

**Archived:** Monday, March 21, 2022 11:50:57 AM

**From:** [John Norris](#)

**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2022 11:42:34 AM

**To:** [Laura Mork](#)

**Cc:** [Debbie Tarry](#); [Rachael Markle](#); [Steve Szafran](#); [Pollie McCloskey](#); [Heidi Costello](#)

**Subject:** RE: questions

**Sensitivity:** Normal

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Laura,

Please see staff's responses (in red below) to your questions on the tree-related batch development code amendments. We will share these with the full Council and also include them in the green folder for tonight's discussion. Please let me know if you have any additional questions. Thanks!

Sincerely,  
John Norris

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**From:** Debbie Tarry <[dtarry@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:dtarry@shorelinewa.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2022 6:33 AM

**To:** Rachael Markle <[rmarkle@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:rmarkle@shorelinewa.gov)>; Steve Szafran <[sszafran@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:sszafran@shorelinewa.gov)>

**Cc:** John Norris <[johnorris@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:johnorris@shorelinewa.gov)>; Pollie McCloskey <[pmccloskey@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:pmccloskey@shorelinewa.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: questions

Hi –

Laura sent these questions in on Sunday. Could you please prepare a response. Please make sure to send to John and Pollie (you can copy me) as I am out of the office today. Thanks.

**Debbie Tarry**

City Manager | City of Shoreline

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**From:** Laura Mork <[lmork@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:lmork@shorelinewa.gov)>

**Sent:** Sunday, March 20, 2022 9:13 PM

**To:** Debbie Tarry <[dtarry@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:dtarry@shorelinewa.gov)>

**Cc:** Pollie McCloskey <[pmccloskey@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:pmccloskey@shorelinewa.gov)>

**Subject:** questions

what additional study does the City feel is required regarding the change to 6" dbh?

Staff listed an initial list of pros and cons of changing the definition of significant trees to 6" in Council's staff report. Staff's concerns include the removal of larger, more mature trees in place of removing smaller trees, the removal of more significant trees will require more replacement trees that may not fit on the development site. Additional study could include looking at the City's last [Urban Tree Canopy Assessment](#) to analyze the potential impacts of changing the dbh of a significant tree. This may include revising the data of the 2018 report or potentially conducting a new report in the future. Additionally, staff would look at TRAKiT (City's permit system) Data and consult with developers to see if the revised dbh would have changed significant tree replacement and retention on specific development sites. Staff would also consult with an arborist to better understand the carrying capacity (how many replacement trees a site can support) and research other City codes for comparison, code language and supporting information. If given more time, staff would recommend additional public outreach as this change could have an impact on the many homeowners in addition to developers.

how long would it take to complete this study?

Depending on the level of analysis supported by Council, an update to the existing Urban Tree Canopy Assessment would take many

months, or waiting for the new study to be completed would take years (the study has been updated roughly every seven years). The City Council would also need to authorize funding for either a study update or a new study. The Urban Forest Strategic Plan recommended completing an urban tree canopy assessment every 6-10 years, so the City would likely conduct a new Urban Tree Canopy Assessment in 3-5 years (if the City keeps with updating the assessment every 7 years, this work would be done in 2024/5). The PCD staff research of other Codes, additional public outreach and consulting with an arborist would take a minimum of 6-9 months to complete (research, Planning Commission and then Council) however, it would need to wait until other PCD supported projects are completed to begin and ideally the conclusion of the updated Tree Canopy study or Council could reprioritize PCD's work plan (there are grants and a state mandate for the major update of the Comprehensive Plan that may make such a decision difficult).

if this issue was not voted on in the 3/21 meeting, to allow for more study, when realistically would it come back to council for approval? This is a substantial work plan item for the Department. As noted above, it could also mean additional funding to update or conduct a new tree study. Depending on Council's expectations, this item could come back in 6 months for staff to reach out to developers and study past building permits, understanding that moving this project ahead would delay the current projects on the Planning Commission/PCD Work Plan as presented at the Council's Strategic Planning Workshop, or in three years to wait for a new Urban Tree Canopy Assessment.

If a permit was required to remove a 24" dbh tree, what does that mean? I'm not sure what is involved with getting a permit for this - is it just a form and a fee, or are there additional steps involved? When currently is a tree removal permit required?

Assuming the resident has more than one significant tree onsite (currently, a resident can't remove the only significant tree onsite), a permit is required to remove a 30" dbh tree. Removing the tree requires a permit applicant, critical areas worksheet, site plans showing the location of significant trees to be removed, retained, and the location of replacement trees, tree retention calculation worksheet, and an at least a \$217 permit fee.

A tree removal permit is required when:

- A tree 30" dbh or over is proposed to be removed.
- More than six (6) significant trees are proposed to be removed on any sized lot.
- More than three (3) significant trees on a 7,200 sqft lot (plus 1 significant tree for every 7,200 sqft).
- Any tree removed from a critical area or critical area buffer.

If a permit is required to remove trees with a 24" dbh (down from 30" dbh), additional staff resources would need to be devoted to processing these permits. It is unclear how many more tree removal permits would be generated by this change.

thank you for your help in understanding these nuances