



## 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

June 21, 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: 2492 526 1378

Meeting password: 1234

### Attending

#### Commissioners

Becca Neumann – Co-Chair

Laura Keil – Co-Chair

Josh Morris – Co-Chair

Falisha Kurji

Stuart Niven

Hao Liang

David Baker

Jessica Hernandez

Lia Hall

#### Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE

#### Guests

#### Absent- Excused

Julia Michalak

Jessica Jones

#### Public

Steve Zemke

Tina Cohen

**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 wanted to ask again when Commissioners will be appointed to Positions 1 and 2. He also again urged the UFC to weigh in on potential updates to the tree protection ordinance and provided some more examples: there are no tree protection areas for 6-12" trees – they are protected but without tree protection areas; add in the tree tier definitions, and add back in the tree inventory requirement and requiring maximizing tree retention.

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

Patti provided a reminder that the July 5 meeting was rescheduled to July 12. She also noted that OSE has announced that two funds that it manages have opened for applications: the [Environmental Justice Fund](#) (EJ Fund) and the [Duwamish River Opportunity Fund](#) (DROF). The EJ Fund supports projects that benefit communities most impacted by environmental hazards and climate inequities, and applications for that fund are due by July 26. The DROF supports community-led projects and programs that enhance the quality of life in the Duwamish Valley, and those applications are due August 7. Folks are encouraged to share this information widely with their networks to share the word with any community groups interested in applying. Patti shared a blog post containing more information: [2023 Environmental Justice Fund and Duwamish River Opportunity Fund Applications Are Now Open!](#)

Patti provided the update that Council has been still too busy as yet to schedule the appointments for Positions 1 and 2. They may be taken up at the Land Use Committee's special meeting on July 6; she's waiting for confirmation of that.

Josh noted that that he signed up for the USDA Urban Forest Connections webinar series that Patti noted previously and reviewed the website. There is a long list of past webinars and other cool information on the site. The [link](#) to the site was posted in the chat again. Josh also noted that he would be taking a sabbatical for the month of July, so will not be at the July meetings.

**Adoption of May meeting notes**

**Action: A motion to approve the May 3, 2023 meeting notes as written was made, seconded and approved.**

**Action: A motion to approve the May 17, 2023 meeting notes as amended was made, seconded and approved.**

**Position 9 appointment process**

Josh outlined the process for recruiting for Position 9 - Economist, financial analyst, Washington State licensed real estate broker, or any other similar professional. We ran an application process and received an application from Nathan Collins, who is a Financial Analyst with many years of experience. Laura, Josh and Patti interviewed Nathan last week, and unanimously agreed that he would be a great choice to advance to the Commission for further discussion.

Position 9 is the Commission-appointed position on the UFC, so appointment to the position requires majority approval of the UFC, and then also approval of Council once a candidate is selected by the UFC. Nathan attended the meeting to talk with the UFC, introduce himself and provide information on his background and interest in serving on the Commission. Commissioners then had opportunity to ask Nathan any questions they had of him. Questions for Nathan from Commissioners included:

- Can you give some examples of disparities you've experienced in communities, as mentioned in your application?
- Do you have experience working with Indigenous communities?
- Of the companies you've worked with and partnered with, have any of them donated to tree or urban forest protection efforts to offset their carbon footprint?
- One of your interests is in ecosystem services valuing – do you have thoughts for incorporating that into the work of the Commission?

Nathan excused himself from the meeting, and Commissioners continued discussion around his appointment. Josh, Laura and Patti provided some additional information and reflections from the interview with Nathan. Commissioners voted anonymously on whether to advance Nathan as the Position 9 appointee, with the result being unanimous to approve moving Nathan's appointment forward.

### **Tree protection ordinance amendments process**

Josh noted that the process of working through the tree protection ordinance update was quick and demanded a lot of time and attention, and it came out in different pieces and formats, with the final package being approved by Council on May 24. There hasn't been time yet to fully review that final package of policy provisions that was adopted; that's something that should happen so the UFC can fully understand what the new tree protection ordinance is.

There was a subgroup working on ordinance recommendations as it was being developed. Josh noted that perhaps that subgroup can be maintained so that the UFC can continue looking at and developing recommendations. Some of the recommendation items the UFC was working on may have a path forward through the budget process, including the monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements that could be addressed through a Statement of Legislative Intent. The subgroup could work on determining what the avenues are for making updates.

One major question about following the effects of the ordinance is how will the tree tracking data be recorded and fed back into the system to effect management? It would be beneficial for the UFC, Council and the implementing departments to continue discussion on the effects of the ordinance as it goes into effect. The UFC could have a standing agenda item to check in on the status of the ordinance. The Planning Commission has task force meetings between their regular meetings – maybe the UFC can have those on the second and fourth Wednesdays, 3-5:00? Five Commissioners expressed interest in this possibility. Patti will need to check on the feasibility of providing support for two extra meetings a month. This work group could then report back to the full Commission at the regular meetings.

Stuart noted that he's started collating some examples of what the new ordinance means for sites being developed, as noted at the last meeting. Those could be presented at the subgroup meetings and/or at the full UFC meetings.

### **City budget process**

Josh noted that the City Council turns their attention to the budget in September and city departments are working now on their workbooks related to budget, so this is a good time for the UFC to start providing initial recommendations. The UFC has been doing two budget letters a year; this letter would be the first for 2023.

Josh walked through the draft recommendations he prepared, which notes that adequate funding for urban forest management is really important, especially given our declining canopy and increasing inequities that show that the city's investments are not yet sufficient. The recurring issue of not being able to determine how much is spent on an annual basis on urban forestry in the city was discussed, and Patti provided the recap that the Statement of Legislative Intent on city urban forestry investments is aimed at getting past this obstacle by providing the baseline understanding of that overall city investment across the departments.

Commissioners continued discussing and editing this first draft of recommendations. Patti will share this updated version with Commissioners, who can then continue working on them in preparation for continuing work as a group at the next meeting.

### **Seattle City Light briefing follow-up**

Commissioners discussed that there was not a presentation de-brief after the SCL briefing, so touched quickly on this. Stuart volunteered to draft a follow-up letter.

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

**Public comment:**

Steve Zemke noted the good work of the UFC in moving things forward. He noted that tree replacement gets very expensive and affects the number of trees that can be planted with the available funds. The amount of funds received for the different size trees, will allow for a certain number of trees to be planted for each removal. He again urged maximizing retention of trees on site – it's much less expensive and retains the environmental benefits of the trees. The state bill that didn't proceed would have allowed avoidance of existing ordinance requirements to save trees in cities and have the trees planted in tree banks. That's what our ordinance does now. The priority has to be retaining as many trees as possible where people live, not just in parks. Retention of canopy in residential areas isn't be addressed at this point. That could come through the Comprehensive Plan update, the EIS for which is due out in September.

Tina Cohen thanked the commission for all the fine work and carefully crafted documents. CM Strauss said from the beginning that he would look to the UFC to be a resource in developing the ordinance. She wondered how the UFC feels about being ignored in the process.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

**Meeting chat:**

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:04 PM

Hello everyone!

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:10 PM

Question: for those funds, what kind of expenses can UFC put forward in the grant application? Thank you.

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 3:10 PM

2023 Environmental Justice Fund and Duwamish River Opportunity Fund Applications Are Now Open!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:11 PM

Patti, can you clarify that the new commissioners' terms start when they are approved and start, not from the March 31 term end?

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:11 PM

Oh ok thank you for the clarification.

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 3:12 PM

<https://greenspace.seattle.gov/2023/06/2023-environmental-justice-fund-and-duwamish-river-opportunity-fund-applications-are-now-open/#sthash.xRFtMwwi.zvMYCRCv.dpbs>

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:13 PM

Thank you Patti for confirming that the start dates do not change. I think it's important to note that the new commissioners' terms will be at least four months shorter than the defined term. Thank you.

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 3:13 PM

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/products/multimedia/webinars?field\\_webinar\\_series\\_target\\_id=2801](https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/products/multimedia/webinars?field_webinar_series_target_id=2801)

from sage miller to everyone: 3:23 PM

I attended the council meeting approving the tree ordinance. the council stated the ordinance could be "amended", revised, etc

from sage miller to everyone: 3:23 PM

what is the status of that?

from Lia Hall to everyone: 3:25 PM

Sorry I'm unable to speak at the moment. Welcome Nathan!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:28 PM

Thank you Nathan--so great to hear of your support for Scouts and helping youth having access to nature!

from Lia Hall to everyone: 3:42 PM

I may have missed this but I'm curious how many responses we got for this position

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:46 PM

Thank you Josh, Laura and Patti for interviewing him!

from sage miller to everyone: 3:49 PM

i have to leave..maybe i can check in with Joshua or Patricia later for updates

from Stuart Niven to everyone: 3:50 PM

Were the amendments meant to be put to Council before the start of it on August 1st?

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 3:57 PM

Why do you want to avoid public meetings? Public has interest in what is happening. Maybe one meeting a month would be good.

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:58 PM

Depends on time of day

from Stuart Niven to everyone: 3:58 PM

Slow and steady wins the race!

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:59 PM

Can't make it in person bc I get off work around this time lol

from Stuart Niven to everyone: 3:59 PM

It is a myth, Hoa!

from Stuart Niven to everyone: 3:59 PM

Hao, sorry

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 3:59 PM

Maybe hybrid for accessibility

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:04 PM

Need more urban forester qualified people ,not just arborists.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:05 PM

Land use Committee proposed 3 additional positions in SDCI and additional person in SDOT to add to budget.

from Joshua Morris to everyone: 4:06 PM

Heres the City's interactive budget: <https://openbudget.seattle.gov/#!/year/default>

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:08 PM

Should urge annual reporting, not just biennial.

from Hao Liang to everyone: 4:17 PM

<https://www.phila.gov/documents/urban-forest-strategic-plan/>

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:17 PM

Philadelphia has acres of urban blight and much more work to do in terms of reforestation. Having lived there.

from Hao Liang to everyone: 4:17 PM

<https://www.phila.gov/media/20230223005617/Philly-Tree-Plan.pdf>

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:22 PM

<https://seattle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11946575&GUID=6DAB16AA-16CC-46EC-947D-9F9D128FAE93> here is link to 4 budget positions Council was proposing to add to budget for forestry positions that was adopted May 4th by Land Use Committee

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:25 PM

Seattle Planning Commission has 2 full time staff positions.

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:26 PM

great question Hao.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:28 PM

Propose funding to create Urban Forestry Division in SDCI or move oversight to OSE as proposed to be considered per land Ustr Committee vote

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:29 PM

Need an urban forester in SDCI

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:32 PM

Companion bill added 3 SDCI positions and one to SDOT

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:33 PM

One position was site inspector, one for data collection and 3rd position?

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:35 PM

Need tree qualified inspector, not just cog

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:37 PM

they have code inspectors but ? is are they need to be qualified to do tree inspections Agree with Stuart

from Chris Gaul to everyone: 4:38 PM

Who tracks planting of replacement trees? Is there a system in place?

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:41 PM

. Obviously it is expensive to replace trees and you lose the environmental benefits the existing trees already supply to the city.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:42 PM

Need to continue to urge maximizing retention of existing trees!

from Jessica Hernandez to everyone: 4:48 PM

i missed that meeting lol

from Tina Cohen to everyone: 4:51 PM

Yes, Tina

from Stuart Niven to everyone: 4:57 PM

Dan Strauss lied, about that and many things!

from Chris Gaul to everyone: 4:57 PM

You are breaking up.

from Stuart Niven to everyone: 4:58 PM

I for one, am very angry about the way the UFC has been ignored and false claims were made about our level of involvement in the writing of the ordinance

from Stuart Niven to everyone: 4:58 PM

(Very choppy comments but please write them to us Tina!)

from Hao Liang to everyone: 4:59 PM

I feel we need to be kept in loop among the key conversations, and we need publically available data.

from Stuart Niven to everyone: 4:59 PM

Oops was that on the public record? (Wink)

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

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

**Sent:** Thursday, June 8, 2023 3:05 PM

**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Boawn, Jeanie <Jeanie.Boawn@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Trees and human health, crime and urban women birth outcome relationships

#### **CAUTION: External Email**

[Gift of Green - YouTube](#)

The above video is a short summary of research Dr Geoffrey Donovan from the USDA (based in Portland, OR) has done and presented on regarding urban trees and health, crime and house values. He spoke at the most recent Oregon Community Trees conference in Portland week before last and like with Prof. Kathryn Wolf at UW, has documented research on these and other positive effects of trees when they are PRESERVED, not simply clearcut by MBACKS and similar in serving the almighty dollar - I invite you to at least watch this (it's only ~5 min long).

And then I strongly encourage you to watch this next one (about an hour long) with his most recent findings: [Urban Forestry, Geoffrey Donovan - YouTube](#)  
his extensive research is here: [Geoffrey Donovan | US Forest Service Research and Development \(usda.gov\)](#)

kevin orme  
Seattle

**From:** kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2023 4:33 PM  
**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Boawn, Jeanie <Jeanie.Boawn@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** turning our cities into Treetopias...

**CAUTION: External Email**

[The urban forest of the future: how to turn our cities into Treetopias \(theconversation.com\)](#)

Treetopia vs Dystopia? Shade vs AC-enabled heat islands? The choice is up to you. Telling stat: *We know for example that in 2015, urban forest in the UK saved the NHS over £1 billion by helping to reduce the impact of air pollutants.*

and there's plenty more where that came from. Why aren't we doing that? Oh right....MBAKS.

kevin orme  
Seattle

**From:** MICHAEL OXMAN <michaeloxman@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2023 4:07 PM  
**To:** Seth Geiser <sethg@downtownseattle.org>  
**Cc:** jeff.vaughan@benaroyahall.org; Cheronne Wong <cheronne.wong@seattlesymphony.org>; myrar2004@gmail.com; donald.lachman@westcare.com; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Seattle tree policy

**CAUTION: External Email**

Howdy Seth,

A city-owned property, Benaroya Hall, located at 2nd & University, has a citizens advisory board to make recommendations on operation of the Garden of Remembrance.

The city funds maintenance at the home of the Seattle Symphony. The Garden Of Remembrance is the official Washington state veterans memorial, where thousands of names of soldiers who were killed in action are engraved on stone walls.

Pet waste is an increasing problem at the Garden Of Remembrance, damaging the health of about 3 dozen trees. The maintenance budget is set, and does not reflect the increasing costs of dealing with more use of the planter beds as a pet relief area.

This increase in plant damage may accelerate with more downtown high-rise construction, and as more office space is converted to residential dwellings.

The Garden Of Remembrance Advisory Board would like to track these changes. We would like to know how the changing residential population dynamics of pet relief activities affect downtown.

Please advise the overlap of policies of street tree management by SDOT, and land use policies of SDCI resulting in increased planting of new trees on private property associated with construction permits. We would like an analysis of urban forest management in the downtown area in a recent history over the past 5 years.

Here is the draft letter about street tree policy to SDOT from the Urban Forestry Commission. It does not address concerns about pet relief areas.

<https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/UrbanForestryCommission/2023/2023Docs/ROWTreeCanopyData060723.pdf>

I discussed downtown pet relief policy with the Department of Public Utilities, who contend they are not part of any discussion of this topic. SPU plants 1,000 trees annually thruout the cithy, which is not enough to address canopy cover increase goals. Regarding the communication about tree policy with SDOT & SDCI, there are a number of issues in the downtown neighborhoods.

Thank you.

Arboreally yours,

Michael Oxman  
Garden Of Remembrance Advisory Board  
(206) 949-8733

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

**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2023 5:59 AM

**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Boawn, Jeanie <Jeanie.Boawn@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Extreme Heat Is Deadlier Than Hurricanes, Floods and Tornadoes Combined

**CAUTION: External Email**

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/extreme-heat-is-deadlier-than-hurricanes-floods-and-tornadoes-combined/>



Mature trees and other natural features provide shade, deflect the sun's radiation and release moisture into the atmosphere. As heat waves become more frequent and intense, cities are experiencing higher nighttime and mean temperatures compared with areas that have a lot of green space. This is commonly called the heat island effect.

Funny how that works. I consider Scientific American a far, far better scribe of reality than the denial-laced, money-full pocketbooks of MBAKS...

kevin orme  
seattle

**From:** Kiley Foster <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2023 4:24 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** We need trees where we live! Please support tree protections.

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

Thank you for your work to update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance. The ordinance, as drafted, is a good beginning but is weighed heavily toward tree removals during development over protecting existing trees and building around them. What makes Seattle, Seattle - its green canopy, is threatened.

Without increased efforts to maximize the retention of existing trees across the city during development, all areas will see a significant decrease in tree canopy, increased adverse health impacts, a decrease in climate resiliency and increased heat island impacts. Areas currently with low canopy and environmental inequity will only get worse as they will also lose trees during development.

Replacement trees targeted to low canopy areas is a crucial step for climate resiliency and environmental justice, but they take decades to grow large, many die, and they are costly to plant and maintain for 5 years to help insure survival. Please adopt the following three proposals to increase the retention and protection of our existing trees during development. People across the city need trees where they live.

Remove the guaranteed lot development areas of 85% in Low Rise zones and 100% in Mid Rise, Seattle Mixed and Commercial zones. Current canopy coverage in the Multifamily zone is 23% and the Mixed Seattle zone is 12% according to the 2021 Seattle Tree Canopy Study. Retain the flexibility of the current system for the city to work with developers based on what is on each lot. Evaluate the environmental impact of the proposed changes in the upcoming Comprehensive Plan update on Seattle's ability to reach a 30% canopy cover goal as the city responds to state legislation increasing housing density across the city. The city environmental review of this ordinance did not evaluate the impacts of proposed changes like passage of HB 1110 or guaranteed 100% development areas in selected zones.

Require a Tree Inventory (Arborist's report) and Tree Plan (Retention and Planting) prior to issuing a building permit. Portland, Oregon; Kirkland, WA; Vancouver, BC; and other cities require Tree Inventories up front. This helps to reduce both the time and money spent by both developers and the city in moving projects forward. It would also provide the city with needed tracking data on tree loss and replacement as requested by Mayor Harrell for data-based decisions. The Seattle Urban Forestry Commission has repeatedly recommended requiring Tree Inventories and Tree Plans upfront before a Building permit is issued and trees are removed.

Maximize the retention of existing healthy 6" DSH and larger trees during the whole development process. This is already required with plating and short plating during pre-development. Many existing trees are not in the building footprint but are still being removed by developers as the current ordinance lets them remove them. These trees are survivors and are established. Planting replacement trees is expensive, not all survive, and it takes decades to replace the environmental services and benefits that they now provide. Many replacement trees would be planted in parks which will increase canopy cover but will not provide the same health and environmental benefits as retaining them where people live and work.

Again, thanks for your work and consideration of these amendments.

Kiley Foster  
[kileymfoster@gmail.com](mailto:kileymfoster@gmail.com)  
6548 42nd Ave SW  
Seattle, Washington 98136

**From:** kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2023 6:58 AM  
**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Boawn, Jeanie <Jeanie.Boawn@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Extreme Heat Is Deadlier Than Hurricanes, Floods and Tornadoes Combined

**CAUTION: External Email**

[Chinese cities break heat records, stressing electricity grid | Reuters](#)

the more you continue to indulge MBACKS and ignore nature, the more energy we will use, the more strain to the grid, and the bigger the crisis and heat islands we will create. Why not help address the problem NOW while we still can by **\*\*protecting\*\*** trees and greenspace in our city rather than handouts to construction and subsidizing air conditioner manufacturers? That's what your short-sighted policies are going to do long-term....

kevin orme

Seattle

**From:** tim waldrop <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2023 12:54 PM

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

**Subject:** We need trees where we live! Please support tree protections.

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Memo to Seattle City Council

Thank you for your work to update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance. The ordinance, as drafted, is a good beginning but is weighed heavily toward tree removals during development over protecting existing trees and building around them. What makes Seattle, Seattle - its green canopy, is threatened.

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Replacement trees targeted to low canopy areas is a crucial step for climate resiliency and environmental justice, but they take decades to grow large, many die, and they are costly to plant and maintain for 5 years to help insure survival. Please adopt the following three proposals to increase the retention and protection of our existing trees during development. People across the city need trees where they live.

Remove the guaranteed lot development areas of 85% in Low Rise zones and 100% in Mid Rise, Seattle Mixed and Commercial zones. Current canopy coverage in the Multifamily zone is 23% and the Mixed Seattle zone is 12% according to the 2021 Seattle Tree Canopy Study. Retain the flexibility of the current system for the city to work with developers based on what is on each lot. Evaluate the environmental impact of the proposed changes in the upcoming Comprehensive Plan update on Seattle's ability to reach a 30% canopy cover goal as the city responds to state legislation increasing housing density across the city. The city environmental review of this ordinance did not evaluate the impacts of proposed changes like passage of HB 1110 or guaranteed 100% development areas in selected zones.

Require a Tree Inventory (Arborist's report) and Tree Plan (Retention and Planting) prior to issuing a building permit. Portland, Oregon; Kirkland, WA; Vancouver, BC; and other cities require Tree Inventories up front. This helps to reduce both the time and money spent by both developers and the city in moving projects forward. It would also provide the city with needed tracking data on tree loss and replacement as requested by Mayor Harrell for data-based decisions. The Seattle Urban Forestry Commission has repeatedly recommended requiring Tree Inventories and Tree Plans upfront before a Building permit is issued and trees are removed.

Maximize the retention of existing healthy 6" DSH and larger trees during the whole development process. This is already required with plating and short plating during pre-development. Many existing trees are not in the building footprint but are still being removed by developers as the current ordinance lets them remove them. These trees are survivors and are established. Planting replacement trees is expensive, not all survive, and it takes decades to replace the environmental services and benefits that they now provide. Many replacement trees would be planted in parks which will increase canopy cover but will not provide the same health and environmental benefits as retaining them where people live and work.

Again, thanks for your work and consideration of these amendments.

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**From:** kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2023 1:22 PM  
**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi <Naomi.Lewis@seattle.gov>; Silvernail, Devin <Devin.Silvernail@seattle.gov>; House, Erin <Erin.House@seattle.gov>; Cuevas, Faride <Faride.Cuevas@seattle.gov>; Um, Taemin <Taemin.Um@seattle.gov>; Ellis, Steven <Steven.Ellis@seattle.gov>; Lacson, Gabby <Gabby.Lacson@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>; Brown, Kristin <Kristin.Brown@seattle.gov>; Farrell, Jessyn <Jessyn.Farrell@seattle.gov>; Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@seattle.gov>; Boawn, Jeanie <Jeanie.Boawn@seattle.gov>; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** What Technology Could Reduce Heat Deaths? Trees.

**CAUTION: External Email**

funny how that works....

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/02/climate/trees-cities-heat-waves.html>

"Trees can lower air temperature in city neighborhoods 10 lifesaving degrees, [scientists have found](#). They also reduce electricity demand for [air conditioning](#), not only sparing money and emissions, but helping avoid potentially catastrophic [power failures during heat waves](#)"

"Trees are, quite simply, the most effective strategy, technology, we have to guard against heat in cities," said Brian Stone Jr., a professor of environmental planning at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Despite longstanding and [ongoing efforts](#) across the country to plant trees, communities in the United States are not adding to their total number or even maintaining it. **Research shows that American cities and towns [lose the canopy of 36 million trees every year](#).**

**From:** kevinorme <kevinorme@protonmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 8:48 PM  
**To:** LEG\_CouncilMembers <council@seattle.gov>; Harrell, Bruce <Bruce.Harrell@seattle.gov>  
**Cc:** Emery, Adiam <Adiam.Emery@seattle.gov>; Burgess, Tim <Tim.Burgess@seattle.gov>; Eder, Dan <Dan.Eder@seattle.gov>; Hoffman, Kate <Kate.Hoffman@seattle.gov>; Lewis, Naomi

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**Subject:** Heat islands, urban trees and other cooling solutions for hot cities

**CAUTION: External Email**

[Heat islands, urban trees and other cooling solutions for hot cities - WHY?](#)

"...but the extreme heat feels very different depending on your zip code, even within the City of Philadelphia. It's all about the proportion of concrete and asphalt, which absorbs and radiates the heat, versus shade-providing trees and green spaces. Lower-income neighborhoods in the city have far less tree coverage and are therefore much, much hotter. Hunting Park is one of the hottest neighborhoods in Philly, with only 3% tree coverage – an “urban heat island” – compared to Chestnut Hill’s 60%, and it can be 15 to 20 degrees hotter."

Seems like protecting existing big trees NOW rather than pretending to plant them and ignore nurturing them for the next 20 years assuming they even survive - seems wise? But of course we want 'balance' between MBAKS profits and citizen heat islands, oh right...

kevin orme  
Seattle