

From: [GAYLE JANZEN](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [agenda comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please adopt Tree Code Amendments 8, 9, 10 & 19
Date: Monday, May 22, 2023 4:29:11 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Shoreline. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers:

I am concerned that with HB 1110 passing, that we may end up losing even more mature trees than we already are. So when making decisions about cottage/middle housing, I ask that you please consider Shoreline's [Ordinance 975](#) approved by Council on November 28, 2022, including Land Use Policy 5:

“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 want to thank CMs Robert and Pobe for their thoughtful amendments that will go a long way towards saving Shoreline’s trees, so I am urging you to adopt their tree code amendments 8, 9, 10 & 19:

- Amendment 8: Protect critical areas.
- Amendment 9: Trees 24” DBH and larger require tree replacements.
- Amendment 10:
 - a) Retain 35% of significant trees on residential/cottage/middle housing zones. (Current code is 25%.)
 - b) 24” DBH or larger tree(s) may not be removed unless hazardous or dead, as declared by a certified arborist.
 - c) If the Director approves the removal of a 24” DBH or larger tree, a fee in lieu must be paid to the City Tree Fund: \$9000 for 24” to 30” DBH tree; \$15,000 for trees 30” DBH and larger tree. (These fees are currently in tree code regulations, [20.50.300.H.5](#))
- Amendment 19: Remove proposed tree incentives from cottage housing. This amendment is important as builders see trees as a barrier to construction. Shoreline’s municipal code must be revised to protect trees, not offer incentives. Amendment 19 will allow developers to reduce payment of 30% park impact fees for every 24” DBH or larger tree retained, up to 90% reduction. **(Approve as companion to Amendment 10, not instead of Amendment 10.)**

I do worry though if these amendments will be effective since it is currently stated in code that the Director has the prerogative to waive tree regulations, see [Exception 20.50.360 \(C\) b.i,ii,iii,iv.](#)

Without strong tree protections, our mature trees will continue to be destroyed. As I’ve written before, it doesn’t have to be either housing or trees and these amendments will help Shoreline do both.

For the trees,
Gayle Janzen
N. Seattle