



TreePAC Newsletter - Sept/Oct 2018

Updates: More time, DNS withdrawn

We have earned a temporary respite – besides the withdrawal of [DCI's Determination of Non-Significance](#) as regards the 'amendments' (read: repeal) of the existing Interim Tree Ordinance, a few more details from Steve Zemke:

The Seattle City Council has heeded public input and has decided to slow down their rush to update SMC 25.11 – Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance by the end of September. This will give more time for public input and scrutiny. The public needs to continue to send in their concerns and suggestions on how to make the ordinance more effective. The Seattle City Council and the Mayor are currently focused this month and next month on adopting their 2019 Budget. They will again take up the Tree Protection Ordinance after the Budget is adopted.

Our suggestions for how to improve the current (D7) working draft:

- 1) **The current Interim Tree Ordinance *prioritizes protecting existing trees* – PUT THIS BACK INTO the Working Draft – protect and prioritize exceptional, significant and heritage trees FIRST, before talking about removal/replacement. Protect exceptional trees from being removed unless they are hazard trees.**
- 2) **Use a tree diameter and tree species criteria for issuing a tree removal and replacement permit.** The D7 'tree canopy' measurements are way too complex, time consuming and will simply result in property owners ignoring them – trunk diameter and species identification is straightforward and can be done in a matter of minutes by comparison.
- 3) **Exceptional trees are the largest trees of their species and the survivors over time.** Exceptional trees should be defined as exceptional because they are a Heritage tree [as defined by the city of Seattle](#), or rare or exceptional by virtue of their species, condition, cultural/historical importance, age, habitat value, environmental or ecological services provided to the city and/or are part of a multi-tree grove.
- 4) **All significant trees (trees greater than 6 inches DBH), including hazard trees, that are removed on any lot, whether a developed lot or a lot undergoing development, in any zone in the city **must be replaced either on site, off site or a fee in lieu paid for the city to replace the tree.****
- 5) **The goal is not just to have no net loss of canopy, but to increase it. Tree replacement requirements shall increase as the diameter and canopy volume of the tree removed increases. Replacement trees should be targeted to increase conifers, native tree species and trees determined to respond best to climate change.**
- 6) Property owners outside development should be able to apply for a **minor Tree Removal and Replacement Permit** for the removal of 1 or significant non-exceptional trees or a hazard tree. Developers will have to apply for a **major tree removal and replacement permit** which includes preparing a detailed tree inventory for the site and a replacement landscaping plan. Developers shall, like homeowner be required to replace all trees they removed, either on site, off site or pay a fee in lieu system.

(Updates cont.):

Feel free to contact us with additional suggestions – we need to be **united, direct** and **consistent** in protecting Seattle's trees and urban forest.

Latest Reference Material:

- 1) [Draft D7 of the “Tree Regulations Update Ordinance”](#)
- 2) [Policy Considerations regarding proposed tree regulation bill](#) - Council memo, Sept 19, 2018: Planning, Land Use, and Zoning Committee (PLUZ)
- 3) [Adopted Letter – Re: Draft Tree protection ordinance update](#) – Seattle Urban Forestry Commission – Aug 31 2018
- 4) *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>

Some additional editorial on why Trees are important in the urban environment (note to SeaCC – READ them!):

[The Guardian view on fresh air: a public good](#) - Guardian, 10/12

[More Trees, Happier People](#)

When cities grow, green space dies. Replanting it has been shown to lift the human spirit. - NYTimes, 10/7

[What air pollution does to your body and brain](#) – SeattlePI, 9/26

[Trees accelerate growth as they get older and bigger, study finds](#) - Guardian, 1/14

Take Action: How can you help with the Seattle Tree Ordinance?

There are several ways (contact info and schedules for SeaCC are linked below this list):

- 1) **Join our coalition.** Upcoming meetings will be posted in these newsletters, on TreePAC.org and Friends.Urbanforests.org – come and provide input!
- 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 exists (D7 as of this writing), this is official Council business that can be commented on at any meeting (not just Land Use Committee meetings). 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:

TBD – please check treepac.org or friends.urbanforests.org for updates

Seattle Urban Forestry Commission:

Next meetings are posted at the link immediately below, usually first and 3rd Wed of the month.
[Meetings are held in Room 2750 of the Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue downtown.](#)

Plant Amnesty:

Fundraiser: *Tree Hugger BINGO is back!* Tonight, Sat Oct 13th, 630-9pm at North Seattle CC (please refer to events page for more info, call 206-783-9813 to register; or email: michelle.rau@plantamnesty.org)

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.

Seward Park Audubon Center – [Events Page](#)

- Community Reforestation Event: [Sat Oct 20](#), [Sun Oct 21](#)

- Native Plant Walk: [Sat Oct 20](#)

Sierra Club of WA – Wed 11/7: [National Forest Committee Meeting](#) (Monthly)

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:

[Kruckeberg fall tree and shrub sale starts Saturday](#) – Shoreline News, 10/5

[City proposes changes to encourage more ADUs](#) – DJC, 10/5

[New review could pave way for more backyard cottages in Seattle while restricting ‘McMansions’](#) – SeaTimes, 10/4

[Filled with youthful energy and musical wildlife, the Urban Meadow Garden is growing into its lively vibe](#) – SeaTimes, 10/3

[Kirkland City Council reviews Totem Lake Park design](#) – KR, 10/3

[Old growth could be key for native songbird species](#) – SeattlePI, 9/30

[Salem's iconic blossoming cherry trees in jeopardy \(OR\)](#) – Oregonian, 9/27

[Urban timber harvest plan spurs anger \(OR\)](#) SeaTimes, 9/21

[Partnership Helps Land Owners Battle Sudden Oak Death \(OR\)](#) US News, 9/18

[TREE TALK | The lesser-known but equally special sibling](#) – QANews, 9/18

[Engaging Trees Speaker Series to launch this fall](#) – FWM, 9/17

[Some of Washington's biggest trees are mysteriously dying](#) – SeattlePI, 9/15

[National Park Porn: Olympic National Park in amazing photos](#) – SeattlePI, 9/13

[Saved from logging, Lake Wenatchee's Nason Ridge Trail is a hiker's paradise](#) – SeaTimes, 9/13

[Design Perspectives: Battery Street group looks to other cities for ideas](#) – DJC, 9/12

[National Park Porn: The North Cascades National Park like you've never seen it](#) – SeattlePI, 9/9

[Oregon conifers hit hard by years of drought; here's how to keep trees healthy](#) – Oregonian, 9/4

[LFP Stewardship Foundation funds intern to gather data about tree removals and replacement in LFP](#) – Shoreline News, 8/28

[Letter to the Editor: Large development proposed in North City – Shoreline News, 8/24](#)

[Hot, dry weather killing Washington trees – King5, 8/22](#)

[Do you need to water your trees during this dry summer? – SeattlePI, 8/21](#)

[UPDATE: Farewell to street trees outside Lafayette Elementary – WSB, 8/21](#)

[Don't sacrifice green spaces to Seattle's affordable-housing plan – SeaTimes, 8/17](#)

[Save Madison Valley appeals approval of The Madison – CapHill Times, 8/10](#)

[New tree protection ordinance could reduce canopy coverage citywide – MPTimes, 8/10](#)

[FOLLOWUP: Unanimous Council approval for Orchard Street Ravine expansion acquisition – WSB, 8/6](#)

[Community restoring Madrona Ravine – MPTimes, 8/5](#)

[As Seattle Works Toward New Rules For Tree Cutting, Neighborhood Activists Push For More Protections – KNKX, 8/1](#)

[Seattle's Draft Tree Protection Ordinance Maintains Protections For Smaller Significant Trees – KNKX, 8/1](#)

[Where are the tree huggers when we need them?: Letter to the editor \(OR\) – Oregonian, 7/25](#)

['They're Living History:' Why These Arborists Search For Washington's Tallest Trees – KNKX, 12/2016](#)

Tree News generally:

[National Trust criticised for evicting a forest school from its woods](#)

Closing the outstanding-rated outdoor nursery in Kent is at odds with the charity's own campaign to get children to play outdoors, say parents – Guardian, 10/13

[Madagascar Guides Fret About the Future as Loggers Destroy Forests](#) – NYTimes, 10/12

[Country diary: where Scots pines stand tall](#) – Guardian, 10/12

[Thousands protest felling German forest to expand coal mine](#) - SeattlePI, 10/6

[Canopy walk reaching 40 feet high set to open in Michigan](#) - SeattlePI, 10/6

[History of Whiting Forest shines through in renovations](#) (MI) SeattlePI, 10/5

[Potter: Planting Trees and Shrubs Properly](#) - SeattlePI, 10/5

[Forum: Hamden needs a more robust tree ordinance to protect urban tree cover](#) (CT) SeattlePI, 10/3

[Across Senegal, the Beloved Baobab Tree Is the 'Pride of the Neighborhood'](#)

Baobabs have endured for centuries as essential cultural symbols. But increasingly, they are threatened by climate change, urbanization and a growing population. - NYTimes, 9/30

[Students to plant dozens of trees in Mason City next week](#) (IA) SeattlePI, 9/29

[Mississippi trying to stop spread of invasive 'popcorn tree'](#) - SeattlePI, 9/29

[Op-ed: When tree falls, we feel a loss](#) - SeattlePI, 9/25

[Stratford trees at root of power struggle](#) (CT) SeattlePI, 9/25

[Baytown preservation group selling pens made out of ancient Oak Tree](#) (TX) SeattlePI, 9/24

[Scientists thought they had created the perfect tree. But it became a nightmare.](#) (MD) SeattlePI, 9/17

[Charities pledge nearly \\$500M against deforestation](#) - SeattlePI, 9/11

[As Lake Superior rises, alder trees die in wetlands](#) - SeattlePI, 9/11

[Panel wants more use of natural water-protection measures \(MI\) SeattlePI, 9/8](#)

[Some trees in Houston struggling after drought, heat, Harvey \(TX\) SeattlePI, 9/6](#)

[Maine Needs Public's Help Rooting Out Bug-Infested Trees – Maine Public, 9/6](#)

[Potter: Texas leafcutting ants can pose problems to trees – SeattlePI, 8/31](#)

[This 16-year-old invented a robot that can help scientists keep trees and forests healthy – SeattlePI, 8/31](#)

[Oak-Killing Fungus Spreads to More Places in New York – USNews, 8/30](#)

[Eisenhower sapling planted – SeattlePI, 8/27](#)

[Uprooted: old tree transplants for China's new cities – in pictures - Guardian, 8/27](#)

[Forests group halts plan to endorse Indonesian paper giant – SeaTimes, 8/16](#)

[The great African greening: millions of 'magical' new trees bring renewal – Guardian, 8/16](#)

[Treasured 2,000-year-old tree threatened by California wildfire – SeattlePI, 8/13](#)

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 local government to protect, maintain and increase the Seattle-area urban forest.

Website: <https://www.treepac.org/>

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

How to join (or donate) to TreePAC: <https://treepac.org/join/>

Who we are: <https://treepac.org/board/>

Mailing List: send an email to ovaltinelatte@hotmail.com to be added