



TreePAC Newsletter - August 2018

Updates: ***Draft Seattle Tree Ordinance Released***

The Seattle PLUZ Committee has released a Draft Tree Ordinance – you can [review it here](#).

While there are some positives in it (they have now adopted the 6” DBH standard, they propose applying this standard citywide to all situations, they agree there needs to be a permit system, etc.) there are also serious flaws, a few of which:

- 1) They are removing the definition of and protection for ALL 'exceptional' trees, period.
- 2) There are many, many blanks throughout in the Draft Ordinance at present – e.g 'XXX\$' when talking about permits, or even wholly blank provisions – meaning there is no conceivable way they can submit this for EIS/SEPA consideration when it's not even complete;
- 3) They have effectively removed the existing Tree Ordinance, now relegated to a mere Appendix/footnote; ...and the list goes on – we are still reviewing what's actually in there at present.

Suffice it to say, *there are still major problems with this proposal* - assuming it was even complete – and YOUR INPUT is critical to ensuring we **retain and expand the tree protections we already have** in the existing Interim Ordinance of 2009.

The memo accompanying the Draft ordinance is [here](#); - the next city meeting on the draft ordinance is tentatively scheduled by the PLUZ Committee for a public hearing on **Wed. Sept.5, 2018**.

Some other comments:

- The [Trees for All](#) site still has the older proposed 12” DBH value for protecting trees – while this may be an oversight, it's inconsistent with what they propose in the Draft and needs to be CORRECTED;
- the site also implies they are keeping up with their earlier timetable (click on link above, unchanged at present) – this is also incorrect – they haven't finished a complete Draft, so there's no way they can submit for an EIS/SEPA review – this point needs to be made repeatedly until they complete the first draft?

To Sum Up – your review, comments and critical input is needed now more than ever, to protect and enhance Seattle's Tree Canopy before it's too late!

Website: <https://www.seattle.gov/council/meet-the-council/rob-johnson/trees-for-all>

Draft Tree Code Updates https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/Council/Members/Johnson/Memo_Draft-Tree-Code-Updates-20180516.pdf

Current Tree Protections (NOTE: this is not the direct ordinance, this is a DCI 'how to know' summary):
<https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/Council/Members/Johnson/Current-Tree-Protections.pdf>

Updates: Cool Tree advocacy going on in Edmonds!

I saw these when we were up there a couple weeks ago and sent around a pic – TreePAC needs to get SDOT (the logical choice) to do this, too – who's with me?

[Downtown Tree Identification Tags brought to you by the Edmonds Citizens' Tree Board](#) [Edmonds Citizens Tree Board launches tree ID education campaign](#)

Updates: UW Tree Research Report from earlier this summer: [Forest loss in one part of US can harm trees on the opposite coast– UW, 5/16](#)

Updates: How can you help with the Seattle Tree Ordinance?

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 actually ENFORCE and 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, reminding them again to keep an eye out for your followup.
- 3) **Attend City Council meetings (full) in person and comment.** Now that a Draft has (at least begun) to appear, this is official Council business that 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 and often 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 linked 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 Rob Johnson's staff is on point for much of 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:

Now on the TreePAC website (let us know if you spot any needed corrections of course):
http://treepac.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/citygovtcontact_and_sched_7-1-2018.pdf

Local Tree Activism and Events:

- 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, Aug 11, 2018: 10:15 AM – 12:15 PM

[Ballard Branch, Seattle Public Library: 5614 22nd Ave. N.W., Seattle](#)

Saturday, Aug 18, 2018 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

[Montlake Branch, Seattle Public Library: 2401 24th Ave. E., Seattle](#)

Seattle Urban Forestry Commission:

Next meetings are **Wed Aug 8, Wed Sept 5 and Wed Sept 12**

[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](#)

Bloedel Reserve – [Events listing](#)

DIRT Corps (Duwamish Infrastructure Restoration Training) – [Upcoming Events](#)

E3 Washington – [Events Calendar](#)

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 – [Events](#)

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

King County: [We're Planting 1 Million Trees by 2020 – how to help](#)
[Drop in Saturdays, Tree Planting at King County Parks 1 Million Tree Effort](#)

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: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 8050 35th Ave NE in Seattle, 6-7pm.

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

NOTE: The above meeting repeats next on **Wed, 10/3** and **Wed 11/7**, 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 1st Tues of the month, 7pm; Bellevue 2nd Tues of the month, 7pm) – A plant identification workshop precedes Seattle meetings, at 6pm.

Local/PNW Tree News:

[Community restoring Madrona Ravine](#) – Madison Park Times, 8/5

[Council committee unanimously OKs Orchard Street Ravine expansion purchase](#)
West Seattle Blog, 8/1

[Federal agency pauses tree-removal plan to help sage grouse](#) – SeaTimes, 8/1

[City Council committee to consider Orchard Street Ravine expansion purchase](#)
[Wednesday](#) - West Seattle Blog, 7/31

[Parks / Tree board to tour environmental restoration areas - public welcome](#) –
Shoreline Area News, 7/26

[Letter to the Editor: Decisions about tree retention will affect residents far into the future](#) – Shoreline Area News, 7/26

[How a family's coveted land became a working forest](#) – Everett Herald, 7/26

[SDCI director approves The Madison for construction/Save Madison Valley to appeal decision](#) – Madison Park Times, 7/23

[North City Water begins site work and tree preservation for new maintenance facility on 15th NE](#) – Shoreline Area News, 7/12

[Letter to the Editor: Will we care when the trees are gone?](#) - Shoreline Area News, 7/8

[Edmonds artist Alice Owen's "Trees" exhibit at Frances Anderson Center through July](#) – Shoreline Area News, 7/3

[Herbicide may have killed other trees in central Oregon](#) – SeaTimes, 7/10
[Neighbors say changes to Coval property still not adequate](#) – MI Reporter, 7/8

[Op-Ed: Shoreline City Council should represent the citizens, not developers](#) – Shoreline Area News, 6/30

[Bainbridge council approves tree protections that boast a \\$25,000 removal fine](#) – Kitsap Sun, 6/29

[Environmental Group Appeals Massive Juniper Removal in Idaho](#) – (Boise), 6/29

[Volunteer to Protect West Seattle's Trees!](#) - West Seattle Blog, 6/27

[TREES & VIEWS: Two tales from Admiral](#) - West Seattle Blog, 6/26

[Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services / Tree Board Meeting Thursday](#) – Shoreline Area News, 6/25

[City Council creates Edmonds Youth Commission, raises questions about tree plan](#) – MyEdmonds News, 6/20

[Public hearing on city's critical areas ordinance, including fines for tree cutting, before MLT council June 18](#) – MLT news (Mountlake Terrace), 6/16

[Good trees for urban gardens: Choosing a tree that fits your yard](#) – MyEdmonds News, 6/4

[Oregon Park Using Old-Fashioned Horsepower for Logging](#) (Grants Pass) 6/2

[Redmond files \\$62,000 suit after company cuts wrong tree](#) (Bend, OR) 5/29

[Genesee tree walk](#) - West Seattle Blog, 5/16

[Newcastle, Renton push back against logging near Cougar Mountain](#) – Issaquah-Sammamish Reporter, 5/8

[Bainbridge Land Trust launches \\$5M fundraiser to buy land for conservation, public use](#) – Kitsap Sun, 5/4

[333-acre logging operation winding down in North Kitsap](#) – Kitsap Sun, 4/13

[Behind the bark: The life and looming death of UW's iconic cherry trees](#) – UW Daily, 3/26

Tree News generally:

[The Green Big Apple: New Yorkers document the city's plants](#) – SeattlePI, 8/4

[Lincoln residents dismayed by barren landscape](#) – SeattlePI, 8/2

[Frog symphony and ancient trees in a verdant Louisiana swamp](#) – SeattlePI, 7/31

[What is making U.S. beech trees sick?](#) - SeattlePI, 7/31

[Canopy walk will open first weekend in October](#) (PA) – SeattlePI, 7/31

[Maui ranch uses koa trees to fight invasive plant species](#) – SeattlePI, 7/31

[Lopez Obrador looks to tree planting to create Mexico jobs](#) – SeaTimes 7/30

[American chestnut trees make comeback in Fairfield](#)- SeattlePI, 7/30

[Centuries-old butternut tree topples in heavy rain, wind](#) – SeaTimes, 7/26

[‘Urban island effect’ compounds Phoenix’s sweltering heat](#) – (AZ), 7/26

[New nature reserve opens to public in Omaha](#) – SeattlePI, 7/26

[Africa’s iconic baobab trees dying off at alarming rate](#) – SeaTimes 7/12

[Big tree found near farm may be among Pennsylvania’s largest](#) – SeaTimes, 7/5

TreePAC organization info:

“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 to be added