

**SAVE OUR TREES [DontClearcutSeattle.org](http://DontClearcutSeattle.org) Pass the Tree Protection Ordinance Now!**

With increasing development, Seattle is rapidly losing our trees. The two shouldn't be incompatible, but often they are. After the unnecessary clearcut of 25 majestic trees on a North Seattle lot to build a new home, neighbors all over Seattle are coming together to demand the city enact a tree protection ordinance with teeth, as other cities have already enacted locally and nationally. Our campaign, "Don't Clearcut Seattle," needs more citizen tree protectors all over town to urge the Mayor and Seattle City Council to pass the ordinance NOW before more trees and lots are cleared.



Time is of essence. Seattle has the fastest rate of development in the country. We are losing our tree canopy at an alarming rate. For ten years the city has relied on a tree ordinance that has failed to stop critical deforestation. A new tree ordinance with strong enforcement and oversight is urgently needed to protect the remaining canopy. In June 2019, the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission submitted a new tree ordinance to the Seattle City Council and Mayor. We need your support to ensure a stronger tree ordinance is enacted ASAP.

**The goals of the Don't Clearcut Seattle" campaign are:**

- Demand passage of the Urban Forestry Commission's Tree Protection Ordinance with strong and immediate enforcement to prevent the loss of any more exceptional or significant tree canopy.
- Strong protection and effective enforcement of tree protection during construction and development.
- Short-term Moratorium on removal of exceptional and significant trees if tree protection ordinance and enforcement measures aren't in place by December 2019. Mature and large trees play a critical role to mitigate our climate crisis. Expecting young saplings to do the work of mature trees could take centuries.
- Trees and affordable housing are mutually beneficial and shouldn't be incompatible. City planning needs to incorporate tree preservation as a sustainable community benefit. Consciousness needs to shift from a "me development" personal profit focus to "we development" with benefit for all.

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- We can't afford to wait. Trees are critical to mitigate climate change, to reduce the impact of air pollution, wildfire smoke, extreme temperatures, and drought. City reports in 2009 and 2017 concluded that tree regulations need to be immediately addressed, and then were buried. The result for the last decade has been a rapid depletion of our urban forest because of unregulated tree removal.

**Up-to-date information on the tree protection ordinance** and other tree protection related issues can be found at Friends of Urban Forest.org (<https://friends.urbanforests.org>). Please sign, circulate and contribute to their letter writing campaigns. The updated draft calls upon plans other cities have used to protect tree canopy:

- Expand the existing tree removal and replacement program to cover all trees 6-inch diameter (at 4-1/2 feet height) and larger on private property in all land use zones, both during development and outside development.
- Require replacement of all trees removed that are 6 inch diameter and larger with trees that in 25 years will reach equivalent canopy volume, on site or in other locations.
- Retain current protections for exceptional trees larger than 24 inch diameter, protect tree groves, and prohibit trees over 6 inch diameter being removed on undeveloped lots.
- Allow removal of no more than 2 significant non-exceptional trees in 3 years per lot outside of development.
- Establish one city-wide database for tree removal and replacement permits. Post online all permit requests and approvals for public viewing.
- Expand SDOT's tree service provider registration and certification to include all Seattle tree service providers.
- Provide adequate funding to implement and enforce the updated ordinance.

**TAKE ACTION AND JOIN US:** Please like/follow our facebook page: [dontclearcutseattle](#) and go to website [www.dontclearcutseattle.org](http://www.dontclearcutseattle.org) for up-to-date information, letter-writing and where you can donate. We have yard signs at cost and fliers you can circulate. **Contact us at [neighborhoodtreekeepers@gmail.com](mailto:neighborhoodtreekeepers@gmail.com) to help us build a public awareness campaign on the importance of TREES!**