



TreePAC Newsletter - Dec 2018/Jan 2019

Updates: Seattle City Council still do-nothing, McMansion-loving

Summarized from TreePAC's latest blog post, 12/31/18 ([click through for full post](#))

2018 ends without an update to Seattle's Tree Protection Ordinance – timeline from fall 2017:

- 1) SeaCC Planning, Land Use and Zoning Committee (PLUZ) announces in Nov 2017 a new effort to update Seattle's Tree protection Ordinance.
- 2) In Dec 2017, TreePAC and Friends of Seattle's Urban Forest again joined with other community groups to coordinate a renewed effort to update Seattle's Tree ordinance.
- 3) By Aug 2018 the PLUZ Committee produces 2 public drafts of a new ordinance and at least 8 internal drafts.
- 4) By Sept 2018, the Seattle City Council agrees with the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, TreePAC and other community groups/individuals that the city needs to slow down and draft a new Tree Ordinance that **actually protects existing trees**, as well as **requiring trees that were removed be replaced**.
- 5) In October and November of 2018, the Seattle City Council shifted gears to drafting and passing the City Budget – but then PLUZ moved back to working on the Mandatory Housing Affordability Ordinance. They have now tentatively said they would again work on the tree ordinance **in the second quarter of 2019 (!?!)**

Summary - The Seattle City Council is now **entering its tenth year** since they passed Council [Resolution 31138](#) urging an update of SMC 25.11 – Tree Protection Ordinance. The *Coalition for a Stronger Tree Ordinance* will continue to meet as an organization to build support across Seattle for a stronger tree ordinance as well as work with the City Council, Mayor and the Seattle Urban Forest Commission on specific language.

The Coalition continues to strongly urge supporters to continue to contact the Mayor's office and the City Council on a regular basis **to demand they finally enact a strong tree protection ordinance and enforce it!**

You can contact the Seattle Mayor at jenny.durkan@seattle.gov and the Seattle City Council at council@seattle.gov.

Points to emphasize include (next page):

1. Maintain protections for Exceptional Trees – “An exceptional tree is a tree that: 1. Is designated as a heritage tree by the City of Seattle; or 2. Is rare or exceptional by virtue of its size, species, condition, cultural/historic importance, age, and/or contribution as part of grove of trees “.
2. Lower the threshold for large exceptional trees to 24 inches diameter at 54 inches high (DBH).
3. Require removal permits for all trees 6”DBH and larger in all property zones across the city for both developed lots and lots undergoing development.
4. Base tree permits on diameter and species of trees, *not* tree canopy measurements.
5. Require all trees 6” DBH and larger that are removed to be replaced on site or a replacement and maintenance fee be paid to the city.
6. Require 2 week posting and yellow ribbons on trees on site for all permit applications for removal. Include on line public posting of applications and permit approvals.
7. Limit removal of significant trees non-exceptional trees to no more than 2 per year on developed property.
8. Maintain the prohibition on cutting down trees greater than 6” DBH on undeveloped lots.

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>

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

There are several ways (contact info and schedules for SeaCC 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 – all links verified again 1/6/2019):

http://treepac.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/citygovtcontact_and_sched_7-1-2018.pdf

Take Action: Tree Plantings in Jan!

There are many groups – refer to the Events links immediately below, group by group – that are doing tree plantings in January 2019, either on MLK day or otherwise – check them out and sign up for one near you!

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 Jan 2 and Jan 9, 2019.*** [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](#)
- MLK Day - Westcrest Park Forest Restoration Work Party: Sat, Jan 19

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

- Conversations with Richard Louv: Creator of the term “nature-deficit disorder,” Louv will speak to the importance of nature for the health and well-being of both our children and our world (Sat, Jan 26, Olympia)

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](#) - **at least 4 separate tree and forest-related service work events going on MLK day Jan 21 (greater Seattle area)**

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](#)
- updated 2019 volunteer calendar, many events in Jan including MLK day

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

(Local Tree Activist Groups and Events, cont.)

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](#)

- *MLK Reforestation Event: [Mon Jan 21](#)*

Sierra Club of WA – Wed 2/6, 7pm: [National Forest Committee Meeting](#) (Monthly)

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

- *MLK Reforestation Event (Licton Springs): [Mon Jan 21](#)*

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:

[110-foot sequoia in Port Angeles felled after 2½-year debate](#) - Everett Herald, 1/4

[Boeing announces nearly \\$250M in corporate giving](#) – Bellevue Reporter, 1/3

[Why are trees important for salmon? Let us count the ways](#) – Shoreline Area News, 1/3

[Shoreline City Council meets Monday - here's what to expect](#) – Shoreline Area News, 1/3

[Tacoma park: Removing trees a bad idea](#) – Tacoma News Tribune, 1/2

[Is IRG taking environmental protections seriously?](#) - Federal Way Mirror, 1/2

[Legal battle over Frogal Estates dropped](#) – Mukilteo Beacon, 1/2

[As Seattle Development Churns, a Battle to Save the City's Trees is Underway](#) – Seattle Business

[I don't like your building, PCC](#) – Madison Park Times, 12/31

(Local/PNW Tree News, cont.)

[Donna Hawkey: Eagles while gardening](#) – Shoreline Area News, 12/31

[Christmas trees from big box stores could infect Oregon forests](#) – Oregonian, 12/29

[Changes to Kirkland tree code aim to preserve canopy](#) – Kirkland Reporter, 12/24

[QACC responds to city's request to partially dismiss ADU appeal](#) – Queen Anne & Magnolia News, 12/21

[Safeway redevelopment team gathers community feedback](#) – Queen Anne & Magnolia News, 12/18

[For the Birds: A Tree Came Down Today](#) - Shoreline Area News, 12/15

[Shoreline Council Meeting Notes 12-10-18](#) - Shoreline Area News, 12/14

[Bothell buys last five acres of 'Back 9' on former Wayne Golf Course](#) – Bothell-Kenmore Reporter, 12/12

[Seattle City Council seeks partial dismissal of accessory dwelling unit FEIS appeal](#) – Queen Anne & Magnolia News, 12/10

[SPR replacing sidewalk along Lake Washington](#) – Madison Park Times, 12/7

[Your maples are being stolen and your property is being trashed. DNR officers try to stop it](#) – Tacoma News Tribune, 12/7

[Relocated beavers bring hope for Washington's habitat](#) – Kitsap Sun, 12/7

[Neighbors weigh in on Washington Arboretum environmental education center building concepts](#) – Madison Park Times, 12/6

['Save the Trees – and the Flags!' Friends of Lincoln Park has a request for you](#) – West Seattle Blog, 12/4

[This little seabird lives in tall trees that Washington state may cut down to support schools](#) – KUOW, 12/4

[Mayor must work with neighborhoods on Seattle's growth and affordability plans](#) – SeaTimes, 12/3

(Local/PNW Tree News, cont.)

[Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services/Tree Board Meeting Thursday](#) - Shoreline Area News, 12/1

[Innovative city forest Carbon Project launches in Shoreline Saturday](#) - Shoreline Area News, 12/1

[Con Mandatory Housing Affordability: A wake-up call for Seattle neighborhoods](#) - SeaTimes, 11/30

[LFP Hearing Examiner decision for habitat retention could save NW salmon](#) - Shoreline Area News, 11/28

[Queen Anne residents share frustrations over proposed 13th Avenue West development](#) - Queen Anne & Magnolia News, 11/28

[Old, giant log represents 'this town and our roots'](#) - Everett Herald, 11/20

[NW forests will weather climate change better than others, study says](#) - KUOW, 11/19

[Seattle Parks seeking feedback for Washington Arboretum environmental education center](#) - Madison Park Times, 11/17

[Good trees for urban gardens: Ideas for winter beauty](#) - My Edmonds News, 11/15

[No, a Discover Pass doesn't permit chopping down big trees](#) - Everett Herald, 11/6

Tree News elsewhere:

[The Earth's lungs are wheezing](#) - SeaPI, 1/4

[Top US trade official takes aim at Peru in logging dispute](#) - SeaTimes, 1/4

[Brazil gives farming interests greater sway over Amazon lands](#) - SeaPI, 1/2

[Dakota Access pipeline developer slow to replace some trees](#) - SeaTimes, 1/1

[Las Vegas urban forest could be added to national tree tally](#) - SeaPI, 12/29

(Tree News Elsewhere, cont.)

[A Forest of Ancient Trees, Poisoned by Rising Seas](#) – NY Times, 12/27

[Groups try to save historic tree from removal \(PA\)](#) – SeaPI, 12/27

[Couple helping replenish urban forest](#) – SeaPI, 12/16

[How to grow trees in a small garden](#) – Guardian, 12/16

[Master Gardener: Protecting plants from freezing weather](#) – SeaPI, 12/14

[Carbon conscious: how one man is shrinking his footprint](#) – SeaPI, 12/14

[Our environment is for life, not just for Christmas](#) – Guardian, 12/14

[Sheffield council holds out olive branch over tree-felling plans](#) – Guardian, 12/13

[Reforestation the world: the Australian farmer with 240m trees to his name](#) – Guardian, 12/13

[Initiative aims to restore American chestnut trees](#) – SeaPI, 12/13

[Commentary: The Midwest and climate change](#) – SeaPI, 12/12

[Plant a tree: Milan's ambitious plans to be cleaner, greener](#) – SeaPI, 12/12

[Judge dismisses lawsuit to block Montana forest project](#) – SeaPI, 12/10

[Using fallen trees for eco-friendly reconstruction promoted in disaster-hit northern Japan](#) – SeaPI, 12/8

[Are real or fake Christmas trees better for the planet?](#) - Guardian, 11/28

[Activists feared Brazil's Bolsonaro would accelerate Amazon deforestation. Now they think it's already happening.](#) – SeaPI, 12/7

[Conservancy: Retirement uproots tree protection](#) – SeaPI, 12/3

[Tokyo Olympics venues 'built with wood from threatened rainforests'](#) - Guardian, 11/29

[Michigan Senate OKs limits on local tree-cutting regulations](#) – 11/29

(Tree News Elsewhere, cont.)

[South Korea sends insecticide to North to save pine trees](#) – SeaTimes, 11/28

[Regenerating woodlands requires multiple approaches](#) – Guardian, 11/27

[Report urges Network Rail to rethink scale of line-side tree felling](#) – Guardian, 11/27

[We need to bring back the wildwoods of Britain to fight climate change](#) – Guardian, 11/26

[Urban neighborhoods are on the front lines of climate change](#) – SeaTimes, 11/19

[Pipeline protest charges dismissed against tree sitters](#) – SeaTimes, 11/16

[Study: Replanting Trees After Wildfires May Not Be Necessary](#) – KUOW, 11/9

[A forestry boom is turning Ireland into an ecological dead zone](#) – Guardian, 10/10

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

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