

**From:** [Kathleen Russell](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#); [agenda comments](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Council Comment 10/10/22 (Kathleen Russell)  
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*Below is my public comment to City Council. Please include this comment in the document file for City Council meeting 10/10/22.*

Kathleen Russell  
City of Shoreline  
On behalf of Save Shoreline Trees

The [Staff Report dated 10/10](#) pertaining to the Climate Action Plan includes comments related to trees:

Page 8b-12: The Planning Commission has concern with the “feasibility of the goal of increasing tree canopy given increasing density...”

Page 8b-13: The PRCS/Tree Board has an interest to “increase protections for existing street trees during public and private development projects.”

Page 8b-13: The public has a “strong interest in more emphasis on preservation of existing trees...”

The Cascadia analysis on page 8b-149 confirms Shoreline trees store 413,840 metric tons CO2, no small amount.

However, the determining sentence in Focus Area 4 Ecosystems and Sequestration (ES) states:

*Because the removal of atmospheric carbon is a passive process, global protocol and industry best practices do not count sequestration toward emission reduction targets. Instead, sequestration is considered a pathway to achieving carbon neutrality, our 2050 goal. (page 8b-10)*

This recommendation conflicts with research supporting the importance of tree retention. Instead, trees while admired for their benefits, will be treated as usual by the City. There are no action plans proposed in the Climate Action Plan in the next 7 years to preserve trees. Ecosystems and Sequestration (ES) is not mentioned in the preliminary \$18 million dollar budget, Attachment B, page 8b-161.

The last tree canopy study in 2017 stated Shoreline’s tree canopy was 37%. Save Shoreline Trees asks that a tree canopy study, using 2017 methodology, be included in the CAP budget for 2023 to evaluate Shoreline’s tree canopy and perhaps steps to protect the tree canopy will then be taken. Thank you.

Note:

The page numbers in this comment refer to the CAP plan as included in the [Staff Report dated 10-10-22](#). The page numbers here do not correspond to the stand-alone CAP.