

**Emails sent by Seattle residents regarding the tree protection ordinance and Director's Rule  
June 4-August 23, 2021**

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

**Sent:** Friday, June 4, 2021, 4:57 PM

**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra

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

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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Seattle's rapid growth and an outdated tree ordinance are reducing these beneficial effects as trees are removed and not replaced.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.

Nancy Simsons  
[njsimsons@gmail.com](mailto:njsimsons@gmail.com)  
1709 North 82nd St.  
Seattle, Washington 98103

**From:** Sarah McCoy <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:47:13 AM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <[Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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

Sarah McCoy  
[sassafrasm@gmail.com](mailto:sassafrasm@gmail.com)  
8331 32nd Avenue NW  
Seattle, Washington 98117-3922

**From:** Jon Jaffe <[jonjaffe@msn.com](mailto:jonjaffe@msn.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 3:15 PM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <[Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please Protect Seattle's Trees before it is too late to save our canopy

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Sandra Pinto de Bader,

This letter is written several weeks after a historic cedar was illegally cut down on 32nd by a developer. 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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8. Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Jon Jaffe

[jonjaffe@msn.com](mailto:jonjaffe@msn.com)

911 Yakima Ave S

Seattle, Washington 98144

**From:** Rivka Burstein-Stern <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2021 6:40:35 AM

**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <[Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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

Rivka Burstein-Stern  
[bursteir@gmail.com](mailto:bursteir@gmail.com)  
4914 47th Ave S  
Seattle, Washington 98118

**From:** Ashley Woods <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2021 7:06:57 AM  
**To:** Pinto Urrutia, Sandra <[Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov](mailto:Sandra.PintoUrrutia@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Save our Trees!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Sandra Pinto de Bader,

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Ashley Woods

[Thirtysevenart@hotmail.com](mailto:Thirtysevenart@hotmail.com)

12002 16th Ave S

Seattle, Washington 98168



**From:** PATRICIA JONES <HORNORJONES@COMCAST.NET>

**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2021 1:03 PM

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

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

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

I just read about developers tearing down a protected red cedar in Leschi. Apparently, the city had placed a stop-work order on the tree, but the developers tore it down anyway in a flagrant, nose-thumbing to the city and the Leschi community. For this, the developers received a fine of \$90,000 -- which is obviously not enough to deter them from doing it again.

Please work to change this situation by updating Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance as recommended in the latest draft by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission.

The key provisions needing an update:

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

PATRICIA JONES

[HORNORJONES@COMCAST.NET](mailto:HORNORJONES@COMCAST.NET)

7707 Greenwood Ave N, Apt 205

SEATTLE, Washington 98103-4653

**From:** Lyria Shaffer-Bauk <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2021 2:05 PM

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

**Subject:** Please adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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.

Lyria Shaffer-Bauck

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

1210 15th Avenue E, Unit 226

Seattle, Washington 98112

**From:** Lyria Shaffer-Bauck <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2021 2:06 PM

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

**Subject:** Keep Seattle Livable!

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

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Lyria Shaffer-Bauck

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

1210 15th Avenue E, Unit 226

Seattle, Washington 98112

**From:** Yii-Hao Chen <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>

**Sent:** Sunday, July 4, 2021 5:57 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,

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:

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- 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".
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- 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.
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Yii-Hao Chen

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

4518B Delridge Way SW

Seattle, Washington 98106

**From:** Lynda Emel <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Friday, July 9, 2021 3:51 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 and arriving sooner than we thought. Trees are a valuable buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas. In addition to public health benefits, it is known that trees provide mental health benefits to city dwellers.

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, by 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 very much 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 considered 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." Street trees should also be considered in the definitions of 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.

I would add that the city should also consider some kind incentives for developers to maintain existing trees as part of developments, such as tax breaks or relaxing some zoning or development requirements. Carrots may work better than sticks to get developers take a those few extra steps to maintain trees, rather than clear cut sites. Developers of single family homes or townhomes should also be required to inform the new owners that they are responsible for watering and maintaining newly planted street trees. Far too many of these new trees go unwatered during their first summer, causing tree mortality.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Lynda Emel  
[lyndae2@yahoo.com](mailto:lyndae2@yahoo.com)  
5702 26th Ave NW  
Seattle, Washington 98107

**From:** Amy Tracy <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 11, 2021 11:24 AM  
**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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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.

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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Amy Tracy  
[AmyTracy3@gmail.com](mailto:AmyTracy3@gmail.com)  
781 East Creekwood Lane #12G  
Murray, Utah 84107

**From:** Barbara Bernard <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 11, 2021 8:09 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.

Barbara Bernard  
[barbara\\_bernard@yahoo.com](mailto:barbara_bernard@yahoo.com)  
3213 W. Wheeler St. #401  
Seattle, Washington 98199

**From:** Linda Clifton <lclifton1@mindspring.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, July 11, 2021 9:55 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,

Trees make a city more livable. Preserving trees and adding trees to every neighborhood are imperatives for health and for support of all residents of Seattle regardless of economic status, race or ethnicity. Meanwhile, development is threatening our tree canopy. And, as recent record temperatures have demonstrated, the climate crisis is real. Trees are a buffer to help reduce extreme temperature impacts in urban areas.

To address these issues, 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).

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Thank you for protecting our urban forest, and our diverse communities.

Linda Clifton  
[lclifton1@mindspring.com](mailto:lclifton1@mindspring.com)  
4462 Whitman Ave N- Upper  
Seattle , Washington 98103

**From:** Kathryn Gardow <kathryn@gardow.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2021 6:17 AM

**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,

It's time! Climate change is upon us. 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).

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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Kathryn Gardow  
[kathryn@gardow.com](mailto:kathryn@gardow.com)  
5063 Harold PI NE  
Seattle, Washington 98105

**From:** heidi calyxsite.com <[heidi@calyxsite.com](mailto:heidi@calyxsite.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2021 8:34 PM  
**To:** Torgelson, Nathan <[Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov](mailto:Nathan.Torgelson@seattle.gov)>; City Council <[council@seattle.gov](mailto:council@seattle.gov)>  
**Cc:** heidi calyxsite.com <[heidi@calyxsite.com](mailto:heidi@calyxsite.com)>; Nancy Rottle ([nrottle@uw.edu](mailto:nrottle@uw.edu)) <[nrottle@uw.edu](mailto:nrottle@uw.edu)>; [kwolf@uw.edu](mailto:kwolf@uw.edu)  
**Subject:** Comments on updates to the City's Tree Ordinance

July 13, 2021

### **Updates regarding the City of Seattle's Tree Ordinance Updates- Comments**

**Read and use factual analysis in your work and ensure your staff understands these issues:**

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/06/30/opinion/environmental-inequity-trees-critical-infrastructure.html>

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/tree-shade-low-income-hot-weather/2021/07/09/508193f4-de8e-11eb-b507-697762d090dd\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/tree-shade-low-income-hot-weather/2021/07/09/508193f4-de8e-11eb-b507-697762d090dd_story.html)

<https://kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/constantine/news/release/2021/June/23-heat-mapping-results.aspx>

<https://www.invw.org/2018/04/23/seattle-minorities-shorted-on-tree-canopy-city-study-shows/>

<https://seattlemag.com/news-and-features/struggle-save-seattle%E2%80%99s-urban-trees-face-development>

<https://www.epa.gov/heatislands/using-trees-and-vegetation-reduce-heat-islands>

<https://www.climate.gov/news-features/event-tracker/astounding-heat-obliterates-all-time-records-across-pacific-northwest>

Dear Mr. Torgelson and City Council:

We have watched engagement theatre regarding updating Seattle's tree ordinance for far too long. Communities have waited and waited, only to be met with a laundry list of excuses, delays, checking in with yet another community when you already have conducted extensive (sort of) outreach for the Urban Forestry Management Plan late last year.

## **Your failure to act makes you complicit in worsening community health in Seattle.**

The recent heat wave/dome over the Pacific NW promises to return and become a constant companion due to climate change. Seattle ranks very high on the Heat Island Index and all you need to do is drive into a nicely foliated neighborhood to feel and see the temperature drop by at least 10 degrees F. South end neighborhoods have no such luck- they are under canopied while we permit rapaciously clear-cutting what left of it (like Kubota Gardens).

**The Seattle Urban Forestry Commission has been making recommendations to the Mayor and Seattle City Council for the last TEN YEARS.** When the Seattle City Council passed the Mandatory Housing Affordability Ordinance, they [passed an accompanying resolution](#) detailing 8 areas that should be considered in an updated tree ordinance. In June the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission provided the Seattle City Council with a [revised draft](#) of the Council's most recent proposal from last year (last paragraph courtesy of Don't Clearcut Seattle).

### **This is what you must do:**

1. Transfer responsibility for tree regulations and policies to the Office of Sustainability and Environment and create a cross departmental team where tree retention and health are a primary goal. SDCI's charge is to permit construction and its fees are generated by doing so. We all know this is an outrageous conflict of interest, only matched by one other city in the United States.
2. Work with the City to analyze urban forestry and its implications for Environmental Justice. Community advocates have already met a few of your exceptional practitioners to discuss this issue.
3. Change the Exceptional tree rule so it protects mature trees of a certain diameter DBH- all mature trees require protection, not just "best in class."

4. Enact a moratorium on ALL mature tree removal until an ordinance is passed and there is evidence that SDCI has sufficient enforcement capacity and is actually enforcing its tree regulations.

**5. Enact the tree ordinance recommended by the Urban Forestry Commission and do it NOW.**

6. Commission an analysis by an outside contractor to assess how many trees have been permitted removed during the last year. The estimate is 3,000-4,000/annually and not all of those are hazardous. Include in the analysis how many development/redevelopment sites conducted a site analysis in which alternatives were explored.

We cannot fathom why enacting this ordinance is taking so long. We will have to rename our City from the Emerald City to “shitty black six-packs lining pockets.”

It is your responsibility to the residents of Seattle and to our well-being to enact the ordinance and take other aggressive measures.

Sincerely,

Heidi Siegelbaum

Heidi Siegelbaum

[Heidi@calyxsite.com](mailto:Heidi@calyxsite.com)

(206) 784-4265

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/HeidiSiegelbaum>

**From:** Siegelbaum, Heidi <heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:35 AM

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

**Cc:** Emery, Chanda <Chanda.Emery@Seattle.gov>; Pedersen, Alex <Alex.Pedersen@seattle.gov>; Thaler, Toby <Toby.Thaler@seattle.gov>

**Subject:** For your records- localized heat island

**CAUTION: External Email**

[https://kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/constantine/news/release/2021/June/23-heat-mapping-results.aspx?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/constantine/news/release/2021/June/23-heat-mapping-results.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

FYI, please add this to the public record related to the update about the tree ordinance.

All the best,

Heidi Siegelbaum

Heidi Siegelbaum  
Stormwater Strategic Initiative Lead

Washington Stormwater Center at Washington State University

[Heidi.Siegelbaum@wsu.edu](mailto:Heidi.Siegelbaum@wsu.edu)

(253) 445-4502  
Home office: (206) 784-4265

<https://wastormwatercenter.org>

<https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov>

**From:** Lynn Ferguson <lynnferguson65@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 16, 2021 3:26 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Save our 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.

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.

Do not cut our large trees to be replaced with more little ones. They are not the same. Enforce the rules we have as well. I support the ideas below too. Some Northwesterners consider trees weeds because they grow so easily here. I remember seeing a bumper sticker RUN TREE RUN on the logger who was taking the trees for the UW housing expansion at Radford Ct.....sad comment.

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.

Lynn Ferguson  
[lynnferguson65@comcast.net](mailto:lynnferguson65@comcast.net)  
6422 NE 60th St.  
Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** Lael White <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Sunday, July 25, 2021 6:38 PM

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

**Subject:** Save our 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.

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.
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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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4. Allow removal of no more than 2 Significant non-Exceptional Trees in 3 years per lot outside development
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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.

Lael White  
[laelcwhite@gmail.com](mailto:laelcwhite@gmail.com)  
6707 230th Street SW  
Mountlake Terrace, Washington 98043

**From:** Jayn Foy <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 9:00 AM  
**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,

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.

Jayn Foy

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

3302 S. Charles St.

Seattle, Washington 98144

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

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 11, 2021 3:18 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,

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:

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- 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
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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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- 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.

As a nurse and a native seattlite, I am appalled at how many green spaces have been completely demolished since my childhood for the sake of development. What about public health? Our state boasts that the climate crisis is an emergency, but you don't take action to protect the nature that is left. The problem is NOT having enough housing, the problem is a population crisis. The number of humans is outgrowing what is sustainable on this earth. We need to push the facts. What world will our children live in? One without trees? Will we have to create electronic bees, trees, and oxygen? How will that work? What will that do to public health? Mental health?

I'm 34 years old and I have chosen not to have children because I am gravely concerned about the climate crisis. I know I am part of a growing number of people who will refrain from growing a family. I want my green, beautiful state back.

Stop selling out for a paycheck. We need our earth.

Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Rachel Gloersen, BSN, RN, Seattlite

Rachel Gloersen

[wajiro\\_bygrace@hotmail.com](mailto:wajiro_bygrace@hotmail.com)

13232 119th Ave ne

Kirkland, Washington 98034

**From:** [dwisner@runbox.com](mailto:dwisner@runbox.com) <[dwisner@runbox.com](mailto:dwisner@runbox.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, August 13, 2021 10:56 PM

**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,

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.

[dwisner@runbox.com](mailto:dwisner@runbox.com)

600 W. Olympic Pl., Apt. 504  
Seattle, Washington 98119

**From:** Kimberly Garmoe <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Sunday, August 15, 2021 12:21 AM

**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.

Kimberly Garmoe  
[kagarmoe@gmail.com](mailto:kagarmoe@gmail.com)  
6708 Mary Ave NW, Unit A  
Seattle, Washington 98117

**From:** Mary Keeler <mkeeler@uw.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2021 11:47 AM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** Please Strengthen Seattle's Tree Ordinance

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

We Must Protect Our Green Infrastructure!

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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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:

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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.

Mary Keeler  
[mkeeler@uw.edu](mailto:mkeeler@uw.edu)  
1102 NW 83rd Street  
Seattle, Washington 98117

**From:** Mary Keeler <mkeeler@uw.edu>

**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2021 11:50 AM

**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,

We Must Protect Our Green Infrastructure!

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:

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

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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Mary Keeler  
[mkeeler@uw.edu](mailto:mkeeler@uw.edu)  
1102 NW 83rd Street  
Seattle, Washington 98117

**From:** Toni Ferrara <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2021 12:23 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).

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

Toni Ferrara  
[antoINETTE.ferrara@gmail.com](mailto:antoINETTE.ferrara@gmail.com)  
2707 Nob Hill Ave. N  
Seattle, Washington 98109

**From:** Maya Giddings <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2021 5:37 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
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Thank you for protecting our urban forest.

Maya Giddings  
[kindtrekker@gmail.com](mailto:kindtrekker@gmail.com)  
1612 NE 192nd St  
Shoreline, Washington 98155

**From:** Gretel Johnston <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2021 6:18 PM

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

**Subject:** Save our 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.

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.

Gretel Johnston  
[gretel354@gmail.com](mailto:gretel354@gmail.com)  
9716 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** Neil Ludman <[nludjunk@nclzap.com](mailto:nludjunk@nclzap.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2021 9:37 PM  
**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,

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.

Neil Ludman  
[nludjunk@nclzap.com](mailto:nludjunk@nclzap.com)  
6326 20th Ave NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115

**From:** Elena Louise Richmond <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 17, 2021 8:31 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.

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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.

Elena Louise Richmond  
[ElenaRich@gmail.com](mailto:ElenaRich@gmail.com)  
8713 9th Ave NW  
SEATTLE, Washington 98117

**From:** Siegelbaum, Heidi <heidi.siegelbaum@wsu.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 19, 2021 4:42 PM  
**To:** Bakker, Patricia <Patricia.Bakker@seattle.gov>; Stuart Niven <panorarbor@gmail.com>; Emery, Chanda <Chanda.Emery@Seattle.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Today's canopy loss - When are you going to PASS A TREE ORDINANCE??

Please see below. Nothing like cutting old growth cedar when it's 100 out and we are dying from fire smoke. The community is frankly at a breaking point... and some on the verge of suing the City.

Do SOMETHING ABOUT THE ORDINANCE.

Heidi Siegelbaum  
Stormwater Strategic Initiative Lead  
Washington Stormwater Center at Washington State University  
[Heidi.Siegelbaum@wsu.edu](mailto:Heidi.Siegelbaum@wsu.edu)  
(253) 445-4502  
Home office: (206) 784-4265  
<https://wastormwatercenter.org>

<https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov>

**From:** Siegelbaum, Heidi  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 19, 2021 4:38 PM  
**To:** Seattle Council Communications <[seattlecouncilcomm@gmail.com](mailto:seattlecouncilcomm@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** [noah.an@seattle.gov](mailto:noah.an@seattle.gov); Allala, Lyliaanna <[Lyliaanna.Allala@seattle.gov](mailto:Lyliaanna.Allala@seattle.gov)>; Lisa Chen <[lisa.chen2@seattle.gov](mailto:lisa.chen2@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Today's canopy loss - When are you going to PASS A TREE ORDINANCE??

Heidi Siegelbaum  
Stormwater Strategic Initiative Lead  
Washington Stormwater Center at Washington State University  
[Heidi.Siegelbaum@wsu.edu](mailto:Heidi.Siegelbaum@wsu.edu)  
(253) 445-4502  
Home office: (206) 784-4265  
<https://wastormwatercenter.org>  
<https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov>



Beautiful Cedar

And a HUGE healthy maple taken down by Ballard Tree “ Services” on 2439 NW 58th

I screamed at the team and then I cried in desperation.

I am sooo sad

Anne



**From:** Laura Davis <info@email.actionnetwork.org>

**Sent:** Friday, August 20, 2021 3:56 PM

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

**Subject:** Trees are important too. Adopt, with amendments, SDCI's Director's Rule 13-2020

Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator Patti Bakker,

Trees provide more benefit to the community than multistory high occupancy apartment buildings. Trees benefit everybody in the community, and equally benefit all members. Urban development projects benefit only the corporations that build them, and possibly the tenants that will live in the buildings.

Does the health, happiness and longevity of the community, and the ecosystem as a whole, outweigh the fast profit of the few?

The trees are providing the greatest good for the greatest number.

Please stop killing trees in the city.

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:

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- Tightening tree removal requirements for exceptional trees as hazard trees

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

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- 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.

Laura Davis  
[factofmyth@gmail.com](mailto:factofmyth@gmail.com)  
227 11th Ave E., 1/2 (upper level)  
Seattle, Washington 98102

**From:** Alexa Fay <[info@email.actionnetwork.org](mailto:info@email.actionnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 22, 2021 6:29 AM  
**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 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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Alexa Fay  
[alexapfay@gmail.com](mailto:alexapfay@gmail.com)  
1507 N 39th St  
Seattle, Washington 98103

**From:** Zoran Brkanac <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2021 11:03 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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- 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.

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