

**Emails sent by Seattle residents regarding the tree protection ordinance and Director's Rule  
August 24-xxx, 2021**

**From:** Natalie Hodis <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Saturday, August 28, 2021 6:40 PM

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

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

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 12 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."
- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as "a group of 3 or more significant trees with

overlapping or touching crowns.” Include street trees in groves.

- Add “Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages.”
- Add “All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can’t be removed.”
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to “TREE PROTECTION”. Remove references to “Exceptional Trees” only and change to “Trees”. e.g., change “Exceptional Tree Protection Areas” to “Tree Protection Areas”.
- SECTION 4. Add “The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle’s Equity and Environment Initiative.”
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director’s Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Natalie Hodis  
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1914 Republican Street  
Seattle, Washington 98112

**From:** Luke Winsor <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 8:55 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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

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

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach

equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.

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6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Luke Winsor  
[winsor360@gmail.com](mailto:winsor360@gmail.com)  
9014 36th Ave SW,  
Seattle, Washington 98126

**From:** Patricia Carroll <patutie1@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:47 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Update Seattle's Tree Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

I am a big walker and try to walk in different neighborhoods, to get to know our city better. I am so dismayed at the growth pattern in neighborhoods, where the whole lot is cleared of all trees/greenery so many townhouses can jam in. I am outside in my yard all summer, and frequently hear chainsaws, and they are no doubt bringing down trees. Also, many of the townhouses don't have a "Homeowners Assoc" that has rules to keep the property (trees/greenery) alive. Such a waste, so the "green rules" offered the builders is a sham, if the owners let the plants/trees die.

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

Patricia Carroll  
[patutie1@comcast.net](mailto:patutie1@comcast.net)  
6015 3rd Ave NW  
Seattle, Washington 98107

**From:** Susan Su <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021 8:56 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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Susan Su  
[susanfsu@gmail.com](mailto:susanfsu@gmail.com)  
13720 41st Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98125

**From:** Andrea LaVare Malagon <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 20, 2021 5:56 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

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Andrea LaVare Malagon  
[drelavare@yahoo.com](mailto:drelavare@yahoo.com)  
5604 S. Fountain St. Seattle 98178  
Seattle, Washington 98178

**From:** Barbara Sanborn <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:33 PM

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

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

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Barbara Sanborn  
[sanbornbarbara@gmail.com](mailto:sanbornbarbara@gmail.com)  
5038B Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, Washington 98105

**From:** Colleen Weinstein <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2021 12:35 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Hello Council,

Enough is enough. Seattle's lack of urgency on this issue is baffling. Climate pledge Arena happened faster than updating the ordinance and we all know trees remaining growing and thriving in our city are truly the biggest contributor to human health and reducing the impacts of climate change. Do the right thing now and make a move that will benefit the youth of Seattle. It's time to end the delay by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) on presenting the Seattle City Council with an updated draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance. Over the last 12 years, the City Council has repeatedly asked SDCI for an updated workable and effective ordinance draft to consider and it is obvious SDCI is not responding as requested. In its recent Resolution 31902, the Council gave specific issues for SDCI to address.

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Seattle, Washington 98125

Colleen Weinstein  
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4112 NE 103rd Place  
Seattle, Washington 98125

**From:** marshallvbender@gmail.com <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 25, 2021 10:47 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI’s Director’s Rule 13-2020

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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

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

5216 11TH AVE NE #B  
SEATTLE, Washington 98105

**From:** Marshall Bender <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Saturday, September 25, 2021 10:47 PM

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

**Subject:** Save our Trees!

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3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24” DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.

7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Marshall Bender  
[marshallbender@gmail.com](mailto:marshallbender@gmail.com)  
5216 11TH AVE NE #B  
SEATTLE, Washington 98105

**From:** Elizabeth Uding <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 2, 2021 8:00 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 12 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger

must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city.”

- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as “a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns.” Include street trees in groves.
- Add “Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages.”
- Add “All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can’t be removed.”
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to “TREE PROTECTION”. Remove references to “Exceptional Trees” only and change to “Trees”. e.g., change “Exceptional Tree Protection Areas” to “Tree Protection Areas”.
- SECTION 4. Add “The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle’s Equity and Environment Initiative.”
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director’s Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT’s registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor’s license to ensure they have workers’ compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Elizabeth Uding  
[woodfrog789@gmail.com](mailto:woodfrog789@gmail.com)  
8725 14th AVE NW  
Seattle, Washington 98117

**From:** Shawn Dotter <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 5, 2021 3:26 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

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- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT’s registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor’s license to ensure they have workers’ compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Shawn Dotter  
[shawndotter@hotmail.com](mailto:shawndotter@hotmail.com)

7019 NE 170th St  
Kenmore, Washington 98028

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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

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

Seattle's trees and urban forest are vital to keeping our city healthy and livable. Trees and the urban forest comprise a vital green infrastructure. Trees reduce air pollution, storm water runoff and climate impacts like heat island effects, while providing essential habitat for birds and other wildlife. They are important for the physical and mental health of our residents.

Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach

equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.

3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24” DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT’s existing tree service provider’s registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Shawn Dotter  
[shawndotter@hotmail.com](mailto:shawndotter@hotmail.com)  
7019 NE 170th St  
Kenmore, Washington 98028

**From:** Mary Manous <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2021 4:53 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI’s Director’s Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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

Please adopt, with the amendments recommended by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, SDCI’s Director’s Rule 13-2020 (Designation of Exceptional and Significant Trees, Tree Protection, Retention, and Tree Removal during land division, including tree service provider requirements).

Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director’s Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 12 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director’s Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches

- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
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The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city."
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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Mary Manous  
[mmanous@me.com](mailto:mmanous@me.com)  
10523 13th Ave NW  
Seattle, Washington 98177

**From:** Robert Meyer <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 16, 2021 9:45 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Robert Meyer  
[meyerrw@mac.com](mailto:meyerrw@mac.com)  
223 Yesler Way  
Seattle, Washington 98104

**From:** Todd Stoltey <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 16, 2021 10:15 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

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Todd Stoltey  
[tstoltey@gmail.com](mailto:tstoltey@gmail.com)  
4432 Baker Ave NW  
Seattle, Washington 98107

**From:** Trane Levington <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 16, 2021 11:54 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Trane Levington  
[tranewaters@gmail.com](mailto:tranewaters@gmail.com)  
620 N 130TH ST Apt 55  
Seattle , Washington 98133

**From:** Betsy Snyder <bjsnyder11@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 17, 2021 7:58 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** End the delay! Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

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Seattle must move forward now, without the delay urged by some, in adopting this updated Director's Rule with the amendments proposed below. This process of increasing protection for our urban forest was first proposed by the Seattle City Council 12 years ago and is long overdue.

The following updates as proposed in the draft Director's Rule are great steps forward:

- Reducing the upper threshold on exceptional trees to 24 inches in diameter at standard height (DSH) from 30 inches
- Designating trees 6 inches DSH and larger as protected trees, starting in the platting and short platting process
- Requiring Tree Care Providers to register with the City as the Seattle Dept. of Transportation already requires
- Continuing protection of tree groves as exceptional trees, even if a tree is removed from the grove
- Making clear that all exceptional trees removed during development must be replaced per SMC 25.11.090
- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

The following changes to the draft Director's Rule are needed:

- Change Subject Title to remove words "land division" and replace with "Development"
- PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND. add "SMC 23 requires that all trees 6 inches DSH and larger must be indicated on all site plans throughout the platting and sub-platting process, and that projects must be designed to maximize the retention of existing trees. This requirement continues throughout

any subsequent development on all lots in all zones in the city.”

- SECTION 1. Reduce the number of trees and sizes required to be a tree grove. Kirkland, Woodinville, and Duvall all define a tree grove as “a group of 3 or more significant trees with overlapping or touching crowns.” Include street trees in groves.
- Add “Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages.”
- Add “All replacement trees regardless of size are protected trees and can’t be removed.”
- SECTION 2. Change the heading to “TREE PROTECTION”. Remove references to “Exceptional Trees” only and change to “Trees”. e.g., change “Exceptional Tree Protection Areas” to “Tree Protection Areas”.
- SECTION 4. Add “The Director shall have the authority to allow replacement trees on both public and private property to meet the goals and objectives of race and social justice under Seattle’s Equity and Environment Initiative.”
- Under SMC 25.11.090 the Director has the authority to require “one or more trees” to be planted as replacement trees for removed exceptional trees during development. The number of trees required should increase with the size of the tree removed, with a goal to achieve equivalent canopy area and volume in 25 years. Any in-lieu fee must also rise as the size of the removed tree increases. The city can not wait 80 years to replace an 80-year-old western red cedar tree and expect to maintain its canopy goals as large exceptional trees are removed during development.
- SECTION 5. SEPA requirements under SMC 25.05.675 N are for protecting special habitats and need to be considered at the beginning of the development process. The language of this SEPA code section should be included in the Director’s Rule to be certain that the code is complied with.
- SECTION 6. SDCI should adopt SDOT’s registration process and requirements to assist Tree Care Providers in complying with city code and regulations. Reduce the number of citations that will remove a Tree Care Provider from being registered with the city to no more than 2 per year. Require annual registration same as Seattle business licenses require. Require that Tree Care Provider companies have a WA State contractor’s license to ensure they have workers’ compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Betsy Snyder  
[bjsnyder11@comcast.net](mailto:bjsnyder11@comcast.net)

4211 SW College St  
Seattle, Washington 98116

**From:** Betsy Snyder <bjsnyder11@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 17, 2021 7:59 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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

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

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Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced. It is urgent to act now to stop this continued loss of trees, particularly large mature trees and tree groves. It is important to promote environmental equity as trees are replaced.

Please update Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

Here are the key provisions that need to be in the updated tree ordinance:

1. Expand the existing Tree Removal and Replacement Permit Program, including 2-week public notice and posting on-site, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all Significant Trees (6" and larger diameter at breast height (DBH)) on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
2. Require the replacement of all Significant Trees removed with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay a replacement fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.
3. Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for Exceptional Trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit Significant Trees being removed on undeveloped lots.
4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
5. Establish one citywide database for applying for Tree Removal and Replacement Permits and to track changes in the tree canopy.
6. Post online all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.
7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Betsy Snyder  
[bjnyder11@comcast.net](mailto:bjnyder11@comcast.net)  
4211 SW College St  
Seattle, Washington 98116

**From:** Timothy Humes <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 17, 2021 11:42 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please Update Seattle's Tree Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

"Tree Protection Staff: As we await a new, stronger tree protection ordinance, I am proposing to hire two additional arborists in the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection to immediately enhance the City's ability to enforce the tree code and review permit applications to ensure compliance with tree protections. While the bigger changes we need will come with a new ordinance, we can start by adequately enforcing the laws we currently have."

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

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7. Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all Tree Service Providers (arborists) working on trees in Seattle.
8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Timothy Humes  
[britdanhuj@aol.com](mailto:britdanhuj@aol.com)

5105 1st Ave NW  
Seattle, Washington 98107

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

**Sent:** Friday, December 17, 2021 7:45 PM

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

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

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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- Add "Significant trees may become exceptional as they grow in size. They are future replacements in the urban forest for exceptional trees when they die. Development projects must be designed to maximize the retention of both exceptional and significant trees to maintain a diversity of tree species and ages."

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companies have a WA State contractor's license to ensure they have workers' compensation. Require they have a certificate of insurance that lists the city as an additional insured so the city cannot be sued. Require that all jobs either have a certified arborist on the work site or that they have visited the site and officially sign off on the specific work being done.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Shambhavi Taylor  
[om.shambhavi@gmail.com](mailto:om.shambhavi@gmail.com)  
10742 Lakeside Ave. NE  
Seattle, Washington 98125

**From:** Chris Covert-Bowlds <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 18, 2021 3:43 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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

Chris Covert-Bowlds  
[c.covertbowlds@gmail.com](mailto:c.covertbowlds@gmail.com)  
523 N 84th St  
Seattle, Washington 98103

**From:** Rebecca Hood <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 19, 2021 9:20 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save Our Trees!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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Rebecca Hood  
[rebeccahood450@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccahood450@gmail.com)  
16705 10th Ave NE  
Shoreline, Washington 98155

**From:** Suzanne Grant <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 29, 2021 5:15 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <[Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov](mailto:Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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

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Suzanne Grant  
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Seattle, Washington 98119