

**From:** [Kathleen Russell](#)  
**To:** [Keith Scully](#); [Betsy Robertson](#); [Doris McConnell](#); [Laura Mork](#); [Eben Pobee](#); [John Ramsdell](#); [Chris Roberts](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] What information are we asking for? (Public Tree Management, April 4, 2022)  
**Date:** Saturday, April 2, 2022 12:49:28 PM

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To: City of Shoreline Council

From: Kathleen Russell/Communications/Tree Preservation Code Team

Re: SMC Chapter 12.30 Public Tree Management on Council Agenda April 4 (8a)

1. **Proposed Code. SMC Chapter 12.30 Public Tree Management**

- The proposed code amendment submitted by the Tree Preservation Code Team (TPCT) in November 2020 is on [page 8-a3](#)
- The proposed code amendment is submitted as new item "C" under [12.30.040 "Adoption of Administrative Procedures"](#).

2. **Specifically what information are we asking for?** [Please open this link](#) and go to pages 50 and 59. This information is available. We are asking that this type of information be shared with citizens via public communication so we do not have to track information project by project. We would appreciate having the information for 2021 and continuing years.

3. **Example:** We are *guessing* probably 60+ public trees (requiring replacements) will be removed within the next 3 months in the Parkwood neighborhood.  
Pulte "5 Degrees" (12 public trees); Intracorp "Apartments on 147<sup>th</sup>": waiting for response from Public Records Request (PRR) submitted by Save Shoreline Trees, (our estimate is 12 public trees); "The Line": (22 public trees). Additional developments coming. Total of public trees to be removed from these 3 properties: 44.

- The Tree Preservation Code Team asks Council to review the proposed code as submitted, [page 8-a3](#)
- This is not a development code but is administrative pertaining to public street trees.
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- This code does *not* pertain to hazardous street trees. There is a separate code for hazardous trees.[20.50.310 A-1-c and 2](#)

The proposed code applies to non-hazardous public street trees at private development sites, City, State, Shoreline School District, Shoreline Community College and any entity granted permission to remove public trees.

**Summary of the proposed code:**

1. Place placards on public trees 45 days in advance of removal. *TPCT agrees with 45 days after hearing the Tree Board discussion. (Current notice is 14 days.)*
2. Post list of public tree removal and arborist report to the City's website on a dedicated page.
3. Information in *Currents*.
4. Email residents who request advance notification of public tree removal. City has auto email capability.
5. Notification placard posted on trees shall include posting date, date of tree removal, City contact, phone number and email.
6. Public may raise concerns to the Director of Planning and Director may 1) postpone tree removal 2) request arborist review 3) proceed with removal.

**Reason for this proposed code:**

Transparency. Public trees are public assets and we, the public, have the right to be informed well in advance of public tree removal.

TPCT appreciates Staff's concerns about public notification of public right-of-way tree removal.

*Staff concern:* Notification could delay projects; add to project cost; will not change the outcome of public tree removal.

- **TPCT response:** Are projects out to bid at 100% design when it is known which trees will be removed? How will advance notification delay City projects or add to the project cost?

*Staff concern:* Private developments could be delayed.

- **TPCT response:** Does "private" mean State of Washington, the School District and other entities?

*Staff concern:* Staff does not have the time to respond to the public.

- **TPCT response:** Public trees are public assets. City management already has this information. See link provided above in #2.
- **Future of Shoreline:** In the next 5 years, hundreds of public trees will be cleared for new sidewalks and public transportation improvements. We understand these are multi-million dollar projects on timelines. While we support sidewalks, housing and transportation, we ask for information and transparency.

This proposed code amendment fosters participation between citizens and the City. As stated in the Comprehensive Plan, our "...elected officials and staff strive for efficiency, transparency and consistency to ensure effective and responsive governance ..." and we ask you to consider and approve this proposed code amendment. Citizens ask for information in advance rather than surprise and shock when hundreds of trees are removed.

Thank you,

Kathleen Russell

Tree Preservation Code Team/Communications