



## TreePAC Newsletter - May 2018

### Protect Seattle's Trees with a new Tree Ordinance!

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As we all know, Seattle is growing faster now than ever before. Unfortunately as a part of this growth, our long-cherished Urban Forest is taking the brunt of this activity, sometimes in the name of [affordable housing](#), sometimes in the form of [illegal clearcutting](#) - but most often in the form of developer profits and irresponsible, unregulated building practices that **usually levels everything to the ground** on a given lot and then builds out to the absolute property limit. It's easy to see what happens to the trees and habitat – **they are gone forever**.

If left unchecked, our Seattle urban forest and tree canopy will be nearly gone in a matter of years, probably less. This is not exaggeration – read the recent [Seattle Tree Regulations Research Project report](#) from March 31, 2017 for proof. **By the City's own words, we are not doing nearly enough to protect existing trees and stop these irresponsible development practices, and we are not following the City's own goal of creating a 30% canopy by 2037** – in fact, quite the opposite.

However – all is not lost. Several local groups including **TreePAC, Friends of Urban Forests, Plant Amnesty**, and the **Seattle Urban Forestry Commission** have begun building a city-wide coalition to update, implement and enforce a true and effective Seattle Tree Ordinance – to enhance and replace the Interim Ordinance of 2009, which [was never meant to be permanent and has languished since those earlier efforts](#).

Councilmember Rob Johnson has also recognized the challenges facing our urban forest and has proposed an initial framework to address updating the Tree Ordinance. You can see his proposals here: [Trees For All](#). We commend Councilmember Johnson for taking the lead in our Seattle city government on this issue and recognizing the key problem noted above, in addition to paying special attention to communities of color and lower income, [who have often seen their own local urban forest and natural environment simply destroyed or removed in the name of 'progress'](#). As Mr. Johnson has noted – we have to turn the tide, citywide, **together**.

How can you help? There are several ways (contact info and schedules are below this list):

1) **Join our coalition.** The next two planning meetings are below, let us know via the Working Group email list (or reply to sender for this newsletter) that you want to participate and how you can help – these next few months will be critical to getting the word out across the City and speaking with one voice!

2) **Contact the City Council and Mayor directly and urge them to update the existing Interim Ordinance** to protect and enhance Seattle's tree canopy. You can use the [Action Needed Now](#) letter as a template, or take those points and add your own input. And don't forget that they get a lot of email – but they may not get as many actual phone calls – **calling in and having a conversation with staff or possibly even the Councilmember directly may be just as effective** and still allows you to send the email, notifying them to keep an eye out post-call for your followup.

3) **Attend City Council meetings (full) in person and comment.** Now that Councilmember Rob Johnson has begun proposing a framework, this is official Council business, and can be commented on at any meeting (not just Land Use). Keep your points clear and short for best emphasis.

4) **Attend district-based City Council “local” meetings as soon as possible.** Now that a portion of the City Council is elected by district, make your voice heard to your district's City Councilmember directly in at their local meetings in your district. If you are meeting with a district Councilmember of **another** area, that's great too, but make sure to bring along a friend, family member or similar **from that local area** to guarantee face time, because those local meetings are intended for area residents first of course. **Schedules below.**

5) **Get a (downtown) office meeting with the Mayor (incl. staff if that's the only possibility) or City Council personnel.** It's not necessarily 'less' to meet with City Council or Mayoral staff, if the emphasis is kept professional and succinct – remember that they handle much of the daily tasks and specifically Rob Johnson's staff (Spencer Williams first and foremost) is on point for the Tree Ordinance work.

6) Last but certainly not least, **SPREAD THE WORD!** Tell your neighbors, other Seattle residents you may serve with on a local Community Council, neighborhood group, church group, social media, if you work in the city, etc. - **the more people know, the more can provide input and help the effort.**

## Contact Information and City Govt Schedules:

Seattle City Council: <http://www.seattle.gov/council/meet-the-council>

email them all (and Mayor): [council@seattle.gov](mailto:council@seattle.gov) [jenny.durkan@seattle.gov](mailto:jenny.durkan@seattle.gov)

[Mayor Jenny Durkan](#)

tel:206-684-4000

[Request a Meeting](#)

[Lisa Herbold, District 1](#)

206-684-8803

[lisa.herbold@seattle.gov](mailto:lisa.herbold@seattle.gov)

**Member:** [Planning, Land Use & Zoning](#)

[Bruce Harrell, District 2](#)

206-684-8804

[bruce.harrell@seattle.gov](mailto:bruce.harrell@seattle.gov)

**Member:** [Finance & Neighborhoods](#)

[Kshama Sawant, District 3](#)

206-684-8016

[kshama.sawant@seattle.gov](mailto:kshama.sawant@seattle.gov)

**Member:** [Sustainability & Transportation](#)

[Rob Johnson, District 4](#)

206-684-8808

[rob.johnson@seattle.gov](mailto:rob.johnson@seattle.gov)

**Chair:** [Planning, Land Use & Zoning](#)

[Deborah Juarez, District 5](#)

206-684-8805

[deborajuarez@seattle.gov](mailto:deborajuarez@seattle.gov)

**Member:**

[Human Services, Equitable Development & Renter Rights](#)

[Mike O'Brien, District 6](#)

206-684-8800

[mike.obrien@seattle.gov](mailto:mike.obrien@seattle.gov)

**Chair:** [Sustainability & Transportation](#)

**Vice-Chair:** [Planning, Land Use & Zoning](#)

**Alternate:** [Finance & Neighborhoods](#)

[Sally Bagshaw, District 7](#)

206-684-8801

[sally.bagshaw@seattle.gov](mailto:sally.bagshaw@seattle.gov)

**Chair:** [Finance & Neighborhoods](#)

[Teresa Mosqueda \(citywide\)](#)

206-684-8806

[teresa.mosqueda@seattle.gov](mailto:teresa.mosqueda@seattle.gov)

**Alternate:**

[Human Services, Equitable Development & Renter Rights](#)

[Lorena Gonzalez \(citywide\)](#)

206-684-8802

[lorena.gonzalez@seattle.gov](mailto:lorena.gonzalez@seattle.gov)

**Vice-Chair:** [Finance & Neighborhoods](#)

**Alternate:** [Planning, Land Use & Zoning](#)

City Council In-District Office Hours (please check their websites linked above for precise hours)

Lisa Herbold: **Friday, May 25, 2018**  
Senior Center of West Seattle, 4217 SW Oregon St

**Friday, June 15, 2018**  
South Park Community Center, 8319 8th Avenue S

**Friday, July 27, 2018**  
Southwest Neighborhood Service Center, 2801 SW Thistle St

Bruce Harrell: Please contact his office directly using information above

Kshama Sawant: Please contact her office directly using information above

Rob Johnson: Our office will be at the University District Farmers Market  
([University Way NE between 50th & 52nd](#)): Saturdays: 10am – noon

Deborah Juarez: Councilmember Debora Juarez is in district most Fridays.  
[Please fill out the following form to request a meeting with her in the district office.](#)  
Meetings are scheduled for a minimum of 15 minutes and cannot exceed 30 minutes. We are located at North Seattle College, College Center Building, room 1451 (CC1451).

Mike O'Brien: Please check his website directly using information above

Sally Bagshaw: [Make a District Office Meeting Request](#)  
Meetings are scheduled for a minimum of 15 minutes and cannot exceed 30 minutes. Locations of our office hours are conveniently located across District 7 on various days and times to best suit you! Drop-in's will not be accommodated. All in-district office hours meetings will need to be scheduled in advance.

Teresa Mosqueda: Please contact her office directly using information above for meeting requests and for events at location(s) throughout the city as may occur.

Lorena Gonzalez: Please contact her office directly using information above for meeting requests and for events at location(s) throughout the city as may occur.

## **Local Tree Activism and Events:**

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- NOTE: these are tree-supporting area groups, if they do not have tree-specific activities this month, we will simply link to their events calendar. If you have event(s) not seen here, please let us know so we can add them – Ed.

**TreePAC:** If you wish to become involved in working on an updated Seattle Tree Ordinance, please come to the meetings! Future meetings of the *Working Group* will be as follows:

Saturday May 12, 2018, [Seattle Public Library Broadview branch](#) – 12pm-2pm

Saturday May 26, 2018, [Seattle Public Library Northgate branch](#) – 3pm-5:30pm

**Seattle Urban Forestry Commission:** Next meetings are Wed May 2 and Wed May 9.  
[Meetings are held in Room 2750 of the Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue downtown.](#)

### **Plant Amnesty:**

Event pages: [Upcoming Events](#) [Classes and Workshops](#) [Adopt-a-Plant](#) [Get Involved](#)

Specific to Seattle Trees:

#### **2018 Urban Forest Symposium**

*Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> – 9am-4pm; Reception, 4pm-6pm*

*UW Botanic Garden – Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41<sup>st</sup> St, Seattle, WA*

**Bloedel Reserve** – [Spring Plant Walks, Thu May 10 and Sat May 12](#)

**E3 Washington** – [Events Calendar](#)

May 8: [Seattle- Pulling Together: Presented by the Muckleshoot Tribe](#)

**Earth Corps** – [Volunteer Calendar](#) (most environment restoration work events are on Saturdays throughout the month, usually several listed each day, not all in Seattle)

**Forterra** – [May 12 – Phinney Work Party](#)

[May 16 - Restoration Work Party at the Duwamish Shoreline](#) (Tukwila)

[Other Events](#)

**Friends of Seward Park** – Monthly Meeting and activities - [2<sup>nd</sup> Sat of most months](#)

**King County:** [We're Planting 1 Million Trees by 2020 – how to help](#)

**Nature Consortium** – West Duwamish [Urban Forest Restoration volunteer work parties](#), Tuesdays and Saturdays throughout the month, 10am-2pm.

**Seattle Audubon** – click here for their [Events Calendar](#).

Volunteer Open House: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 8050 35th Ave NE in Seattle, 6-7pm.

**Sierra Club of WA** – Wed 5/2, 7-9pm; [National Forest Committee Meeting](#) (Monthly)

NOTE: The above meeting repeats next on **Wed, 6/6** and **Wed, 7/11**, same location and time.

**Trees for Seattle** – [Upcoming events](#) – regular Work Party and [tree-related activities!](#)

**WA Native Plant Society** – [Central Puget Sound Chapter Programs](#)

(Seattle mtg 1<sup>st</sup> Tues of the month, 7pm; Bellevue 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues of the month, 7pm) – A plant identification workshop precedes Seattle meetings, at 6pm.

## **Local/PNW Tree News:**

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[Gene Duvernoy retires from Forterra, a 250,000 acre legacy lives](#) – 4/29, SeaPI

[Forterra founder Gene Duvernoy steps down as president](#) – 4/28, SeaTimes

[Park Purists Challenge Affordable Housing at Fort Lawton](#) – 4/27 The Stranger

[The Emerald City's Smoggy Gray](#) – 4/24 Seattle Weekly

[Throwing Shade: How a Lack of Trees Hurts Seattle Minorities](#) – 4/24 Sea Weekly

[Connelly: Tree-hugging and thinking about the earth on Earth Day](#) – 4/19, SeaPI

[The health of Forest Park must come first: Guest opinion](#) – 3/29, Oregonian

*Research from the University of Washington: Prof. Kathleen Wolf, Ph.D.*

[Human Dimensions of Urban Forestry and Urban Greening](#)

[Urban Forestry and Human Benefits](#)

*From Portland, OR – some history related to tree canopy and ordinances:*

[PSU study: Portland's urban forest reduces air pollution but also finds hazards](#) – 8/26/14, Oregonian

[Healthy Trees, Healthy People](#) – still-ongoing research at Portland State University (cited in 2014 article above) re urban tree canopy & public health

[Portland's new tree code is a wise investment in our urban forest](#) – 6/12/13, Oregonian

[From 'Stumptown' beginnings, Portland's urban forest named one of top 10 in the country](#) – 2/7/13, Oregonian

## **Other Tree News and Articles:**

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**[We calculated how much money trees save for your city](#)** – 4/27, SeaPI

**[California's Trees Are Dying At A Catastrophic Rate](#)** – 4/22, BuzzFeed

**[Community ReLeaf](#)** – American Forests' program(s) to restore urban forests across the USA – many example city programs shown here.

## **TreePAC organization info:**

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**“Are you tired of pleading, asking, arguing and proving that trees have public value? Join TreePAC and make change happen. Together we will be a lobby as powerful as the sports lobby.”** Cass Turnbull, TreePAC founder.

**Mission:** The TreePAC mission is to influence the government to protect, maintain and increase the Seattle-area urban forest.

**Website:** <http://www.treepac.org/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/TreePAC.org/>

**How to join TreePAC:** <http://treepac.org/join/>

**Who we are:** <http://treepac.org/board/>

**Mailing List:** send an email to [ovaltinelatte@hotmail.com](mailto:ovaltinelatte@hotmail.com) to be added