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From: [Daniel Heath](#)

Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 8:38:59 AM

To: [City Council](#)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Council Meeting 3/21 Tree Codes

Sensitivity: Normal

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Hello Council Members,

There's a big meeting coming up on Monday, as I know you all have been made aware of this from many, many emails and phone calls. I am reaching out to you to protect our already significant trees with the following:

- support the motion to extend the definition of a Significant Tree to 6" dbh,
- vote in support of requiring a permit to remove a tree of 24" dbh
- vote to eliminate the directors authority to waive fines and reduce requirements for tree retention on properties
- vote to eliminate the directors authority to reduce the number of replacement trees on a construction site.

Also, please work to save the two large cedars along 5th avenue near 175th st that are slated for removal to make way for a sidewalk. Those trees suck up A LOT of rain water run-off and the houses that are downslope of them may be in danger of flooding if those cedar trees among others in that buffer line are removed. Also they'll provide GREAT shade for people walking to and from the lightrail station in the hot summer months.

I've lived in Shoreline all my life and what keeps me in love with this place is the wonderful mix of nature and city that we have been able to keep in relative balance here. Lush residential gardens hugging towering spruce, fir, and cedar trees down every street and neighborhood. There's a saying many of us here say, "The Trees ARE the view." You look up on a walk and gaze in wonder at how strong and tall these silent sentinels are and yet how full of life they are. From the chattering of hundreds of birds, to the scurrying of dozens of chipmunks and squirrels, just a single tree can be a home and a boon for so many of us.

We all benefit when we think inclusively and with long-term vision for the health of the natural environment and the health and accessibility for all of our residents. Shoreline doesn't need to become like the suburbs of Dallas now where there's hardly any natural vegetation, trees, or animal life except off the side of freeways in sludge ponds with dead turtles floating on their backs, not an exaggeration unfortunately. The famous adage of things being bigger in Texas are true when it comes to things like pollution and deforestation. Other things like trees and wildlife are not.

The way the city staff hands out construction contracts needs to change. Construction contracts should only be rewarded to companies that put in the work for creative solutions that save and include ecological keystones like trees and creeks. We have been living in an age where new is always better and what is old must be destroyed and moved out of the way for new space and higher profits. Western Washington was already clear cut 100 years before. Most of the significant trees we see here now are only 80 years old or so, and I fear we are getting swept up in the craze of "easy" development once again, like those that came before us. That kind of thinking will leave us all in a lurch sooner than later. It takes 80 years to replace an 80 year old tree. I thank those from the past that were forward thinking and inclusive enough to let the small trees back then grow and prosper to become the marvelous living pillars we see all around us today.

May you, the mayor and the council members, be as inclusive and progressive enough to enact these tree codes to ensure we honor and protect; the people and trees that came before us; the trees that are still with us; and protect the little people and saplings that will grow to become the living pillars that hold up the sky of our rapidly changing world. The only way to move forward sustainably is to be able to balance mature ecological staples, i.e. trees and habitat, with necessary and creative civic improvements that work with the land, not against it. Trees need us humans now just as much as we'll need them in the warming near-future.

Thank you for reading,

