



TreePAC Newsletter - November 2018

Updates: Calm before the storm? Not quite...

While all seems eerily 'calm' on the Seattle tree protection front at the moment, with the more public focus of late on the parallel [ADU lawsuit against the City](#) going on, there's still activity behind the scenes – we cannot take our eyes off the prize, in other words.

There have been some meetings of the Seattle Urban Forest Commission and a **great point by point list of their current recommended revisions to D7** of the current Draft Ordinance [can be seen by clicking here](#).

Some highlights include (*not a complete list – please click through above to see*):

- **Require permits to remove any tree over 6 inches DBH. Base permits on measuring tree diameter and species identification, not canopy area as proposed in the draft.**
- **Adopt a policy of no net loss of canopy/year and a goal to increase canopy.**
- **Simplify replacement by requiring that all trees removed over 6” DBH, both on developed lots and lots being developed, in all zones, must be replaced, either on site, or by paying a replacement and maintenance fee to the city.**
- **Current draft requires homeowners and developers removing a tree/trees below canopy zone goal having to bring canopy up to zone goal. Apply this to developers, not homeowners.**
- **The number of trees required as replacement increases as the size of the tree removed is increased. This is what other cities like Portland OR, Medina WA, and Mercer Island do. Medina 6-10 inches – replant 1 tree, 10-24 inches -replant 2 trees, 24 inches and larger, etc.**
- **Target replacement to increase conifers, native trees and trees determined to respond best to climate changes**
- **Protect larger and older trees by reinstating the current exceptional tree protections. Use the definition given in [Director's Rule 2008-16](#).**
- and there's much more, as you will see by clicking the link mentioned above. As you can see, there's still plenty that needs to **change, update or be put back** into the current D7 draft – contact the Council, the Council PLUZ Committee specifically, and the Mayor today and LET THEM KNOW. Feel free to contact us with additional suggestions – we need to be united, direct and consistent in protecting Seattle's trees and urban forest.

Additional Reference Material beyond the list linked above:

- 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 urban trees are important:

[Is planting trees the best thing you can do for your health and the planet? - Guardian, 10/30](#)

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.**

Take Action/How You Can Help (cont.)

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

Other local developments: Eastside!

As Seattle does its usual 'endless committees talking forever' approach to government, several Eastside cities have been active on the tree front. Look below to the **Local/PNW Tree News** section and you will see several articles linked about positive developments in Bellevue, Kirkland and the recent pro-tree Mercer Island development crackdown that was a big, positive step. **Seattle, you are on notice.**

Tree Plantings Nov and Dec!

As this is the best season for tree planting, several of the groups below are holding them over the next several weekends – look at the **DIRT Corps, Earth Corps, Forterra, Seward Park Audubon, Nature Consortium** and **Trees for Seattle** events pages linked below.

Tree Apps, Tree Maps.

Since you're going to be on your phone anyway, why not identify the tree you're standing next to? Check out our new [Tree Apps page](#) and let us know your tree identification results! Also, the **SoCoCulture** crowdsourced [tree map page here](#).

Local Tree Activist Groups and Events:

NOTE: these are tree-supporting area groups, if they do not have tree-specific activities, we will simply link to their events calendar(s). If you have additional event(s) 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 watch the homepage for suggested action steps, or the mailing list for similar updates:

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

Seattle Urban Forestry Commission:

Meetings are posted at the link immediately below, usually 1st and 3rd Wed each month. ***Next two meetings are Dec 5 and Dec 12, 2018.*** [Meetings are held in Room 2750 of the Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue downtown.](#)

Plant Amnesty (Seattle area):

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

Bloedel Reserve (Bainbridge Island) – [Events listing](#)

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

E3 Washington (events across Greater Seattle) – [Events Calendar](#)

Earth Corps (events across Greater Seattle) – [Volunteer Calendar](#) (most environment restoration work events are on Saturdays each month, often several each day, not all in Seattle)

Forterra (events across Greater Seattle) – [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 Nov 17](#), [Sat Dec 1](#)

Sierra Club of WA – Wed 12/5, 7pm: [National Forest Committee Meeting](#) (Monthly)

Trees for Seattle – [Upcoming events](#) - regular Work Party, [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:

[Kirkland Planning Commission considers changes to tree code](#) - Kirkland Reporter, 11/7

[Kirkland council reviews preliminary budget](#) - Kirkland Reporter, 11/7

[Northwest natives bring winter gardens to life](#) – Kitsap Sun, 11/7

[Update on Trees on N 40th St – City Arborist Talk 7pm](#) - Wallyhood, 11/7

[Photo: The last tree of Fall](#) – Shoreline Area News, 11/2

[Volunteers help Kirkland commemorate Arbor Day](#) - Kirkland Reporter, 11/1

[Mercer Island invests in code compliance](#) – MI Reporter, 10/31

[Tree canopy coverage increases 8 percent in a decade](#) – MI Reporter, 10/30

[Maple Knolls Homeowners Association offers to donate an acre of forest to the City of Shoreline](#) – Shoreline Area News, 10/26

[Trees May Fall in 40th St. Revamp](#) - Wallyhood, 10/26

Letters to the Editor, Oct. 26, 2018 (PSE Trees, Willburton Hill Park forest mowdown) – Bellevue Reporter, 10/26

[Shoreline again recognized as a Tree City USA - celebrate by joining work party at Darnell Park](#) – Shoreline Area News, 10/25

[Tree Board Planting Event Oct 27 in LFP](#) – Shoreline Area News, 10/24

Local/PNW Tree News (cont.)

[Mercer Island celebrates start of tree planting season with Arbor Day](#) – MI Reporter, 10/24

[Why trees do — or don't — drop their leaves in fall](#) – Kitsap Sun, 10/24

[Letters to the Editor, Oct. 19, 2018 \(PSE Trees\)](#) – Bellevue Reporter, 10/29

[Let's Enlist Our Forests to Fight Climate Change](#) - Oregon Wild, 10/17

[Good trees for urban gardens: October — perfect time for planting trees](#) – MyEdmonds News, 10/14

[Bellevue completes citywide tree canopy assessment](#) – Bellevue Reporter, 10/12

[Think fall foliage is a New England thing? Go on a larch march](#) – SeaTimes, 10/10

[Bellevue residents hold rally to oppose Puget Sound Energy transmission line](#) – Bellevue Reporter, 10/8

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

[43-unit apartment building coming to Queen Anne: Construction on Arbor Place could begin at end of 2019](#) – Queen Anne & Magnolia News, 10/2

[Save Madison Valley working on case against The Madison](#) – Madison Park Times, 9/19

Tree News elsewhere:

[Tree planting in UK 'must double to tackle climate change'](#) – Guardian, 11/14

[EU states call for tough action on deforestation to meet 2020 UN goal](#) – Guardian, 11/12

[Seeing the Forest for the Trees](#) – Envirobites, 11/13

[Franklinia: a tree with history and beauty](#) – LA Times, 11/6

[The tree whisperer: why ex-comic Bob Gilbert went looking for poplars in Poplar:](#)
It is one of the most traffic-ridden, concreted-over areas of Britain. So what's the best way to tell Poplar's story? Through its vanishing trees, says the comedian turned nature writer – Guardian, 11/1

Tree News elsewhere (cont.)

[£60m 'greenery drive' to plant 10m trees in England](#) – Guardian, 10/29

[Bolsonaro backers wage war on the rainforest \(Brazil\)](#) – Guardian, 10/25

[Lovers' memorial beech wins England's Tree of the Year](#) – Guardian, 10/17

[Balsam woolly adelgid: the smallest and biggest reason to reconsider the importance of subalpine fir](#) (invasive species that kills Western US fir species – video from 6/18)

[The trees that make Southern California shady and green are dying. Fast](#) – LA Times, 4/17

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