

**Archived:** Monday, March 21, 2022 10:57:03 AM

**From:** [Boni Biery](#)

**Sent:** Friday, March 18, 2022 9:31:20 PM

**To:** [Betsy Robertson](#); [Chris Roberts](#); [Doris McConnell](#); [Eben Pobee](#); [John Ramsdell](#); [Keith Scully](#); [Laura Mork](#)

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Permit Requirement for 24" dbh Trees

**Sensitivity:** Normal

**Attachments:**

[22 Mar 21 -24dbh Tree Permits.pdf](#);

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Shoreline. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please read the attached letter prior to the Monday, Mar 21st council meeting.

Thanks for your thoughtful study.

always,  
Boni

March 18, 2022

City of Shoreline  
17500 Midvale Ave N  
Shoreline, WA 98133

City Council:

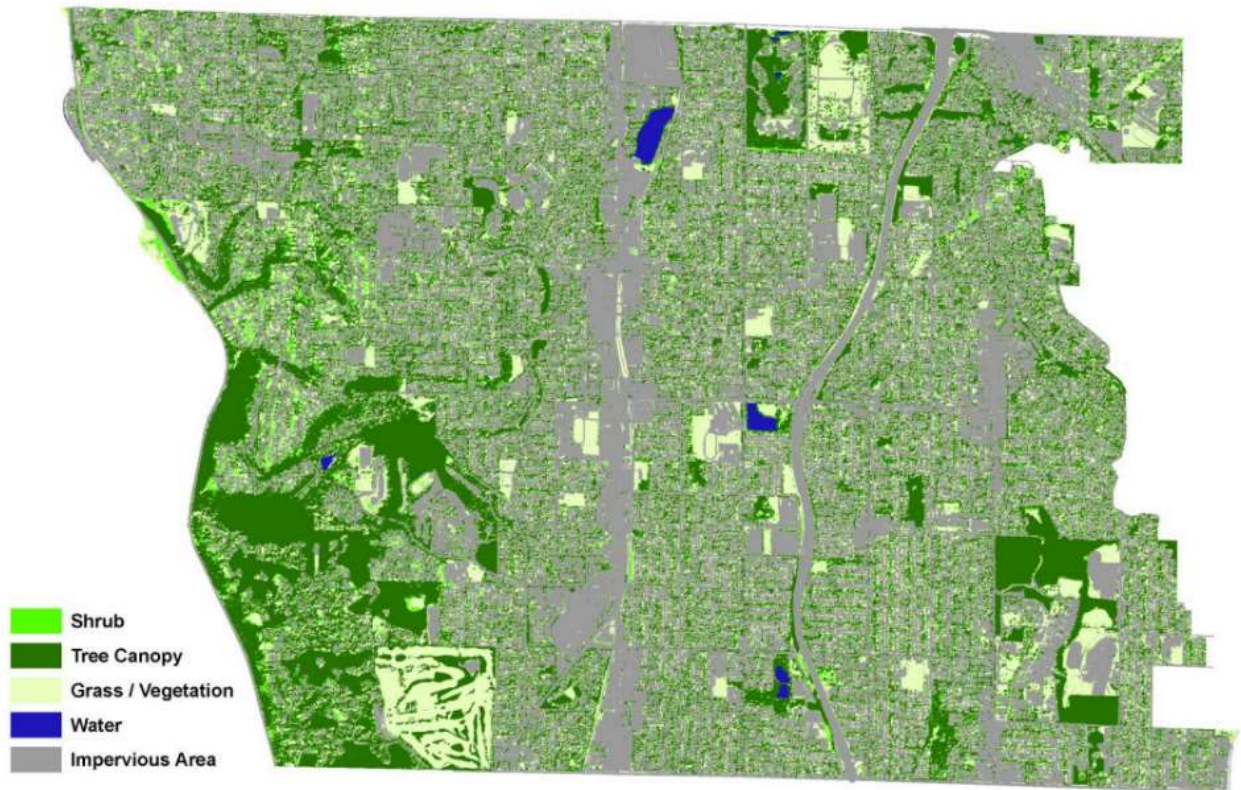
Betsy Roberston	<a href="mailto:brobertson@shorelinewa.gov">brobertson@shorelinewa.gov</a>
Chris Roberts	<a href="mailto:croberts@shorelinewa.gov">croberts@shorelinewa.gov</a>
Doris Mc Connell	<a href="mailto:dmccconnell@shorelinewa.gov">dmccconnell@shorelinewa.gov</a>
Eben Pobee	<a href="mailto:epobee@shorelinewa.gov">epobee@shorelinewa.gov</a>
John Ramsdell	<a href="mailto:jramsdell@shorelinewa.gov">jramsdell@shorelinewa.gov</a>
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Dear Councilmembers;

I understand that one of the original tree codes submitted in November 2020, will be discussed by Council on Monday –the requirement of a tree removal permit for 24” diameter at breast height (DBH) trees and larger. I feel it is of utmost importance this amendment be passed.

Here are some reasons why: Shortly after Shoreline became a city it was voted most livable in Washington more than once. A big part of that was due to our neighborhood trees. People moved away from the concrete jungle to a more enriching life. Many cities, even locally were envious of our canopy. The 2011 AMEC Urban Canopy Assessment documented our 2009 tree coverage at 30.6% citywide and, I believe, it included all the land area and trees along I-5. Here’s graphic excluding pavement (impervious surface) only -

Figure 2: Shoreline Land Cover Data – 5 class map



City of Shoreline, WA. Urban Tree Canopy Assessment Project – AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc. pg 11

However, simple observation reveals it has fallen precipitously since then. Additionally, most “replacement” trees are street trees. Which are typically:

- Small species non-native selected to stay small
- Mostly non-native
- Deciduous (leafless in winter)
- Seldom live more than a decade before requiring replacement
- Demand an unending cycle of high maintenance at tax payer expense

Everyone is aware of the many development projects around the city which are literally logging the canopy and hauling our big evergreens to the sawmill. In most cases, these will be replaced by either a building structure or more street trees. So, those tall evergreens will never return since their places to grow have been taken. Requiring a permit:

- Affords the opportunity for the city to provide homeowner education and training about the health and value of their trees
- Allows the city to assure only qualified arborists are doing removals of large trees

Here's a look at what we are losing relative to the life of our most common, native evergreen, the Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*.)

### **Estimating Tree Age**

“Estimating tree age can be done through the use of the species' growth factor. For instance, the growth factor for **Douglas Fir** trees is 5. This means that **in 5 years, the tree's diameter at 4.5 to 5 feet above ground increases by one inch.**

Since directly measuring the tree's diameter is difficult, we can use the value of pi to help out. Here's how to estimate the age of a Douglas Fir by measuring the tree's circumference:

1. Locate the spot on the trunk that is 4.5 to 5 feet above the ground. If the ground is sloped, find a middle point in the slope.
2. Measure the circumference of the tree at that height in inches.
3. Multiple that measurement by 1.6. The result is the approximate age of the tree.”

<http://www.enataitrees.com/estimating-tree-age>

### **Do the Math**

<b>Douglas Fir DBH</b>	<b>Est Avg Age in Years</b>
24”	38.4
30”	48.0
36”	57.6
42”	67.2
48”	76.8
54”	86.4
60”	96.0

Douglas firs are native, and well adapted. They grow quickly. It has taken the average 24” dbh Doug fir a little over 1.5 human generations (or the 38.4 yrs shown) to reach 24” dbh. A long time for us, but not the tree. It’s just a toddler that will continue to grow providing increased climate change mitigation every year for another 20 generations **if** it is allowed to do so. Requiring a permit to remove trees with dbh of 24” or more will protect the trees and their place in our neighborhoods for future generations.

*“Evergreens are especially important for managing stormwater because they have leaves in the wettest winter months to capture the rain before it hits the ground”*

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/509615>  
Native and Evergreen Project – Portland, OR

Figure 4 summarizes the high-level findings about areas and the relative magnitude of vulnerability to climate change impacts across the Shoreline community. Detailed results from the assessment are provided in a series of five factsheets available for reference by City staff and the community on the City's website at: <http://www.shorelinewa.gov/our-city/environment/sustainable-shoreline/climate-water-energy/adaptation-resilience>.

Figure 4. Sector-specific vulnerabilities to climate change in Shoreline



City of Shoreline Vulnerability Assessment Jun 2020, pg 7



Saving majestic, mature, evergreen trees that do the work of retaining carbon, supporting wildlife habitat, improving air and water quality, and mitigating stormwater runoff and urban heat island effects that are increasing in Shoreline is both worthwhile and necessary. Shoreline is fortunate to have these trees and protecting them will serve the community well, long into the future. Your decision can protect/preserve the future livability and climate resiliency of Shoreline for the generations beyond us.

I implore you to vote to enact the amendment requiring permits for removal of trees of 24" dbh or more.

always,  
Boni Biery – Resident, taxpayer, & voter