

From: [Janet Way](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Jessica Simulcik Smith](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Code Amendments for Tonight's Meeting
Date: Monday, February 26, 2018 5:31:28 PM
Attachments: [Comment letter on Development Code Amendments.docx](#)

Dear Council,

Please consider this comment for the Development Code Amendments for 2/26/18.

See attached.

Sincerely,

Janet Way



c/o Janet Way
940 NE 147th Street
Shoreline, WA 98155

February 26, 2018

Shoreline City Council

c/o Debbie Tarry
17500 Midvale Ave N
Shoreline, WA 98133

Subject: Shoreline Development Code Amendments

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed **Shoreline Development Code Tree Permit Exemptions proposal**.

We believe that the proposal to exempt Trees from Cutting Permits in SMC 20.50.310 will pose adverse harm and negative impacts to the environment and could pose a public safety risk.

Shoreline Preservation Society is a non-profit with a long history of protecting the environment and the public interest, and we request that all documents, comments and articles related to this proposal should be placed in the public record.

We request "party of record status" with legal standing. And we ask to be included in all notices of this project going forward.

We are concerned about this proposal to exempt cutting significant trees within the MUR 70 zoning area from permits. There are numerous reasons to be concerned, but one stands out. The proposal states that a tree 30" DBH or larger would require a permit, but apparently a large tree which is on 29" could in theory be cut by any guy with a chain saw and a pick-up truck? It seems to us, that would be a serious safety risk. (This does not apply to any emergency situation.) And in theory, anyone just outside that zone who wants or needs to cut a 29" tree would be require to get a permit? That is fundamentally unfair.

There are obviously many reasons why these hundreds of trees in the MUR 70 should be protected if possible.

To mention just a few reasons: beauty, shade, climate change, clean air protection, oxygen supply, stormwater retention, water quality, quality of life, property value, and neighborhood character. The City has gone to great lengths to count our street trees, and in fact it has been found that a huge number of them, thousands are actually coniferous trees (Evergreens.) These trees offer additional benefits for reducing carbon and improving air quality. We also go to a great deal of expense to upgrade our tree canopy. And if you ask the average person why they moved to Shoreline, our tree canopy is among the top three reasons. "Schools, affordability and trees."

Why can't we amend our code to incentivize developers and homeowners to save as many as possible, by offering a bonus of some type to retain a percentage of trees? Add an extra floor or change the configuration of a building to accommodate some large trees on the property?

Given the fact that the public cares so much about our tree canopy that actually appears in our logo and gives our city a distinctive green character, let's make retaining these trees wherever possible in the High-Density areas. This will soften the impact of the extreme changes that are coming and garner respect from residents.

Shoreline is a "Tree City, USA." Let's live up to the label and create a code that honors those iconic living residents that bring so much to our lives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Way

Shoreline Preservation Society

cc. Shoreline City Council



shoreline3



shoreline4



shoreline5