



## SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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

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

**Alicia Kellogg** (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist) • **Stuart Niven** (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA)

**Hao Liang** (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA) • **David Baker** (Position # 8 – Development)

**Logan Woodyard** (Position #10 – Get Engaged) • **Jessica Hernandez** (Position #11 – Environmental Justice)

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

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

### Meeting notes

September 20, 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 389 5404

Meeting password: 1234

### Attending

#### Commissioners

Josh Morris – Co-Chair

Becca Neumann – Co-Chair

Alicia Kellogg

Hao Liang

David Baker

Logan Woodyard

Lia Hall

#### Staff

Patti Bakker – OSE

#### Guests

Toby Thaler

Nathan Collins, Position 9 pending confirmation

#### Absent- Excused

Stuart Niven

Jessica Hernandez

Jessica Jones

#### Public

Steve Zemke

**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 offered support for the CMT amendment to the tree ordinance. The issue needs to be resolved; it's state law but not incorporated into city process. The Trees and People Coalition filed a petition with the Growth Management Board; they believe the city is out of compliance with the Growth Management Act.

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

Patti noted that last week the USDA announced the grant awards for the Inflation Reduction Act funding coming through the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program. The City learned with this announcement that our combined city project was awarded \$12M out of the almost \$18M project ask that was submitted. The project included three components: 1) stewarding a connected, resilient forest, by managing natural areas holistically across boundary lines; 2) elevating community urban forestry leadership by equipping and empowering communities to participate in urban forest planning, and 3) training youth for future careers in urban forestry by expanding the Youth Green Corps. In addition, SDOT submitted a project separate from the combined city project – the Delridge Native Forest Garden – and that project was granted \$900,000.

Patti provided information on a green Jobs event happening September 29th – the first annual Green Jobs, Green Futures Summit at the Fremont Foundry in Seattle! King County, in collaboration with the Port of Seattle, City of Seattle, Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County, and Seattle Good Business Network, is hosting an interactive, one-day event geared towards creating community connections and highlighting businesses in the local green economy contributing to a more sustainable future.

Patti offered two reminders: 1) the annual joint UFC-IDT meeting will be on October 18, 2:00-5:00 with an option social hour afterward to provide more opportunity to network and talk with each other, 2) Seattle Forest Week will be October 28 – November 4, starting with the Arbor Day celebration on October 28 and culminating with Green Seattle Day on November 4.

Josh noted he left a long message for Christy Carr at SDCI about the UFC's feedback on the tree measurements Director's Rule. He also updated that he attended this month's meeting of the Green New Deal Oversight Board, and thanked them for the work they are doing generally and also their work specifically with trees.

**Philly Tree Plan – Erica Smith and Alexa Bosse**

Erica explained that the Philly Tree Plan was released early this year and is a ten-year strategic plan with a main goal of equitable planting and care of the urban forest. Key values leading throughout the plan creation were environmental justice, community engagement and sustainability. They aimed to include the entirety of the urban forest, including that on public and private lands. They did a tree canopy assessment using LiDAR data before embarking on the planning effort, which showed they had 20% tree canopy, had lost 6% in the previous decade, and that it is not equitably distributed. The results reinforced the importance of preservation and protection of trees. It also emphasized the role of residents and how crucial they were to the future of the city's tree canopy. The residential land had the most tree canopy and had the most space for new tree canopy. This pointed to the need to engage with people and residents in what they're doing on their private property, as well as what the City is doing with the public tree canopy.

Before embarking on the planning project, they brought together all the pertinent partners for a tree summit, with the aim of explaining the scope, getting comments and guidance from attendees. They brought together a large project team (31 people), two steering committees (city and community), and a consultant team. The consultant team included a lot of people also: Hinge Collective provided project management, then there were five other consultants in three categories: urban forestry, policy, and engagement.

One of the first actions was to map priority areas for planting/increasing canopy, based on poverty, health and heat. They identified five priority neighborhoods through this.

Getting input and earning trust was key to the effort, for which they followed the values of truth-telling, using plain language, honoring expertise, listening without ego. Many engagement strategies used: citywide survey, community meeting tour, neighborhood ambassadors, stakeholder workshops, virtual open house, and Instagram photo challenge.

The Summit happened in 2019, they developed the community engagement over the next year, and started the planning effort in spring 2021.

They received more than 7,000 responses to the survey; 60% of respondents were in the priority neighborhoods, and were in eight different languages. Key takeaways: trees have value and residents recognize that; there is disparity in tree canopy by neighborhood; trees are a burden to homeowners (known and surprise costs); there is poor access to programs and services; the existing tree canopy is not well taken care of – need to manage existing canopy before adding new in order to build trust, and there is a need for clarity, consistency, coordination and collaboration.

From the input received, they developed 8 goals:

- Coordinate support for trees – different types of staff, higher level staff who can work across depts.
- Protect existing and future trees
- Grow canopy equitable
- Reduce burden of trees on residents
- Invest in people and communities
- Communicate with residents, increase customer service
- Advocate for communities to benefit from trees
- Celebrate and support ways community engages with trees

They learned that more than 400 lives would be saved by reaching that 30% canopy goal. They have a 30-year goal for getting there. Ten months after plan adoption, implementation to date includes:

- Updated tree code to increase requirements for planting in buffers, planting strips; new yard tree requirement; new fee-in-lieu charged for removed trees that are not replaced; removed exceptions for open space, single and two-family developments
- Added new staff: 3 community organizers, 2 customer service representatives, 1 office clerk. Also will be hiring: City Forester position, new development review, inspection, and enforcement team (4), Natural Lands team - 4 new positions, communications team - 2 new positions, Grants Manager
- Fundraising
  - o Almost \$3M city funding for operations and capital funds for street trees
  - o \$1M from William Penn Foundation
  - o \$12M in USDA funding

New initiatives will include:

- Comprehensive assessment of the city's natural lands
- Commercial corridor tree planting and care program
- New planting and education at Philadelphia Housing Authority sites

They determined that 67 new staff members will be required to implement all of the things included in the plan. They have 6 approved/hired/being hired so far. They also determined that it will take \$25M per year to care for all of the forest.

Questions and comments from Commissioners included:

- Was there any indication of the drivers leading to the 6% canopy loss?
- Are there permit processes required for when homeowners want to remove trees?

- Does the fee in lieu take into account tree characteristics like species and size?
- What are the reasons people cite for concerns about trees?
- Protecting large old trees comes with a lot of maintenance; complicates the effort to do so, need additional support/resources.
- Are there survival requirements for trees planted as mitigation?
- The recently passed TPO has level of review on plans that increases staff burden – does the city know yet what that burden is and do they have strategies to address?

### **Presentation debrief**

Comments from Commissioners included:

- The UFC should be fully staffed in order to do more community engagement.
- It's very valuable to hear from other cities' about their work.
- It's very interesting how they developed their fee in lieu.
- The D.C. work and ordinance is worth looking more into and potentially having them provide a briefing also.
- There was appreciation expressed for the "love trees or hate trees" question to begin community engagement with.

Rather than a thank you letter, Josh will send a thank you email with feedback from Commissioners.

### **Tree Protection Ordinance**

- [GNDOB Joint Task Force Letter](#)

Josh provided a recap of the discussions around and purpose of this letter. The joint Task Force would be convened to do a climate enhancement review of the tree protection ordinance and issue recommendations for the new City Council to review in 2024. Josh walked through a draft joint letter developed by the UFC's ordinance subgroup and Maria Batayola, calling for the establishment and funding of the Task Force. Commissioners discussed and edited the letter.

**Action: A motion to adopt the Climate Enhancement Task Force joint letter as amended was made, seconded and approved.**

- [CMT amendment to the tree ordinance](#)

The amendment ordinance was accepted for introduction by City Council; it will go for vote in late October-early November. The UFC will consider their feedback letter at the October 4 meeting.

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

### **Public comment:**

None

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 PM.

### **Meeting chat:**

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:11 PM

<https://attachment.outlook.live.net/owa/MSA%3ASSHETTLER%40msn.com/service.svc/s/GetAttachmentThumbnail?id=AQMkADAwATcwMAItODBIMC1mOTEzLTAwAi0wMAoARgAAA66pRmjZ7uVKtI8GawNoQggHACeMi7I5RIhJpFC9Z0UWJ44AAAIBDAAAACeMi7I5RIhJpFC9Z0UWJ44ABrqDzcsAAAABEgAQAHcPjLbILupAjCHaB3qo2Yc%3D&thumbnailType=2&isc=1&token=eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsImtpZCI6IjczRkI5QkIjFRjYzNjc4RDRGN0U4NEI0NDBCQUJCMtJBMzMSRDIgOTgiLCJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJ4NXQiOiJX3VidnZmVOVDM2RXRFQzZ1eEtqT2RuNWcifQ.eyJvcmlnaW4iOiJodHRwczovL291dGxvb2subGl2ZS5jb20iLCJ1YyI6IjgwNDMwZmM5Nzg3MjQ1NTZhMG>

MxZTE4ZTQ0MDlhMmEyIiwidmVyljoiRXhjaGFuZ2UuQ2FsbGJhY2suVjEiLCJhcHBjdHhzZW5kZXIiOiJPd2FEB3dubG9hZEA4NGRmOWU3Zi1lOWY2LTQwYWYtYjZNS1hYWwFhYWFhYWYWEiLCJpc3NyaW5nIjoiV1ciLCJhcHBjdHgiOiJ7XCJtc2V4Y2hwcm90XCi6XCJvd2FclixclnB1aWRcljpcIjE5NzAzMjY5OTkyMDIwNjdclixclnNjb3BIXCI6XCJp d2FEB3dubG9hZFwiLFwib2lkXCI6XCIwMDA3MDAwMCO4MGUwLWY5MTMtMDAwMCOwMDAwMDAwMDAwMDAw MDbclixclnByaW1hcnIzaWRcljpcII MtMS0yODI3LTQ1ODc1Mi0yMTYyMjI3NDc1XCI9IiwibmJmljoxNjk1MjQ3Nz g3LCJleHAiOjE2OTUyNDgzODcslmIz

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 3:11 PM

Press release for petition--apologies for long link!

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 3:17 PM

Seattle press release on grant funding:

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 3:17 PM

<https://harrell.seattle.gov/2023/09/18/seattle-awarded-12-9-million-to-plant-trees-create-jobs-advance-climate-justice-and-restore-forested-places-near-schools-parks-and-low-income-housing/>

from Erica Smith Fichman to everyone: 3:18 PM

<https://www.phila.gov/programs/philly-tree-plan/>

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 3:19 PM

USDA grant announcement:

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 3:19 PM

Urban and Community Forestry Grants - 2023 Grant Awards | US Forest Service ([usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov))

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 3:20 PM

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf/2023-grant-funding>

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 3:21 PM

Green Jobs, Green Futures Summit: <https://www.neec.net/save-the-date-green-jobs-green-futures-summit-9-29/>

from Bakker, Patricia to everyone: 3:22 PM

Seattle Forest Week website: <https://greenseattle.org/get-involved/seattle-forest-week-2023/>

from Joan Hogan to everyone: 3:25 PM

Wow, stakeholders in one room together; how novel. If only Seattle had been able to do that!

from Erica Smith Fichman to everyone: 3:57 PM

[erica.smith@phila.gov](mailto:erica.smith@phila.gov)

from Alexa Bosse s/h | Hinge Collective to everyone: 3:57 PM

[alexa@hinge-collective.com](mailto:alexa@hinge-collective.com)

from Chris Gaul to everyone: 4:03 PM

Do you track newly planted trees and check that they are surviving?

from Erica Smith Fichman to everyone: 4:04 PM

All of the messaging we used for our survey said "Love Trees or Hate Trees? We want to hear from you!"

from Lia Hall to everyone: 4:16 PM

I love this idea of providing assistance for tree maintenance. If you have a tree on your property, you are providing a public service and people caring for trees should be incentivized for doing so.

from Chris Gaul to everyone: 4:17 PM

Who will your new Urban Forester work for / report to?

from Hao Liang to everyone: 4:23 PM

This is fantastic. Thank you!

from Lia Hall to everyone: 4:25 PM

inspiring

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 4:26 PM

The culturally modified tree council bill, formerly TMP-9902, has been introduced, is in control of Full Council, and is now CB 120670. Link:

<http://seattle.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6356980&GUID=5C04641A-A4BD-49DC-BE0F-9F55298623ED&Options=ID|Text|&Search=120670>

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:28 PM

Such a good point Lia. We need much more public engagement in crafting tree policy. Our ordinance was based on some very small listening sessions which happened several years ago. A more representative sample would have likely resulted in a better ordinance!

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:34 PM

Working smarter not harder! You have enough to do commissioners:)

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:43 PM

lost 225 acres total. in 5 years according to Tree canopy report

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:44 PM

115 or 255?

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:44 PM

225 or 255?

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 4:45 PM

Actually much more was lost--this is the net loss. after factoring growth of other trees, and less likely, replanted trees.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:47 PM

255 is correct , sorry for confusion

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:52 PM

Will Climate TPO Enhancement Task Force be public meetings?

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:57 PM

I think should be publicly open as drafting amendments so much was done outside public eye until end of process.

from Steve Zemke to everyone: 4:58 PM

Yes replacement trees from in lieu funds are on public lands

from Elise Rasmussen, OSE she/her to everyone: 5:00 PM

thanks all

from Sandy Shettler to everyone: 5:01 PM

Welcome Councilmember Pedersen!

from Toby Thaler to everyone: 5:01 PM

Input on draft letter concerning TMP-9902: • Use CB 120670 noted above. • Add to needed

outreach/consultation: City's Indigenous Advisory Council (link

<https://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/public-participation/boards-and-commissions/indigenous-advisory-council>), and please add to copies-- Tim Reynon, Tribal Relations Director in OIR

from Alicia Kellogg she/her to everyone: 5:02 PM

Sorry all, I need to leave to pick up my child from daycare or we get fined \$5 for every minute I'm late.

Thanks!

from Hao Liang to everyone: 5:07 PM

I need to drop off. Thank you Councilmember. Thank you everyone!

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

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

**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 4:30 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>; jeanie.boawn@seattle.gov; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Climate Change Is Turning Cities Into Ovens

CAUTION: External Email

[Climate Change Is Turning Cities Into Ovens | WIRED](#)

"...Greening public spaces both beautifies them and provides people with shade. **Each tree's leaves also act like tiny air conditioners, releasing moisture to cool the environment.** And the less the pavement is exposed to the sun, the less the built environment will absorb its energy..."

kevin orme  
seattle

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

**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2023 1:58 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>; jeanie.boawn@seattle.gov; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** As city heat rises, bird diversity declines; Pregnancy effects of city heat

CAUTION: External Email

<https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2023/08/city-heat-rises-bird-diversity-declines>

note that we aren't just talking about human health when you refuse to protect trees - **it's all related** - birds have increasingly less habitat, more heat and all of us suffer. Another example if you don't believe me:

Extreme Heat in Pregnancy Tied to Risk of Severe Maternal Morbidity

<https://www.medpagetoday.com/obgyn/pregnancy/106219>

ounce of prevention is worth WAY more than a pound of cure - believe it! Birds can't own McMansions, last time I checked. And AC is a zero-sum game.

kevin orme  
Seattle

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

**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 7:05 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>; jeanie.boawn@seattle.gov; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Urban greening can reduce impact of global heating in cities, finds study

**CAUTION: External Email**

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/sep/29/urban-greening-reduce-impact-global-heating-cities-study>

"..UK urban leaders should have taken green infrastructure investment more seriously a decade ago, he said, adding that at present "there isn't one urban area within the UK with **average canopy street cover above 40%**", **which is the minimum amount of cover needed** for a cooling effect to take place..."

So it would appear that Seattle's many-times/many-years touted **30%** canopy goal (despite stil **no plan and no deadline** provided to get there, and tree canopy being mowed down every day with direct Council and Mayor approval via the Tree Removal Ordinance) - will likely **not be enough**. Why is an 'ounce of prevention' still not worth a pound of cure by protecting our trees and planting many more?

Ask Marco Lowe and MBAKS - it's all about the benjamins.... \$\$

kevin orme  
Seattle

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

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 12, 2023 1:39 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>; jeanie.boawn@seattle.gov; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Cities are extremely hot — trees cool them down

**CAUTION: External Email**

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/cities-extremely-hot-trees-cool-them-down-brendan-wallace/>

and the truth marches on....but are you listening? Or is the McMansion AC drowning it out? Sad.

kevin orme  
Seattle

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

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 13, 2023 2:44 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>; jeanie.boawn@seattle.gov; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Urban Animals Can't Take the Heat, Study Finds

CAUTION: External Email

[Urban Animals Can't Take the Heat, Study Finds | The Seattle Times](#)

your following of the MBAKS/Marco Lowe emperor with no clothes has far wider-ranging effects than you even admit for your own lives. De Nile isn't just a river in Egypt.

kevin orme  
Seattle

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

**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 11:47 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>; jeanie.boawn@seattle.gov; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** 5 Elements of a Healthy Urban Forestry Program (but not in Seattle!)

CAUTION: External Email

<https://planitgeo.com/local-county-and-state-governments/>

in looking at this - I don't see any of them save part of two (nearly all of which are SDOT only):

**Funding and Budgets** - next to none and the Urban Forester position has now been changed from a key element of scientifically and responsibly managing our urban canopy into largely a PR person after waiting nearly a year (after actually funding the position at the start of 2023) to even put out a job listing;

## Monitoring Trees and Assets

- *only SDOT* does this in Seattle now and they only manage 15% or less of the trees in our city.
- SDCI has *never* responded to multiple queries and requests they actively begin managing our tree assets and
- OSE/other agencies are not allowed to do it.

Hence we have *no real data* to go on despite Mayor Harrell's call for 'show me the data' not long after he was elected;

## Systems & Workflows

*any* possible systems - save the transparent one maintained by SDOT which many of us have also asked SDCI to adopt given the framework, systems and methods have been in place for years now - are not apparent to anyone. SDCI again refuses to be transparent about anything they do as regards trees, plain and simple. Their entire 'listening tour' prior to the Ordinance updates/passing this past May was completely opaque to the public and the results were never published? Bottom Line - save for SDOT -

**There. Are. None.**

## Strategic Planning & Policy

Same comment - the closest we've come - to really an 'anti-policy' is the recent Tree Removal Ordinance. here, we've said publicly that Developers get to mow down at minimum 85% of any trees on a lot and effectively that means ALL the trees they want to, because let's face it - why bother making the effort when it's easier just to clearcut everything? Let's not kid ourselves. And private landowners? Guess what happens when a developer makes an offer on a property - same thing as now, save that instead of browbeating the owner to do it (because they have more red tape per the Ordinance) - the developer can do it immediately after purchase without any consequence or accountability?

## Community & Tree Equity

Finally, there **are** at least minimal efforts and programs underway here with OSE, if only that they manage tree planting programs and acknowledging historical (and existing) tree, greenspace and park inequities with disadvantaged neighborhoods in Seattle. But here again, there are NO programs to **protect** the remaining trees in these neighborhoods, save for any SDOT trees and even those are under threat by greedy developers who simply request taking them down to build *market-rate housing* in those neighborhoods and thereby force current lower-income residents OUT, all in service of the almighty dollar and developer profits.

**Conclusion:** yet again, the Mayor and City Council are hitting it out of the park - if the park is one that needs more developer profits to keep expanding it and the citizens of Seattle are stuck in the dugout watching it all happen, but prevented from putting in any real players to STOP it.

kevin orme  
Seattle

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

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 2:27 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>; jeanie.boawn@seattle.gov; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** 'Hotlanta' is even more sweltering in these neighborhoods due to a racist 20th-century policy

**CAUTION: External Email**

[Urban heat islands in Atlanta highlight areas impacted by redlining | CNN](#)

sound familiar? It may be smaller-scale in Seattle but same deal. While developers continue to pack market-rate (not 'affordable') housing into neighborhoods like South Park, Beacon Hill and similar - city govt continues to turn the other way and deny there's a problem....

kevin orme  
seattle

-----Original Message-----

From: dmoehring@consultant.com <dmoehring@consultant.com>

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 10:50 PM

To: Torgelson, Nathan <Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov>; Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections <PRC@seattle.gov>

Cc: Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; joshm@birdsconnectsea.org  
Subject: How will people know where to make public comment from weekly bulletins?

CAUTION: External Email

The general public needs assistance in understanding the SDCI public bulletins.

Please Provide link on public notices to provide comment. And a link to filing appeals should be included with the public notice bulletin.

Thank you,  
David Moehring AIA

#####

Regarding notice :

“

SPU owns and operates the Cedar River Municipal Watershed (CRMW) as a major asset in the City of Seattle’s municipal drinking water supply system. The City manages the lands of the CRMW under the Cedar River Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), a 50-year land management plan that prescribes the City’s management of the municipal watershed’s fish, forests, and stream flows. The HCP was approved by federal and state resource agencies in 2000 and allowed the federal government to issue Endangered Species Act (ESA) Incidental Take Permits to the City for its water management, hydropower, and land management operations in the Cedar.

The proposed Forest Management Plan (Plan) is the guiding document for managing the upland forest ecosystems of the CRMW. The Plan pursues the goals of the HCP and adds new management objectives based on recent reviews and recommendations. The Plan would provide policy direction for management of the 90,563 acres of uninhabited, municipally owned forest land in the CRMW.

Comments may be submitted through: 09/28/2023 Appeals must be submitted by: 10/05/2023”

Published here:

[https://www.seattle.gov/dpd/luib/SDCI132\\_PublicNoticesSummary.pdf?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.seattle.gov/dpd/luib/SDCI132_PublicNoticesSummary.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

Public comment:

PLEASE CONDUCT A PUBLIC FOLLOW UP MEETING WITH THE SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION TO DESCRIBE IF THERE ARE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN YESTERDAY’S NOTICE.

From the SEPA Checklist CRMW Forest Mgmt Plan\_09012023 September 1, 2023

It states:

“

The proposed Plan would provide policy direction for management of the 90,563 acres of uninhabited, municipally owned forest land in the CRMW, which extends beyond the hydrographic boundary of the watershed. Five goals guided development of the Plan:

Goal 1: Manage the forest ecosystem to maximize production of unfiltered high-quality source water for instream and municipal water supply.

Goal 2:

Goal 3: Improve ecological resilience in upland forests to recover from disturbance and adapt to changing climate conditions.

Goal 4: Maintain and improve ungulate habitat to address the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe's concerns about maintaining viable deer and elk populations.

Goal 5: Protect high-value watershed resources and assets by assessing wildfire risk and forest fuels hazard. Determine mitigation measures to minimize risk to water supply, infrastructure, and biological resources."

"The Plan would not replace or supersede the HCP, but would incorporate new objectives into existing conservation measures and includes:

- an ongoing program of forest habitat restoration using forest stand thinning and tree planting;
- a limited set of restoration projects to improve forest hydrology in headwater catchments; Protect and restore habitats of the species addressed in the HCP, in particular those listed species using late-seral forest.

"  
"

- a limited number of projects to plant species and genotypes that are adapted to warmer and dryer climate conditions;
- a limited number of projects to improve forage habitat for deer and elk populations;
- a program to develop defensible space and fuel breaks around high value assets and infrastructure important for source water supply;
- a program to monitor ongoing forest thinning, planting, and wildfire fuels management projects; and
- a regular review and planning process that integrates with reporting and approval processes of the HCP."

COMMENT: In light of the above, how is their No project actions proposed in this plan ???

As the SEPA states:

"SPU's approval of the Plan is a "non-project action" as reviewed under SEPA. Non-project (also called programmatic) actions include approval of plans, policies, programs, or regulations containing standards controlling use of the environment or standards that would guide a group of related future actions. Future forest management activities and projects undertaken by SPU would be guided by policies developed in the proposed Plan. Probable significant adverse environmental impacts analyzed in a non-project SEPA environmental checklist are those impacts foreseeable at this stage before specific project actions are planned."

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

**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 2:18 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>; jeanie.boawn@seattle.gov; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** We're launching our second urban tree equity project — in Chicago

**Subject:** We're launching our second urban tree equity project — in Chicago

**Subject:** We're launching our second urban tree equity project — in Chicago

**Subject:** We're launching our second urban tree equity project — in Chicago

CAUTION: External Email

<https://blog.ecosia.org/openlands/>

why can't we do this in Seattle? That is, enlist high school and disadvantaged youth among other area residents to both **inventory** and help **protect existing** trees through education and outreach (vs. clearcuts, unaffordable market-rate housing and heat islands like is done now) and also plant trees along the way? Why is that so controversial (unless you are MBACKS and Marco Lowe)...?

kevin orme  
Seattle

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

**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 9:30 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>; jeanie.boawn@seattle.gov; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Please allow the Culturally Modified Tree Amendment to be added to the Tree Ordinance

**CAUTION: External Email**

Please allow the culturally significant tree amendment as written in consultation with the Snoqualmie Tribe and proposed by Councilmember Pedersen, proceed this afternoon (tuesday, sept 19) by putting it on the Council's Introduction and Referral Calendar.

It appears this has **already been blocked 3 times** from introduction just this month?!. Given that the number of trees under consideration here is fairly small citywide, continuing to block it from even being considered makes the city govt look even more in the pocket of developers and moneyed interests rather than representing the people who elected you.

SDCI's repeated 'concerns' about delaying development are remedied ridiculously easy - sending an email to the State? This is a burden on the city's development community? Come on. SDCI already dodges responsibility for protecting trees every day - how is simply sending an email an imposition?

Please do the right thing to help protect Culturally Modified Trees as represented by the Snoqualmie Tribe and your constituents, the residents of Seattle. Let this amendment go to full consideration by the Council.

kevin orme  
Seattle

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

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 4:26 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>; jeanie.boawn@seattle.gov; Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** Metropolis meltdown: the urgent steps we need to take to cool our sweltering cities

**CAUTION: External Email**

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2022/jul/14/climate-crisis-metropolis-meltdown-urgent-steps-cool-sweltering-cities>

Notice the entire paragraph on trees - wisdom.

"...most urbanists agree that planting trees is one of the best ways to cool cities down – without the danger of reflecting sunlight where it isn't wanted. Beyond biodiversity benefits, flood mitigation and pollution-scrubbing abilities, trees' cooling powers come from both shade and transpiration, when the water within the tree is released as vapour through its leaves. One study in Manchester found that street trees reduced surface temperatures by an average of 12C, and that concrete surfaces shaded permanently by a bank of trees were cooled by up to 20C in the summer. A recent Swiss study of almost 300 cities across Europe came to similar conclusions, *but it also found that green spaces **without trees** had a negligible cooling effect – and in some instances **treeless green spaces were actually even warmer** than the surrounding urban areas, due to the lack of shade. Beware the greenwashers..."*

kevin orme  
Seattle