

Currents – News from the City of Shoreline

May 2022 – Volume 24 No. 4

City Council updates City's tree regulations

On March 21, Shoreline City Council adopted Ordinance No. 955 making several changes to the City's tree regulations. The updated tree regulations primarily apply to private property in residential zones. The City regulates trees on public property, in the City rights-of-way, and in Neighborhood Business, Community Business, Mixed Business, Town Center 1-3, and MUR-70' zones differently than trees on private residential property. The most significant changes are described below:

- All trees six inches in diameter at breast height (dbh) are considered significant. Prior to this change, conifer trees were considered significant at eight inches dbh and non-conifers at 12 inches dbh.
- At least 25% of the significant trees on a given development site must be retained, excluding critical areas and critical area buffers. Prior to this change it was 20%.
- The removal of any tree greater than 24 inches dbh requires a clearing and grading permit from the City. Prior to this change, it was any tree greater than 30 inches dbh.

The City's tree regulations aim to balance private property rights with the community's desire to preserve trees and their inherent functions and values. Among the goals of our tree regulations is to ensure there is no net loss of the City's tree canopy coverage. One way of doing this is by regulating the rate of cutting and requiring the property owner to plant replacement trees.

Trees in Critical Areas

If a tree of any size is in or near an area such as a stream, wetland, or steep slope, then the tree may be in a critical area or its associated buffer. The City protects and regulates these trees under the City's Critical Areas Ordinance. City review is required to decide whether property owners can remove or prune these trees.

Trees of Significant Size

Outside of critical areas or buffers, the updated tree regulations primarily apply to significant-sized trees on private property in residential zones, unless the area cleared exceeds 3,000 square feet. The City defines significant trees as any tree six inches dbh. The City requires a permit for removal of trees in the rights-of-way.

The City requires a permit for removal of trees greater than 24 inches in diameter. Property owners may remove some significant trees with a diameter of less than 24 inches without a permit. During a three-year period, property owners may remove up to three significant trees on lots up to 7,200 square feet and one additional significant tree for every 7,200 square feet of lot area. It is always best to check with the City before cutting to ensure you are within the requirements of the City's regulations.

The City requires a property owner to obtain a permit to remove more than the number of trees outlined above. Failure to obtain proper permits can result in fines. Removal of significant trees without a permit can result in a penalty of \$9,000 per tree. Removal of landmark trees without a permit can

result in a penalty of \$15,000 per tree. Please contact Planning and Community Development prior to any tree removal or pruning activity to verify requirements.

More information

Tree Removal Permits

Planning & Community Development

206-801-2500, pcd@shorelinewa.gov

Council adopts 2022-2024 Goals

Council adopted their 2022-2024 City Council goals and Workplan on April 11. The five goals are a continuation of the council's previous goals.

Goal 1: Strengthen Shoreline's economic climate and opportunities

Robust private investment and economic opportunities help achieve Council Goals by enhancing the local economy; providing jobs and housing choices; and supporting the public services and lifestyle amenities that the community desires and expects.

Goal 2: Continue to deliver highly valued public services through management of the City's infrastructure and stewardship of the natural environment

The City has identified needed improvements to strengthen its municipal infrastructure to maintain public services the community expects through adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, Surface Water Master Plan, Wastewater Master Plan, Transportation Master Plan and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. As we make capital improvements, it is important to include efforts that will enhance Shoreline's natural environment, having a positive impact on the Puget Sound region.

Goal 3: Continue preparation for regional mass transit in Shoreline

Our community looks forward to increasing mobility options and reducing environmental impacts through public transit services. The ST2 light rail extension from Northgate to Lynnwood includes investment in the Shoreline North/185th Street Station and the Shoreline South/148th Street Station, which Sound Transit plans on opening in 2024. The ST3 package includes funding for corridor improvements and Bus Rapid Transit service along State Route 523 (N 145th Street) from Bothell Way connecting to the Shoreline South/148th Street Station. This service will start in 2026. Engaging our community members and regional transit partners in plans to integrate local transit options into the future light rail service continues to be an important Council priority.

Goal 4: Expand the City's focus on equity and social justice and work to become an Anti-Racist community

The Council values all residents, is committed to building an anti-racist community, and believes the City has a responsibility to ensure that Shoreline is an inviting, equitable and safe community for all that does not tolerate any form of discrimination. To meet the needs of all community members, the City must provide meaningful community engagement so that all people have access to needed services, information, and resources and can provide input on the development and implementation of City policies and programs.

Goal 5: Promote and enhance community safety, healthy neighborhoods, and a coordinated response to homelessness and individuals in behavioral health crisis

The Council recognizes that supporting stronger community connections and making it possible for residents to meet their needs are critical elements of a safe and thriving community. Maintaining a safe community is the City's highest priority. The 2020 Resident Satisfaction Survey reflected that 94% of respondents felt safe in their neighborhood during the day and 81% had an overall feeling of safety in Shoreline. The City is continuing a concentrated work plan to enhance our public safety communication and crime prevention efforts to ensure that our residents and businesses continue to find Shoreline a safe place to live, work and play. The City is also continuing to support those individuals living unhoused in our community or experiencing behavioral health issues by coordinating with regional homeless partners, working to ensure that there is adequate shelter space in Shoreline and North King County, and expanding behavioral health engagement and crisis intervention for those in need.

More information
shorelinewa.gov/council

CECRT Annual Report

In 2021, through phone calls, e-mails, and SeeClickFix inquiries, our Code Enforcement/Customer Response Team (CECRT) received over 628 service requests for resident issues found on private property.

Code enforcement on private property

If upon investigation, CECRT finds a violation of the City's regulations, they may open a code enforcement case on the property. In 2021, of the 628 service requests received, CECRT opened 225 code enforcement cases and resolved 106. The resolved cases included cases from 2021 and cases from previous years.

The level of case closure in any given year is dependent on the complexity of cases managed and the willingness of the responsible parties to resolve the violations. Some case types may be open for multiple years, while violators take proper steps, such as obtaining permits, to address the issue. Thus, there is not a direct correlation of the number of cases opened and closed within the same year.

As of April 15, CECRT had 477 open code enforcement cases. While not all cases are actively being addressed at any given time, the number of open cases highlights how many ongoing violations currently exist on private property throughout the City.

Code Enforcement Primary Case Types

Of the 225 code enforcement cases opened in 2021, one of the largest types was Work Without a Permit (WWOAP). CECRT opened 122 WWOAP cases. To resolve these cases, property owners work through the permitting process with the Planning and Community Development Department. They must obtain permits 'after the fact' if the type of development or construction is allowed on their property. They are assessed double fees for the applicable permitting costs. WWOAP cases can range from a basic building permit, such as for adding a carport to a home, to a far more complex critical areas violation that takes more time to resolve.

The two other most prevalent types of code enforcement cases opened in 2021 were:

- Accumulation of Refuse: 57 Cases
- Unlicensed/Inoperable, Disabled, or Junk Vehicles: 32 Cases

Service Requests on Public Property

CECRT also receives service request for issues on public property or involves publicly owned assets. In 2021, the City received 2,530 service requests for issues involving public property. Of those, the four areas with the most requests were:

- Unauthorized/Abandoned Vehicles: 925
- Debris and Litter Removal: 253
- Homelessness Response on Public Property: 136
- Hazardous Condition: 114

Unauthorized/Abandoned Vehicles

CECRT responded to 925 calls for service to tag unauthorized vehicles in the right-of-way in 2021. If the vehicle owners did not move the vehicles after the first tagging, the information was sent to the Shoreline Police for further action. Shoreline Police, following secondary tagging and further investigation, ended up towing 58 vehicles.

Responding to Issues of Homelessness

A prevalent problem that CECRT addresses on an annual basis is the issue of responding to unhoused people in the community camping or staying on public property. CECRT received and investigated 136 requests for homelessness response in 2021. This is a substantial increase from 87 requests in 2020 and 94 requests in 2019. Responding to requests such as this requires considerable staff time as these requests may include providing the unhoused person(s) with information about support services, posting an encampment for removal, and removing any items the individuals may have left behind. If staff needs to collect any personal property to store per City policy, this can take even more time. However, this step only occurred once in 2021. Most often, individuals take their personal belongings and staff clean up any items left behind.

Parks Maintenance crew keeps our parks safe, clean, and accessible

If you have enjoyed spending time in one of Shoreline's many parks or played or watched your kids play at one of the many athletic fields around town or taken your dog to one of our off-leash dog areas, then you have the Shoreline Parks Maintenance crew to thank. The crew acts as stewards of the City's parks, open spaces, and athletic fields. Operating seven days a week, including holidays, their goal is to create safe recreational and educational opportunities for the well-being and enjoyment of the public.

This hard-working crew takes care of the City's 434 acres of open spaces and athletic fields, which includes:

- 34 parks
- 14 restrooms
- 16 playgrounds
- 15 baseball fields

- 11 soccer fields
- 15 tennis courts
- 5 picnic shelters
- 3 off-leash dog areas
- 2 recreation centers
- 1 skate park
- Kruckeberg Botanic Garden
- City Hall campus
- Interurban Trail
- Many miles of park trails

Every day is different. Our Parks Maintenance crew handles everything from litter removal to drainage and irrigation repair, athletic field preparation to street tree maintenance. They handle different improvement projects, including installation of new play equipment and parking lot repairs and resurfacing. They are also responsible for the City's urban forest, which includes all City owned trees throughout Shoreline. In addition, our crew helps with many community events throughout the year, including Celebrate Shoreline, Monster Mash Dash, and the Christmas Ships at Richmond Beach. They also lend a hand at park restoration and Earth Day events.

Like Shoreline's other divisions, Parks Maintenance continuously looks for ways to work more efficiently. With only eight regular full-time staff, the Parks Maintenance crew relies on several seasonal workers each year, service contracts, and the generous help of volunteers to get it all done. The countless hours that our devoted residents volunteer are critical to the success of our parks system.

Adding seasonal workers when needed rather than full-time, year-round staff keeps the crew working efficiently and helps respond to the higher park usage during the spring and summer. To help augment the City's level of staffing, the City contracts with private firms for landscape and janitorial services in the parks.

[More information](#)

Parks Superintendent

Kirk Peterson

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206-801-2611

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

May is Asian Pacific American (APA) or Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, celebrating the achievements and broad diversity of Asians and Pacific Islanders. Congress originally created Asian Pacific American week in 1978. They turned it into a monthlong designation in 1992. May was selected to commemorate the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States in May 1843 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad in May 1869. It was Chinese immigrants who primarily built the Central Pacific stretch of the railroad. The City, local community organizations, and volunteers are partnering on events to recognize the month. Look for events on the City's Equity and Social Justice page for updated information.

More information

Equity and Social Justice Program Coordinator

Suni Tolton

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New planning commissioners

On March 21, the City Council appointed two new members to the Shoreline Planning Commission, Leslie Brinson and Christopher Mosier. Council also reappointed one member to the commission, Mei-shiou Lin. On March 31, the terms of Planning Commissioners Mei-shiou Lin and Jack Malek expired. Planning Commissioners are only allowed to serve two consecutive terms. Since Jack Malek had already served two terms, he was not eligible for reappointment. Commissioner Lin, having only served one term, was eligible for reappointment. In addition, former commissioner Laura Mork was elected to the Shoreline City Council and began serving in that role on January 1, leaving a vacancy on the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Lin has been a resident of Shoreline for over 20 years and is a landscape architect with the City of Seattle's Parks and Recreation Department. Commissioner Brinson is a new Shoreline resident. She has extensive experience in housing affordability policy. Commissioner Mosier has lived in Shoreline for three years and is an architect focusing primarily on commercial buildings.

The City received thirteen applications to fill the three Commission positions. A subcommittee of City Councilmembers consisting of Deputy Mayor Robertson and Councilmembers Mork and Roberts interviewed six candidates and recommended City Council appoint Brinson, Lin, and Mosier. The City Council would like to recognize and thank outgoing Commissioners Jack Malek and Laura Mork for their outstanding service to the community.

Minor home repair program

Are you a Shoreline resident who is on a limited budget or have a moderate income? Is your home in need of minor repairs to help improve accessibility, safety, and/or livability? Then you may qualify for the Minor Home Repair (MHR) program. This program provides home maintenance for Shoreline homeowners of any age, who are on limited budgets or have moderate incomes. Our program helps adults of all ages keep independence and remain safely in their homes for as long as possible. Shoreline contracts with Sound Generations using US Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant funding to provide this service.

Homeowners pay a small charge for labor. Materials are provided at cost. For a free estimate call 206-448-5751 or email mhr@soundgenerations.org.

Does your home need a larger repair?

King County Major Home Repair program provides funds to income qualified homeowners and special needs renters. Call King County Housing Repair at 206-263-9095 for more information on eligibility criteria and how to access services.

Quote from a Shoreline resident: "This is my first work order with MHR and I want to say it was completed way beyond my expectations. Everything from the office support to get the process started,

the ease of the application process, providing status of the review, the approval notification, scheduling the work, understanding the request, and then finally (but certainly not the least), the work itself.”

Financial Sustainability Advisory Committee to study renewal of City’s levy lid lift

Earlier this year, the City Manager appointed 13 community members to serve on the Financial Sustainability Advisory Committee-2022 (FSAC-22). FSAC-22 members represent a broad range of Shoreline residents and community organizations, such as immigrant and refugee communities, communities of color, neighborhoods, Shoreline businesses, human services organizations, and recreation programs.

FSAC-22 will meet to consider whether the City should seek replacement of the 2016 levy lid lift on the November 2022 General Election ballot. Using FSAC-22’s input, the City Manager will develop recommendations for replacement of the levy lid lift to be reviewed by the City Council with potential action on next steps during this summer. The FSAC-22 has been reviewing the City’s finances, budget, and operations since March, particularly as they relate to the expiring maintenance and operations property tax levy lid lift that Shoreline residents approved in 2016.

As long as state law caps property tax increases at 1%, the City will continue to face budget gaps every six to eight years as the cost to provide the same basic services increases faster the revenue needed to pay for it. In addition to looking at ways to operate more efficiently and cut costs, the City has also looked at different strategies for ensuring revenues keeps pace with costs.

[More information](#)

Administrative Services Director

Sara Lane

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Climate Action Tip

Did you know that yards and gardens can have a positive impact on the climate? You can create a regenerative, carbon-rich habitat in your own backyard by adding compost and mulch and replacing lawn areas with native trees and shrubs. Adding compost or mulch to your lawn and landscaping areas not only helps build healthy soil and conserve water – it also helps fight climate change by storing carbon in the soil!

To capture more carbon and create wildlife habitat, try replacing resource-intensive lawn areas with native trees and shrubs. After removing the grass, amend the soil with compost and top with a woody mulch.

Lastly, replant with a mixture of native trees and shrubs to create habitat for birds and pollinators, provide shade, and store carbon!

Learn more and find rebates for creating your own carbon-rich backyard habitat at shorelinewa.gov/naturalyardcare.

Wash right this summer

Washing our cars is a fun summer tradition that keeps our cars looking good.

What's the problem with washing at home? When car wash water leaves your driveway and flows to the nearest storm drain, it carries soap suds, dirt, car grime, and chemicals directly to the streams and lakes that we play and fish in. All this polluted water makes its way to Puget Sound.

All soaps, even "eco-friendly" or biodegradable soaps, are toxic to fish and aquatic life.

How to wash right:

- Use a commercial car wash
- Wash over lawn or gravel
- Use towels to divert wash water to soil/landscape

Neighborhood mini grant: Echo Lake's Densmore Pathway

In 2011, the Echo Lake Neighborhood Association received a Neighborhood Mini-Grant to develop a pathway connecting Ashworth Avenue N and Densmore Avenue N at N 188th Street. The following year, Neighborhoods USA recognized ELNA for its outstanding physical rehabilitation project.

But that was just the beginning. Since design and installation, ELNA volunteers have spent countless hours maintaining and enhancing the pathway. With more Mini-Grant funding in 2016, they installed an inviting bench on the Ashworth side. They added a kiosk and a colorful Little Free Library in 2018, inviting path-users to take or leave a book, and to get information about upcoming events in the neighborhood. In 2019, volunteers Marla and Matt Tullio imagined a Watershed Art Trail along the pathway. Planting grasses and installing small boulders, they created a "river" populated by metal salmon sculptures. Representing the flow of water through the area into streams, lakes, and Puget Sound, the trail encourages path-users to consider the role we all play in a healthy watershed.

With another grant in 2021, the Tullios added even more life to the trail, with more native plantings and new art, including sculptures of a nesting heron, school of young salmon, and various pollinator species. Signage welcomes people into pesticide-free, pollinator-friendly green space and encourages them to create their own healthy habitats. The Echo Lake Neighborhood Association welcomes everyone to enjoy the pathway when passing through the neighborhood.

Summer events are back!

After a two-year hiatus, summer events are back in Shoreline! All events will meet City, CDC, and Public Health guidelines.

Lunchtime Concert Series

Bring family and friends of all ages to one of Shoreline's beautiful parks for a free concert at lunchtime. All concerts begin at 12:00 p.m.

- July 12: Reptile Isle – Reptile show at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, 2021 NW 190th Street
- July 19: Brian Ledbetter – Magic at Cromwell Park, 18030 Meridian Avenue N
- July 28: Mpanist – Steel drum performance at Paramount School Park, 15300 8th Avenue NE

- August 4: Mikey Mike the Rad Scientist – Discovering science and nature through music at Spartan Recreation Center Field, 202 NE 185th Street

Celebrate Shoreline

Saturday, August 20

Family Area Hours: 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Beer Garden and Music: 1:00 – 9:00 pm

Cromwell Park, 18030 Meridian Avenue N

Come celebrate the City of Shoreline’s birthday! The festival has two stages with live music and shows, beer garden, pony rides, children’s theater, food, a toy workshop, hands on activities, and more!

This is a free family friendly festival. There is a cost for food, beverages, and some activities. Find more information at shorelinewa.gov/celebrateshoreline.

Low-tide beach walks

Multiple dates and times, May 29 - August 13

Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, 2021 NW 190th Street

Explore and investigate the fascinating world of marine beaches at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park during low tides and see sea stars, crabs, and other creatures who live in Puget Sound. Join volunteer beach naturalists for these fun, free, and informative beach walks. Dress for the weather. We recommend you use waterproof footwear.

Find the complete schedule on the City’s website at shorelinewa.gov/lowtide.

Karaoke in the Park

Tuesdays, July 12 – August 2

5:30-8:00 p.m.

Cromwell Park, 18030 Meridian Avenue N

Come to Cromwell Park each Tuesday this summer and sing your heart out. Karaoke is free and open to everyone. This is a family friendly event.

Shoreline Walks

Multiple dates, times, and locations

Explore neighborhoods, parks, and trails on some of the best walking routes in our City. Designed for adults ages 50+, but open to all ages and abilities. Volunteer walk leaders lead each walk. All walks are free. No need to sign up, just show up at the meetup location and we’ll take care of the rest! Friendly dogs on a leash are welcome to join.

shorelinewa.gov/shorelinewalks

Full calendar of Shoreline events: shorelinewa.gov/calendar

License for Love!

You’ll love these pet license benefits

- Reunites lost pets quickly 24/7
- Helps fund the care and adoption of shelter animals
- Supports the protection of people and pets in your community

Now through June 22, license your dog or cat, renew an expired license, and your late fees will be waived.

More information

Regional Animal Services of King County

License online at kingcounty.gov/licensemypet or call 206-296-2712. Interpreter service available.

Shoreline Art Cottage Artist in Residence Program Presents: Chandra Wu - "Beach Jeans and Trains: Textile Arts and Quiltmaking"

Art Cottage at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, 2021 NW 190th Street

May 6-8, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Fabric cutting from donated old clothes

May 13-14 & May 29-30, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Collage & Embroidery

Artist's website: chandrawu.com

Also not to be missed in May: SPOTLIGHT NORTH Open Studio Tour

May 21 - 22, 11a.m. - 4 p.m.

A new event where you can meet Shoreline / North King County artists, check out their creative workspaces, see works-in-progress and purchase artwork. Learn more at spotlightnorth.org.

Contact your Shoreline City Council

- Mayor Keith Scully, 206-801-2202, kscully@shorelinewa.gov
- Deputy Mayor Betsy Roberston, 206-396-5807, [brobertson@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:b Robertson@shorelinewa.gov)
- Doris Fujioka McConnell, 206-801-2204, dmccconnell@shorelinewa.gov
- Laura Mork, 206-801-2207, lmork@shorelinewa.gov
- Eben Pobee, 206-801-2201, epobee@shorelinewa.gov
- John Ramsdell, 206-330-3948, jramsdell@shorelinewa.gov
- Chris Roberts, 206-391-2733, croberts@shorelinewa.gov
- Contact all Councilmembers, (206) 801-2213, council@shorelinewa.gov

City Council Meetings

Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual meetings via Zoom

Agendas: shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings