



Weston Brinkley (Position #3 – University), Chair
Julia Michalak (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist), Vice-chair
Elby Jones (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist - ISA) • **Stuart Niven** (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA)
Michael Walton (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA) • **Joshua Morris** (Position #7 – NGO)
David Moehring (Position # 8 – Development) • **Blake Voorhees** (Position # 9 – Realtor)
Jessica Hernandez (Position #11 – Environmental Justice) • **Jessica Jones** (Position # 12 – Public Health)
Shari Selch (Position # 13 – Community/Neighborhood)

November 3, 2021

Nathan Torgelson, Director
Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections
700 5th Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: SDCI Tree Protections Update Recommendations

Dear Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections,

Duwamish Lands (Seattle, WA) - the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) would like to first thank the Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections (SDCI) for their presentation given on October 13, 2021, regarding tree protection updates.

UFC found the presentation informative and helpful. Particularly, we would like to highlight and commend SDCI on the following actions that have been taken in 2021:

1. The two new hires that are working on tree tracking.
2. Funding allocated for both the enforcement and implementation of tree protection.
3. Efforts initiated with various groups to ensure that they are all prepared to do this work.
4. Outreach efforts that were led with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities.

Since the UFC “was established to advise the Mayor and City Council concerning the establishment of policy and regulations governing the protection, management, and conservation of trees and vegetation in the City of Seattle,” we respectfully recommend that SDCI;

1. Consider us as a key stakeholder as well when carrying out components of this tree protection in the future.

2. Consider providing us with an update on the themes identified from the focus groups so that we can carry this out as an entity also aiming to protect trees.
3. Consider providing us with the summary report so that we can further our understanding— beyond the presentation— of what SDCI has carried out.
4. Consider reporting to us how the summary of feedback gathered during outreach carried out to BIPOC communities is reported back to the communities before publishing online.
5. Consider hosting the Tree Tracking worksheet in a way that is publicly accessible, and produce quarterly reports summarizing the data collected in the worksheets

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to make recommendations to SDCI for the presentation given to UFC on October 13, 2021.

Sincerely,



Weston Brinkley, Chair



Jessica Hernandez

cc: Mayor Jenny A. Durkan, Council President Lorena González, CM Lisa Herbold, CM Debora Juarez, CM Andrew Lewis, CM Tammy Morales, CM Teresa Mosqueda, CM Alex Pedersen, CM Kshama Sawant, CM Dan Strauss, Michelle Caulfield, Sharon Lerman, Urban Forestry Management Team, Urban Forestry Core Team, Yolanda Ho

Patti Bakker, Interim Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator
City of Seattle, Office of Sustainability & Environment
PO Box 94729 Seattle, WA 98124-4729 Tel: 206-684-3194
www.seattle.gov/UrbanForestryCommission

UFC acknowledges the Coast Salish peoples of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Duwamish, Puyallup, Suquamish, Tulalip and Muckleshoot nations. As a commission, we are continuing our work to build strong and reciprocal relationships with the Indigenous lands and peoples of this city.