

From: [Ramona Gault](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Cottage housing regulations
Date: Monday, April 24, 2023 12:24:19 PM

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Dear Councilor:

On Nov 28, 2022, Shoreline City Council approved Ordinance 975 which includes policies for residential land use. (Reference: Ordinance 975, page A-3-2):

Policy: Land Use 5 (LU5): "Develop regulations to maintain and increase Shoreline's urban tree canopy with the goal of encouraging tree retention and protection while also increasing housing opportunities and choice."

I support this Ordinance 975 and emphasize that we are losing mature trees in Shoreline at an alarming rate in our push to add apartments and transportation infrastructure.

It is entirely feasible to design & build new housing that retains existing, healthy trees. This is inconvenient for builders; nevertheless, trees are essential to a healthy ecosystem and human physical and mental health.

Why should only high-income neighborhoods get to keep their trees? So this becomes an issue of environmental justice, you see.

The Seattle Times exposed this inequity recently:

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/was-new-ban-on-single-family-zoning-exempts-some-of-seattles-wealthiest-neighborhoods/>

I request increased tree protections on residential zones especially for our 24" dbh trees.

Thank you for your consideration.

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