



Tree Protections Update

Photo by John Skelton



Seattle Department of
Construction & Inspections



Seattle
Office of Sustainability
& Environment

Land Use and Neighborhoods Committee

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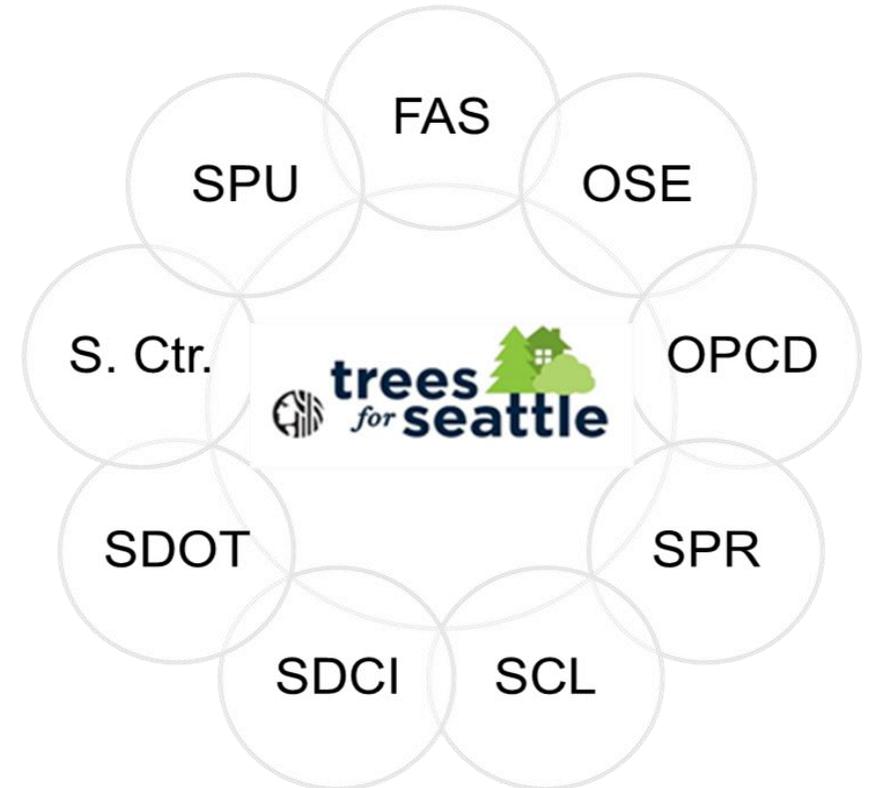
Today's Presentation

- Introduction
- Progress updating the Urban Forest Management Plan
- Urban forestry BIPOC partnerships
- Progress on Resolution 31902 – Tree Protections
- Next steps:
 - Continue to explore outstanding strategies in Resolution 31902, prioritizing and engaging BIPOC communities in culturally relevant ways
 - Make recommendation on overall options to pursue



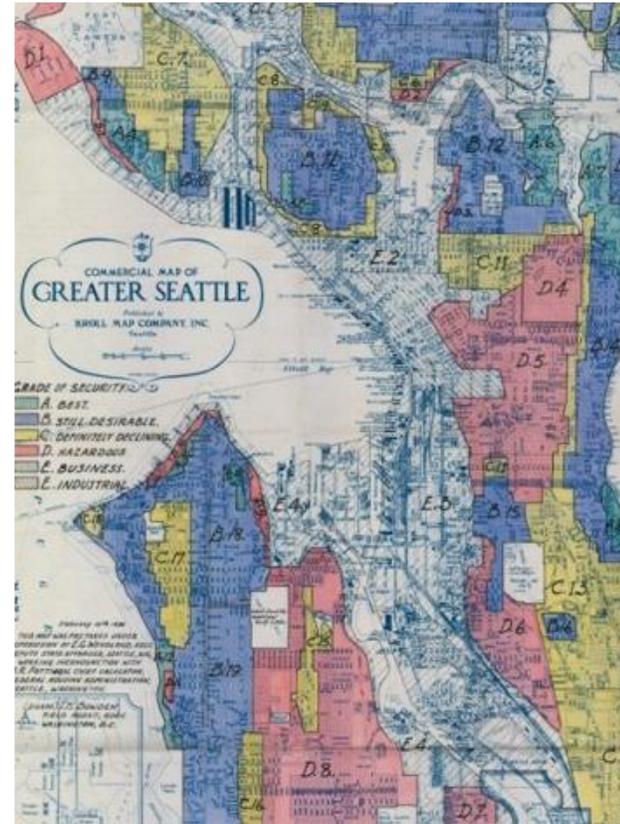
Seattle's urban forest

- Trees are fundamental to Seattle's character and our quality of life as we continue to grow
- OSE is in the process of updating the Urban Forest Management Plan
- SDCI and OSE continue to work on updates to tree protections



Urban Forest Management Plan Update

- UFMP sets goals and framework for policies and programs
- Goal of achieving 30% canopy cover by 2037
 - 2016 assessment showed 28% canopy citywide
 - Areas where people of color and low-income residents tend to live have lower canopy cover, averaging 20%
 - 72% of the city's canopy is in residential areas
- Advancing racial equity and addressing disparities are critical to this work.



Urban forestry BIPOC partnerships

Urban forestry team has been working with:

- SPU's Community Connections program: Racial Equity Toolkit and strategic outreach plan
- DoN's Community Liaisons: African American, Disabled, Latinx, Native American, Seniors, South East Cham Refugees, and unhoused populations
- Community-based organizations: Chinese Information Service Center, Horn of Africa, Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition, Duwamish Valley Youth Corps, Duwamish Infrastructure and Restoration Training (DIRT) Corps.

Engagement via community partnerships and contracts, in culturally relevant ways and 10 languages



Progress to date

Completed:

- Engagement Phase I
 - Inclusive engagement
 - Listening sessions
 - Initial assessment
- First plan draft
- Community report-backs

Underway:

- Departmental review

Next Steps:

- Public input
 - Emphasis on BIPOC communities, EJC, Duwamish Valley, etc.
- Incorporate public input, SEPA checklist
- Final plan production
- Bring to Council in early 2021



Resolution 31902 – Tree Protection

1. Strategies

- Retain and expand exceptional tree definition
- Adopt definition of significant trees
- Establish fee-in-lieu option
- Minimum requirement for tree service providers

2. Tree removal/replacement tracking

3. Work with Urban Forestry Commission

- Deliberative Sessions
- List of Recommendations

4. Community-driven BIPOC outreach



Tree Protection Progress

1. Better ways to track removal and replacement
 - Result – New system in permit software for tree actions
2. Developing Updates to Director's Rule for Exceptional Trees - Draft now available for public comment
 - Updates the definition of exceptional trees
 - Creates a new definition of significant trees
 - Requires all tree service providers to meet minimum certification requirements
 - Simplifies tree planting and replacement requirements



Tree Protection Progress

3. Greater permit review coordination
 - Two additional SDCI ISA certified arborists to assist in reviews and advise on enforcement cases
4. Improved education and information
 - Updated website and SDCI Tips based on UFC/SDCI deliberations
5. Fee-in-lieu and tree permit system research
6. Tree Data Road Map



Next Steps

1. Continue to explore outstanding strategies in Resolution 31902, prioritizing and engaging BIPOC communities in culturally relevant ways
2. Make recommendation on overall options to pursue



Questions?

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