

Carla Hoekzema

From: Barry McGurl <barrymcgurl@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 4:13 PM
To: Plancom
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tree code meeting on December 2.

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Dear Commissioners and City Staff.

I ask that during your December 2nd Tree Code Meeting, and in subsequent deliberations, you prioritize protection of Shoreline's existing urban forest of large conifers.

These large trees provide shade, absorb carbon dioxide, stabilize soil, mitigate the flood potential of storms, and provide habitat for wildlife, especially raptors. Most importantly, our urban forest already exists and helps mitigate the effects of climate change today. It will take many years for newly-planted trees to grow enough to provide these benefits, and the types of smaller trees typically planted on new developments will never become large enough to replace the contribution of our native conifers.

Today the local newspapers reported that the State of Washington is committed to heavily replanting our coniferous forests, in large part to mitigate the effects of climate change. I ask that you contribute to this effort by protecting our existing urban forest from development.

Thank you.

Barry McGurl.
Shoreline resident.