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From: [Nancy Morris](#)

Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 2:37:53 PM

To: [City Council](#)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Important to support new protective Tree Codes presented by the Tree Preservation Code Team.

Sensitivity: Normal

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To Shoreline City Council and city staff:

RE: Please support the new protective Tree Codes as presented by the *Tree Preservation Code Team*. [See Study Item 9 \(b\)](#).

Many climate experts consider last November 2021, 26th "Conference of the Parties" (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland to be a monumental failure to address our global climate emergency. So where does humanity go from here after delegates from 190 nations could not agree on what to do. C.J. Polychroniou, internationally known political economist stated: "The outcomes of international climate summits are very discouraging, but the work done at the grassroots level by researchers and activists alike in the fight against humanity's greatest existential crisis is quite inspiring."

PROTECTIVE TREE CODES

One hope is that localized advocacy can help mitigate the worse of climate change. In Shoreline one way local advocacy can help is to raise awareness on preserving our mature trees; climate scientists have stated numerous times that mature trees are our allies to help mitigate climate emergencies. The *Tree Preservation Code Team* (Shoreline citizen non-profit) is doing just that with its protective tree code amendments before you now, the City Council. Many Shoreline residents are counting on the city council to require City Staff reconsider the 6 codes denied by staff. Further the council needs to follow the guidance of informed citizen scientists and professionals (working/retired) who have researched and drafted these protective code amendments for over two years now. We know the City is directed by the Comprehensive Plan (*Policies CP1*) to "encourage and facilitate public participation in appropriate planning processes," so we expect and respect your commitment for due diligence when studying these new protective code amendments. In your study of the proposed code amendments and definitions from the Tree Preservation Code Team, note the code amendments apply in general to new residential, MUR-35, MUR-45, and Town Center-4 zones only. Amendments 5, 8, 9 apply to R-8 thru R-48, MUR-35', MUR-45" and Town Center-4. These proposed tree codes do not apply to development zones of Commercial Business, Mixed Business, Neighborhood Business, Town Center 1-2-3 and MUR-70. On these 7 zones, all trees can be removed, no tree replacements are required. This is why the trees on new multi-family residential, MUR-35 and MUR-45 zones are critical to Shoreline's tree canopy. The intent of public participation is to protect and save more Significant trees in Shoreline for the benefit of us all and not add to council and staff work load.

MATURE TREES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

It is imperative that we save more mature trees as much as possible for the health of people, wildlife habitat, and to also improve the resilience of low tree canopy neighborhoods. Seattle Audubon states, "Trees are one of our best hopes for becoming a climate-resilient city. They are one of the cheapest, simplest, and most effective tools for reducing temperatures in urban areas. The benefits trees provide extend far beyond the parcels where they stand. They are essential community assets." It has become a serious social justice issue to not strive to preserve mature trees (see social

justice references list at end of this letter). When anyone takes the time to observe, they will see that throughout most affluent communities there are greater tree canopy in these neighborhoods than found in lower income neighborhoods or areas now being taken over by apartment complexes, condominium complexes, and townhome complexes because the mature trees were destroyed without consideration for designing around the buildings. This is not the case in all cities. In Bellevue, WA there is a code mandate to build and design complexes around mature trees. In Portland, OR, permits can be denied to cut down mature healthy trees in a development and the developer is encouraged to design around the mature trees. A Portland, OR Urban Forestry representative says cities are facing what is called a “Green Squeeze.” Rapid urban development is filling in spaces with more and more buildings and there is less and less space for our trees.

So we are faced with the urgency to design cities (includes advance sidewalk design, building designs for climate change, new tree protective codes, pervious walking surfaces etc.) to accommodate buildings and our precious mature trees and this continues to be a challenge that will take caring and thinking outside of the box. The urgency is there to rise to this task as we are all faced with a moral imperative to do what we can to mitigate climate change -- again one hope is localized advocacy by dedicated informed citizens. Please support these new protective tree code amendments from the Shoreline citizen group, *Tree Preservation Code Team*, as they have been presented by them and join local jurisdictions who are already ahead of Shoreline with their own protective tree codes.

Regards,
Nancy Morris
Shoreline, WA

References including Environmental Justice references further down the list:

“Climate Diplomacy Failed Again. Only Movements From Below Can Save the Planet”
<https://truthout.org/articles/climate-diplomacy-failed-again-only-movements-from-below-can-save-the-planet/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=3d8d627a-db6a-4cb3-947b-839015db7ebd>

“Chomsky and Pollin: Protests Outside of COP26 Offered More Hope Than the Summit”
<https://truthout.org/articles/chomsky-and-pollin-protests-outside-of-cop26-offered-more-hope-than-the-summit/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=3d8d627a-db6a-4cb3-947b-839015db7ebd> (The following quote essentially summarizes the outcome of COP26: “May I just say to all delegates I apologize for the way this process has unfolded and I am deeply sorry,” said Alok Sharma, the British politician who served as president for COP26”).

Trees and Tree Retention in City of Bellevue, WA
<https://bellevuewa.gov/citygovernment/departments/development/zoning-and-land-use/zoning-requirements/trees> . Bellevue codes mandate designing buildings around existing mature trees in the landscape.

“The Power of One Tree - The Very Air We Breathe” by Joanna Mounce Stancil, U.S. Forest Service in *Forestry* Jun 03, 2019 <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2015/03/17/power-one-tree-very-air-we-breathe> It is proposed that "one large tree can provide a day’s supply of oxygen for up to four people” . Mature conifers and other northwest native trees can and do sequester carbon, reduce street temperatures, and improve air quality by absorbing pollutants.

“What Technology Could Reduce Heat Deaths? Trees.” <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/02/climate/trees-cities-heat-waves.html>, from the New York Times July 2, 2021

“Urban Forests and Birds That Need Them” |Seattle Audubon Program Meeting July 15, 2021
<https://vimeo.com/575918179> **“Why do we need urban forests? As Ed Dominguez, Lead Naturalist of Seward Park Audubon and Josh Morris, Seattle Audubon’s Urban Conservation Manager, both shared how**

trees in urban areas are a vital community resource, and are important for mitigating the effects of climate change. We hope you will continue to learn and speak out. Together, we can make sure Seattle reaches its stated goal for tree canopy coverage to protect and grow a healthy urban forest that benefits everybody.”

Urban Forestry Commission (Portland, OR): Eleven volunteer advocates for the urban forest, advancing the public conversation and advising the City of Portland: <https://www.portland.gov/trees/ufc/ufc>

Environmental Justice References:

KUOW, (June 23, 2021) “Heat wave could hit Seattle area neighborhoods differently – possible 20 degrees difference”: <https://www.kuow.org/stories/heat-wave-could-hit-seattle-area-neighborhoods-differently-possible-20-degrees-difference-e15e>

Seattle Times (June 23, 2021): New maps of King County, Seattle show that some communities are harder hit by heat waves: <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/new-maps-of-king-county-seattle-show-how-some-communities-are-harder-hit-by-heat-waves/>

Seattle Times, (July 5, 2021) “Communities of color are the ‘first and worst’ hurt by climate change; urgent action needed to change course”: <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/communities-of-color-are-the-first-and-worst-hurt-by-climate-change-urgent-action-needed-to-change-course/>

New York Times, (Opinion, June 30, 2021) “Since When Have Trees Existed Only for Rich Americans?”: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/06/30/opinion/environmental-inequity-trees-critical-infrastructure.html>

National Geographic, (June 17, 2021) “Los Angeles confronts its shady divide”: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/article/los-angeles-confronts-its-shady-divide-feature>