

# SDOT URBAN FORESTRY STREET TREE ORDINANCE





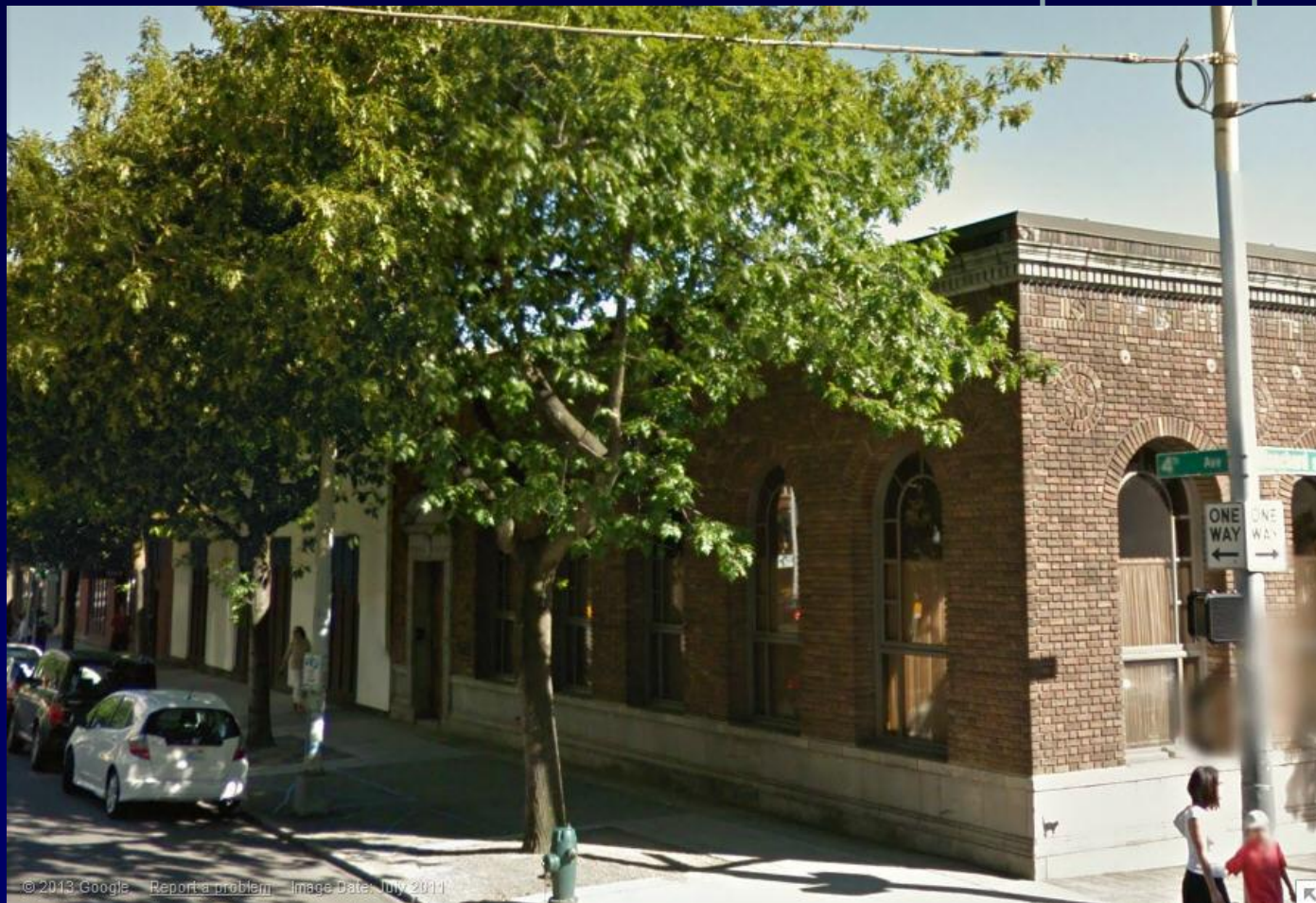


# Street Tree at 4<sup>th</sup> and Blanchard



# Street Tree at 4<sup>th</sup> and Blanchard

2012



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# Tree protection

**Old Ordinance:** Street Use Ordinance called only for preserving trees but provided no detail.

## **2013 Ordinance:**

- Illegal to damage or destroy a street tree
- Regulates attachment of seasonal lighting to trees
- Prohibits topping, spurring, attaching signs or objects
- Prohibits placement of construction debris adjacent to trees
- Regulates the storage of materials adjacent to right-of-way trees.

# Permitting

**Old Ordinance:** Required permits to plant, prune or remove a street tree. No requirement to replace a street tree.

## **2013 Ordinance:**

- Describes the process & procedures for applying for a permit
- Defines criteria for granting planting, pruning or removal permits
- Requires a replacement tree when a removal permit is granted
- Allows minor pruning of 2" inch diameter limbs or less without a permit.

# Tree maintenance

**Old Ordinance:** Did not define responsibility for maintenance of right-of-way trees.

## **2013 Ordinance:**

- Clarifies SDOT & property owner responsibilities for tree maintenance
- Gives city authority to perform emergency work on privately owned ROW trees
- Established criteria by which a tree can be deemed a public nuisance (i.e. Dutch Elm Disease)
- Retains SDOT's authority to order the maintenance of a right-of-way tree to ensure public safety.



# Arborist Certification / Qualifications

**Old Ordinance:** Does not require any specific qualifications for companies performing tree work or standards for work performed by them.

## **2013 Ordinance:**

- Requires *any* maintenance work on street trees to be performed or supervised by an ISA certified arborist .
- Establishes insurance requirements for tree care firms (STM)
- Allows a property owner to perform minor pruning without a permit
- Requires a permit for major pruning by property owner.
- Requires tree work to meet industry standards.

# Penalties and Fines

**Old Ordinance:** Inadequate penalties for illegal tree work on privately maintained trees.

## **2013 Ordinance:**

- Defines illegal activities related to the treatment of trees
- Establishes penalties for damaging or destroying trees equal to the value of the tree.

# Support documents

## Client Assistance Memos

CAM 2108 – Annual Vehicle Permits

CAM 2110 – Traffic Control Plans

CAM 2300 – Street Tree Planting

CAM 2302 – Tree Pruning or Removal

CAM 2307 – Tree Posting Standards

## Online Street Tree Map -

<http://web6.seattle.gov/SDOT/StreetTrees/>

## 2013 Urban Forest Stewardship Plan

## Street Tree Manual

Some material will be designated as Directors Rule

