

Tree Protections Update

Photo by John Skelton



Seattle Department of
Construction & Inspections



Seattle
Office of Sustainability
& Environment

Land Use Committee

July 13, 2022

TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- Introduction
- Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) Update
- Tree Protections Update
- Next Steps

UFMP UPDATE

- Implementation
 - 2022 work plan, UFMP tracker
 - 2021 Accomplishments Report
 - Preparing for upcoming canopy cover assessment

OUR 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



City of Seattle actions in support of our urban forest

Tree Care and Management

1,708 Trees planted by City departments

7,787 Trees maintained to keep them healthy

25,386 Trees inventoried to better manage our urban forest

356 Miles including **7,045** Sites of trimmed trees for safety & reliability of the power grid

Planning and Protection

- Finalized the update to the Urban Forest Management Plan
- Conducted 5 listening sessions and outreach to 9 communities in preparing the SEPA (environmental) draft tree protection ordinance

31,707 Volunteer Hours
Caring for Seattle's urban forest





Engaging community

Trees for Seattle provided planting outreach to **1,500 residents** in low canopy neighborhoods (South Park, Georgetown, Lake City, New Holly).

GSP supported **177 paid and stipended positions** providing on the ground restoration and community-building experience.

Seattle City Light **planted 60 street trees** and provided education and outreach to residents in Beacon Hill, Central District and Rainier Beach



Work done in Seattle's forested parklands



324 Acres
of weed management
done on Seattle's forested parklands



1,851 Acres
of parklands
now under restoration



10,573 Seedlings
of native trees
planted by the Green Seattle Partnership

TREE PROTECTIONS UPDATE

Code Compliance/Enforcement

- Most recent \$25,635 penalty
- Penalties – consistently over \$3,000 in Q1/Q2 2022
- Total to-date \$56,836 (2022)
- Feedback – timely and comprehensive assistance to preservation questions
- Quick action via new online feature to reach a City arborist



TREE PROTECTIONS UPDATE

Partnership with Urban Forestry Commission and other stakeholders

- Past briefings: Feb 9 and March 2
- Other stakeholders: consideration of comments received

SEPA Appeal

- Hearing scheduled for three days between June 10 - 22
- Anticipated Ruling: end of July

TREE PROTECTIONS UPDATE

SEPA Appeal – Possible Outcomes

- Affirm SDCI's Determination
- Require additional analysis
- Require EIS

SDCI will work with Mayor & Council
on next steps



TREE PROTECTIONS UPDATE

Tree Service Provider Registration Ordinance 126554

- Adds a tree service provider registration procedure and requirement
- Exploring options for implementing
- New regulations effective November 2022



NEXT STEPS

Q2 to Q4 2022

- Work with stakeholders, including UFC, on any potential revisions to SEPA Draft legislation
- Identify resources needed for implementation and enforcement
- Work with the Mayor and City Council on the next steps



QUESTIONS?

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www.seattle.gov/sdci/codes/changes-to-code/tree-protection/project-documents

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