

PlantAmnesty ▲▲▲

Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections (SDCI) releases draft Tree Protection Ordinance update – Your chance to comment to SDCI

The Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) has released their long-awaited draft tree ordinance. The current deadline to comment and respond to the draft and the SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) is April 4th.

Send comments on draft and SEPA/DNS to gordon.clowers@seattle.gov – deadline Monday April 4, 2022.

Several major issues of concern with SDCI draft:

- Does not protect exceptional trees from being removed on lots to be developed if constrains development potential of lot
- Effectively reduces inventory of trees on development sites in Single Family (SF) zones from 45% to 18% by only requiring trees of 12” and greater be noted on site plan and either replaced or included in a fee in lieu option.
- Makes all decisions by SDCI regarding implementation of SMC 25.11 final and not appealable to a Hearing Examiner
- Does not require maximizing the retention of existing trees on development sites
- Allows 1 for 1 ‘replacement’ of trees by developers no matter the size of the tree removed (this means a 24” DSH Doug fir can be replaced by a sapling)
- minimal inclusion of provisions recommended to be included by the **Seattle Urban Forestry Commission**

See SDCI [Draft Tree Ordinance Documents](#) here

See brief analysis of the draft ordinance compared to the Urban Forestry Commission recommendations here: [Friends of the Urban Forest](#)

Remember to follow up with a call to your council member and our new mayor!

Bruce Harrell, Mayor of Seattle, (206) 684-4000