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From: Nancy Morris <taweyahnan@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 3:11 PM
To: Plancom
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MUR-70' Zoning Change comment
Importance: High

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Attention Planning Commission:

At this time the tree code for MUR-70' buildings requires that **NONE** of the tree need to be retained. Due to the climate emergencies that we now face locally and that we have many mature trees in this type of zone, it should be required that a certain percent of significant trees be retained for many obvious reasons that have been shared with the Planning Commission over the past months (review references at end). At least 10% of significant trees should be retained with 70' buildings if not more. Regarding 90' building: retain 20% of the trees, change word "**OR**" to **AND** with the statement then reading: 90' building: retain 20% of the trees **AND** Deep Green Incentive Program. Our mature trees are vital assets and clearcutting trees that are a public asset owned by all should not be allowed to the degree that is ongoing at this time by overwhelming development. Design modifications can be required to provide compromises to save trees; developers need to conscientiously consider what they are doing to our local environments as we face ongoing extreme densification of our neighborhoods that face climate emergencies. Mature trees are an important ally in mitigating heat island effects as well as reducing heatwave effects during summer.

We need City Planners, contractors, and developers to work together with greater vision, not less. We need flexibility in city codes for building designs, parking, and sidewalks. The City of Shoreline with its own Comprehensive Plan -Community Design CD37 established a goal "to minimize the removal of existing vegetation, especially mature trees, when improving streets or developing property."

Regards,
Nancy Morris
Shoreline, WA

References for review:

1. **Climate Action Plan Update (City of Shoreline)** <https://www.shorelinewa.gov/our-city/environment/sustainable-shoreline/climate-water-energy/climate-action-plan-update>
2. **“Urban Forests and Birds That Need Them :” Seattle Audubon Program Meeting - July 15, 2021** <https://vimeo.com/575918179> “Trees are one of our best hopes for becoming a climate-resilient city. They are one of the cheapest, simplest, and most effective tools for reducing temperatures in urban areas. The benefits trees provide extend far beyond the parcels where they stand. They are essential community assets.”
3. **“What Technology Could Reduce Heat Deaths? Trees.”** <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/02/climate/trees-cities-heat-waves.html>, from the *New York Times* July 2, 2021
4. **“Trees save lives in heat, so why aren’t we saving trees?”** *Seattle Times*, July 2, 2021: <https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/trees-save-lives-in-heat-s-so-why-arent-we-saving-trees/>
5. **“Learn About Heat Islands,” EPA report:** <https://www.epa.gov/heatislands/learn-about-heat-islands>
6. **“Reduce Urban Heat Island Effect,” EPA Report -** <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/reduce-urban-heat-island-effect>).
7. **“2021 heat wave is now the deadliest weather-related event in Washington history”** <https://www.kuow.org/stories/heat-wave-death-toll-in-washington-state-jumps-to-112-people> 112 people died during the most serious heat wave in our state end of June 2021
8. **“Why ‘tiny forests’ are popping up in big cities,”** *National Geographic*-June 22, 2021: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/why-tiny-forests-are-popping-up-in-big-cities>
9. **“Urban Green Infrastructure For A Changing Climate.”:**Rottle Presentation (UW, 2015): http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/SPU/3RottleUrbanGreenInfrastructur_eForaChangingClimate.pdf
10. *KUOW*, (June 23, 2021) **“Heat wave could hit Seattle area neighborhoods differently – possible 20 degrees difference”:** <https://kuow.org/stories/heat-wave-could-hit-seattle-area-neighborhoods-differently-possible-20-degrees-difference-e15e>
11. *Seattle Times*, (July 5, 2021) **“Communities of color are the ‘first and worst’ hurt by climate change; urgent action needed to change course”:** <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/communities-of-color-are-the-first-and-worst-hurt-by-climate-change-urgent-action-needed-to-change-course/>
12. **“Nature at work: The effects of day-to-day nature contact on workers’ stress and psychological well-being.”** *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening, Science Direct Volume 66, December 2021,* 127404: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1618866721004313?via%3Dihub>

13. “Disconnect from nature is apparent in high-rise apartment dwellers-how can we bring nature to apartment buildings?” July 2018 [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327666100 Disconnect from nature is apparent in high-rise apartment dwellers-how can we bring nature to apartment buildings](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327666100_Disconnect_from_nature_is_apparent_in_high-rise_apartment_dwellers-how_can_we_bring_nature_to_apartment_buildings) “. . . Results: Interim results indicate that although the majority of high-rise apartment dwellers agree that they are not separate from nature but are a part of it, they do not have high nature relatedness. Forty-four per cent of respondents visited local parks less than once per month, if at all; 38% never visited bushland areas; and 46% never went to national parks. However many had preferences for green spaces to be around them, with over 80% of respondents saying that they would prefer a park and street trees around their apartment buildings. Almost half (45%) of health survey respondents stated that they experienced emotional problems that interfered with social activity, and 61% felt worn out at least some of the time.”

14. National Tree Benefit

Calculator <https://www.arborday.org/calculator/treeInfo.cfm?zip=98177&city=SEATTLE&state=WA&climatezone=Pacific%20Northwest>

15. “The Power of One Tree - The Very Air We Breathe” by Joanna Mounce Stancil, U.S. Forest Service in Forestry Jun 03, 2019 <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2015/03/17/power-one-tree-very-air-we-breathe>