



## TreePAC Newsletter – June/July 2019

**Updates: Tree Activism in Seattle? No. Time. Like. The. Present.**

**Breaking News (as of July 5) - We have passed a big hurdle.** On Wednesday Councilmember Sally Bagshaw came to the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission. She told the Commission that she met with Mayor Jenny Durkan on Monday and **the Mayor has agreed to move forward this year with Councilmember Bagshaw and the City Council on working to pass an update to SMC 25.11 - the Tree Protection Ordinance.**

Things are coming together and if we continue to let the Council and Mayor know that the people in Seattle urgently want a stronger tree ordinance that works, we can make it happen!

An initial step is to thank Mayor Durkan and Councilmember Sally Bagshaw for moving this legislation forward now, before it's too late. Thank them by sending an e-mail to

**[jenny.durkan@seattle.gov](mailto:jenny.durkan@seattle.gov) and [sally.bagshaw@seattle.gov](mailto:sally.bagshaw@seattle.gov).**

Essential to this progress was the work of the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) in providing a draft revision of the Council's last tree ordinance draft to Councilmember Sally Bagshaw as she requested. ***When Councilmember Bagshaw was asked on Wednesday if she saw any problems with the draft, she responded with a no.*** She gave the UFC permission to circulate the UFC draft, which is linked below. The first 5 pages of the document are an outline of what is in the draft, followed by the actual UFC draft ordinance:

Draft UFC revision to Council D7 draft - Tree Regulations:  
**[Tree and Urban Forest Protection and Land Use Regulations](#)**

The plan moving forward is for the Council and City Departments to

- 1) Review the draft (including a parallel review by the City Attorney);
- 2) Complete a SEPA review;
- 3) File the draft with the Council Budget and Neighborhood Committee chaired by Councilmember Bagshaw by the beginning of September;
- 4) Circulate the draft for public comment including holding forums in September in both North and South Seattle;
- 5) Put adequate funding in the budget to fund implementation of the ordinance; and
- 6) Pass the Legislation in the first two weeks of December after the budget is adopted.

So there are a lot of steps in this process, but it is moving. **We can do this but we need to coordinate our efforts as tree advocates so that we can speak in unison and work in unison to be most effective.**

In addition to our priority being updating and successfully passing the Tree Ordinance as provided above, there are many new tree-activist groups on our list, and they are being included in the outreach from this newsletter.

There have also been some really positive studies of late on trees' ability to help address climate change, linked below. And even with an election coming later this year that will likely see huge turnover on the SeaCC starting next year, there's at least a few candidates now talking about Seattle Trees – it's our job to make sure they ALL do.

So as always, we offer the 'what can I do' - but it's more diverse than before, with a lot of different things going on and different possibilities.

1) **Tree Ordinance work** – See above. Also, here's the ongoing [list of actions you can take](#) and points to include, including contact info.

2) Here are some **links regarding the current candidates for SeaCC**, and input you can give the SeaTimes to ask them in turn about TREES:

<https://projects.seattletimes.com/2019/local/who-should-lead-seattle/>

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/tell-us-what-questions-do-you-want-seattles-dozens-of-city-council-candidates-to-answer/>

3) We have included **several new groups** in the Groups & Events section below, and a new **Social Media** section. If you have additions to suggest on either, please let us know so we can add them.

4) If you have or know of a **Heritage Tree** – **Get it in the Registry!** More detail on how [here](#) and [here](#).

5) Any or all of the articles linked below in our News section(s) are fair game for supplying to the City Council and Mayor re tree protection – that's why we include them. Of special note is the [Guardian article](#) about the huge possibilities for helping climate change through planting trees in a recent study, **but**, please make sure to include that PROTECTING trees is just as important – **existing trees already have** a huge positive effect on climate change, carbon capture and habitat - We need BOTH.

6) [The Last 6,000](#), a new **Plant Amnesty** effort, is a civic campaign to locate Seattle's remaining majestic trees. Have you located a [majestic](#) tree, or a few, in your neighborhood or around the city? Share them with the campaign, and they will count and map them! Google and email input forms on their website at the above link (scroll to bottom 3<sup>rd</sup> of the page).

## **Other Cities and places: tree efforts and situations:**

[Bethlehem working with homeowners to map town's trees](#) – **SeaPI**, 6/28

[Montgomery looks to add protections for trees with new ordinance](#) – **SeaPI**, 6/14

[Trees For Houston wraps up spring planting season](#) – **SeaPI**, 6/13

[Urban Roots: New York City recently completed an effort to plant another million trees —this time to help tackle climate change](#) – **Nature Conservancy**, 5/31

[How to tell if trees are getting enough water? Ask an expert](#) – **Oregonian**, 4/11

[Why Detroit Residents Pushed Back Against Tree-Planting](#) – **Citylab**, 1/11

## **Social Media** (send us more if you have them! - K):

**Vanishing Seattle:** [Instagram feed](#), regularly now including tree destruction

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

**DIRT Corps:** <https://www.facebook.com/theDIRTcorps/>

**Nature Consortium:** <https://www.facebook.com/naturec>

**The Seattle Lorax:** <https://twitter.com/seattlelorax>

**Seattle Nature Alliance:** <https://www.facebook.com/SeattleNatureAlliance>

**Trees For Seattle:** [Facebook](#)

**Trees and Health App:** <http://map.treesandhealth.org/>

**Tree Apps:** Check out our [Tree Apps page](#) and identify the tree you are standing in front of! Also, the SoCoCulture crowdsourced [tree map page here](#).

## **Local Tree Activist Groups and Events:**

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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 – TreePAC.

**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: Please check <https://www.treepac.org/> or [friends.urbanforests.org](https://www.friendsurbanforests.org).

### **Seattle Urban Forestry Commission:**

Meetings are posted at the link immediately below, usually 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed each month. *Next meetings are **July 10, Aug 7, Aug 14, Sept 4 and Sept 11, 2019.*** Meetings are held in Room 2750 of the Seattle Municipal Tower, 27<sup>th</sup> floor, [700 Fifth Avenue](#).

**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) – [more info](#)

**E3 Washington** (Environment, Equity, Economy) – [Western WA Events Calendar](#)

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

**Forterra** (Greater Seattle area) – [Events](#)

**Green Seattle Partnership** – [Become a Forest Steward program](#)

**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](#)  
[Drop in Saturdays, Tree Planting at KC 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 8050 35th Ave NE in Seattle, 6-7pm.

**SER Northwest** – click here for their [Events Calendar](#)

Webinar July 10, 12pm PDT: [The Future of Urban Natural Area Land Mgmt](#)  
(reg page linked on event listing, free webinar!)

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

**Sierra Club of WA** – Wed 9/4, 10/2 @7pm: [National Forest Committee Meeting](#)

**Thornton Creek Alliance** – [Upcoming events here](#) (click through)

**Trees for Seattle:**

[Events](#) [Tree Work Parties](#) [Tree Walks](#) [Report Illegal Tree Removal](#) (scroll down)

**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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[Open letter to council: Increase tree canopy | Guest View](#) – **Edmonds Beacon, 7/3**

[Seattle City Council eases accessory dwelling unit regulations](#) - **Queen Anne News, 7/3**

[These very hungry caterpillars are eating WA forests — and fueling wildfires](#) – **Crosscut, 7/2**

[Mayor Durkan, veto Seattle's neighborhood attack](#) – **SeaTimes, 7/2**

[Seattle City Council OKs more and larger backyard cottages; restricts McMansions](#) – **SeaTimes, 7/2**

[New backyard cottage rules allow more density in Seattle's single-family neighborhoods](#) – **Crosscut, 7/1**

[Save Seattle neighborhoods](#) – **SeaTimes, 6/30**

[A former bustling Army post became Seattle's largest park, and potentially affordable housing](#) – **SeaTimes, 6/27** (*and we already know what the word 'potentially' means – likely McMansions. - K.*)

[King County seeks to preserve 5,000 acres for parks by the end of 2020](#) – **SeaTimes, 6/27**

## ***Local/PNW Tree News, cont.***

With wildfires looming, a Seattle artist speaks for the trees – **Crosscut, 6/26**

Seattle Will Open Clean-Air Shelters As Relief From Wildfire Smoke – **CityLab, 6/25**

*(this article is here to show how cutting down urban trees means other expensive, after the fact solutions that don't work anywhere close to as well as the long-proven "technology" known as "trees" – K.)*

'Green New Deal' for Seattle? City Council members make pledge, details to come – **SeaTimes, 6/30**

Put the brakes on Seattle growth – **SeaTimes, 6/25**

Letter to the editor: Time is now to enhance city's tree canopy – **MyEdmonds News, 6/25**

Scene in Edmonds: Tree removal – **MyEdmonds News, 6/24**

Native Tree Event at the Duwamish Longhouse – **West Seattle Blog, 6/22**

Climate protection: We all have a role | City Corner – **Edmonds Beacon, 6/21**

From toxic site to green space: New Tacoma park exemplifies civic reinvention – **SeaTimes, 6/19**

City Hall's idea of housing on golf courses? It turns out the people made a law against that – **SeaTimes, 6/19**

Committee tweaks accessory dwelling unit legislation – **Queen Anne News, 6/19**

Ronald Bog Park wetland mitigation to begin in July – **Shoreline Area News, 6/18**

Council takes feedback on proposed ADU legislation – **Queen Anne News, 6/13**

City to host Square Park Master Plan open house – **Kirkland Reporter, 6/13**

Debunking some myths about Seattle growth and the great golf-course debate – **SeaTimes, 6/12**

Seattle considering what to do with 4 public golf courses and 528 acres of green space they cover – **SeaTimes, 6/7**

QACC won't let park decommissioning slide – **Queen Anne News, 6/6**

Bring back our Seattle summers — invest in forest health – **SeaTimes, 6/5**

Wait for Seattle City Council elections before vote on backyard cottages – **SeaTimes, 6/5**

***Local/PNW Tree News, cont.***

Committee gets to work on ADU legislation – **Madison Park Times, 6/4**

Blight ravages the western hemlock, Washington's state tree – **Everett Herald, 6/2**

New ban on 'McMansions' would dramatically change Seattle's house-building – **SeaTimes, 5/30**

More Than Just Trees: Native Tree Ecology & Identification Program – **West Seattle Blog, 5/26**

Friends of the Farms planning Food Forest, park in Bainbridge – **Kitsap Sun, 5/22**

Olympic Park's rain forests more likely to fall victim to wildfires in drought – **SeaPI, 5/21**

Saving Seattle's last 'exceptional' trees means getting to know them – **Crosscut, 5/21**

Salem's flowering cherry trees saved from the ax – **Oregonian, 5/17**

Eversource rights of way: Tree removal has some residents seeing red – **SeaPI, 5/16**

Fighting for clean air in one of Seattle's most polluted neighborhoods – **Crosscut, 5/13**

Meet the Republicans who believe in climate change – **Crosscut, 5/4**

Good trees for urban gardens: Crabapple in your future? – **MyEdmonds News, 5/1**

In North Seattle, Native people reclaim a whitewashed spring – **Crosscut, 4/24**

Seattle wants to make developers create affordable housing. How's that going in Portland? – **SeaTimes, 3/6**



## **Tree News elsewhere:**

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[Tree planting 'has mind-blowing potential' to tackle climate crisis](#) – Guardian, 7/4

[Best way to fight climate change? Plant a trillion trees](#) – Tacoma News Tribune, 7/4

[Officials confirm fungal tree disease found on Maui](#) – Tacoma News Tribune, 7/4

[Brazil: huge rise in Amazon destruction under Bolsonaro, figures show](#) – Guardian, 7/3

[Need a job? Here's your chance to plant trees, improve trails and respond to natural disasters](#) – Tacoma News Tribune, 7/3

[Appeals court: Tree-cutting for Adirondacks trails illegal](#) – Tacoma News Tribune, 7/3

[Federal-state program to tackle Idaho forest projects](#) – Tacoma News Tribune, 7/2

[Death of Texas trees yields model for future recovery plans](#) – SeaPI, 6/27

[Chuck Martin: Starting right in planting trees](#) – SeaPI, 6/27

[Michael Potter: How to assess tree damage](#) – SeaPI, 6/27

[Better Satellite Images to Help Save Rainforests, Norway Says](#) – NYT, 6/26

[Specieswatch: the ancient alder is a tree for our times](#) – Guardian, 6/25

[Crews start clearing land in Schodack for massive Amazon warehouse](#) (NY state) – SeaPI, 6/24

[Robert Miller: Tree-huggers, worry not for the leafless sycamores](#) – SeaPI, 6/22

[6 companies using fabric derived from trees to make some of our favorite products — including Patagonia and Allbirds](#) – SeaPI, 6/21

[Author inspired by Columbia class publishes new book](#) - Tacoma News Tribune, 6/21

[Can planting billions of trees save the planet?](#) - Guardian, 6/19

[The iconic tree thought to have inspired 'The Lorax' has suddenly died — and the whole species is at risk of extinction](#) – SeaPI, 6/19

[Mother discovers memorial tree to late daughter chopped down](#) – SeaPI, 6/19



## ***Tree News Elsewhere, cont.***

The Energy 202: Trump administration seeks to ease way for logging in national forests – **SeaPI, 6/13**

Forest twice size of UK destroyed in decade for big consumer brands – **Guardian, 6/11**

Paris Wants to Grow 'Urban Forests' at Famous Landmarks – **Citylab, 6/19**

Famous tree fights for survival after more than 300 years – **SeaPI, 6/9**

Warsaw's plastic palm tree 'dies' to mark climate threat – **SeaTimes, 6/7**

A new strategy to regrow a forest on abandoned mineland: Start by tearing up the earth – **Allegheny Front, 6/7**

New Jersey town's nearly 600-year-old oak tree falls down – **SeaPI, 6/7**

New project aiming to restore and replant Texas A&M trees – **SeaPI, 6/6**

Summer sustainability: Simple ways to make your yard more eco-friendly – **SeaPI, 6/4**

Study: US West forest fires release less carbon than thought – **SeaPI, 6/4**

Stand-alone photo: Kyoto – **SeaPI, 5/29**

Neighbors mourn old oak tree that falls in Latham – **SeaPI, 5/25**

What 'rewilding' really means for forestry and heather moorland – **Guardian, 5/24**

Want to understand the biodiversity crisis? Look at trees in your yard – **SeaPI, 5/23**

Cutting trees for parking? First Selectman see threat to town's character – **SeaPI, 5/20**

This startup plants 10 trees for every item it sells — here's what its clothing is like in real life, beyond the Instagram hype – **SeaPI, 5/16**

We have only one planet, and it is speaking to us – **SeaTimes, 5/15**

The Uncertain Future of D.C.'s Cherry Blossoms – **Citylab, 4/9**

## **Books and other reading:**

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A book originally published in the 1950s gives a crucial glimpse of explorers, loggers and homesteaders of Olympic Peninsula – SeaTimes, 5/22

Book World: The air we breathe may be slowly killing us - SeaPI, 5/17

It's all about the trees (blog post) – SeaPI, 4/10

All About the Trees Part 2 (blog post) – SeaPI, 4/29

## **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 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](mailto:ovaltinelatte@hotmail.com) to be added.