix the 85%

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

TOP PRIORITY -- We need trees where we live!

Especially in an increasingly warm PNW climate, trees provide essential shade to urban heat islands. Results from our 110+ heatwave a few years ago show that clear-cut neighborhoods had higher temperatures and more health emergencies.

Keep our cities GREEN.

David Shuckerow  
[djshuckerow@gmail.com](mailto:djshuckerow@gmail.com)  
12037A 9th Ave NW  
Seattle, Washington 98177

**From:** Michelle Deiner <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 11, 2023 7:24 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Amendments for 2023 draft Tree Protection Ordinance, nix the 85%

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6. Require for replacement 2 trees for 12-24” DSH trees removed, 3 trees for 24 – 36” DSH and 4 trees for above 36” DSH for more equivalency of the increasing value of services trees provide as they

increase in size. One for one replacement is no equivalency for what is lost as trees increase in size. Require that tree replacement numbers increase with the size and canopy volume of the removed tree. such that in 25 years or less they will reach equivalent canopy volume lost. Waiting 80 years to replace an 80-year-old tree is too long.

7. Increase in lieu fee schedule to require the \$17.87/square inch of trunk in-lieu fees to start with 12" DSH trees rather than 24" DSH trees. In-Lieu fees need to adequately cover the city's additional cost of planting and maintaining the trees for 5 years.

8. All replacement in lieu fees and fines should go into a One Seattle Tree Fund as stated in Mayor Harrell's 's Executive Order. It should be a dedicated Tree Planting and Preservation Fund like Portland, Oregon has (not into SDCI's budget). The Fund should be added to this draft. The Fund should report yearly on its budget to the City Council and Mayor. The One Seattle Tree Fund should be overseen by the City Urban Forester located in OSE because the distribution of funds would be interdepartmental. Allow the One Seattle Tree Fund (Tree Planting and Preservation Fund) to also accept fines, donations, grants, purchase land, set up covenants and for educational purposes as Portland, Oregon does.

9. The role of the new City Forester position created by the Seattle City Council in OSE should be defined in this ordinance.

10. Create an Urban Forestry Division within SDCI with additional staff as recommended in a separate budget provision or expand the Urban Forestry staff and responsibility in the Office of sustainability and Environment for independent oversight of trees.

11. 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" DSH and larger, and all exceptional trees, on private property in all land use zones, removed both during development and outside development. The proposed ordinance remains a complaint-based system relying on citizens which has been proven to not be effective in code compliance. SDCI only has 2 arborists who are mostly deskbound.to check site plans and in the field.

12. Require SDCI to submit quarterly reports to the Office of Sustainability and Environment on tree removal and replacement as currently required by other City Departments and yearly as required yearly by Mayor Harrell's Executive Order.

13. Extend ordinance to cover all land use zones, including Highrise, Industrial, Downtown and Institutions.

14. Allow city certified inspectors to enter property if necessary to ascertain any illegal tree activity.

15. Expand the required tree protection covenant to include a replacement requirement for a tree that dies. Make it a permanent “protected tree planting site” for the life of the building.
16. Remove or clarify language of tree drip line “may be irregular in shape to reflect variation in branch outer limits” Dripline is used to determine tree protection area and branches shortened in some areas may not reflect root structure or may have been removed in certain areas if tree has been limbed up.
17. Require that maintenance of relocated and replacement trees include “watering as needed”.
18. Require street trees be planted if ADU’s are added to a lot. ADU’s reduce space for trees on site and increase tree removal. They are currently exempt from original lot coverage limits in the NR zone.
19. Remove the 1000 square feet addition to an existing structure exemption requiring planting street trees. Additions increasing the building footprint are removing existing or potential tree planting and preservation space.
20. Give the SDCI Director the authority to reduce or waive any fees assessed by this ordinance, taking into account a homeowner's financial circumstances or ability to pay.
21. Split the purpose and intent section. Add to intent “address climate resiliency and reduce heat island impacts across the city”
22. Require removal of invasive plants, like ivy, scotch broom, and holly from development sites to help stop the spread of invasive species in our city that add to maintenance costs and replacement of dying trees.

Michelle Deiner  
[shellymentzer@yahoo.com](mailto:shellymentzer@yahoo.com)  
10522 Palatine Ave N  
Seattle, Washington 98133

**From:** dmoehring@consultant.com <dmoehring@consultant.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 11, 2023 7:33 AM  
**To:** Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Strauss, Dan <Dan.Strauss@seattle.gov>; LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** Harrell, Monisha <Monisha.Harrell@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Andrew <Andrew.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Dawson, Parker <Parker.Dawson@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Just 8 days :Land Use Information Bulletin is Now Available

**CAUTION: External Email**

Good morning, Councilmember Dan Strauss,

Public comment period has begun today on the enhanced tree removal ordinance authored by the Master Builder's Association and City Staff: Council Bill 120534 . But only 8 days provided for public comment? Provide full comment period identified by local governance.

Delineate in the new notice if these are SMC 23 only comments (land use) or SMC 25 (environmental) comments potentially impacting the 30-percent canopy cover goals of the 2035 Seattle Comprehensive Plan.

The Notice should clarify this a comment on SEPA DNS or SEPA EIS (for referenced substantive and 'Other Substantive Changes').

Please extend to 21 days, or at least 14 days as allowed by SMC..

In addition, certain DNS's require a 14-day period prior to agency action (subsection 25.05.340.B), and FEIS's require a seven day period prior to agency action (subsection 25.05.460.E).

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Given there is no documented case in Seattle's current (pre-2023) code where tree retention and tree protection requirements have reduced the quantity, Floor area, or height of a code-allowed development, this notice does not impact development standards or housing growth targets, but tyhid notice does impact environmental objectives of the Comp Plan.

Please record this comment with the City Clerk.

Regarding:

Written comments may be submitted at any time until the City Council vote on the legislation. However, the City Council prefers to receive written comments by 12:00 p.m. on May 19, 2023, to allow for review by the Council during its consideration of the proposal. The Council will discuss and vote on the Land Use Committee's recommendation no earlier than May 23, 2023. Please send comments to Naomi Lewis in Councilmember Dan Strauss' office via e-mail at: [naomi.lewis@seattle.gov](mailto:naomi.lewis@seattle.gov) or by mail to:

Councilmember Dan Strauss Seattle City Council  
600 4th Avenue, 2nd Floor PO Box 34025 Seattle, WA 98124-4025

<https://cosaccela.seattle.gov/portal/cap/CapDetail.aspx?type=1000&fromACA=Y&agencyCode=SEATTLE&Module=DPDPublicNotice&capID1=23SCI&capID2=00000&capID3=50266>

OTHER – CC - NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL BILL 120534 – TREE PROTECTION UPDATES

**Project Description:**

On May 4, 2023, the Council's Land Use Committee considered around 50 amendments to an amended version of Council Bill (CB) 120534. These amendments modified the Mayor's proposal to update regulations for trees located on private property in Neighborhood Residential, Lowrise, Midrise, commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones. Some amendments to Council Bill 120534 would constitute a change to development regulations for the purposes of the Growth Management Act (RCW Chapter 36.70A).

**Publication Date:**

05/11/2023

**End of Comment Period:**

05/19/2023

**Planner:**

Yolanda Ho - [\(206\) 388-8126](tel:2063888126)

Sincerely,

David Moehring AIA NCARB  
3444 23rd Ave W  
Seattle WA 98199

Sent using the mobile mail app

**From:** Jason Stephens <stephensja@pm.me>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 14, 2023 9:03 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

We need trees where we live!

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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.

Please take the following action on these priority amendments:

Group A. Development Capacity and Development Standard Modifications

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES A6 - Maintain current FAR method for determining when trees can be removed in Lowrise, Midrise and Seattle Mixed Zones - Continue using the FAR or floor area ratio standard which allows for departures outside the building to save exceptional trees (Tier 2). Builders are pushing for a guaranteed 85% development area which would remove the city's flexibility in saving existing exceptional trees. Trees are already scarce in these areas and this amendment would help save trees in these areas and reduce urban heat island impacts.

VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A2 - Development area percentage in Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed zones This amendment would guarantee 100% lot coverage in the Midrise, Commercial, and Seattle Mixed Use Zones with no options to save trees.

- VOTE NO A5 - Tier 2 tree removal allowance and accessory dwelling units - Many accessory dwelling units are less than 15 feet wide. Builders do not need a guaranteed 15 feet. Amendment would be

another guaranteed reason to remove exceptional trees. Let the city keep its flexibility to decide based on the trees on a lot.

#### Group G. Tree Protection During Development

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES G2 - Tree protection area delineation - This is the recommended ANSI-A300 methodology recommended that takes into account tree species and age of tree in determining the tree protection area.
- VOTE YES G3 - Temporary reduction of tree protection areas - would result in less tree removal by allowing temporary intrusion under supervision.
- VOTE YES G4 - Off-site trees during development - would require protection of off-site trees during development.

##### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO A4 - Calculation of lot coverage standard - tree protection area - Canopy drip line for tree protection areas and no temporary extensions into tree protection area would result in more tree removals.

#### Group C. Permit Review Process

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES C3 - Tree Protection Areas and subdivisions, short subdivisions and lot boundary adjustments
- VOTE YES C4 - require certified arborists report and participation in application team

#### Group E. In-lieu fees and Replacement requirements

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES E6 - Codify and increase in-lieu fee amount - Addresses cost to city to plant and maintain trees by requiring fee start at \$4000 and includes lost benefits of larger trees by fee being \$4000 or \$17.87 per square inch, whichever is larger.

##### VOTE NO

- VOTE NO E2 - Minimum in-lieu fee payment for Tier 1 and Tier 2 Trees - Does not cover estimated Parks Dept. \$4000 cost to plant and maintain Tier 3 trees at recommended \$2800 fee

#### Group F. Tree Service Providers

##### VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers

- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

With the world leaders not appropriately addressing the climate crisis, the PNW can expect to experience warmer weather for the years and decades ahead. Residents of Seattle will look to ways to cool themselves. Should they have fewer trees, they will likely remain inside running energy consuming air conditioning units. I foresee humans needing to live with less energy in the future because of rising fuel prices. Therefore, trees will play a big role in helping to shade and cool the city of Seattle. We need to keep the existing forest in place so that it's canopy may protect us during the hot, hot summer days here now, and the ever more in the future.

Best,

Jason Stephens

Seattle resident, 98118

Jason Stephens

[stephensja@pm.me](mailto:stephensja@pm.me)

5103 42ND AVE S APT. A

SEATTLE, Washington 98118

**From:** mimitabby@gmail.com <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Sunday, May 14, 2023 2:53 PM

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

**Subject:** No "guaranteed 85%"! Amend the draft tree ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Trees and the urban forest comprise vital green infrastructure needed to keep our city 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. With middle-housing zoning updates, neighborhood residential (34% tree canopy) will change to multi-family (23% tree canopy) and Seattle tree canopy will plummet unless strong and effective efforts are made to preserve trees.

We urge you to adopt these amendments to the 2023 draft Tree Protection Ordinance.

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TOP PRIORITY -- We need trees where we live!

1. Require 20% lot allowance for "tree preservation and tree planting areas" in multifamily areas and 40% lot allowance for 1-4 units in the neighborhood residential zone as Portland Oregon does in their family residential zone. Portland passed legislation in 2020 to allow up to 4plexes in their neighborhoods after



the state mandated zoning updates. Portland responded in Nov 2022 to update their tree protection legislation. <https://www.portland.gov/code/11/50/050>

2. Remove the guaranteed “85% lot development area” provision. If the current middle housing legislation passes in Olympia, almost all of Seattle would be affected by this change, with a significant loss of tree canopy city wide. The city needs flexibility to evaluate development and protecting trees lot by lot, not one size fits all circumstances.

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3. Require a Tree Inventory of all trees 6” DSH and larger and a Tree Landscaping Plan be submitted by developers, as Portland Oregon does, prior to any building permits being approved. This information fits with collecting in lieu fees prior to issuing building permits and facilitates reporting and tracking of tree loss and replacement, rather than city workers having to pull this information from site plans. Mayor Harrell's Executive Order asked for data on trees removed and replaced. Getting this information up front from developers is the best way to do this.

4. Require developers throughout the total development process to maximize the retention of existing trees 6” DSH and larger with adequate space for trees to grow and survive. The current draft removes consideration of protecting 6”-12” DSH trees and also removes them from site plans. Keep them on the site plans and protect them during development. Trees 6” DSH and larger represent 45% of trees in the NR zone according to Seattle’s Ecosystem Values Report. Most of these trees are established potential replacement trees for existing large trees that die. Trees 12” DSH and larger only represent 18% of the trees in the NR zone. A diversity of ages and species for trees is essential for a healthy urban forest.

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

8018 36th ave so  
Seattle , Washington 98118

**From:** Anna Chlebowski Giulietti <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Monday, May 15, 2023 2:56 PM

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

**Subject:** Support these amendments to the draft Tree Protection Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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#### VOTE NO

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Group F. Tree Service Providers

VOTE YES

- VOTE YES F2 - Penalties for unregistered tree service providers
- VOTE YES F3 - Removal from tree service registry

Anna Chlebowski Giulietti  
[sarracenia.chlebowskianna@gmail.com](mailto:sarracenia.chlebowskianna@gmail.com)  
4049 35th Ave sw  
SEATTLE, Washington 98126