

# CITY OF EDMONDS, WA TREE CODE AMENDMENT PROJECT PUBLIC MEETING #1 SUMMARY AND ASSESSMENT

## OVERVIEW

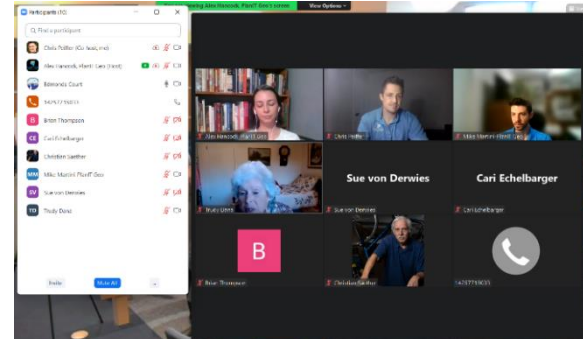
Edmonds' Tree Code was formally adopted in 2021, and City staff is now in the process of gathering public input on potential tree code updates and amendments with the following objectives:

1. Clarify the current tree code related to development (minor amendments)
2. Consider regulations on private property tree removals

As a part of the Tree Code Amendment Project's Community Engagement Strategy, an initial public meeting was held for community to learn about the project and to voice their thoughts and opinions about potential updates and amendments to the tree code. The meeting was advertised using an event page and project page on the City's website, social media posts on March 16 and March 27, a press release on March 24, and additional direct outreach via email and with fliers. This meeting was organized in a hybrid format so that attendees could join virtually via Zoom, or in person at the Edmonds City Council Chambers.



The meeting results analysis and summary are included in this document as a progress report. A second public meeting is scheduled for May 15, which will be held in person.



### **Tree Code Amendment Community Conversation**

Date: March 27, 2023  
Time: 6:00 – 7:30pm  
Location: Edmonds City Council Chambers, Public Safety Complex  
250 5th Ave. N., Edmonds, WA 98020  
Virtual Option: Zoom link provided on City's event page  
Zoom recording available at request  
Attendees: 37 (21 in person and 16 virtual)

### **Summary and Assessment Contents**

- Framework for Organizing Public Feedback
- Outreach Prior to the Meeting
- Feedback Gathered at the Meeting

## FRAMEWORK FOR ORGANIZING PUBLIC FEEDBACK

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Comments received during Public Meeting #1 were categorized into one of five categories (listed below with associated activities). These categories and activities are part of the framework utilized in the Tree Ordinance Checklist, which was created for the [Municipal Tree Care and Management in the United States: A 2014 Urban & Community Forestry Census of Tree Activities](#). This framework provides a starting point to assess and organize the comments received and prepares the feedback to be integrated into potential code recommendations.

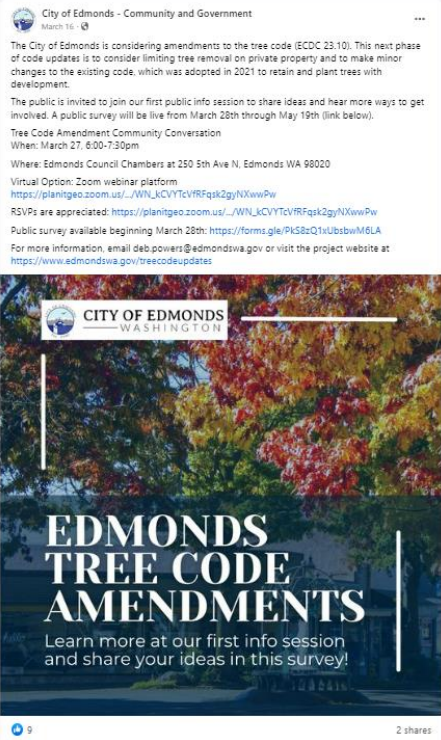
### **Tree Ordinance Checklist Framework**

- **Credential**
  - o Requires certified arborist for paid private tree work
  - o Requires certified arborist for public tree work
  - o Requires licensing of private tree care firms
  - o Defines official authority for public tree management
- **Management/Maintenance**
  - o Requires annual community tree work plans
  - o Identifies formula for determining monetary tree value
  - o Requires regular public tree maintenance
  - o Requires particular types of maintenance (e.g. pruning)
  - o Establishes permit system for work on public trees
  - o Establishes provisions for penalties for non-compliance
  - o Restricts burning of solid wood waste
  - o Establishes an insect/disease control strategy
  - o Defines tree maintenance requirements on public property
  - o Prohibits tree topping
  - o Regulates abatement of hazardous or public nuisance trees
  - o Regulates removal of dead or diseased trees
- **Planting**
  - o Regulates tree species which may or may not be planted on private property (approved tree list)
  - o Requires tree planting around reconstructed parking lots
  - o Requires replacement of removed publicly owned trees
  - o Requires tree planting around new parking lots
  - o Requires tree planting in new developments
  - o Regulates tree species which may or may not be planted on public property (approved tree list)
- **Preservation**
  - o Restricts tree cutting on private property
  - o Identifies preservation of heritage or significant trees
  - o Requires preservation of trees during development
- **Other**
  - o Citywide canopy cover goals and targets
  - o Public education/engagement regarding codes
  - o Other

## OUTREACH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

In preparation of the event, multiple engagement strategies were utilized for reaching community members and informing them of the event. All of the methods and strategies used align with the project’s overarching Tree Code Amendment Community Engagement Strategy.

Engagement Strategies	Engagement Impact (# of opens, views, likes, comments, shares, etc.)
City Website - Project Page	unknown
City Website - Event Page	unknown
Press Release – March 16	12
Facebook post – March 16	11
Facebook post – March 27	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>



### Press Release in My Edmonds News

The City published a press release in My Edmonds News on March 17, 2023. The press release and comments on the press release are included below. The comments and discussion posted in response to the press release were factored into the planning of the event as well as the public survey.

Press Release:

[“Reminder: City sponsoring community conversation March 27 about changes to Edmonds tree code”](#)

Posted: March 16, 2023, Updated: March 24, 2023

The City of Edmonds is considering amendments to its [tree code](#), including limiting tree removal on private property. Minor changes are also being proposed for the existing tree code, which the [city council adopted in 2021](#) to retain and plant trees with development.



The public is invited to participate in a Tree Code Amendment Community Conversation from 6-7:30 p.m. Monday, March 27. The meeting will be in the Edmonds City Council Chambers, Public Safety Complex, 250 5th Ave. N. You can also attend virtually [at this link](#). RSVPs are appreciated [here](#).

Following the meeting, the city will release a public survey running from March 28 through May 19. The survey link, which will go live March 28, is [here](#).

For more information, email [deb.powers@edmondswa.gov](mailto:deb.powers@edmondswa.gov) or visit the project website at [www.edmondswa.gov/treecodeupdates](http://www.edmondswa.gov/treecodeupdates).

Press Release Comments

Joe Scordino

March 17, 2023 at 11:20 am

What the heck is a “community conversation”? This City already had community engagement on tree retention when the ‘Urban Forest Management Plan’ (UFMP) was developed. The UFMP established goals to “maintain and enhance citywide canopy coverage” and “promote the right tree in the right place”.

The balancing act to achieve UFMP goals involves restricting mature tree removal and planting of new trees on undeveloped property, developed residential/commercial property, and City property. Unfortunately, the recently approved 6-year City Parks Plan (the PROS Plan) did not set any requirements for planting trees in Parks (as it should have), so now, the burden falls on private property owners.

So enough with the “conversations” and surveys as has transpired with the Comp Plan update. Just tell the public what the alternatives are to achieve UFMP goals and let the City’s legislative body (the Council) decide, with public input, how to proceed.

Clinton Wright

March 17, 2023 at 1:26 pm

Definition of an Edmonds “community conversation.” We are from the Mayor’s office and we are here to lead a seminar on what we think your visions for the city should be. Poll question: Is it just a good idea; or a great idea to place a specific moratorium date on cutting down trees greater than 24" in diameter? Wait, what’s that sound I hear? I think it’s over 100 2 stroke chain saws suddenly belching fire to beat the moratorium.

Deborah Arthur

March 18, 2023 at 3:46 pm

Ya Nailed it! The surveys I did try to use were much like this too. No real room for any suggestion or complaint. Counted by letter so we couldn’t say much at all. You are correct again Clinton and you too Joe. Are we seeing the pattern now? It is clear to me what the problem is and much of it is just like trash news stations, enquirer ha type stories. They say oh we had such a big turnout. Right of people who feel exactly like they who put on the events. Because Idealism is so huge here we just need standard votes and reason on our council and in our Mayors office and every department that is in charge of such important things in our city. Surveys embellish, Polls embellish. Lots of embellishing around haha. IT seems to me. So stop it already and just be happy. And avoid cutting trees. Its ignorant to destroy your own city. Consider your topography and you won’t maybe have to pay so many taxes after we can fix what we have destroyed and stop a lot of what is trying to be destroyed.

Chris Cantu

March 19, 2023 at 10:28 am

At least there is Clinton to provide a (sort of painful) laugh as we watch the city of Edmonds morph into a crowded Cali beach town complete with crawling traffic, no parking and divisive housing problems but minus the sunshine for 6 months a year.

Jim Fairchild

March 24, 2023 at 6:19 pm

Chris that is about right but you forgot about the loss of trees. It doesn't matter if the city chooses to buy into alternatives to our tree cover we the people will miss it eventually. But you can't have increased development without the loss of canopy. The government has gotten themselves in a bind, you can't have both. But yet they promote both. Have your cake and eat it too always leaves taxpayers paying more for less.

Nathaniel Brown

March 24, 2023 at 9:05 pm

Clinton, you know perfectly well that trees provide shade, clean the air, help retain soil, and add beauty – and do it all in the presence of children! The sooner we get rid of them, the sooner we can be Arizona by the Sea!

Clinton Wright

March 25, 2023 at 1:34 pm

Nathaniel, right on. Trees are great. I have nothing against trees, here or in Arizona, which also has lots of really cool ones (think Saguaro National Park – Tucson). I do take some issue with overzealous tree boards and committees and Draconian bans and moratoriums that tend to do more harm than good. I'm just a little tired of Edmond's hypocrisy also. For years we've allowed the wholesale cutting of huge amounts of trees to build Mc Mansions on the one hand and then turned around and made cutting down trees illegal for the latest comers to the over development and sell Edmonds fest. On top of that we now have the state sticking it's collective nose in to demand more loss of trees and green space; to promote more development. Can't have it both ways.

Steve Date

March 24, 2023 at 7:24 pm

Here we go again..... Last time the city tried to pull this crap 6 trees were cut down on my street the week prior to the meeting and MANY more all over the city. I would sure hate to remove my beautiful tree however I'll be damned if I will pay the city (fees) to prune it or even remove it if it becomes a threat to my home or self. I planted my tree 50 years ago and have been taking care of it alone all these years. Last go-around we were going to have to obtain a permit (\$\$\$) and pay an arborist (\$400-\$800) in order to do any work on our own tree, and pay a hefty fee to cut it down! I'm sharpening my chainsaw this weekend. If I remember correctly the residents made such a fuss the city council scrapped the idea (but quietly hired a couple of tree huggers to continue the process in the background) 'nuff said

Diane T

March 25, 2023 at 8:41 am

The winter ice storm did a lot of the management work for us. The City does nothing to maintain those huge stands of trees in public parks. The winter storm took out here of my two of my large trees because the City trees which were rotten rained down huge



limbs and obliterated them, city gonna pay me for that? Another huge tree which was rotted was uprooted and leaning on another uprooted huge tree. City arborists said all was stable. No worries. Until it moved (duh) and then and only then did the City get a crew out. Now there is a fire hazard this summer from all of the uncleared branches, limbs and trees that were dropped. When our tree code only goes one way, it is unsustainable. Huge trees crowd out any light so no young trees are there to replace them as they become more and more unhealthy. Edmonds is not interested in a healthy tree canopy, but rather in generating revenue by charging residents for an aging unhealthy one with no effort to renewing of the canopy. My neighbors know what they are doing with their trees. The City does not.

Chris Walton

March 25, 2023 at 6:17 am

I'm with Joe S. and Nathaniel B. In the end, there really is no healthy solution to the real problem: overpopulation. A 'community conversation' is basically just a way to kick the proverbial can down the street once again, rather than face difficult choices. But on the bright side, it's a lot cheaper than hiring a \$250,000 consultant to tell us what to do (another common method of kicking the can).

ALAN MEARNS

March 25, 2023 at 9:53 am

Last week I watched, and listened, as three 50-foot tall firs came down in our Maplewood area. Smack dab in the middle of bird and wildlife nesting and breeding season. And just before the spring migration of birds from the south. Very bad timing. The neighborhood where the trees were cut will suffer more during the next heat waves. And so much for our community's contribution to carbon reduction. These things connect...shade, carbon, water and soil runoff, wildlife protection and enhancement, corridors connecting canopies, education. It's not just one thing...like a tree cover number. The City's and residents' tree decision strategies need to consider the total of suburban ecology and human welfare. I have no idea if the property owner will plant new trees, on site or nearby, as mitigation. Unfortunately maintaining a healthy environment does cost money. So does its destruction.

Cynthia Pruitt

March 28, 2023 at 10:32 am

Thank you, Alan. I appreciate your informed voice of reason.

## FEEDBACK GATHERED AT THE MEETING

Attendees were provided multiple opportunities to provide input during this hybrid meeting. The following sections analyze the feedback received during live polling, breakout groups, and Zoom chat. When possible, this feedback has been categorized using the [Tree Ordinance Checklist Framework](#) to prepare for potential tree code recommendations.

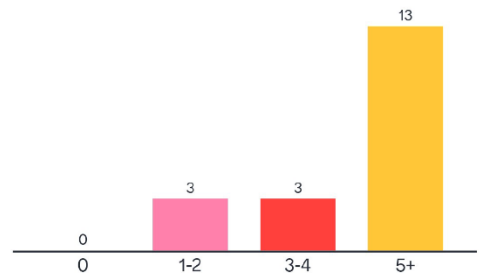
### Live Poll Results

A live poll was conducted during the public meeting that allowed all attendees (virtual and in-person) to participate. The Mentimeter poll was four questions, with the first being a warmup question and the following three questions diving further into the event’s topic of tree ordinance updates.



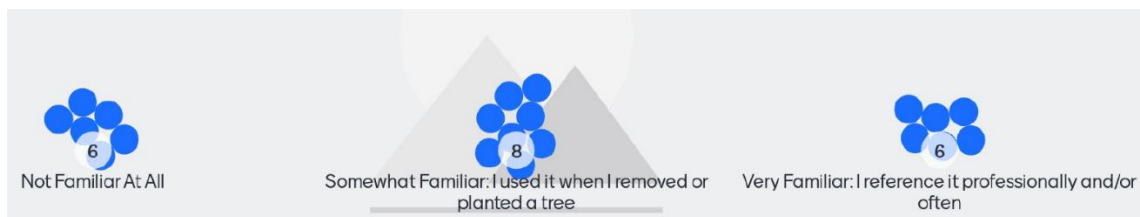
Q1: How many trees are on the property where you live?

Answer Option	Votes
0 trees	0
1-2 trees	3
3-4 trees	3
5+ trees	13



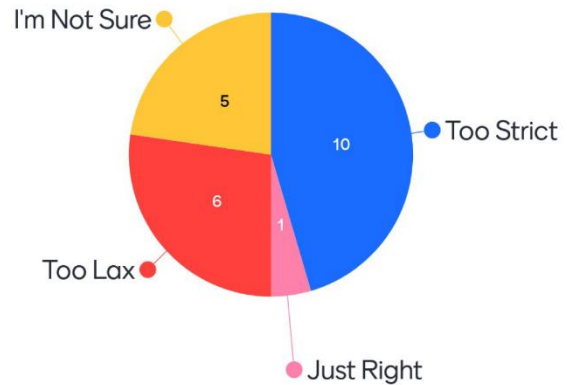
Q2: How familiar are you with the current tree code?

Answer Option	Votes
Not familiar at all	6
Somewhat familiar: I used it when I removed or planted a tree	8
Very familiar: I reference it professionally and/or often	6



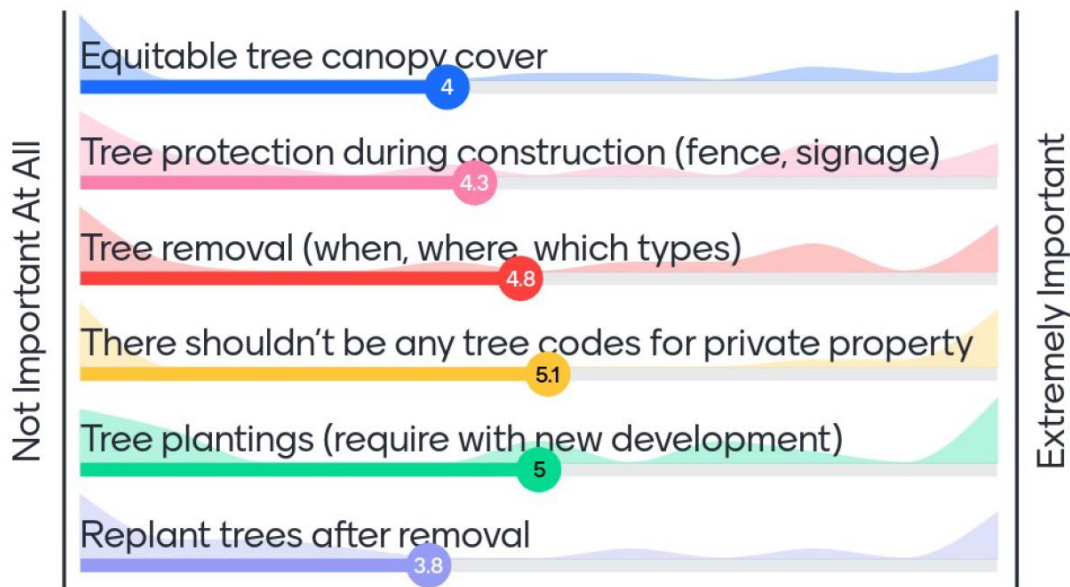
Q3: How would you describe the current tree code?

Answer Option	Votes
I'm not sure	5
Too lax	6
Just right	1
Too strict	10



Q4: How important are these tree code themes to you?

Answer Option	Score
Equitable tree canopy cover	4
Tree protection during construction (fence, signage)	4.3
Tree removal (when, where, which types)	4.8
There shouldn't be any codes for private property	5.1
Tree plantings (require with new development)	5
Replant trees after removal	3.8





## Breakout Groups

In this hybrid meeting format, breakout rooms were held both in person and virtually. Code-related comments were organized and categorized in the charts below, followed by the full transcripts of the breakout group notes with images of the original notes.

<b>Question 1: What changes would you make to tree codes relating to new development?</b>	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Restrictions on size of trees that can be removed $\geq 24"$ $\emptyset$	Preservation
Requirement for licensed arborist	Credential
More code to restrict for new development / offsets	Preservation + Planting
No charges for worth of property owners' trees	Management
Native species	Planting
Care for new trees	Management
Needs to be simplified	Other – General
Seems all or nothing = so developers choose to pay to cut down	Management
NO alternative for developers to do anything but pay into the tree code. Depends on canopy goals or low-income housing	Management
Mitigation plantings to be based on dbh or canopy	Planting
Preserving viewsheds	Preservation
Create the desire for more tree canopy. Take the OS in public spaces and set an example of how we can do better.	Planting
Tree canopy downtown is a struggle	Other – canopy
Development will remove trees and plant in the small space. Look outside the development area in a park, etc. Need other options besides just paying into fund	Planting
No enforcement, no checkups, follow-up	Management
UTC is important but look at public spaces first	Other – canopy
Development is where the canopy disappears	Other – canopy

<b>Question 2: What changes would you make to tree codes relating to private property tree removal?</b>	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Notify on property purchase / better notification	Other - education
Better definitions / locations for replacement / number of replacement trees	Planting
Define easement responsibilities → City / owner	Credential
ECA requirements	Management
Property rights are very important. Critical areas are important. All circumstances are individual	Preservation
# of removals depends on the property	Preservation
Condition of the tree	Management

Dead tree removal must be replaced	Planting
Remove within specific time	Preservation
Natives planted	Planting
Incentive for maintenance of significant trees	Management
Our group feels no need to control / have code (outside Critical Areas)	Preservation
Moratorium caused rush to cut trees	Preservation
A change should be made that no tree is untouchable, replanting trees should be tied to natives not undesirable	Planting
Defining significant trees: 6" or greater	Preservation
Trees are great and there are so many options but there is a real need for affordable housing	Other – general
For removal of significant tree, you can make a request with arborist report included	Preservation + Credential
Define landmark trees vs. heritage trees	Preservation
Nothing wrong with sharing the burden (public and private). Shouldn't do all or nothing	Credential
Private property rights should be preserved	Credential
Trying to create a tree policy that handles all zones but zones have different needs. E.g., industrial canopy is different than residential zone.	Other – canopy
Consider equity when it comes to critical area protection	Preservation

### Question 3: What role should City have on tree removal?

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Greater role	Credential
More outreach / education / hotline	Other – Education
Maintenance tree limbing / topping	Management
Quarterly fliers	Other – Education
Get involved if more than 30-50% of trees are cut down	Preservation
Trees are hazardous	Management
Depends on environment	Management
Minimal government role	Credential
Code enforcement by arborist	Credential
Modify / update code – public process with expert tree	Credential
Arborist on staff to determine tree health	Credential
Mediation would be nice	Credential
Education – Critical Areas	Other – Education
Planting for right tree right place	Planting
Yes, with Code enforcement	Credential
Crown reduction instead of thinning should be penalized	Management
Only opportunities right now are redevelopment (city is built out).	Preservation

There are examples of how to bring UTC into urban setting	Other – canopy
Being proactive would be to adopt the public streets and not put it on the property owners	Credential

In-Person Breakout Groups

The four breakout groups that met in person each had a flip chart for note taking. The pictures of the flip chart notes, as well as the typed transcripts, are included below.

*Breakout Group 1*

1. What changes would you make to tree codes relating to new development?

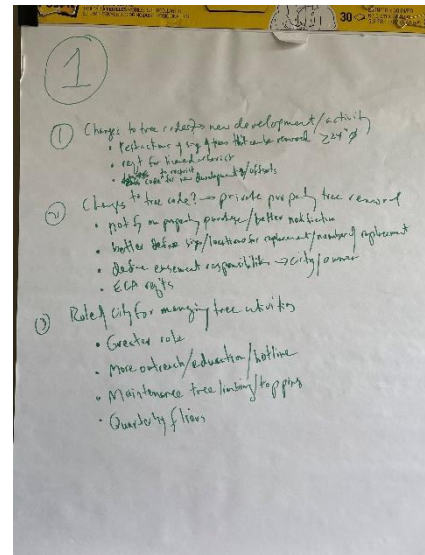
- Restrictions of size of trees that can be removed  $\geq 24"$   $\emptyset$
- Requirement for licensed arborist
- More code to restrict for new development / offsets

2. What changes would you make to tree codes relating to private property tree removal?

- Notify on property purchase / better notification
- Better definitions / locations for replacement / number of replacement
- Define easement responsibilities  $\rightarrow$  City / owner
- ECA requirements

3. Role of City for managing tree activity

- Greater role
- More outreach / education / hotline
- Maintenance tree limbing / topping
- Quarterly fliers



*Breakout Group 2*

1. What would you change on new development tree removal?

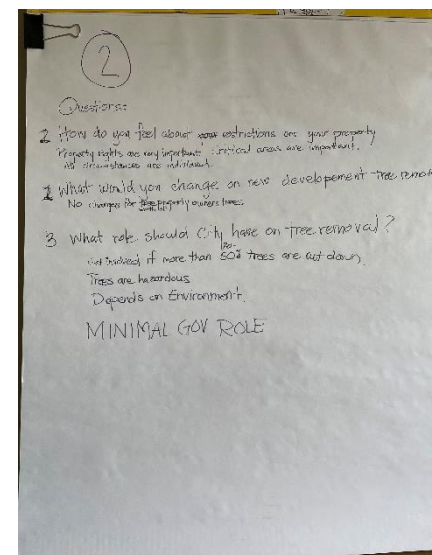
- No charges for worth of property owners' trees

2. How do you feel about restrictions on your property?

- Property rights are very important. Critical areas are important. All circumstances are individual.

3. What role should City have on tree removal?

- Get involved if more than 30-50% of trees are cut down
- Trees are hazardous
- Depends on environment
- Minimal government role

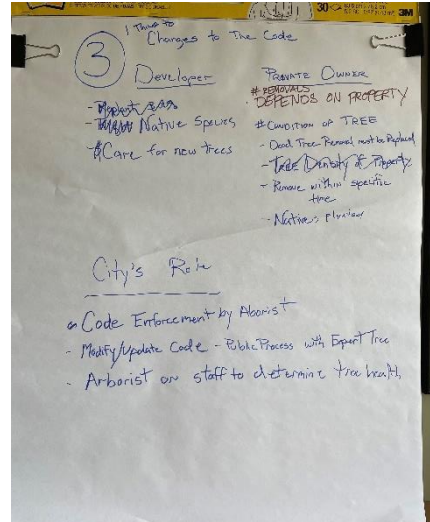


*Breakout Group 3*

1. What changes would you make to tree codes relating to new development?

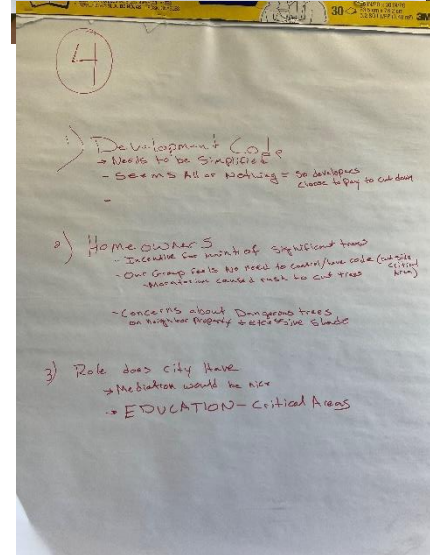
- Native species
- Care for new trees

2. What changes would you make to tree codes relating to private property tree removal?
  - # of removals depends on the property
  - Condition of the tree
  - Dead tree removal must be replaced
  - Remove within specific time
  - Natives planted
3. What role should the City have?
  - Code enforcement by arborist
  - Modify / update code – public process with expert tree
  - Arborist on staff to determine tree health



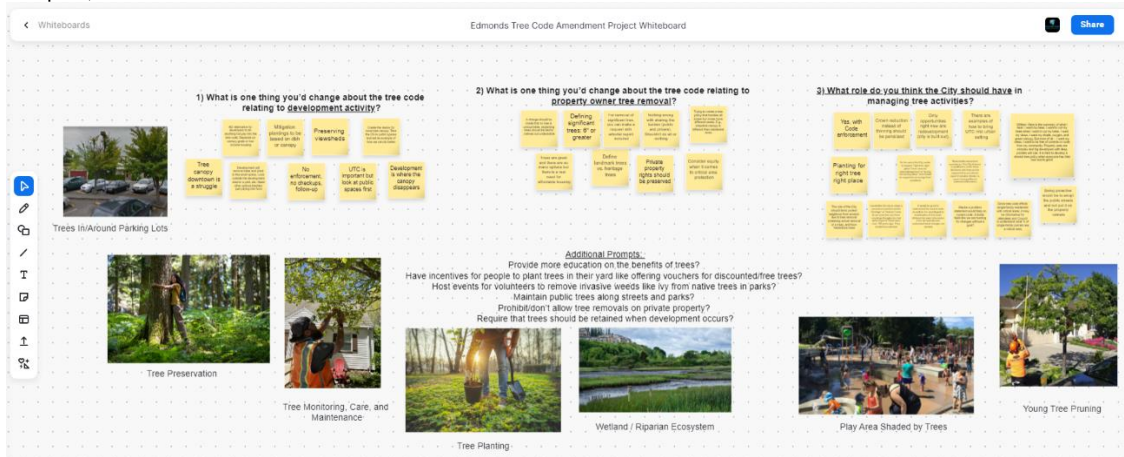
Breakout Group 4

1. What changes would you make to tree codes relating to new development?
  - Needs to be simplified
  - Seems all or nothing = so developers choose to pay to cut down
2. What changes would you make to tree codes relating to private property tree removal?
  - Incentive for maintenance of significant trees
  - Out group feels no need to control / have code (outside Critical Areas)
    - i. Moratorium caused rush to cut trees
3. What role should the City have?
  - Mediation would be nice
  - Education – Critical Areas



Virtual Breakout Groups

The two breakout groups that met virtually via Zoom were assigned note takers from the project team who used Zoom’s whiteboard feature to compile answers to the same three questions as the in-person groups. Screenshots of the whiteboards, as well as the typed transcripts, are included below.



*Virtual Breakout Groups 1 and 2 Combined*

Q1: What changes would you make to tree codes relating to new development?

- NO alternative for developers to do anything but pay into the tree code. Depends on canopy goals or low-income housing
- Mitigation plantings to be based on dbh or canopy
- Preserving viewsheds
- Create the desire for more tree canopy. Take the OS in public spaces and set an example of how we can do better.
- Tree canopy downtown is a struggle
- Development will remove trees and plant in the small space. Look outside the development area in a park, etc. Need other options besides just paying into fund
- No enforcement, no checkups, follow-up
- UTC is important but look at public spaces first
- Development is where the canopy disappears

Q2: What changes would you make to tree codes relating to private property tree removal?

- A change should be made that no tree is untouchable, replanting trees should be tied to natives not undesirable
- Defining significant trees: 6" or greater
- Trees are great and there are so many options but there is a real need for affordable housing
- For removal of significant tree, you can make a request with arborist report included
- Define landmark trees vs. heritage trees
- Nothing wrong with sharing the burden (public and private). Shouldn't do all or nothing
- Private property rights should be preserved
- Trying to create a tree policy that handles all zones but zones have different needs. E.g., industrial canopy is different than residential zone.
- Consider equity when it comes to critical area protection

Q3: What role should the City have?

- Planting for right tree right place
- Yes, with Code enforcement
- Crown reduction instead of thinning should be penalized
- Only opportunities right now are redevelopment (city is built out).
- There are examples of how to bring UTC into urban setting
- Being proactive would be to adopt the public streets and not put it on the property owners



## Zoom Chat

In the virtual Zoom meeting, the chat feature was enabled to allow participants to send questions, have dialogue, and send additional feedback. Code-related comments were organized and categorized in the chart below, followed by the full transcript of the Zoom chat.

ZOOM CHAT	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Could you review what the current code says about private tree removal?	Other - Education
To the extent the City seeks to support "Right tree, right place," there must be acknowledgement of Wrong tree, Wrong place, and should be supportive of curing those conditions.	Planting
Reasonable exceptions considered. The city arborist is qualified to make these decisions and they can be supported by an arborist report if needed, similar to zones having diff codes/considerations.	Credential
The role of the City should be to protect neighbors from erosion due to tree removal (meaning actual removal of a tree), and from hazardous trees.	Management
I would like the city to adopt a provision to protect certain "Heritage" or "Historic" trees. In our area there are three very large Douglas Fir trees that were a part of Yost's farm over 100 years ago. They should be protected.	Preservation
It would be great to understand the current code, as well as the overall goal to modification of tree code. Without this base information I am not sure we can understand what changes are needed	Other – education
Maybe a problem statement would help on current code. It kinda feels like we are hunting for changes without a goal?	Other – goals
Since the tree code affects single-family residential properties with critical areas, it may be informative for attendees and Council to understand what % of single-family parcels are a critical area.	Other - education
Here is the summary of what I hear: I want my trees. I want to cut my trees when I want to cut my trees. I want my views. I want my shade, oxygen, and green canopy. But most of all – I want my views. I want to be free of controls or costs from my community. Property uses are complex and big developers with deep pockets will rule. It is hard to develop a shared tree policy when everyone has their own axe to grind.	Management



Zoom Chat Transcript

21:25:22 From Chris Peiffer to Everyone:  
www.menti.com

21:25:31 From Chris Peiffer to Everyone:  
code: 8814 9606

21:26:42 From Chris Peiffer to Everyone:  
I'm here for anyone running into issues with the tool. Thanks for your participation!

21:37:53 From Chris Peiffer to Everyone:  
For folks joining late, we are taking a poll and you're welcome to join us by copy/pasting the link above and entering the code

21:38:03 From Brian Thompson to Everyone:  
Looks like there was confusion on the yellow bar. 50% said too strict in last question..

21:38:22 From Brian Thompson to Everyone:  
Double-negative makes it hard to answer.

21:39:00 From Brian Thompson to Everyone:  
I agree with the gentleman asking the question. it's a poorly worded question.

21:39:45 From Brian Thompson to Everyone:  
It does not appear that answers can be changed.

21:40:44 From Brian Thompson to Everyone:  
The 10 people who answered 0 or 1 may have not understood what Alex said at the time they responded.

21:44:00 From Brian Thompson to Everyone:  
+1 for reset

21:44:07 From robert to Everyone:  
+1

21:44:48 From Chris Peiffer to Everyone:  
thanks for the feedback. You may need to refresh your window to resubmit

21:45:20 From Katy Bigelow to Alex Hancock, PlanIT Geo(Direct Message):  
i am sorry, I just jioned, is it possible for remote to vote?

21:45:32 From Alex Hancock, PlanIT Geo to Katy Bigelow(Direct Message):  
Yes! Go to www.menti.com

21:45:39 From Alex Hancock, PlanIT Geo to Katy Bigelow(Direct Message):  
type in the code at the top of the screen

21:46:09 From Alex Hancock, PlanIT Geo to Katy Bigelow(Direct Message):  
8814 9606

21:46:10 From Katy Bigelow to Alex Hancock, PlanIT Geo(Direct Message):  
I'm sorry, the screenshare info covers the code

21:46:38 From Lu Loree to Everyone:  
My screen is not working

21:47:19 From D. Landsverk to Alex Hancock, PlanIT Geo(Direct Message):  
no tree codes for private property

21:50:03 From Christian Saether to Everyone:  
Could you review what the current code says about private tree removal?

21:50:12 From robert to Everyone:  
Reacted to "Could you review wha..." with 👍

21:50:14 From Christian Saether to Everyone:

My understanding is there are no restrictions currently

22:14:09 From Edmonds Court to Alex Hancock, PlanIT Geo(Direct Message):  
Are you guys ready to start back/full screen?

22:14:21 From Alex Hancock, PlanIT Geo to Edmonds Court(Direct Message):  
yep we are tready

22:17:35 From Brian Thompson to Everyone:  
To the extent the City seeks to support "Right tree, right place," there must be acknowledgement of Wrong tree, Wrong place, and should be supportive of curing those conditions.

22:18:49 From Katy Bigelow to Everyone:  
reasonable exceptions considered. The city arborist is qualified to make these decisious and they can be supported by an arborist report if needed.

22:19:03 From Katy Bigelow to Everyone:  
similar to zones having diff codes/considerations

22:20:40 From Brian Thompson to Everyone:  
The role of the City should be to protect neighbors from erosion due to tree removal (meaning actual removal of a tree), and from hazardous trees.

22:21:15 From Trudy Dana to Everyone:  
I would like the city to adopt a provision to protect certain "Heritage" or "Historic" trees. In our area there are three very large Douglas Fir trees that were a part of Yost's farm over 100 years ago. They should be protected.

22:21:30 From robert to Everyone:  
It would me great to understand the current code, as well as the overall goal to modification of tree code.

22:22:10 From robert to Everyone:  
without this base information I am not sure we can understand what changes are needed

22:23:18 From Chris Peiffer to Everyone:  
I documented the comments received from Brian, Katy, Trudy, and Robert, thank you!

22:24:32 From Chris Peiffer to Everyone:  
more comments and questions are welcome if you'd like to share those in the chat here

22:27:55 From robert to Everyone:  
Maybe a problem statement would help on current code. It kinda feels like we are hunting for changes without a goal?

22:28:38 From Katy Bigelow to Everyone:  
how does someone sign up as a stakeholder?

22:29:00 From Brian Thompson to Everyone:  
Since the tree code affects single-family residential properties with critical areas, it may be informative for attendees and Council to understand what % of single-family parcels are a critical area.

22:30:00 From Alex Hancock, PlanIT Geo to Everyone:  
Project Website: [www.edmondswa.gov/treecodeupdates](http://www.edmondswa.gov/treecodeupdates)

22:30:18 From Alex Hancock, PlanIT Geo to Everyone:  
Public Survey (goes live tomorrow at noon):

22:30:23 From Alex Hancock, PlanIT Geo to Everyone:  
<https://forms.gle/AfhdnHufNJdGjLzD6>

22:34:20 From Alex Hancock, PlanIT Geo to Edmonds Court(Direct Message):

Deb can you repeat the questions? We can't hear

22:36:42 From William to Everyone:

Here is the summary of what I hear:

I want my trees.

I want to cut my trees when I want to cut my trees.

I want my views.

I want my shade, oxygen, and green canopy.

But most of all – I want my views.

I want to be free of controls or costs from my community.

Property uses are complex and big developers with deep pockets will rule.

It is hard to develop a shared tree policy when everyone has their own axe to grind.

### Public Comments Organized by Category

Participants provided input during virtual and in person breakout sessions, and throughout the event in the Zoom chat feature. These comments were organized using the [Tree Ordinance Category Framework](#), which will be used throughout all public engagement and for final tree code amendment recommendations.

Tree Ordinance Checklist Category	#	%
Credential	15	21%
Management	15	21%
Planting	11	15%
Preservation	15	21%
Other	16	22%

