

What are the key provisions in
the Seattle Urban Forestry
Commission's draft Tree and
Urban Forest Protection
Ordinance?

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Expand the existing tree removal and replacement permit program, including 2-week public notice and posting, as used by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) – to cover all trees 6” DBH and larger on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.

Require the replacement of all trees removed that are 6" DBH and larger with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume – either on site or pay an in-lieu fee into a City Tree Replacement and Preservation Fund. Allow the Fund to also accept fines, donations, grants and set up easements.

Retain current protections for Exceptional Trees and reduce the upper threshold for exceptional trees to 24" DBH, protect tree groves and prohibit trees over 6" DBH being removed on undeveloped lots (vacant lots).

Allow removal of no more than 2 significant non-exceptional trees in 3 years per lot outside development (i.e. no construction occurring)

Establish one citywide database for tracking tree removal and replacement permits, and to track changes in the tree canopy. Post online, all permit requests and permit approvals for public viewing.

Expand SDOT's existing tree service provider's registration and certification to register all tree service providers (e.g. arborists) working on trees in Seattle.

Provide adequate funding in the budget to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

Questions and feedback

