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**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [agenda comments](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] City Council, 11/21/22: Budget Amendments 2 & 3  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 22, 2022 9:18:32 AM

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Hello Council Members and Mayor,

I doubt I have sent this email in time for any of you to be able to read this but I digress:

I am emailing you all to VOTE YES to approve Amendment 2 to fund an urban tree canopy (UTC) study in 2023 with a budget of \$50,000.

I also ask that the council **invoke RCW 36.70A.390** to place a moratorium on the removal of public trees on heat islands for the duration of [Climate Emergency Resolution 494](#).

As well as asking for the Council to Vote **YES** to approve [Amendment 3](#), to complete the inventory of public street trees. Budget \$200,000

Shoreline has been approving significant development and complete clear cutting of blocks with trees. We must study how many mature deciduous and vociferous trees we have left on private and public lands so that we can make ecologically sustainable decisions in regards to development.

Our summers have been intensifying noticeably that past 10 years. Mature trees have the best chances to keep us relatively cool in the summers AND survive the changing conditions. Majority of new plantings do not survive climate stressors like the ones we are experiencing and will continue to experience into the future. A UTC is needed to take stock of how many "partners" we have left in this climate Emergency and we must strategically save the big trees and ecologically sensitive areas in heat island areas to avoid heat-related deaths during the summers.

Partnering with developers is needed, I understand that but how often are they thinking about the long term effects of their decisions? They are concerned with the short term financial gain. I don't blame them, time is money after all. The less time needed to worry about ecosystems and trees and heat islands the more they can build for density for Shoreline's growing population. We need to thread the needle for sustainable development along with strategic safe-keeping of natural lands to effectively adapt to climate intensification. You the council and we the people, and those of the development branch must reach an understanding for this and communicate an effective plan for all this. Otherwise most of Shoreline's beauty will be lost before we know it and it will be too late to nurture it back to health.

Shoreline is a unique city with unique ecological, residential, and business properties. If we cannot find a way to make it all work, I fear no other city in Washington, the US, or the world will believe it even possible.

Shoreline needs to be walkable, as you all and myself can agree. Reducing Shoreline's car traffic in favor of bike lanes, walkable sidewalks, and effective public transportation is a needed development project.

We also must realize how intense our summers have gotten over the past decade; little rain, more smoke and a lot of high 90s and 100 degree days. When we allow clear cutting of lots, especially for perimeter and public street trees we are throwing away one of our partners in this climate emergency. Mature trees have taken decades to become the bastions of summer shade and nesting grounds for all living things in Shoreline.

New plantings, while important, will not be effective partners during these next 30 years of climate intensification, they most likely will not survive. The mature trees have much better odds at surviving and providing positive effects for all inhabitants than new plantings that would be planted after total clearcuts.

Trees uprooting sidewalks are indeed a problem for the elderly and non-abled bodies but we have come up with solutions that save most mature trees while providing accessible sidewalks like the new sidewalk along Dayton and 150th street along the old DOT.

It takes more elbow grease and creativity but it is worth it in the short and long term. Maybe even crowd funding to fill in the funding gaps needed for those new sidewalk additions or frontage developments for new housing that allow for the retention of mature trees.

Thank you for reading,

Daniel Heath