TREE CODE AMENDMENT PROJECT: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT REPORT
CITY OF EDMONDS, WA

JUNE 2023

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

Source: City of Edmonds, WA

The City of Edmonds' Tree Code Amendment project represents an important step in protecting, understanding, and managing the urban forest. This project used a planning approach consisting of extensive research and reviews of existing code and documents and a public outreach strategy to gather public input and shape ordinance development.

Edmonds' tree code, Chapter 23.10 ECDC was adopted in 2021 to primarily protect trees with development and to achieve Urban Forestry Management Plan Goal 1A. It was recognized that limitations on property owner tree removals could be considered at a future date. The scope of the 2022-2023 Tree Code Amendment Project ("project") is to consider limitations to property owner tree removals and to further clarify and simplify the existing development-related code with minor code changes.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Strategy is to ensure the 2022-2023 tree code amendment process aligns with the City's Equitable Engagement Framework in identifying the community's preferred solutions for property owner tree removals in Edmonds. This Strategy ensures the community has full access to information and opportunities to propose ideas for collective solutions related to private property tree removal in Edmonds. The resulting community input will support City board and council decision-making by providing a thorough understanding of how those decisions might impact the public.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

Gather Community Input with Robust Engagement

The City of Edmonds recognizes the value of community-driven decision-making. Using the *Edmonds Equitable Engagement Framework*, this project invites community members, developers, business owners, landscapers, utilities, and tree care professionals participate in discussing Edmonds' tree regulations. This project seeks to reflect the broader community's goals and vision for a healthy, sustainable urban forest.

Clarify and Simplify the Existing Development-Related Tree Codes

Chapter 23.10 Tree Related Regulations of the Edmonds municipal code was adopted in 2021 to primarily protect trees with development and to achieve Urban Forestry Management Plan Goal 1A. Since its adoption, various opportunities for improvement have been identified that will clarify and simplify the code language without changing the meaning. This project seeks to identify and discuss these minor amendments to the code relating to tree removal associated with development.

Consider Limitations on Tree Removal Not Associated with Development

Chapter 23.10 Tree Related Regulations currently exempts developed single-family properties from tree removal requirements, except for critical areas or their associated buffers. This project seeks to consider varying levels of limitations on tree removal for developed properties, and to generate healthy discussion with stakeholders and community members around potential recommendations to amend *Chapter 23.10*.

EDMONDS' TREE CODE BACKGROUND

In recent years, momentum for urban forestry has resulted in great progress for the Edmonds community leading up to this Tree Code Amendment Project. A summary of significant milestones is included below.

Year	Milestone	Details
2019	Urban Forest Management Plan	Goal 1A reads: Update tree regulations to reduce clearcutting or other development impacts on the urban forest and to consider changes to tree replacement requirements and penalties for code violations.
2020-2021	Tree Code Update	Code updated to reflect Goal 1A of the UFMP. The City Council and the Planning Board recognized that in addition to retaining and planting trees with development, regulations to limit tree removal not associated with development could be considered at a future date.
2022	Canopy Assessment	This assessment is guides canopy-enhancing strategies such as tree planting programs, public education, and tree code updates.
2022-2023	Tree Code Amendment Project	Process to engage the community for guidance on clarifying and simplifying the existing development-related tree codes, and considering limitations on tree removal not associated with development.

TREE CODE AMENDMENT PROJECT TIMELINE

PROJECT KICKOFF	**OUTREACH STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT**	**DIGITAL OUTREACH (SURVEY AND SOCIAL MEDIA)**	**PUBLIC MEETINGS AND FOCUS GROUPS**	**ENGAGEMENT ANALYSIS**
DEC 2022	JAN-FEB 2023	MAR-MAY 2023	MAR-MAY 2023	JUNE 2023

MANUALS, GUIDES, AND FORMS

Should the Edmonds City Council adopt any Tree Code Amendments, City Staff will need to update all existing manuals, guides, and forms that reference outdated tree and landscape codes. New guides should be easily understood by staff in any City Department and any resident of Edmonds. Often, permit application forms need to be created or heavily modified upon adoption of new tree-related regulations so that the process is streamlined.

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES & RESULTS

A Community Outreach and Engagement Strategy (Attachment A) was developed to ensure that the 2022-2023 tree code amendment process aligns with the City's Equitable Engagement Framework in identifying the community's preferred solutions for the project objectives. With this Strategy, the community is given access to information and opportunities to propose ideas for collaborate solutions related to private property tree removal in Edmonds. The community input will support City Planning Board and Council decision-making by providing a thorough understanding of how those decisions might impact the public. A summary the engagement strategies and their results are included in this section.

CITY WEBPAGE CONTENT AND EMAIL

Project-related content was made available to the public on the City's website on the following webpage: https://www.edmondswa.gov/treecodeupdates. This site informs the public on the purpose, process, and importance of updating the code, and was updated periodically with progress updates. The content introduces residents to the importance of trees and their benefits, and that enhancing tree protection can combat climate change, strengthen community resilience and public health and address issues identified in the canopy assessment. The project webpage provided links to engagement opportunities such as the community survey, upcoming events, and public meetings. An email account trees@edmondswa.gov was created for community members to receive project updates.

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

The City of Edmonds used social media messaging to inform the public of engagement opportunities at key project intervals. The posts were provided in English, Chinese, Korean, and Spanish to avoid barriers to engagement.
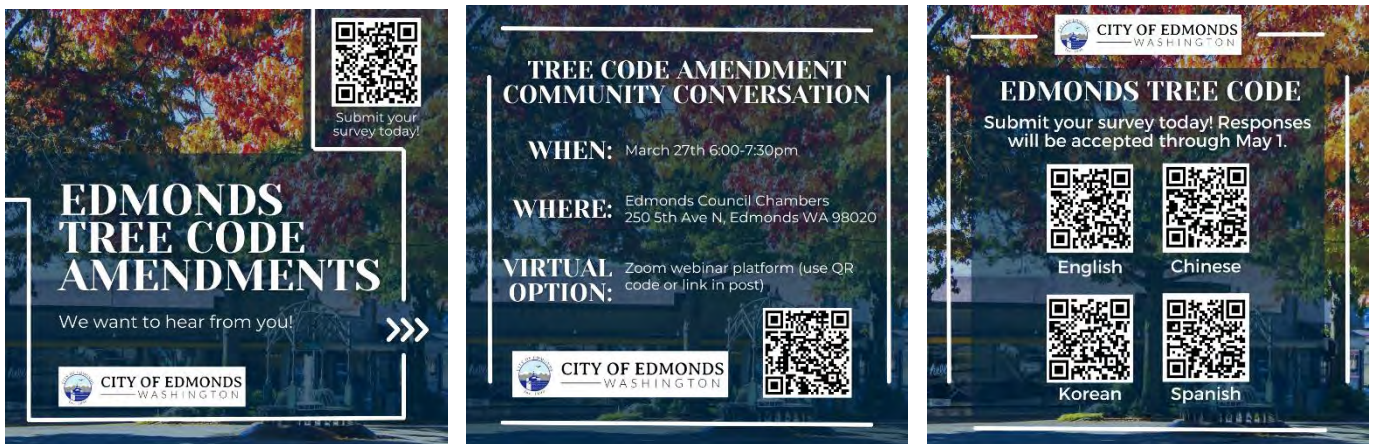
PUBLIC MEETINGS

This City of Edmonds hosted two public meetings to gather public input on tree code amendments. The meetings were held in a hybrid format, using the interactive and intuitive webinar platform, Zoom, which allowed the City to provide similar opportunities for engagement between in-person attendees and virtual attendees. The meetings were recorded and made available on the City's website.
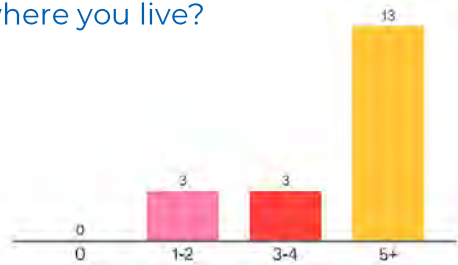
Community Conversation #1

The first meeting began with an educational presentation by City staff and was followed by live polling using Mentimeter and breakout group discussions. The presentation at this meeting informed residents of the tree code update purpose, approach, and opportunities to engage. The live polling results are included below, and the full event report is included at Attachment B.

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?

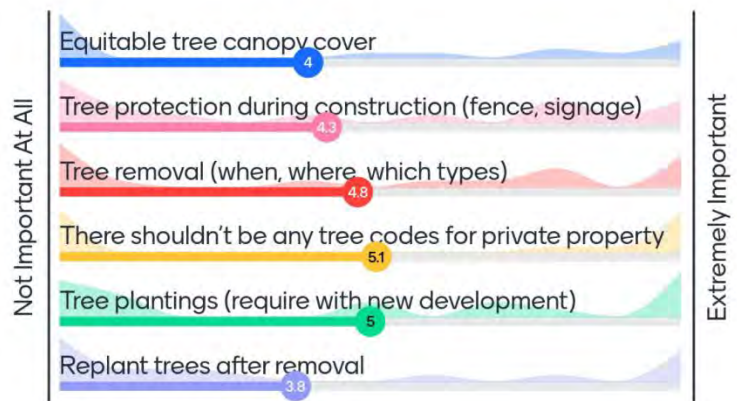| Answer Option	Score
Equitable tree canopy cover	4
Tree protection during construction (fence, signage)	4.3
Tree removal (when, where, which types)	4.8
There shouldn't be any codes for private property	5.1
Tree plantings (require with new development)	5
Replant trees after removal	3.8

Community Conversation #2

The second public meeting was informed by the first public meeting, the survey results from City staff and stakeholder groups including the Edmonds Citizen's Tree Board, data analyses, and other key findings from planning tasks.

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

Breakout Groups

In this hybrid meeting format, breakout groups were held both in person and virtually. Code-related comments from all breakout rooms were organized and categorized in the summary charts below. The full transcripts of the breakout group notes are included in the meeting report as Attachment C.

Tree Removal, No Development Question 1: Does the City have a role in limiting property owner tree removals?	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
If the tree is a hazard, you should be able to cut it down	Preservation
Require prop owner to hire an arborist, but not get a permit	Credential
Over-the-counter removal process	Management
Establish tracking system to know how many trees are removed vs planted	Management
Specify types of trees which are better for mitigation (i.e. deciduous vs conifer)	Planting
There should be notification of tree removal permits to surrounding neighbors	Management

Tree Removal, No Development Question 2: What's the one thing you'd change about the current code related to private property tree removals?	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Allow property owners to maintain viewsheds	Maintenance
Establish different regs for "The Bowl" (e.g. overlay district)	Management
Clarify critical areas regs	Preservation
Include liabilities when landslides occur after tree removals.	Management
Require public notice to surrounding property owners	Management
Require Geotech assessment.	Management
Establish critical area public education program	Other
Invasives should not be allowed – push for natives	Maintenance
Climate adaptation (doug firs not adaptive)	Maintenance
Switch from regulating trees to regulating property	Management
Protection for larger trees 30" DBH	Preservation
Enforcement needs improvement	Management
Require replanting in commercial development (Clarify in CRA)	Planting
Surface H2O fear – decreased fee structure for tree retention. (Tax incentives)	Preservation
Require the city to notice that they are doing removal and why	Management
Educate the public on the importance of preserving trees because they are multi-generational entities	Other

Responsibility needs to be on an arborist or someone for knowing the proper code and way to take the trees down. Some kind of mechanism knowing the proper removal steps and ensuring they are followed	Credential

Tree Removal, No Development
Question 3: Should anyone be required to plant replacement trees when trees are removed on private property?

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
City shouldn't say yes/no on removal, but should have a say in the replant requirement	Planting
Mitigation should be same for same species type (i.e. deciduous : deciduous and evergreen : evergreen)	Planting
Provide notification of trees removed (not a permit – no cost – no ability for the City to say "no")	Management
Replacement should consider the size of the tree being removed in order to get the same ecological benefits	Planting
With Edmonds turning over like hotcakes, trees are cut without much consideration with consideration to the overall impact they have on the homeowner and other residents. Trees are not respected for their benefits over time, they are multi-generational.	Preservation
Concerned that the developers/private property owners are approved to cut down huge swaths of 100 yo forests and then are able to "replant" which does not support the MAJOR biodiversity is lost	Preservation
Recommendation: If there is a clear code and neighbors know what it is...they can help to enforce	Other

Tree Removal, With Development
Question 1: Does the City have a role in requiring tree retention with development? Replanting? Assessing fees in lieu?

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Fees should be used for tree planting	Planting
Retention should be #1 focus	Preservation
Dislike fees in lieu – no cap on amount	Management
Provide a basic framework but let developers be the experts on site design	Credential
Planting requirements, no penalties	Planting
Tree diversity	Planting
Incentives to retain trees (esp drainage)	Preservation

Replanting – penalties	Planting
Incentives over penalties (e.g. "developers must use 10% for network in Seattle" 10% tree limitation	Preservation
Carrots over sticks – development incentives	Preservation
Gather data on replacement, planting, preservation, etc. for the urban forest	Management
Fees should be much higher than they are now	Management
The diameter classes do not capture the whole ecosystem cost, so either lowering the DBH threshold or increasing the costs with these because the other factors involved	Preservation
would prefer to make it more difficult to cut down old growth or second growth rather than the payout.	Preservation

Tree Removal, With Development Question 2: What's the one thing you'd change about the current tree code related to development?	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Clarify it.	Other
Increase tree planting in commercial properties	Planting
Weak/confusing and needs revision	Other
Ensure equity in fees so replacement are throughout Edmonds	Planting
Overly complicated	Other

Tree Removal, With Development Question 3: Should certain trees (landmark, trees in critical areas, etc.) have a higher degree of protection on development sites?	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Property of concern - on Shell Creek by Theatre – City owns property on other side of the creek, but this property is up for development (asking for variance, which we don't think they'll get). How is this possible?	Preservation
Don't want any development in certain types of critical areas.	Preservation
Landmark trees = Cultural significance to community (e.g. Monkey puzzle tree)	Preservation
Prefer incentives as opposed to regulations	Preservation
Use fees/fund for land acquisition	Management
Area of concern – Perraville development concerns	Preservation
Consider other development styles that preserve more land	Preservation
Natives and trees in critical areas	Preservation

|	
Get away from single tree protection, but a whole ecosystem protection and do a pocket or a larger landmass protection for biodiversity. Change the name from tree code to forest code	Preservation

FOCUS GROUPS

As a part of the Tree Code Amendment Project's Community Engagement Strategy, a series of focus group sessions were scheduled to hear perspectives and ideas from various interest groups about potential updates and amendments to the tree code. City staff sent out invitations with the following stakeholder groups in mind:

- Developers
- Arborists
- Environmental sciences
- Tree preservation advocacy
- Climate action
- Underserved and underrepresented

Under the guidance provided in the "Collaborative" Level of Engagement per the Equitable Engagement Framework, these groups were identified to provide advice and innovation in creating solutions so that decision-makers (Planning Board, City Council) may incorporate their advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible. The three facilitated stakeholder meetings were held with two main objectives in mind:

1) Understand how trees are currently regulated in Edmonds and
2) Develop partnerships with advisory boards and community groups that can provide input on alternatives and identify preferred solutions related to tree code amendment decisions.
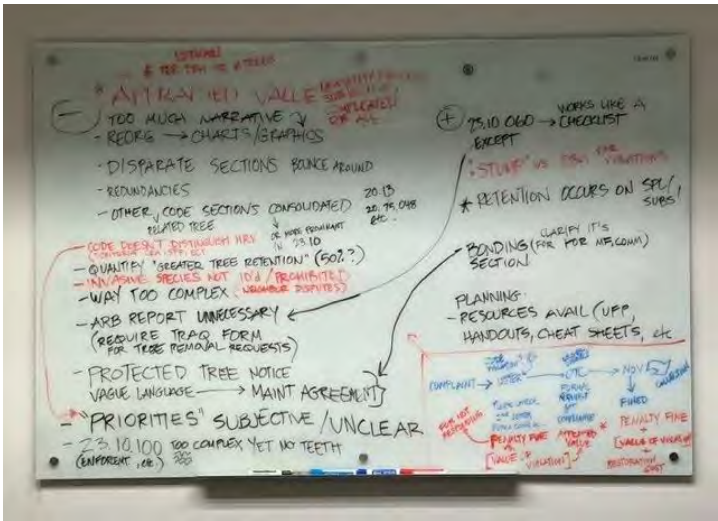
Focus Group #1

Developers, arborists, and community members involved in development-related activity were included in the first focus group meeting. Five people attended virtually and five attended in person at Edmonds City Hall. The following questions were asked to guide the conversation and collect meaningful feedback. A full report is included as Attachment D.:

1) What challenges have you experienced working with the tree code?
2) Conversely, what works well with Edmonds' tree code?
3) What incentives would you consider to achieve greater tree retention, while developing the site to its maximum potential? Can you point to any examples from other cities?
4) Based on your work within the region, when considering development sequencing (from feasibility to final inspection/bonding), what tree code requirements, design review processes, on-site tree protection methods, maintenance plans, etc. Should Edmonds consider?
5) Tree removal replacements: what replanting standards are you most in favor of?

Focus Group #2

The Edmonds Tree Board participated in the second focus group meeting to gather input from these subject matter experts who have been involved with Edmonds' urban forest for years. The Tree Board discussed the focus questions at great length and while consensus was not achieved for each question, the discussion which is outlined in Attachment E provides great value to the Tree Code Amendment Project process.

Tree Removal With or Without Development	Question	In-Person Answers (Yes/No/Undecided)	Follow-Up Survey (Yes/No/Undecided)
Without	Should property owner tree removals be limited to help slow the loss of canopy?	Undecided	Yes – 3 No – 0 Undecided – 0
Without	Should property owners be allowed to remove x number of trees (within a certain timeframe)?	Yes (3) / Undecided	Yes – 3 No – 0 Undecided – 0
Without	Is 12 months adequate between allowed removals?	Undecided	Yes – 1 No – 1 Undecided – 1
Without	Should "Landmark" tree be defined as minimum 24" DBH?	Yes	Yes – 3 No – 0 Unclear – 0
Without	Should "Landmark" tree removals be prohibited? Limited? (Except hazard or nuisance trees)	Yes, limited	Yes – 3 No – 0 Unclear – 0
Without	Should the time between "Landmark" tree removals be longer than what's allowed for smaller trees?	Undecided	Yes – 2 No – 0 Undecided – 1
Without	Should the same tree removal allowances apply in critical areas?	Yes/ Undecided	Yes – 0 No – 3 Undecided – 0
Without	Should a permit be required for tree removals in critical areas?	Undecided	Yes – 3 No – 0 Undecided – 0
Without	What are appropriate tree replacement requirements for	Yes/ Undecided	Freeform

Tree Removal With or Without Development	Question	In-Person Answers (Yes/No/Undecided)	Follow-Up Survey (Yes/No/Undecided)
	property owner tree removals in Edmonds?		
With	Should the code be reorganized using charts and graphics?	Yes	Yes – 3 No – 0 Undecided – 0
With	Should the code use one method/calculation to determine the minimum number of trees required to be retained/replanted?	Undecided	Yes – 3 No – 0 Undecided – 0
With	Should the code prioritize replanting over requiring fees in lieu, such as with Landmark tree replacements?	Yes/ Undecided	Yes – 3 No – 0 Undecided – 0
With	Should the $2 per square foot "cap" eliminated from the code?	Undecided	Yes – 1 No – 1 Undecided – 1
With	Should the 25% tree retention threshold that applies to multifamily development be removed from the code?	Undecided	Yes – 1 No – 1 Undecided – 1
With	Should the Conservation Subdivision code section specify a quantity for "greater tree retention"?	Undecided	Yes – 3 No – 0 Undecided – 0
With	Should the "priorities and procedures" section include specific qualitative retention criteria vs quantitative "quotas"?	Undecided	Yes – 2 No – 0 Undecided – 1
With	Should Landmark trees have a higher degree of protection requirements than other trees?	Undecided	Yes – 3 No – 0 Undecided – 0
With	Should groves have a higher degree of protection requirements than other trees?	Undecided	Yes – 3 No – 0 Undecided – 0
With	What's the one thing you would change with the existing code?	Undecided	Freeform
With	What are some ways that Edmonds' tree code could be improved?	Undecided	Freeform

Focus Group #3

A third Focus Group was hosted by City Staff for City Staff to inform the Tree Code Amendment Project process. A full summary of the discussion is included as Attachment F.
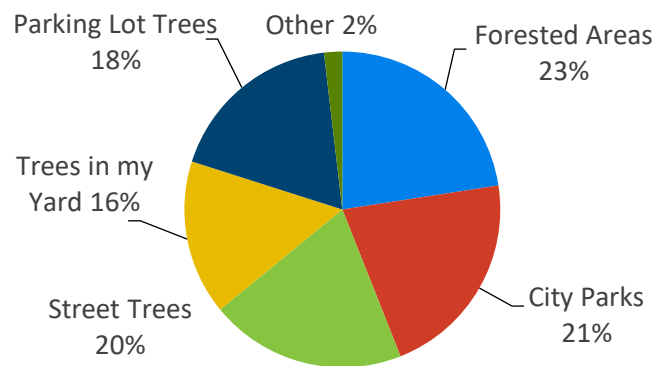
PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

A public survey was developed with questions to gauge community members' understanding of the urban forest and their sentiment on regulating tree removal on private property and in critical habitats. The survey was accessible to the public from March 28 – May 26, 2023 on City's project webpage, in social media posts, and in news releases. Public survey progress reports were made available for the second community conversation meeting, stakeholder meetings and Planning Board meetings. A total of 230 responses were received (229 online, 1 paper). A summary of the results is included below, and the detailed Final Results Report is included as Attachment G.

Question 1: What do you consider to be part of Edmonds' urban forest? Check all that apply.
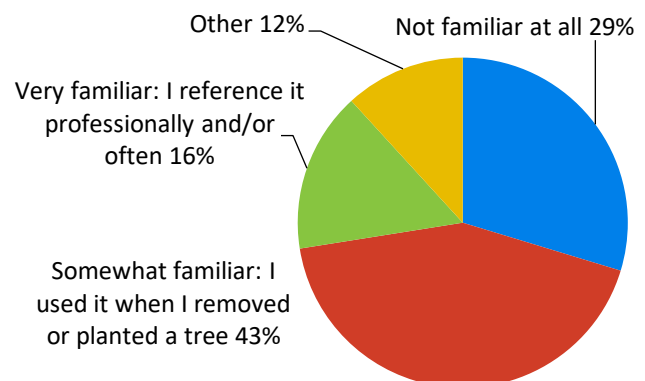
Summary of Results
The responses reflect a well-rounded urban forest, with responders acknowledging that forested areas and City parks are thought of first in considering Edmond's urban forest. Results reflected a focus on publicly maintained trees, whereas in reality the majority of urban trees are located on residential property.

Parking Lot Trees 18%
Other 2%
Forested Areas 23%
Trees in my Yard 16%
Street Trees 20%
City Parks 21%

Question 2: How would you rate your awareness and understanding of Edmonds' current tree code (adopted 2021)?

Summary of Results
The majority of respondents (43%) rated their awareness of the tree code as "somewhat familiar," 29% were not familiar with the code at all, 16% were very familiar, and 12% had a different level of familiarity. This information was vital in understanding that additional education about the tree code would be beneficial for the Edmonds community.

Other 12%
Not familiar at all 29%
Very familiar: I reference it professionally and/or often 16%
Somewhat familiar: I used it when I removed or planted a tree 43%

Question 3. In your opinion, the current tree code is:

Summary of Results

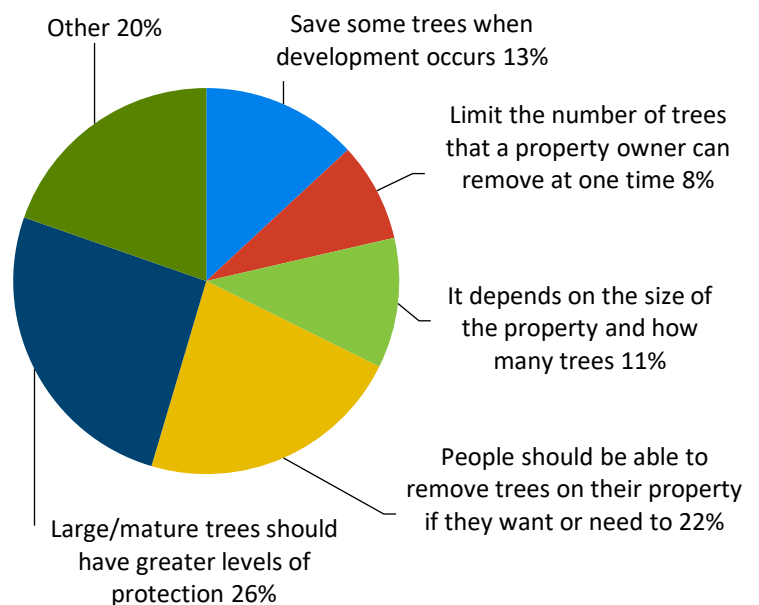The majority of respondents (29%) did not feel comfortable expressing an opinion because they felt they were not familiar enough with the tree code. Those who did respond mostly felt that the code was too lax/flexible (25%), 17% felt it is too strict, and 14% thought it is confusing. These results help the City understand that the participants are divided in their opinions, but that the majority would say the code is too relaxed or flexible and would therefore be open to stricter regulations. With such a high percentage of participants expressing confusion (14%), additional education is necessary in Edmonds.

Other, 8%

Too lax/flexible, 25%

I'm not familiar enough to say, 29%

Just right, 7%

Too strict, 17%

Confusing, 14%
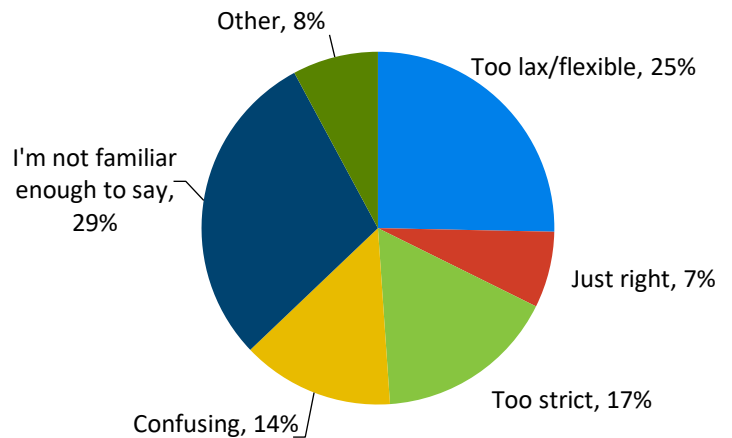
Question 4: How should trees be protected in Edmonds?
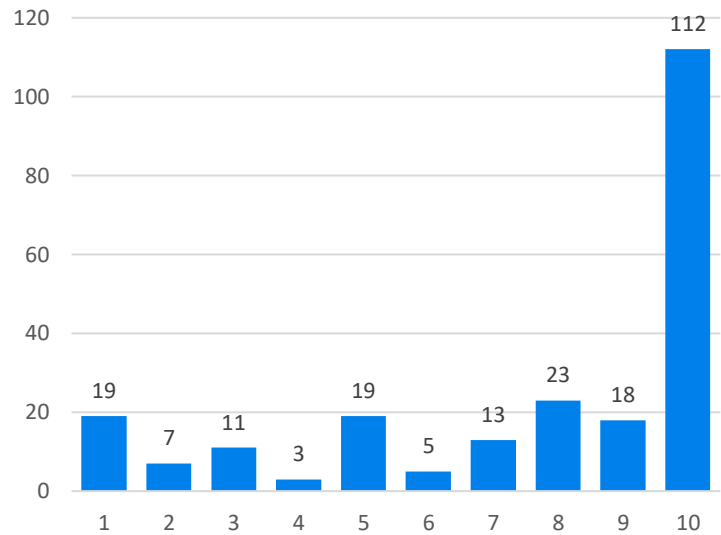
Summary of Results

Most participants responded that large and mature trees should have greater levels of protection (26%). 22% of respondents stated that people should be able to remove trees on their property if they want or need to. This sentiment was consistent throughout the project's engagement for a significant number of those engaged in this project.

Other 20%

Save some trees when development occurs 13%

Limit the number of trees that a property owner can remove at one time 8%

It depends on the size of the property and how many trees 11%

People should be able to remove trees on their property if they want or need to 22%

Large/mature trees should have greater levels of protection 26%

Question 5: When property owners remove trees, how important do you think it is to plant new trees?
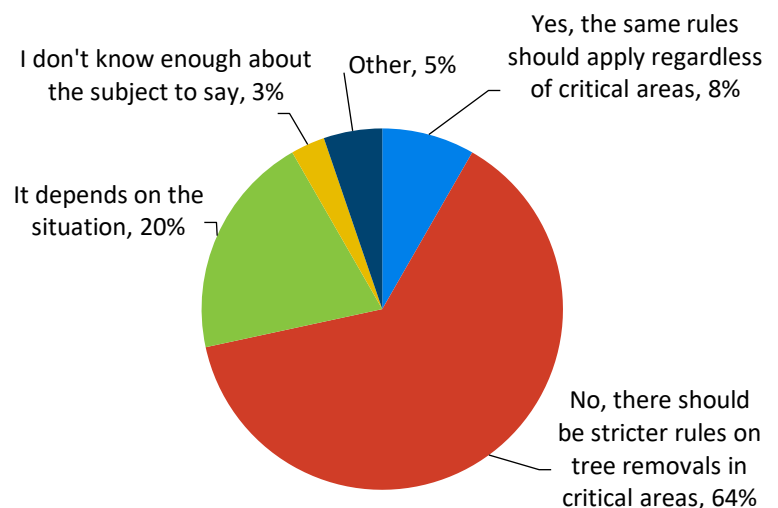
Summary of Results

The vast majority of participants say it is "very important" to plant new trees when property owners remove trees (on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being "very important" and 1 being "not important at all").

Question 6: Critical Areas are defined as high landslide hazard areas, streams, wetlands, and their buffers. Should the same rules apply to tree removals in critical areas as those not in critical areas?

Summary of Results

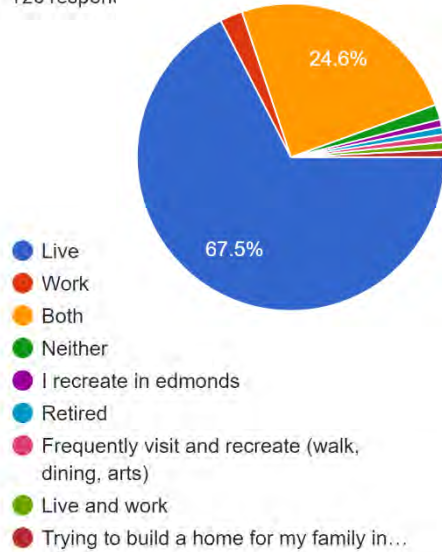When asked about trees in critical areas, 64% of participants agreed that there should be stricter rules on tree removals in critical areas. 20% stated that it depends on the situation.

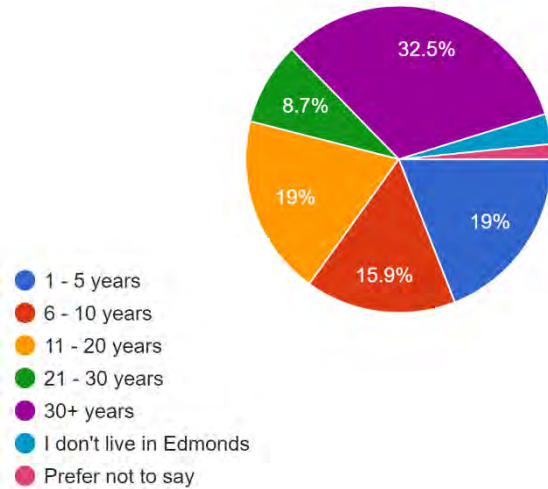I don't know enough about the subject to say, 3%

Other, 5%

Yes, the same rules should apply regardless of critical areas, 8%

It depends on the situation, 20%

No, there should be stricter rules on tree removals in critical areas, 64%

Question 7: What strategies should the City use in enhancing Edmonds' urban forest? Check all that apply.

Summary of Results

Of the strategies listed under this question, only 16% of participants selected "fees and fines for violating code requirements," as a preferred strategy for the City to use for enhancing Edmonds' urban forest. This means that the Edmonds community would like the City to explore other avenues before penalizing people financially.

Pie chart labels:
- None of the above, 2%
- Other, 4%
- Public education to increase awareness of the tree code, 19%
- Fees and fines for violating code requirements, 16%
- Tree giveaways, neighborhood planting events, and pruning workshops, 20%
- Codes that require tree preservation and planting with development, 20%
- Incentives for developers to preserve and plant trees (fee waivers, faster permitting, etc.), 19%

Question 8: If you have concerns or comments about a specific section of the tree code, please provide your feedback here. If possible, include the code references. Click here to view Chapter 23.10 Tree Related Regulations.

Summary of Results
A wide variety of responses were received to this question in "free form" long answer format. The word cloud on the right was created from all answers to question 8. Long answer responses to all questions can be read in Attachment G.

Do you live or work in Edmonds?
126 responses

- Live — 67.5%
- Work
- Both — 24.6%
- Neither
- I recreate in edmonds
- Retired
- Frequently visit and recreate (walk, dining, arts)
- Live and work
- Trying to build a home for my family in…

How long have you lived in Edmonds?
126 responses

- 1 - 5 years — 19%
- 6 - 10 years — 15.9%
- 11 - 20 years — 19%
- 21 - 30 years — 8.7%
- 30+ years — 32.5%
- I don't live in Edmonds
- Prefer not to say

What is your race/ethnicity? (Select all that apply and use the "other" option to include a more specific answer)
126 responses

Category	Count
White	91 (72.2%)
Black or African American	2 (1.6%)
American Indian or Alaska…	1 (0.8%)
Spanish / Hispanic / Latino	3 (2.4%)
Asian Indian	1 (0.8%)
Chinese	0 (0%)
Filipino	0 (0%)
Japanese	0 (0%)
Korean	0 (0%)
Vietnamese	0 (0%)
Other Asian (Select and s…)	0 (0%)
Native Hawaiian	0 (0%)
Guamanian or Chamorro	0 (0%)
Samoan	0 (0%)
Other Pacific Islander (Sel…)	0 (0%)
Prefer not to say	23 (18.3%)
What does ethnicity have t…	1 (0.8%)
Has no relationship whate…	1 (0.8%)
Scandinavian-American	1 (0.8%)
Not necessary	1 (0.8%)
human	1 (0.8%)
none of your damned busi…	1 (0.8%)
Cowichian	1 (0.8%)
3rd generation European i…	1 (0.8%)
This is an immaterial ques…	1 (0.8%)

INCORPORATING THE INPUT

Comments received during both public meetings 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

- Requires certified arborist for paid private tree work
- Requires certified arborist for public tree work
- Requires licensing of private tree care firms
- Defines official authority for public tree management

Management/Maintenance

- Requires annual community tree work plans
- Identifies formula for determining monetary tree value
- Requires regular public tree maintenance
- Requires particular types of maintenance (e.g. pruning)
- Establishes permit system for work on public trees
- Establishes provisions for penalties for non-compliance
- Restricts burning of solid wood waste
- Establishes an insect/disease control strategy
- Defines tree maintenance requirements on public property
- Prohibits tree topping
- Regulates abatement of hazardous or public nuisance trees
- Regulates removal of dead or diseased trees

Planting

- Regulates tree species which may or may not be planted on private property (approved tree list)
- Requires tree planting around reconstructed parking lots
- Requires replacement of removed publicly owned trees
- Requires tree planting around new parking lots
- Requires tree planting in new developments
- Regulates tree species which may or may not be planted on public property (approved tree list)

Preservation

- Restricts tree cutting on private property
- Identifies preservation of heritage or significant trees
- Requires preservation of trees during development

Other

- Citywide canopy cover goals and targets
- Public education/engagement regarding codes
- Other

EDMONDS PUBLIC INPUT BY ORDINANCE CHECKLIST CATEGORY

Credential 13%
Maintenance 2%
Management 23%
Other 17%
Planting 17%
Preservation 28%
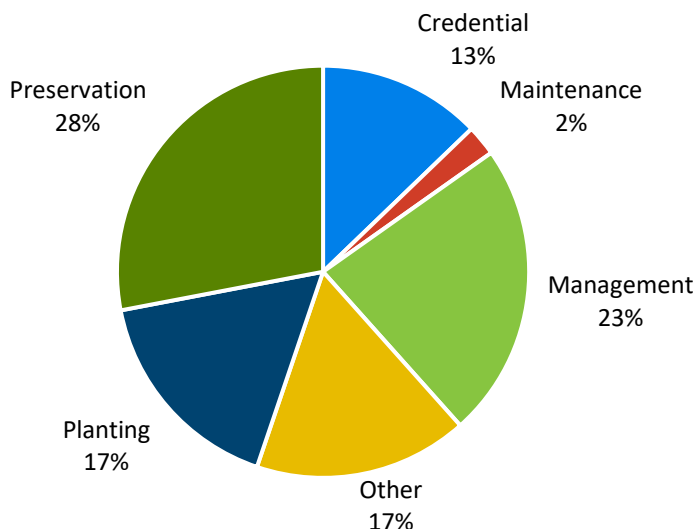
CREDENTIAL

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Arborist on staff to determine tree health	Credential
Being proactive would be to adopt the public streets and not put it on the property owners	Credential
Code enforcement by arborist	Credential
Define easement responsibilities à City / owner	Credential
Greater role	Credential
Mediation would be nice	Credential
Minimal government role	Credential
Modify / update code – public process with expert tree	Credential
Nothing wrong with sharing the burden (public and private). Shouldn't do all or nothing	Credential
Private property rights should be preserved	Credential

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
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
Requirement for licensed arborist	Credential
Yes, with Code enforcement	Credential
Provide a basic framework but let developers be the experts on site design	Credential
Responsibility needs to be on an arborist or someone for knowing the proper code and way to take the trees down.	Credential
Some kind of mechanism knowing the proper removal steps and ensuring they are followed	

MAINTENANCE

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Allow property owners to maintain viewsheds	Maintenance
Invasives should not be allowed – push for natives	Maintenance
Climate adaptation (doug firs not adaptive)	Maintenance

MANAGEMENT

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Care for new trees	Management
Condition of the tree	Management
Crown reduction instead of thinning should be penalized	Management
Depends on environment	Management
ECA requirements	Management
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

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Incentive for maintenance of significant trees	Management
Maintenance tree limbing / topping	Management
NO alternative for developers to do anything but pay into the tree code. Depends on canopy goals or low-income housing	Management
No charges for worth of property owners' trees	Management
No enforcement, no checkups, follow-up	Management
Seems all or nothing = so developers choose to pay to cut down	Management
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
Trees are hazardous	Management
Use fees/fund for land acquisition	Management
Dislike fees in lieu – no cap on amount	Management
Gather data on replacement, planting, preservation, etc. for the urban forest	Management
Fees should be much higher than they are now	Management
Provide notification of trees removed (not a permit – no cost – no ability for the City to say "no")	Management
Establish different regs for "The Bowl" (e.g. overlay district)	Management
Include liabilities when landslides occur after tree removals.	Management
Require public notice to surrounding property owners	Management
Over-the-counter removal process	Management
Establish tracking system to know how many trees are removed vs planted	Management
There should be notification of tree removal permits to surrounding neighbors	Management

PLANTING

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
A change should be made that no tree is untouchable, replanting trees should be tied to natives not undesirable	Planting
Better definitions / locations for replacement / number of replacement trees	Planting
Create the desire for more tree canopy. Take the OS in public spaces and set an example of how we can do better.	Planting
Dead tree removal must be replaced	Planting
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
Mitigation plantings to be based on dbh or canopy	Planting

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Native species	Planting
Natives planted	Planting
Planting for right tree right place	Planting
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
Increase tree planting in commercial properties	Planting
Ensure equity in fees so replacement are throughout Edmonds	Planting
Fees should be used for tree planting	Planting
Planting requirements, no penalties	Planting
Tree diversity	Planting
Replanting – penalties	Planting
City shouldn't say yes/no on removal, but should have a say in the replant requirement	Planting
Mitigation should be same for same species type (i.e. deciduous : deciduous and evergreen : evergreen)	Planting
Replacement should consider the size of the tree being removed in order to get the same ecological benefits	Planting
Require replanting in commercial development (Clarify in CRA)	Planting
Specify types of trees which are better for mitigation (i.e. deciduous vs conifer)	Planting

PRESERVATION

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Defining significant trees: 6" or greater	Preservation
# of removals depends on the property	Preservation
Consider equity when it comes to critical area protection	Preservation
Define landmark trees vs. heritage trees	Preservation
Get involved if more than 30-50% of trees are cut down	Preservation
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
Moratorium caused rush to cut trees	Preservation
Only opportunities right now are redevelopment (city is built out).	Preservation
Our group feels no need to control / have code (outside Critical Areas)	Preservation
Preserving viewsheds	Preservation

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Property rights are very important. Critical areas are important. All circumstances are individual	Preservation
Remove within specific time	Preservation
Restrictions on size of trees that can be removed ≥ 24" ∅	Preservation
Property of concern - on Shell Creek by Theatre – City owns property on other side of the creek, but this property is up for development (asking for variance, which we don't think they'll get). How is this possible?	Preservation
Don't want any development in certain types of critical areas.	Preservation
Landmark trees = Cultural significance to community (e.g. Monkey puzzle tree)	Preservation
Prefer incentives as opposed to regulations	Preservation
Area of concern – Perraville development concerns	Preservation
Consider other development styles that preserve more land	Preservation
Natives and trees in critical areas	Preservation
Get away from single tree protection, but a whole ecosystem protection and do a pocket or a larger landmass protection for biodiversity. Change the name from tree code to forest code	Preservation
Retention should be #1 focus	Preservation
Incentives to retain trees (esp drainage)	Preservation
Incentives over penalties (e.g. "developers must use 10% for network in Seattle" 10% tree limitation	Preservation
Carrots over sticks – development incentives	Preservation
The diameter classes do not capture the whole ecosystem cost, so either lowering the DBH threshold or increasing the costs with these because the other factors involved	Preservation
would prefer to make it more difficult to cut down old growth or second growth rather than the payout.	Preservation
With Edmonds turning over like hotcakes, trees are cut without much consideration with consideration to the overall impact they have on the homeowner and other residents. Trees are not respected for their benefits over time, they are multi-generational.	Preservation
Concerned that the developers/private property owners are approved to cut down huge swaths of 100 yo forests and then are able to "replant" which does not support the MAJOR biodiversity is lost	Preservation
Clarify critical areas regs	Preservation
Protection for larger trees 30" DBH	Preservation
Surface H2O fear – decreased fee structure for tree retention. (Tax incentives)	Preservation
If the tree is a hazard, you should be able to cut it down	Preservation
For removal of significant tree, you can make a request with arborist report included	Preservation + Credential

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
More code to restrict for new development / offsets	Preservation + Planting

PLANTING

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Clarify it.	Other
Weak/confusing and needs revision	Other
Overly complicated	Other
Recommendation: If there is a clear code and neighbors know what it is…they can help to enforce	Other
Establish critical area public education program	Other
Educate the public on the importance of preserving trees because they are multi-generational entities	Other
Development is where the canopy disappears	Other – canopy
There are examples of how to bring UTC into urban setting	Other – canopy
Tree canopy downtown is a struggle	Other – canopy
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
UTC is important but look at public spaces first	Other – canopy
Could you review what the current code says about private tree removal?	Other - Education
Notify on property purchase / better notification	Other - education
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
Education – Critical Areas	Other – Education
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
More outreach / education / hotline	Other – Education
Quarterly fliers	Other – Education
Needs to be simplified	Other – General
Trees are great and there are so many options but there is a real need for affordable housing	Other – general
Maybe a problem statement would help on current code. It kinda feels like we are hunting for changes without a goal?	Other – goals

ATTACHMENTS

Where noted, the following documents were published online in association with City board or commission meetings.

A. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY
Planning Board - March 8, 2023 meeting packet p. 28, Agenda Item 7.B.a
https://edmondswa.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=3410&Inline=True

B. PUBLIC MEETING #1 REPORT – event held March 27, 2023
Planning Board - April 26, 2023 meeting packet p. 40, Agenda Item 7.A.c
https://edmondswa.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=3439&Inline=True

C. PUBLIC MEETING #2 REPORT – event held May 15, 2023

D. FOCUS GROUP #1 REPORT – event held May 3, 2023
Planning Board - May 10, 2023 meeting packet p. 40, Agenda Item 7.A.b
https://edmondswa.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=3452&Inline=True

E. FOCUS GROUP #2 REPORT – event held May 4, 2023
Tree Board Special Meeting - May 3, 2023 meeting minutes available online at:
http://edmondswa.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=15&ID=3387&Inline=True

F. FOCUS GROUP #3 REPORT – event held May 10/12, 2023

G. PUBLIC SURVEY FINAL RESULTS
The public survey opened March 28, 2023 and closed May 19, 2023.
Preliminary survey results as of April 19, 2023 were provided to the
Planning Board - April 26, 2023 meeting packet p. 28, Agenda Item 7.A.b
https://edmondswa.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=3439&Inline=True

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Photo courtesy of Edmonds Downtown Alliance

Attachment A
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY
Edmonds, WA
Tree Code Amendment Project
2023

INTRODUCTION

Edmonds' tree code, Chapter 23.10 ECDC was adopted in 2021 to primarily protect trees with development and to achieve Urban Forestry Management Plan Goal 1A. It was recognized that limitations on property owner tree removals could be considered at a future date. The scope of the 2022-2023 Tree Code Amendment Project ("project") is to consider limitations to property owner tree removals and to further clarify and simplify the existing development-related code with minor code changes. This Community Engagement Strategy ("Strategy") ensures that the project team has a clear understanding of purpose, target audiences, strategies, messaging, and deliverables related to the project.

Purpose

The purpose of this Strategy is to ensure the 2022-2023 tree code amendment process aligns with the City's Equitable Engagement Framework in identifying the community's preferred solutions for property owner tree removals in Edmonds. This Strategy ensures the community has full access to information and opportunities to propose ideas for collective solutions related to private property tree removal in Edmonds. The resulting community input will support City board and council decision-making by providing a thorough understanding of how those decisions might impact the public.

The Role of Community in Tree Code Updates

Greater community involvement, partnerships with stakeholders and actively listening to participants representing diverse perspectives are key to community-driven decision-making. When community members, developers, business owners, landscapers, utilities, and tree care professionals participate in drafting tree regulations, the resulting codes reflect the broader community's goals and vision for a healthy, sustainable urban forest. In turn, a sustainable community forest increases the quality of life by contributing maximum health, environmental, social, and economic benefits.

Adobe Stock Image

Education & Outreach Objectives

☐ Gather input and feedback from the community members of Edmonds.
☐ Conduct effective outreach to all neighborhoods and demographics.
☐ Provide project-related public education to all neighborhoods and demographics.
☐ Provide frequent updates to the community on progress.
☐ Find common ground and shared goals among stakeholders.
☐ Strengthen partnerships and leverage resources to achieve common goals.
☐ Be transparent about the planning process and proposed outcomes.
☐ Draft an ordinance developed and supported by the community.
☐ Establish a framework for continued outreach and engagement with the public beyond the project period.

PROCESS OVERVIEW

The engagement process includes a variety of strategies to accomplish the project objectives, reach various target audiences, and align with the City of Edmonds' Equitable Engagement Framework model for determining levels of public engagement during a project. The approach for each engagement strategy is explained in each section of the Strategy document, including a description of the tasks, timelines, partners, audiences, and deliverables.

Adaptive Approach

As outreach and engagement efforts unfold, the Project Team will continuously evaluate outcomes. If an engagement session is not showing successful results, they will be adjusted for improvement. By performing regular check-ins, specific strategies that are causing issues can be identified. Project Team check-ins will analyze whether the session is reaching the intended demographics, if the data being produced is actionable, and if there are high levels of engagement. Periodic evaluations will ensure the best outcomes. Evaluations will consist of:

- ☑ Monitoring traffic on the City website (if possible)
- ☑ Monitoring traffic to public survey
- ☑ Analysis of geographic and demographic representation at meetings
- ☑ Analysis of geographic and demographic representation of survey results
- ☑ Review of open comments in meetings
- ☑ Other ongoing efforts and initiatives
- ☑ Other means of feedback received
- ☑ Other?

Project Team & Roles

The "Project Team" consists of PlanIT Geo consultants ("Consultant/Consulting Team") and staff from the City of Edmonds Planning Division and other supporting departments as needed. The primary team members responsible for creating and implementing the Community Engagement Strategy are identified below with roles and

Deb Powers, Urban Forest Planner

Deb will provide guidance and direction on engagement strategies, timelines, and methods that are pivotal to the success of the project. Deb will coordinate with additional City staff, the Planning Board, City Council and Tree Board as needed.

Chris Peiffer (Project Manager), PlanIT Geo, Urban Forestry Consulting Services Director

As the Project Manager, Chris is involved with the development of engagement strategies, methods, and timing.

Alex Hancock, PlanIT Geo, Urban Forestry Climate Consultant

Alex provided the Strategy outline and will support the development of education and engagement sessions, materials, and messaging. Alex will be the primary staff from PlanIT Geo for public education and engagement, with guidance from City staff and community partners. Alex will analyze the findings from these sessions to inform tree code amendments. Alex will lead the communications and coordination between PlanIT Geo and City staff.

Michael Martini, PlanIT Geo, Urban Forestry Consultant

Mike will assist in the design and delivery of materials with special attention to branding and messaging themes of the project.

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The following sections outline the objectives, tasks, project schedule and deliverables outlined in the final Scope of Work for this 2023 Community Engagement Strategy.

Document Review & Discovery

The consultant will develop a Document Index and Discovery Matrix consisting of relevant codes, plans, policies and other related documents for review and analysis with a summary of findings applicable to public engagement. Although the Matrix is a comprehensive list, not all documents and codes will be applicable to public engagement related to the tree code update project; however the primary relevant codes and documents include:

- Edmonds Equitable Engagement Framework
- Edmonds Community Development Code (ECDC) Chapters 23.10 (existing tree code) 23.40 (tree removal in critical areas) and 20.75.048 (tree retention with short plats and subdivision development).
- Urban Forest Management Plan
- Edmonds Tree Canopy Assessment
- Edmonds Climate Action Plan

Public Survey

A public survey will be developed with questions that will gauge the community's sentiment on regulating tree removal on private property. The survey will be accessible from the project webpage, will remain open for at least 60 days and be advertised in social media posts and news releases. Preliminary results of the survey will be available for the second community conversation meeting, stakeholder meetings and Planning Board meetings.

Community Conversation Meetings

Two public meetings will be held (hybrid) to gather public input prior to a final presentation to the Planning Board for recommendations to the City Council for amendments to the tree code. The Consulting Team proposes the interactive and intuitive webinar platform, Zoom. Meetings will be recorded, and a draft and final agenda will be prepared at least one month in advance. The Project Team will work with community partners to announce and encourage participation from the diverse population. The meetings will strengthen the urban forest vision, discuss priority planting areas and strategies, and increase long-term commitments to stewardship.

1. The first public meeting (hybrid) will be held to inform residents of the tree code update purpose, approach, and opportunities to engage. An announcement of the meetings will be provided at least one month in advance and shared on the City website and other platforms.
2. The second public meeting (hybrid) will be informed by the previous public meeting, the survey results from City staff and stakeholder groups including the Edmonds Citizen's Tree Board, data analyses, and other key findings from planning tasks.

Stakeholder Meetings

Four facilitated hybrid stakeholder meetings will be held to 1) understand how trees are currently regulated in Edmonds and 2) develop partnerships with advisory boards and community groups that can provide input on alternatives and identify preferred solutions related to tree code amendment decisions. Under the guidance provided in the "Collaborative" Level of Engagement per the Equitable Engagement Framework, these groups have been identified to provide advice and innovation in creating solutions so that decision-makers (Planning Board, City Council) may incorporate their advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.

City Webpage Content

The project-related website content will be updated to inform the public on the purpose, process and importance of updating the code. The content will introduce residents to the importance of trees and their benefits and that enhancing tree protection can combat climate change, strengthen community resilience and public health and address issues identified in the canopy assessment. The project webpage will also link to the community survey, publish upcoming events and meetings.

Social Media Campaigns

The Consulting Team will work with City staff and any community partners for messaging, format, timing, and delivery of media messaging at key project intervals. The Consulting Team may provide suggested content for the City and its partners to launch social media campaigns upon request. When possible, it is helpful to align tree code amendment social media campaigns with existing partner networks and other City Department social media accounts.

Engagement Analysis

Findings from all engagement sessions will be summarized and analyzed to inform the development of the Tree Code Amendment Project. The summary will be provided to the City for review and a final version of the summary will be shared with the City and partners to utilize in their messaging going forward. The outcomes of the engagement efforts and analysis of results will be useful in guiding the City and its partners in future public engagement beyond the TCAP planning period.

Reporting

Once an engagement session has concluded, the feedback data will be analyzed. This analysis process is incredibly important to identify common themes and perspectives, which will inform tree code amendments moving forward.

Inevitably, there will be a comment or statement that encapsulates public sentiment regarding a topic, and it is crucial to be able to attribute powerful quotes to individuals. When presenting findings to decision-makers, powerful quotes or ideas from specific community stakeholders can be impactful to display community sentiment in an easy-to-understand way.

Reporting results to the community is essential. "Closing the loop" encourages future participation in other sessions and builds trust within the community. The community report is an opportunity to tell a community what was heard, what is going to be done in the short- and long-term, and why. The report to decision-makers will provide an overview of how the engagement process will be utilized in developing the amended tree code, key concerns identified, and unique opportunities for partnerships to achieve a shared vision.

Once feedback is fully analyzed and reported back to stakeholders, the whole process will be evaluated. This step will identify the effectiveness of engagement sessions and areas for improvement. Information gathered during this step will inform future outreach and engagement after the project is completed to be led by the City. The City will be able to use this knowledge to improve new projects and associated engagement plans to be more beneficial to the City and community.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

	Task		Key Deliverable		Public Presentation		Team Meeting

	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
A) Project Management									
Initial Planning									
Project Kickoff (hybrid)									
Task Tracker									
Biweekly Updates (remote)									
B) Existing Code & Document Reviews									
Document Gathering & Acquisition									
Document Index & Discovery Matrix									
Review of ECDC 23.10, Edmonds Equitable Engagement Framework, UFMP, UTC, & Related									
Request for Information Document									
Draft Summary									
Review Meeting (remote)									
Final Summary									
C) Public Outreach & Engagement Strategy									
Coordination Meeting (remote)									
Research Existing Partners, Programs, & Resources									
Draft Public Outreach & Engagement Strategy									
Development of Focus Groups & Stakeholders									
Draft Equitable Engagement Checklist									
Review Meeting (remote)									

Task	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Final Public Outreach & Engagement Strategy			■						
Translation Services (3 Languages, up to 50 Word Pages) ($15/language/page)			■						
Messaging Campaign #1 (web content, social media, fliers, email listservs, press release)				■					
Public Survey (online) (includes prep, delivery, & summary)				■	■				
Final Focus Groups & Stakeholders List				■					
Public Meeting #1 (hybrid): Kickoff (includes prep, delivery, & summary)				■					
Messaging Campaign #2 (web content, social media, fliers, email listservs, press release)				■	■				
Focus Group & Stakeholders Survey (online)				■	■				
Focus Group & Stakeholders Meetings (hybrid, up to 4 one-hour meetings)				■	■				
Draft Guides, Manuals, & Infographics				■	■	■			
Public Meeting #2 (hybrid): Draft Recommendations (includes prep, delivery, & summary)						■			
Outreach & Engagement Summary						■			
D) Reporting, Presentations, & Delivery									
Draft & Final Report Outline						■			
Draft Report #1							■		
Public Presentations Separate from Task 2 (4 hybrid presentations)						■	■	■	
Draft Review Meeting (remote)								■	
Final Report								■	■
Final Delivery & Training (remote)									■

Key Project Deliverables	Notes
Document Index & Summary Matrix	Index of documents and summary report (draft & final)
Public Outreach & Engagement Strategy	Comprehensive community engagement plan (draft & final)
Messaging Campaigns (2)	Web content, social media, fliers, emails, press releases, etc.
Survey: Public	Google Form hosted by PlanIT Geo to gather public input
Survey: Focus Group & Stakeholders	Google Form hosted by PlanIT Geo to gather stakeholder input
Guides, Manuals, & Infographics	Materials to assist in the public's understanding of project concepts
Outreach & Engagement Summary	Comprehensive assessment of outreach efforts
Final Report	Outline, draft, and final versions of the project report

STAKEHOLDERS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community partners are essential to a successful code amendment project that engages all of Edmond's communities. A comprehensive Community Communications list including all stakeholder groups with contact information has been developed as outlined in the Equitable Engagement Framework "Collaborate" Level of Engagement. A strong network of stakeholders can share information and news about the code amendment project, recruit volunteers and attendees for community events, advise the City and consultants of issues and deficiencies in the outreach process, and provide input using the various strategies identified in this Community Engagement Strategy. Several of these organizations partner with the City of Edmonds on existing and/or recent initiatives such as the Climate Action Plan, Comprehensive Plan, Urban Forest Management Plan, Edmonds Tree Canopy Assessment and other planning efforts. The following priority partners are identified for direct communications through stakeholder group meetings.

Climate & Environment Groups

See Excel sheet for contact information. This group includes the Edmonds Citizen Tree Board, Mayor's Climate Protection Committee, Edmonds Floretum Garden Club, Edmonds in Bloom, Sound Salmon Solutions, Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIO of Puget Sound Partnership), The Nature Conservancy WA, Edmonds Environmental Alliance, Sno-Isle Sierra Club, Pilchuck Audubon Society.

Underserved, Under-represented Groups

See Excel sheet for contact information. See Disability Access, Seniors/Elders, Ethnic & Cultural Organizations, Unhoused/Affordable Housing, LGBTQIA+, Indigenous, Youth & Education categories in the Community Communications List below. Staff is compiling information from the Washington Health Disparities Map, Equitable Engagement Framework demographic information and canopy cover data for additional inclusion in this group.

Housing Developers and Related Groups

See Excel sheet for contact information. This group includes the Edmonds Architectural Design Board, Alliance for Citizens of Edmonds (ACE), Master Builders of King & Snohomish Counties and frequent Edmonds developers and involved citizens, land use consultants, architects, engineers, and arborists that submit reports to meet development requirements.

City Staff

The Consultant will meet with City staff responsible for administering the current tree regulations to identify challenges and potential efficiency measures related to its application, including Planners, Code Enforcement Officer and permit coordinators.

Community Partners Communications List

This list identifies community partners to be included in an email distribution list for project news and updates, who might not be as intensely involved during the engagement process. This broader community list originated from the Equitable Engagement Community Partners Communications list.

The following communications list is an excerpt of a more comprehensive list of contacts to be included in email blasts, social media, and other outreach strategies that are considered more passive engagement. When possible, cross-marketing and communications will occur with other City-led initiatives to not overwhelm groups with too much information.

Category	Stakeholder Groups
Community-Based Organizations	
Disability & Access	The Arc of Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities Awareness Snohomish County, Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center Puget Sound Association of the Deaf
Seniors/Elders	Edmonds Senior Center
Ethnic & Cultural Organizations	Community of Color Coalition (C3), Spanish, Korean, Chinese community organizations and media, Asian Pacific Islanders Coalition, Association of Washington State Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, Black Heritage Society of Washington State, Chief Seattle Club, Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Washington, (moved below), Familias Unidas: Latino Resource Center, Korean Women's Association, Korean Community Service Center, LETI - Latino Educational Training Institute
LGBTQIA+	Edmonds Diversity Commission, GLOBE, Edmonds College Queer Action Team
Indigenous	Tulalip Tribes, The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Snoqualmie Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, Mother Nation,
Media	(Everett/Snohomish County) Herald, My Edmonds News, Edmonds Beacon, Korea Daily
Neighborhoods	Edmonds Neighborhood Action Coalition
Unhoused, Renters, Affordable Housing	Cocoon House (youth experiencing homelessness), Community Support Solutions, ARCH
Listserv Group	Individuals who have requested updates on the tree code amendment project
Youth and Education	Edmonds Youth Commission, Friends of Youth, Edmonds Community College/Green Team and Queer Action Team, ECC/Quiet Heart Wilderness School, Cascadia College
For-Profit Representatives	
Business Groups	Ed! Edmonds Downtown Alliance, Snohomish County Small Business Development Center, Edmonds Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Edmonds Merchants Association (DEMA), Sustainable Edmonds
Neighborhood Associations	
Neighborhoods Associations	Edmonds Neighborhood Action Coalition
Homeowners Associations	Particularly HOAs of developments located in heavily-treed critical areas

Translation Services

The City of Edmonds materials will be primarily provided in English, with potential to translate select materials into up to three additional languages. The Project Team will decide on an as-needed basis which materials are most appropriate for translation. Translation from English to additional languages using PlanIT Geo's 3rd party is roughly $20 per page.

MATERIALS OVERVIEW

The Tree Code Amendment Project will engage as many Edmonds community members as possible throughout the project using a variety of media, platforms, and materials. The Project Team will align messaging with other City efforts, such as the One Water Plan, when possible. The various types of materials are outlined in the section so that the Project team has a clear understanding of deliverable types, styling, branding, languages, and other specifications that are essential to successful distribution of information.

Deliverables Timeline
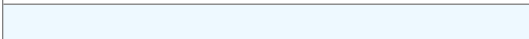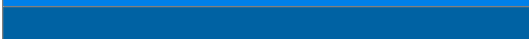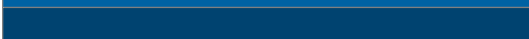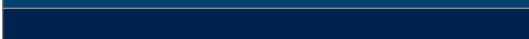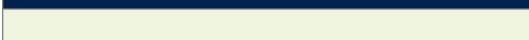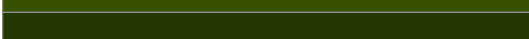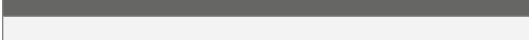
MATERIALS/TIMING			
Timing Frequency	Material Type	Target Audience	Description
March	Social Media and Web Content Posts	City's Facebook followers and/or partner org social media pages	1. Announce TCAP 2. Announce Public Meeting #1 3. Announce Public Meeting #2
March	Public Survey	All	Survey for community input
March	Social Media and Web Content Posts	City's Facebook followers and/or partner org social media pages	1.Announce Public Survey 2. Announce Additional Public Meetings
March	Group & Stakeholder Survey	Targeted Group and Stakeholders	Survey targeted groups for input
March	Meeting Invite-Postcard	Targeted Group and Stakeholders	Create Postcard to invite stakeholder to partake in meeting
March	Guides, Manuals, and Infographics	All	Updated materials of ordinance amendment
March-June	Social Media	All	Final Code Change and Adoption

Branding

The Tree Code Amendment Project documents and educational materials will have consistent branding throughout the project timeline. The color, typeface, and font palettes provided below are PlanIT Geo's standard palettes. The City may decide to include specific elements from these palettes for project materials and branding, or they may instruct the Consulting Team to use an entirely different palette.
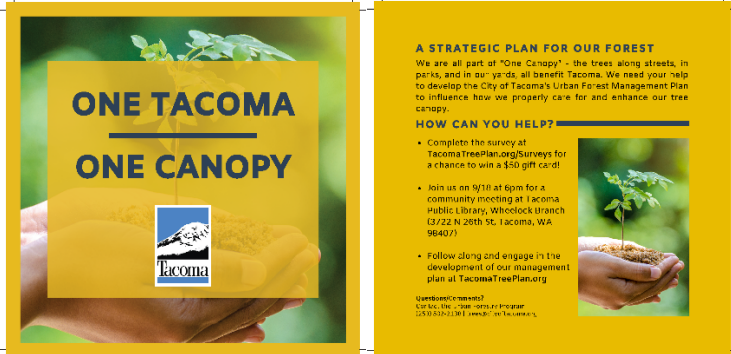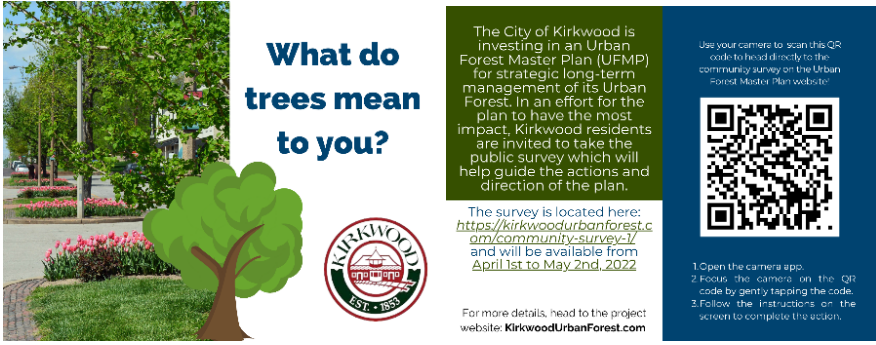
A logo using these elements helps to distinguish the TCAP from other projects with a recognizable design that reflects the spirit of the project. A logo paired with a slogan or tagline helps give the public an idea of what the TCAP is hoping to achieve at a quick glance (see examples in the next section).

PlanIT Geo Standard Typefaces and Fonts				
Regular	Bold	Italics	All Caps	Small Caps
Raleway	**Raleway**	*Raleway*	RALEWAY	Raleway
Montserrat	**Montserrat**	*Montserrat*	MONTSERRAT	Montserrat
Calibri	**Calibri**	*Calibri*	CALIBRI	Calibri
Arial	**Arial**	*Arial*	ARIAL	Arial

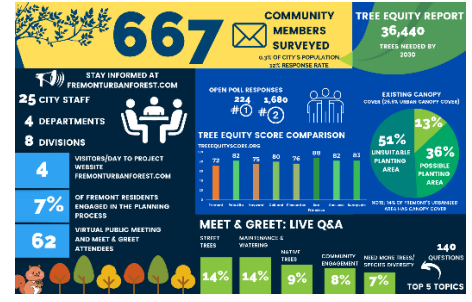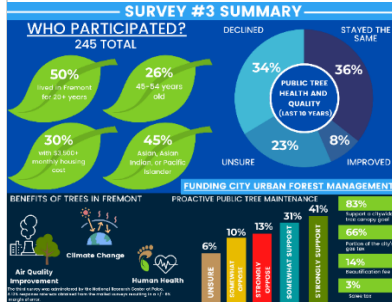| PlanIT Geo Standard Color Palette			
	HEX	CMYK	RGB
	#eef9ff	5/0/0/0	238/249/255
	#2fa3f2	67/25/0/0	47/163/224
	#0080ea	78/48/0/0	0/128/234
	#0062a3	100/40/0/36	0/98/163
	#004370	100/78/32/17	0/67/112
	#00234d	100/55/0/70	0/35/77
	#eef4df	7/0/19/0	238/244/213
	#87c540	52/0/99/0	135/197/64
	#588300	33/0/100/49	88/131/0
	#365000	72/45/100/43	54/80/0
	#253700	33/0/100/78	37/55/0
	#e8bb00	10/25/100/0	232/187/0
	#d03d27	12/91/100/2	208/61/39
	#000000	0/0/0/100	0/0/0
	#666665	60/51/52/20	102/102/101
	#f3f3f3	3/2/2/0	243/243/244

Deliverable Examples

Material Type and Description	PlanIT Geo Examples
UFMP Slogan PlanIT Geo worked with the City of Tacoma, WA to develop the following project slogan which was used on project materials and graphics as a way to distinguish the UFMP. *"A Strategic Plan for Tacoma's Urban Forest* *One Canopy: Benefiting All Residents & Future Generations"*	A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR TACOMA'S URBAN FOREST ONE CANOPY BENEFITING ALL RESIDENTS & FUTURE GENERATIONS
UFMP Slogan and Logo PlanIT Geo worked with the City of Renton, WA to develop the following project logo and slogan. *Rooted in Renton*	ROOTED IN RENTON

Material Type and Description	PlanIT Geo Examples
Event Flyer This flyer is made to be handed out at an event while tabling, to share information about the planning process and potentially announce upcoming events and how to get involved.	
Post Card	
Post Card with QR Code	
Social Media Post Content	

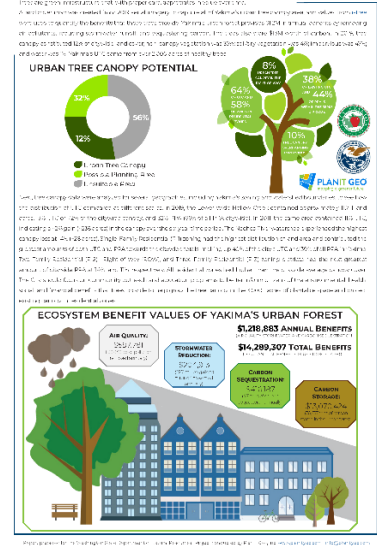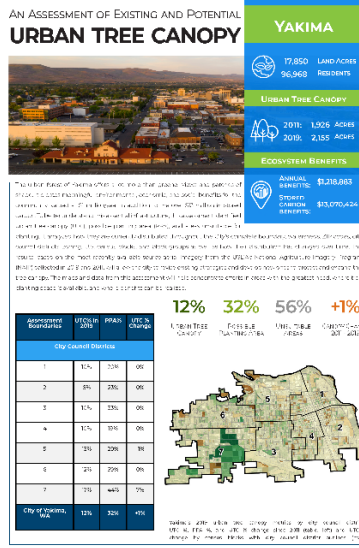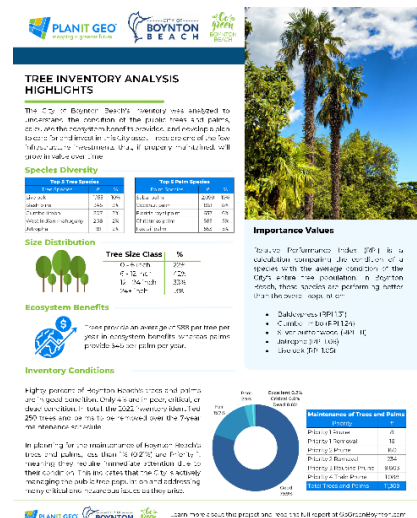| Material Type and Description	PlanIT Geo Examples
Survey Results Infographics	
Tree Canopy Fact Sheet This fact sheet summarizes the urban tree canopy assessment, results and findings, why tree canopy is important, principles of tree equity, urban heat and climate impacts, and the benefits of planning to grow the city's canopy. Can include maps, charts, tables, infographics, and text.	
Tree Inventory Summary This fact sheet summarizes the tree inventory process, findings, highlights, and recommendations. Can include maps, charts, tables, infographics, and text.	

Material Type and Description	PlanIT Geo Examples
Flow/Process Charts and Infographics	

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Lessons learned during engagement in other planning efforts.
- Translations beyond the surveys (as feasible).
- Consistent messaging (clear description of the TCAP).
- TCAP branding (colors, tagline, etc.).
- Website content (project timeline, upcoming events, surveys, completed tasks, resources).
- Meet to discuss and finalize community partners and stakeholders.
- Timing for presentations to Edmonds Citizen's Tree Board and other committees, commissions, and City Council.

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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.
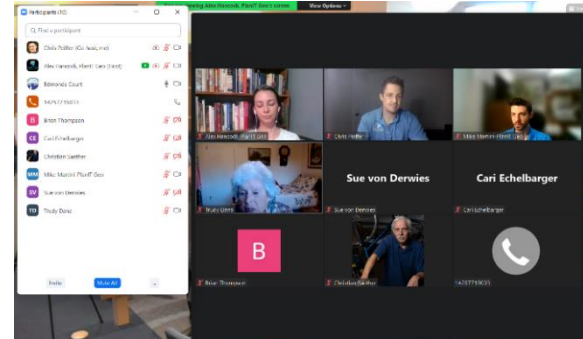
Tree Code Amendment Community Conversation

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

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
Total	*29*
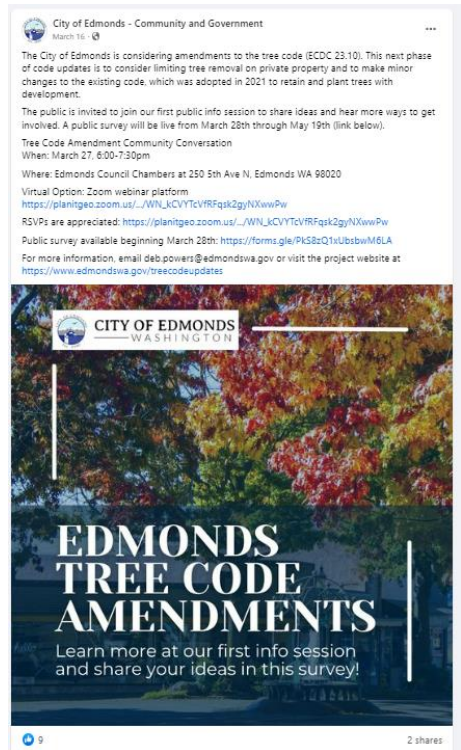
Press Release in My Edmonds News

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 the 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** or visit the project website at **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 them 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 go 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 ones 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 it's 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.
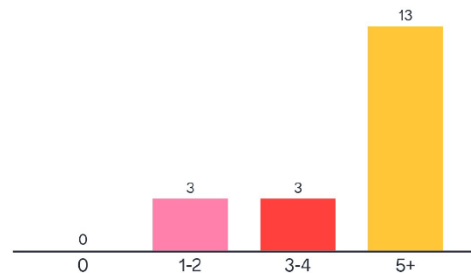
Live Poll Results

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.

Question 1: What changes would you make to tree codes relating to new development?	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Restrictions on size of trees that can be removed ≥ 24" ∅	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

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

<u>In-Person Breakout Groups</u>
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 ≥ 24" ø
    - 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 → City / owner
    - ECA requirements
3. Role of City for managing tree activity
    - Greater role
    - More outreach / education / hotline
    - Maintenance tree limbing / topping
    - Quarterly fliers
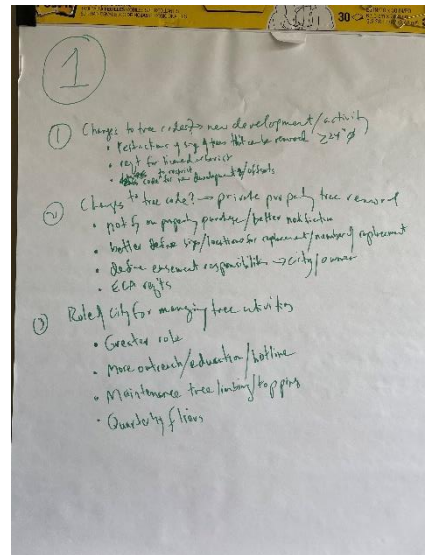
Breakout Group 2
1. What would you change on new development tree removal?
   - No charges for worth of property owners' trees
2. How do you feel about restrictions on your property?
    - Property rights are very important. Critical areas are important. All circumstances are individual.
3. What role 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
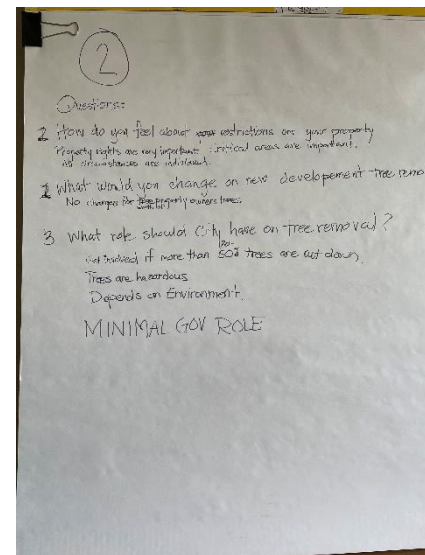
Breakout Group 3
1. What changes would you make to tree codes relating to new development?
   - Native species
    - Care for new trees

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
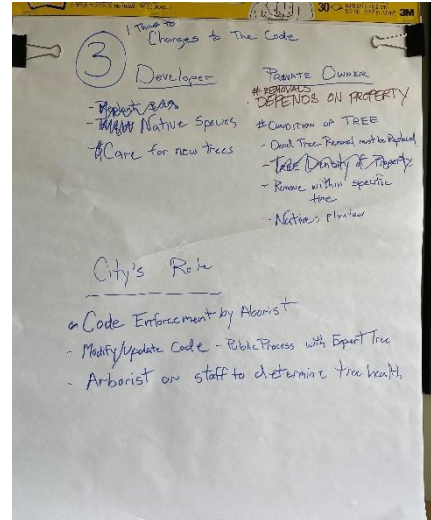
Breakout Group 4
1. What changes would you make to tree codes relating to new development?
   - Needs to be simplified
   - Seems all or nothing = so developers choose to pay to cut down
2. What changes would you make to tree codes relating to private property tree removal?
   - Incentive for maintenance 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
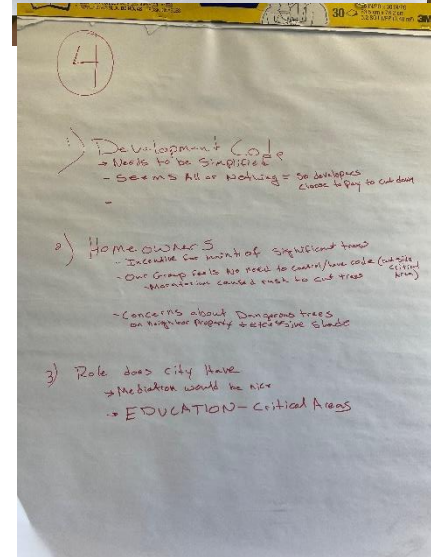
<u>Virtual Breakout Groups</u>
The two breakout groups that met virtually via Zoom were assigned note takers from the project team who used Zoom's whiteboard feature to compile answers to the same three questions as the in-person groups. Screenshots of the whiteboards, as well as the typed transcripts, are included below.
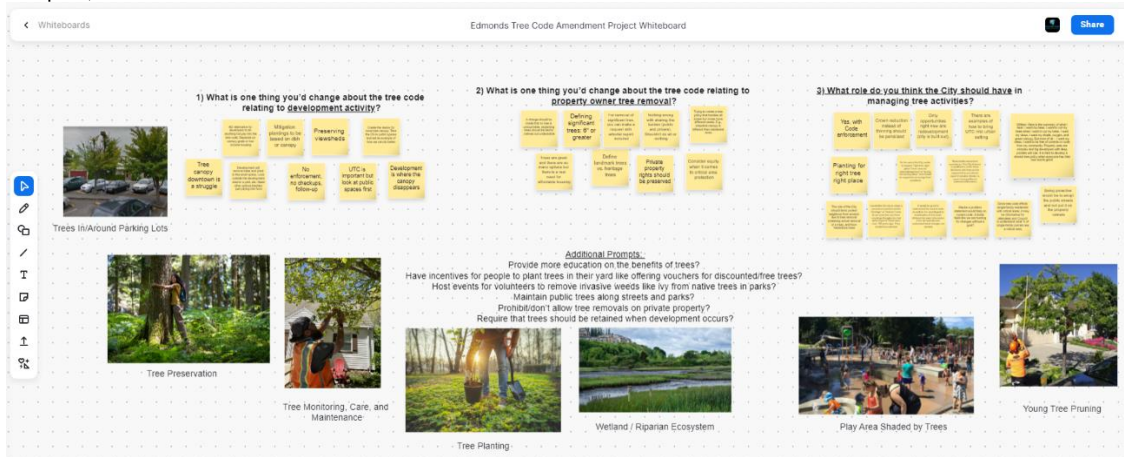
Virtual Breakout Groups 1 and 2 Combined
Q1: What changes would you make to tree codes relating to new development?
- NO alternative for developers to do anything but pay into the tree code. Depends on canopy goals or low-income housing
- Mitigation plantings to be based on dbh or canopy
- Preserving 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

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%
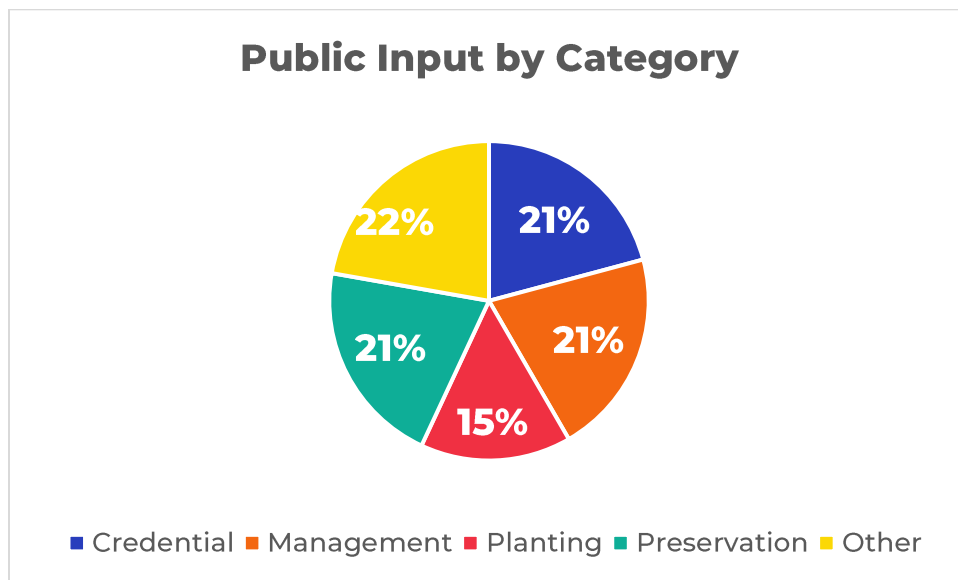
Public Input by Category

■ Credential ■ Management ■ Planting ■ Preservation ■ Other

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CITY OF EDMONDS, WA TREE CODE AMENDMENT PROJECT PUBLIC MEETING #2 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 code updates 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, a second public meeting was held for the community to learn about the project and to voice their thoughts and opinions about potential changes to the tree code. The meeting was advertised using an event page and project page on the City's website, social media posts on May 5 and May 15, and a press release on May 13. This meeting was organized in a hybrid format so that attendees could join virtually via Zoom, or in person at the Edmonds City Hall's Brackett room. The meeting results analysis and summary are included in this document as a progress report.

Tree Code Amendment Community Conversation

Date: May 15, 2023
Time: 6:00 – 7:30pm
Location: Edmonds City Hall, 3rd Floor, Brackett Room,
                    121 5th Ave. N., Edmonds, WA 98020
Virtual Option: Zoom link provided on City's event page
                    Zoom recording available at request
Attendees: ~28 (~20 in person and 8 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

Comments received during Public Meeting #2 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 – May	3 comments, unknown views
Facebook post – May	2 likes, unknown views
Facebook post – May	0 likes, unknown views
Total	**29**
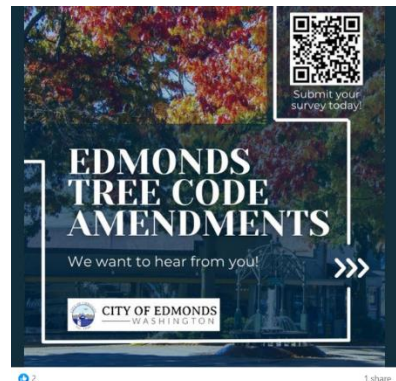
Press Release in My Edmonds News

The City published a press release in My Edmonds News on May 5, 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:
Announcing Second Tree Code Updates Community Conversation
Posted: May 5, 2023

(Edmonds - WA) The City of Edmonds is considering updates to the tree code (ECDC 23.10). This next phase of code updates is to consider limiting tree removal on private property and to make minor changes to the existing code, which was adopted in 2021 to retain and plant trees with development. The public is invited to join our second public info session on May 15th to share ideas and hear more ways to get involved. To better understand public sentiment on trees and tree codes, a public survey is available in English, Spanish, Korean and Chinese at the links below.

Tree Code Amendment Second Community Conversation
When: Monday, May 15, 2023, 6:00-7:30pm

Where: In-person in the Brackett Room, 3rd Floor at City Hall located at 121 5th Ave N, Edmonds WA 98020

Virtual Option: Zoom webinar platform at the following link: https://edmondswa-gov.zoom.us/j/81229176949?pwd=TVNlWU1zdUIpbHpXeldtaUlsUktTZz09 Passcode: 400781, Webinar ID: 812 2917 6949 Or call in to the meeeting at (253) 215-8782

A public survey is available through May 19th: https://forms.gle/PkS8zQ1xUbsbwM6LA

- (Korean) Edmonds 의 수목 조례 개정 프로젝트: Edmonds의 나무에 대한 간단한 설문 조사에 참여해 주십시오. 감사합니다!

- (Chinese) 《埃德蒙兹市树木守则》修订项目: 请参加这个关于埃德蒙兹树木的简短调查。谢谢!

- (Spanish) Proyecto de Enmienda al Código del Árbol de Edmonds: Responda esta breve encuesta sobre árboles en Edmonds. ¡Gracias!

For more information, email deb.powers@edmondswa.gov or visit the project website at https://www.edmondswa.gov/treecodeupdates.

Press Release Comments

Haydee Loucel

May 9, 2023 at 9:48 am

As an Edmonds resident, I would like to see more trees planted by the builders when they tear down homes to build more apartments and also underground parking for the residents. That should be a requirement for the builders!

Clinton Wright

May 9, 2023 at 11:44 am

Fear not Haydee, the other night I saw a TV ad by the Master Builders Association that promises to plant two trees to replace one whenever they demolish a single family home to build a duplex on what used to be single family homes only zoned property (which is now illegal unless you are rich and live in Woodway, Broadmore or Innis Arden). Thus they are providing more housing and saving the planet as well; being the benevolent folks they are. Last night I saw Governor Inslee state that the new anti single family home laws will make up for past discrimination against minority groups and help solve the homelessness crisis. Well, great to know, there's no more problems to be dealt with regarding trees and housing. I'll sleep better tonight.

Clinton Wright

May 14, 2023 at 10:16 am

I won't be attending the tree conversation because I will be attending Diane Buckshnis' Town Hall meeting with local residents at the Edmonds Lutheran Church on 84th. Ave. which is happening at the same time. Those residents are quite

concerned about a huge apartment planned that will abut their single family neighborhood and the possible purchase of a park property in the area that may not be appropriate to their needs and a waste of valuable Edmonds' tax money.

These two meetings actually relate and overlap a bit since the state has now taken over our zoning rights regarding forms of housing. My take is that, based on the new laws, Edmonds won't have much to say about whether owners can or can't remove trees and as I noted in comment above the "propaganda" is that the new laws will promote the installation of more trees. Stay tuned.

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.

Breakout Groups

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

Tree Removal, No Development Question 1: Does the City have a role in limiting property owner tree removals?	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
If the tree is a hazard, you should be able to cut it down	Preservation
Require prop owner to hire an arborist, but not get a permit	Credential
Over-the-counter removal process	Management
Establish tracking system to know how many trees are removed vs planted	Management
Specify types of trees which are better for mitigation (i.e. deciduous vs conifer)	Planting
There should be notification of tree removal permits to surrounding neighbors	Management

Tree Removal, No Development Question 2: What's the one thing you'd change about the current code related to private property tree removals?	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Allow property owners to maintain viewsheds	Maintenance
Establish different regs for "The Bowl" (e.g. overlay district)	Management
Clarify critical areas regs	Preservation
Include liabilities when landslides occur after tree removals.	Management

Require public notice to surrounding property owners	Management
Require Geotech assessment.	Management
Establish critical area public education program	Other
Invasives should not be allowed – push for natives	Maintenance
Climate adaptation (doug firs not adaptive)	Maintenance
Switch from regulating trees to regulating property	Management
Protection for larger trees 30" DBH	Preservation
Enforcement needs improvement	Management
Require replanting in commercial development (Clarify in CRA)	Planting
Surface H2O fear – decreased fee structure for tree retention. (Tax incentives)	Preservation
Require the city to notice that they are doing removal and why	Management
Educate the public on the importance of preserving trees because they are multi-generational entities	Other
Responsibility needs to be on an arborist or someone for knowing the proper code and way to take the trees down. Some kind of mechanism knowing the proper removal steps and ensuring they are followed	Credential

Tree Removal, No Development **Question 3: Should anyone be required to plant replacement trees when trees are removed on private property?**	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
City shouldn't say yes/no on removal, but should have a say in the replant requirement	Planting
Mitigation should be same for same species type (i.e. deciduous : deciduous and evergreen : evergreen)	Planting
Provide notification of trees removed (not a permit – no cost – no ability for the City to say "no")	Management
Replacement should consider the size of the tree being removed in order to get the same ecological benefits	Planting
With Edmonds turning over like hotcakes, trees are cut without much consideration with consideration to the overall impact they have on the homeowner and other residents. Trees are not respected for their benefits over time, they are multi-generational.	Preservation
Concerned that the developers/private property owners are approved to cut down huge swaths of 100 yo forests and then are able to "replant" which does not support the MAJOR biodiversity is lost	Preservation
Recommendation: If there is a clear code and neighbors know what it is...they can help to enforce	Other

Tree Removal, With Development **Question 1: Does the City have a role in requiring tree retention with development? Replanting? Assessing fees in lieu?**	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Fees should be used for tree planting	Planting
Retention should be #1 focus	Preservation
Dislike fees in lieu – no cap on amount	Management
Provide a basic framework but let developers be the experts on site design	Credential
Planting requirements, no penalties	Planting
Tree diversity	Planting
Incentives to retain trees (esp drainage)	Preservation
Replanting – penalties	Planting
Incentives over penalties (e.g. "developers must use 10% for network in Seattle" 10% tree limitation	Preservation
Carrots over sticks – development incentives	Preservation
Gather data on replacement, planting, preservation, etc. for the urban forest	Management
Fees should be much higher than they are now	Management
The diameter classes do not capture the whole ecosystem cost, so either lowering the DBH threshold or increasing the costs with these because the other factors involved	Preservation
would prefer to make it more difficult to cut down old growth or second growth rather than the payout.	Preservation

Tree Removal, With Development **Question 2: What's the one thing you'd change about the current tree code related to development?**	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Clarify it.	Other
Increase tree planting in commercial properties	Planting
Weak/confusing and needs revision	Other
Ensure equity in fees so replacement are throughout Edmonds	Planting
Overly complicated	Other

Tree Removal, With Development **Question 3: Should certain trees (landmark, trees in critical areas, etc.) have a higher degree of protection on development sites?**	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category

Property of concern - on Shell Creek by Theatre – City owns property on other side of the creek, but this property is up for development (asking for variance, which we don't think they'll get). How is this possible?	Preservation
Don't want any development in certain types of critical areas.	Preservation
Landmark trees = Cultural significance to community (e.g. Monkey puzzle tree)	Preservation
Prefer incentives as opposed to regulations	Preservation
Use fees/fund for land acquisition	Management
Area of concern – Perraville development concerns	Preservation
Consider other development styles that preserve more land	Preservation
Natives and trees in critical areas	Preservation
Get away from single tree protection, but a whole ecosystem protection and do a pocket or a larger landmass protection for biodiversity. Change the name from tree code to forest code	Preservation

Breakout Groups – Fully Transcribed Comments
Two breakout groups met in person and one breakout group met virtually via Zoom. Typed transcripts of the flip chart notes are included below.

Tree Removal, No Development
Breakout Group 1 (in-person)
1. Does the City have a role in limiting property owner tree removals?
- No
- Not a fan of limitations on #/year
- No bureaucracy
- City has a role, but it needs to be defined
- If the tree is a hazard, you should be able to cut it down
- Do we need to hire an arborist?
  - Yes, but not necessarily a permit
- Over-the-counter removal – proposed by Planning Board
- Aren't people planting more than removing?
  - We don't know because there's no tracking system
- Specify types of trees which are better for mitigation (i.e. deciduous vs conifer)
  - There should be notification of tree removal permits to surrounding neighbors

2. What's the one thing you'd change about the current code related to private property tree removals?
- Maintain viewsheds
  - This is muddy/unclear in the current code
  - City should not regulate others' views
- Consider different regs for "The Bowl"
  - Currently these regs are per geography

- Clarify and make consistent the regs in critical areas
- Include liabilities when landslides occur after tree removals. Require public notice to surrounding property owners
    - Require Geotech assessment
- Establish critical area public education program

3. Should anyone be required to plant replacement trees when trees are removed on private property?

- Yes. City shouldn't say yes/no on removal, but should have a say in the replant requirement.
- Mitigation should be deciduous : deciduous and evergreen : evergreen
- Provide notification of trees removed (not a permit – no cost – no ability for the City to say "no")

Breakout Group 2 (in-person)

1. Does the City have a role in limiting property owner tree removals?

- Yes – standard practice in municipalities - depends on capacity
- Yes – public good
- Yes – protect adjacent property owners
- Yes – critical areas
- No – standard properties
    - (can't read the rest of this page of notes, due to low picture quality)

2. What's the one thing you'd change about the current code related to private property tree removals?

- Invasives should not be allowed – push for natives
- Climate adaptation (doug firs not adaptive)
    - Switch from regulating trees to regulating property
- Protection for larger trees 30" DBH
- Enforcement needs improvement
- Required replanting in commercial development
- Clarity in CRA
- Surface H2O fear – decreased fee structure for tree retention.
    - Tax incentives

3. Should anyone be required to plant replacement trees when trees are removed on private property?

- No – canopy is maintained or a
- No – no impact to small vs danger, not equivalent. Wrong tree, wrong place. Option to replant in public property (limitations)
- Yes/no – not in non-CRA
- Yes in CRA – not arborvitae, must be equivalent
- Yes/no – it depends if you don't want to do what you have to do
- No – enforcement is not feasible, we're not an "enforcement city"

Breakout Group 3 (virtual)

1. Does the City have a role in limiting property owner tree removals?

- *Kelsea*- the city does-there is planning, from a biodiversity perspective they hope the city can link all that up and make a larger plan/ if the residents have remove all trees this would be a large loss since there is no central "manager"
- *Christian*- Yea, what data do we have on all this? My guess is that most trees are on private property. We should be clear why we have to have a role. The city does have a role in this since they have a responsibility to maintain the overall canopy.
- *Christian*- question on whether the city has authority on the view covenant and having restrictions on anything over 6 ft tall and how these properties are being managed or exempt from any other ordinances-concern on how they are grandfathered out of some of the restrictions

2. What's the one thing you'd change about the current code related to private property tree removals?

- *Christian*- at least a minimum on letting know the city is doing removal and why
- *Kelsea*-echo the same and make it more strict and give a reason to why they are removing the tree-because there is a solid reason not just because it drops leaves on the lawn. Make people think about the tree being removed from a forest and know the impact. Review process to meet certain perimeters
- *Lu*- educate the public on the importance of trees and keeping them because they are multi-generational entities and it is important to preserve them when possible. Is this possible to make people aware of this as a tree board?
- *Kelsea*- responsibility needs to be on an arborist or someone for knowing the proper code and way to take the trees down. Some kind of mechanism knowing the proper removal steps and ensuring they are followed.

3. Should anyone be required to plant replacement trees when trees are removed on private property?

- *Christian*- is there replacement on the same property or can it be somewhere?
  - *Chris*-i think this is left open for any input around either one of these scenarios
  - *Chrisitan*-should have something to do with the size of the tree being removed in order to get the same ecological benefits.

o *4257715033*: With Edmonds turning over like hotcakes, trees are cut without much consideration with consideration to the overall impact they have on the homeowner and other residents. Trees are not respected for their benefits over time, they are multi-generational. Squares of ownership is a limitation and if each do removals we will lose the diversity. Need to protect the resource, talked about the rainforest and how important trees are to everything.

o *Sue von Derwies:* (IN CHAT) I am confused. I live in a condo in the Edmonds bowl. In 2019, 2020 we were required by the city of Edmonds to replace 9 dying cedars. Why are the rules different for private owners?

 o Follow up by participant over speaker-How would we know if the trees are ever replaced?

  ▪ Deb-Condos and multi-family residents have different rules based on the zoning and landscaping requirements in that zone. That's because a required number of trees are related to buffers or number of parking spaces, or other requirements that don't apply to single family properties.

o *Kelsea Ballantyne: (*IN CHAT*):* Overall, I am also concerned that the developers/private property owners are be approved to cut down huge swaths of 100 yo forests and then are able to "replant" which does not support the MAJOR biodiversity is lost

o *Kelsea Ballantyne*: (IN CHAT): Recommendation: If there is a clear code and neighbors know what it is...they can help to enforce

Tree Removal, With Development

Breakout Group 1 (in-person)

1. Does the City have a role in requiring tree retention with development? Replanting? Assessing fees in lieu?

- Fees should be used for tree planting
- Yes
- Retention should be #1 focus
- Dislike fees in lieu – no cap on amount
- Provide a basic framework but let developers be the experts on site design

2. What's the one thing you'd change about the current tree code related to development?

- Clarify it.

3. Should certain trees (landmark, trees in critical areas, etc.) have a higher degree of protection on development sites?

- Property of concern - on Shell Creek by Theatre – City owns property on other side of the creek, but this property is up for development (asking for variance, which we don't think they'll get). How is this possible?

- o   Don't want any development in certain types of critical areas.
- Landmark
  - o   Cultural significance to community
    - ▪   Monkey puzzle tree
- Prefer incentives as opposed to regulations
- Use fees/fund for land acquisition
- Area of concern – Perrinville development concerns
- Consider other development style that preserve more land

Breakout Group 2 (in-person)

<u>1. Does the City have a role in requiring tree retention with development? Replanting? Assessing fees in lieu?</u>

- Planting requirements, no penalties
  - o   Tree diversity
  - o   Incentives to retain trees (esp drainage)
  - o   Replanting – penalties
- Incentives over penalties (e.g. "developers must use 10% for network in Seattle" 10% tree limitation)
- Carrots over sticks – development incentives

<u>2. What's the one thing you'd change about the current tree code related to development?</u>

- Increase tree planting in commercial properties
- Weak/confusing and needs revision
- Ensure equity in fees so replacement are throughout Edmonds
- Overly complicated

<u>3. Should certain trees (landmark, trees in critical areas, etc.) have a higher degree of protection on development sites?</u>

- Natives and trees in critical areas

Breakout Group 3 (virtual)

<u>1. Does the City have a role in requiring tree retention with development? Replanting? Assessing fees in lieu?</u>

- ▪   *Kelsea*- Yes, they have zoning for the community, so making sure there is retention and replanting or fees is important because this allows us to have the data for the urban forest care and educates the community on this, as well as we replant and retain the trees. Even more important because this affects exciting forest and wetlands so it impacts the loss of biodiversity. Balancing the wildlife and the developers' needs and what do we value out of these two.
- ▪   *Kelsea*- the fees should be much higher than they are now, because development companies have a lot of money and actually know the

capital(cost of the trees) what it is worth, so the value needs to be comparable to these losses and may have a developer think twice on removal of the entire area.

- *Kelsea*- the diameter classes do not capture the whole ecosystem cost, so either lowering the DBH threshold or increasing the costs with these because the other factors involved
- *Kelsea*- would prefer to make it more difficult to cut down old growth or second growth rather than the payout.

2. What's the one thing you'd change about the current tree code related to development?

- **HAD TO SKIP FOR TIME DEB ASKED US TO FOCUS ON 3**

3. Should certain trees (landmark, trees in critical areas, etc.) have a higher degree of protection on development sites?

(2 ATTENDEES STAYED ON FOR THIS)

- *Sue*- what is the definition of landmark?
  - *Chris*-depends by the city, generally is a historical or significant tree by the city specific definition, but a tree of importance and worth keeping.
    - *Sue*-Not aware of Edmonds having this type of designation, but knows Seattle does.
- *Kelsea*- Yes but get away from the one two trees but a whole ecosystem protection and do a pocket or a larger landmass protection would be best rather than the 1 tree protection. It is the city's responsibility to protect the tree and the biodiversity of the ecosystem and protect that rather than the definition of a single tree or DBH that makes it special. Change the name from tree code to forest code to get away from the single stem protection.

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	3	5%
Maintenance	3	5%
Management	15	26%
Other	6	10%
Planting	11	19%
Preservation	20	34%

Public Input by Category
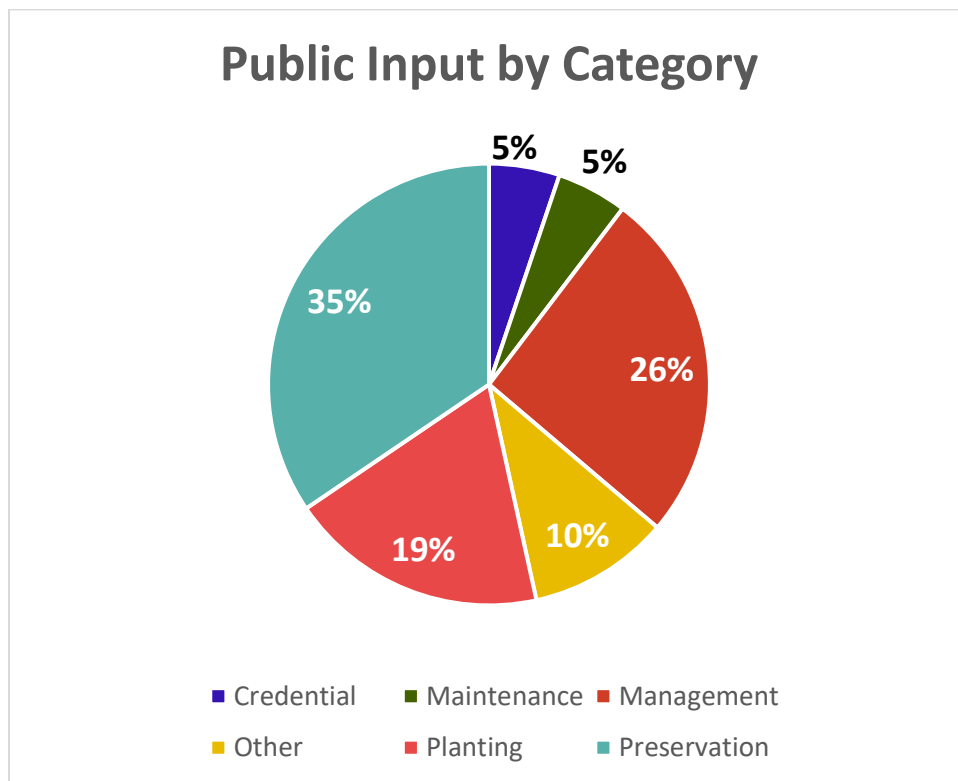
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CITY OF EDMONDS, WA TREE CODE AMENDMENT PROJECT FOCUS GROUP #1 SUMMARY AND ASSESSMENT

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, a series of focus group sessions are scheduled to hear perspectives and ideas from various interest groups about potential updates and amendments to the tree code. City staff sent out invitations with the following stakeholder groups in mind:

- Developers
- Arborists
- Environmental sciences
- Tree preservation advocacy
- Climate action
- Underserved and underrepresented

This meeting was organized in a hybrid format so that attendees could join virtually via Zoom, or in person at the Edmonds City Hall, 121 5th Avenue N, on the 2nd floor in the Kerr Room.

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 Focus Group #1: Developers and Arborists

Date:	April 27, 2023
Time:	2:00 – 3:30pm
Location:	Edmonds City Hall, 2nd floor in the Kerr Room
	121 5th Ave. N., Edmonds, WA 98020
Virtual Option:	Zoom link provided via email
	Zoom recording available at request
Attendees:	10 (5 in person and 5 virtual)

AGENDA

2:00 – 2:10	Introductions
2:10 – 2:15	Icebreaker– does anyone know when we started "Phase 2" tree code updates?
2:30 – 2:45	Summary: how the current code works – the good, the bad and the ugly…

- ECDC 23.10 development review matrix
- The good: what's working well
- The bad: Comprehensive Code Amendment list – shows many layers of requirements
- The ugly: NOT a streamlined review process!

2:45 – 3:15	Facilitated Q&A

- Round-robin style so everyone has an opportunity to provide feedback
- Community-minded input versus unique situation or non-productive viewpoint
- Bullet point responses captured on flipcharts

3:15 – 3:30	Report out/share if needed with virtual versus in-person attendees

- What *didn't* we ask?
- Ways to stay involved, provide input to decision-makers

ATTENDEES

CITY OF EDMONDS:
Deb Powers

PLANIT GEO:
Alex Hancock
Mike Martini

VIRTUAL ATTENDEES:
John Mirante-Pacific Ridge
Katy Bigelow
Raven Campbell- Insight Engineering
Anna Heckman
Justina Kraus-Champion Tree Care

IN-PERSON ATTENDEES:
Susan Prince (consulting arborist working for developers)
Linda Firkingstad (property owner)
Michelle Dotsch
Chrissy Roberts
Lisa Conley

FACILITATED Q&A

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED WORKING WITH THE TREE CODE?

Key Points

- Fee In Lieu = Punitive
- Heavily wooded properties are devalued
- Cost/feasibility of development is reduced (cannot be recouped)
- Protected tree notice / encumbers vs maintenance agreement period regulated vs bond requirement
- Adjacent properties not equitable, based on tree canopy cover
- Critical areas not included in 30% requirement, but they should be
- Fees in lieu multiple times in code, as opposed to retention and/or replanting
- Doesn't incentivize grove retention

Detailed Notes:

- John Mirante-Max Fee in lieu = $215k on a project that didn't go to the property owner, so this affects residents of Edmonds
  - General public has a lack of knowledge of the land development
  - Dev community has to explain why the seller why we can't pay them full value for their property. The fees in lieu feel punitive. This cost is going on to the property owner. The property value doesn't change whether the property has trees on it.
  - **Key point:** A property that has trees on it is devalued by $2 per sq. ft. (the max fee in lieu). $600k house next door to the $1.2million to make the same profit.
  - Everyone wants the trees on the lot next to them, but not on their lot.
- Essentially the City owns the trees because of this fee in lieu.
- John: it would be fair if the City would pick one to charge fees for - trees or critical areas, but not both. Critical areas are not
- Raven (in chat): I'll have to dip out between 3:15 and 3:20. But anyway, I will say that the tree code has as of the past couple years been the most difficult part of the code to work with for me as someone working in development. I'd like to see standards for going to each different level (retain/replace/FIL) clarified-- I want to know the standard of proof for being able to do a FIL be made more clear. Is there a maximum density of plantings for trees above which we can make the argument that the replacement/planted trees will not survive?
  - Deb-There is no qualitative data but quantitative of the trees being retained and this can be the "crappy" trees on the property and die overtime

CONVERSELY, WHAT WORKS WELL WITH EDMONDS' TREE CODE?

Key Points

- "Viable" tree retention distinction was helpful
- Addresses hazards

Detailed Notes:

- The change on "viable tree" was helpful. Only 2% of the land in Edmonds is developable, so why would someone build a home here.
- Raven-in chat-While the conservation subdivision standards do hold some advantages and do help in some situations, in some cases, clients I've had with the city haven't been satisfied with what standards are loosened with that, and have further concerns with the 50% retention that often comes with it.

WHAT INCENTIVES WOULD YOU CONSIDER TO ACHIEVE GREATER TREE RETENTION, WHILE DEVELOPING THE SITE TO ITS MAXIMUM POTENTIAL? CAN YOU POINT TO ANY EXAMPLES FROM OTHER CITIES?

- Building height is too strict, so maybe variances or incentives for that
- Greater density or housing types
- Incentives for cluster development (20.75.048)
- Twice as many "credits" for retention
- Cottage housing

BASED ON YOUR WORK WITHIN THE REGION, WHEN CONSIDERING DEVELOPMENT SEQUENCING (FROM FEASIBILITY TO FINAL INSPECTION/BONDING), WHAT TREE CODE REQUIREMENTS, DESIGN REVIEW PROCESSES, ON-SITE TREE PROTECTION METHODS, MAINTENANCE PLANS, ETC. SHOULD EDMONDS CONSIDER?

- In Woodway, there's a certain amount of trees that can be removed each year.
- Katy Bigelow-in chat-BI code allows trees to be removed per 36 months ... but it functions as a guideline - ie. there's no one keeping track - i mean, noone has to submit anything if they are removing below the threshold so ... this is a slippery slope. yes, less people take advantage of this loophole than take advantage of it but something to consider.
- Sammamish - example a landmark tree counts as 2 trees
- Kirkland - cottages are working, but in other areas they aren't successful.
- In Woodway, 25' from the house and driveway for safety

TREE REMOVAL REPLACEMENTS: WHAT REPLANTING STANDARDS ARE YOU MOST IN FAVOR OF?

- Planting standards credit system in the Kirkland or Woodinville code = 1 acre/30 tree credits,
  - Important to note that site hydrology changes significantly after development, and that should be taken into account.

WHAT CODE SECTIONS DO YOU NEED CLARIFICATION ON?
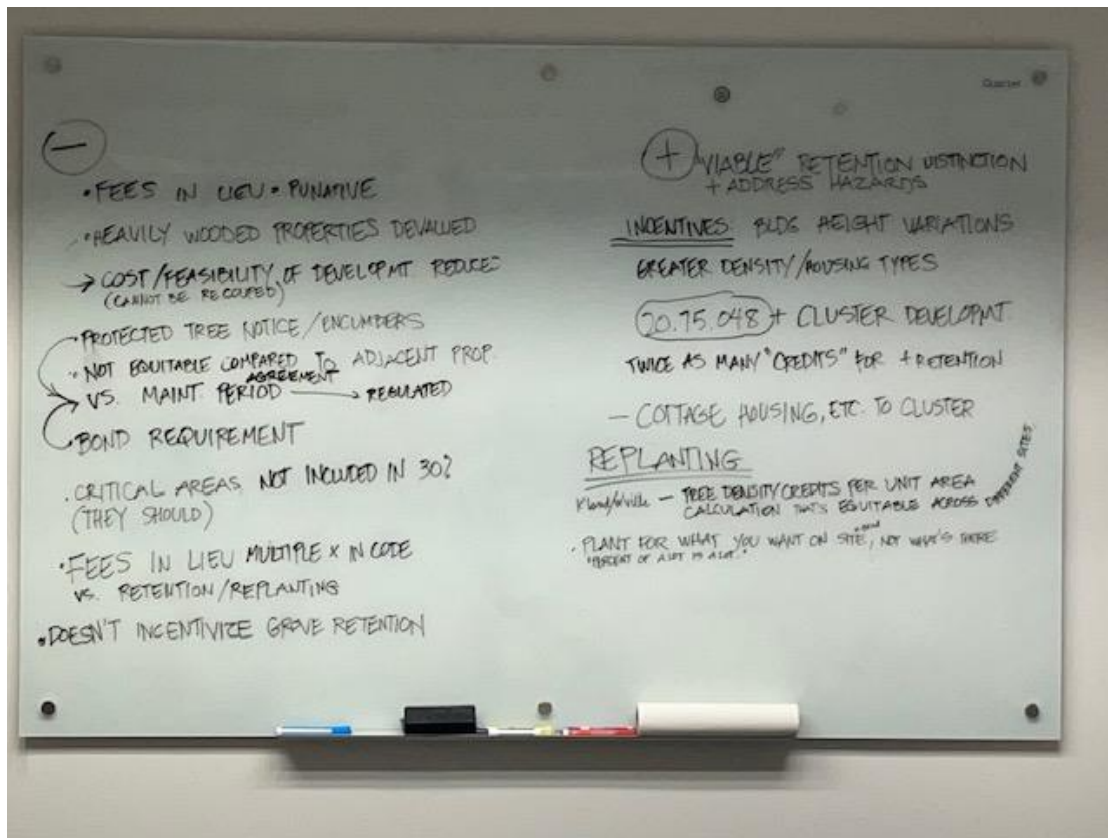
WHAT DIDN'T WE ASK?

QUESTIONS FROM ATTENDEES:

- Anna Heckman (in chat): Deb- do you plan to put a required time period between private property tree removal and home sale, or applying for a development permit?
- Katy Bigelow (in chat): it would be helpful for this discussion or going forward to see any layers translated to percentages of those properties that have Critical Areas, those that have more/less than 30% to translate into really who/where this is affecting. It would also be helpful to have the discussion or thinking about how the new ruling for development will overrule (?) any existing tree codes.
- Justina Kraus-in chat- This discussion is making me thankful there is tree code because otherwise wouldn't all the trees be taken out for the profit and fear reasons? I deal with private property and people wanting to maintain and care for their yard, how do they handle the fees. Not turning a profit. So this is hard to hear national developers worried about profit and moving

on while Deb and COE is trying to maintain and enhance.I like to preserve 90 year old trees how can you refer to it as alcoholic trees? Having a hard time with this

OTHER
- Covenant language rather than easement, protecting in perpetuity Stealth
  - The definition of grove is semantics - based on canopy

IN-PERSON WHITE BOARD NOTES

ZOOM MEETING CHAT

- You 5:26 PM
  - https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Edmonds/#!/Edmonds23/Edmonds2310.html#23.10
- Raven Campbell- Insight Engineering to Everyone 5:28 PM
  - My video is frozen completely. Can I log out and come back in?
- You to Everyone 5:29 PM
  - Yes you should be able to
- Katy Bigelow to Everyone 5:30 PM
  - this 23.10 that Deb is describing - is related to private property ? Just might want to clarify if someone is wondering if it applies to development AND private prop (or even sub dividable properties).
- Anna Heckman, WA to Everyone 5:46 PM
  - Deb- do you plan to put a required time period between private property tree removal and home sale, or applying for a development permit?
- Katy Bigelow to Everyone 5:57 PM
  - it would be helpful for this discussion or going forward to see an layers translated to percentages of those properties that have Critical Areas, those that have more/less than 30% to translate into really who/where this is affecting. It would also be helpful to have the discussion or thinking about how the new ruling for development will overrule (?) any existing tree codes.
- Katy Bigelow to You (Direct Message) 5:59 PM
  - Hi Alex, can we submit our answers to these questions to you or Deb for review after this meeting? I can't stay the whole time.
- You to Katy Bigelow (Direct Message) 5:59 PM
  - Yes, absolutely! We are taking thorough notes and I'll make sure Deb responds via email
- Katy Bigelow to Everyone 6:04 PM
  - BI code allows trees to be removed per 36 months ... but it functions as a guideline - ie. there's noone keeping track - i meanm, noone has to submit anything if they are removing below the threshold so ... this is a slippery slope. yes, less people take advantage of this loophole than take advantage of it but something to consider.
- Raven Campbell - Insight Engineering to Everyone 6:08 PM
  - I'll have to dip out between 3:15 and 3:20. But anyway, I will say that the tree code has as of the past couple years been the most difficult part of the code to work with for me as someone working in development. I'd like to see standards for going to each different level (retain/replace/FIL) clarified-- I want to know the standard of proof for being able to do a FIL be made more clear. Is there a maximum density of plantings for trees above which we can make the argument that the replacement/planted trees will not survive?
- Katy Bigelow to You (Direct Message) 6:08 PM
  - Thank you Alex, I will submit answers to you and Deb soon. could you shoot me a test email to arboristkaty@gmail.com that I can send my thoughts to? I have to leave now. Thank you!
- Raven Campbell - Insight Engineering to Everyone 6:21 PM
  - While the conservation subdivision standards do hold some advantages and do help in some situations, in some cases, clients I've had with the city haven't been satisfied with what standards are loosened with that, and have further concerns with the 50% retention that often comes with it.

- o And with that, I'm out. please feel free to email me the results of this!
- Justina Kraus - Champion Tree Care, LLC 6:33 PM
  - o This discussion is making me thankful there is tree code because otherwise wouldn't all the trees be taken out for the profit and fear reasons? I deal with private property and people wanting to maintain and care for their yard, how do they handle the fees. Not turning a profit. So this is hard to hear national developers worried about profit and moving on while Deb and COE is trying to maintain and enhance.
  - o I like to preserve 90 year old trees how can you refer to it as alcoholic trees? Having a hard time with this
- Anna Heckman, WA 6:40 PM
  - o NB recently changed their code and we have development in progress that are under both. it is not perfect but has helped equalize farm and forest properties.
- You 6:44 PM
  - o great, thanks for sharing!
- Justina Kraus - Champion Tree Care, LLC 6:50 PM
  - o I can be reached at Justina.champtreecare@gmail.com
- You 6:51 PM
  - o Thanks Justina!

FOLLOW-UP NOTES VIA EMAIL

Powers, Deb

From:	Katy Bigelow <arboristkaty@gmail.com>
Sent:	Friday, April 28, 2023 3:17 PM
To:	Powers, Deb; aheckman@bartlett.com; Justina Kraus
Subject:	Re: Property Owner Tree Removal (No Development) Cheat Sheet

Thanks Deb.
Few notes pertaining to your email: BI code is non-critical area removal capped at >1 acre = 3 trees removed per 36 months, <1 acres = 6 trees per 36 months allowed. BUT no one keeps track of the trees removed - ie. the arborists certainly aren't submitting anything to the city so some people have gone around it with their tree companies who don't care. So, that technique kinda only functions like a guideline.

Re. critical areas, ok, I think that's ok over a certain diameter - at least with a review (NOT review/approval - I know you see some bad reports but ... I'm hoping this will be a review of the report and data not really the situation, maybe that's splitting hairs ..)   I wrote a comment in the chat in the meeting that I was hoping would get forwarded to you - that the public and stakeholders with such limited time might be able to visually see how many people/properties would be affected by CA code if a layer was created overlaying all Edmonds.

LM Trees: This has changed a bunch of times on BI in the last few years. I think a quick conversation with the current arborist, Drue Morris, in all your spare time could give you some good data about how that's going (the area affected expanded, then contracted, then size limits were changed ...)

Few points pertaining to the slide with the final questions from the meeting:
4. We need stronger pre-dev understanding of tree protection goals and inspection of tree protection prior to the start of construction. We need stronger monitoring requirements of TP during the construction process. We need a final check of retained trees when the project is done to sign off on the project.

5. Is there anything that works with fees in lieu? The weakest point I've seen is a Tree "Fund" or "Bank" that never gets used for anything meaningful. I mean CoEdmonds isn't going to purchase property to simply put trees on it or, plant more in parks ... so, I've never understood where fees are really going. If you are talking TREE replacements, the choices should not be limited to native species.

6. A version of the cheat sheet needs to be in the code and online.

7. Another data point (maybe discussed, I had to leave early) I was interested in is with the passing of the upzoning bill, does that supersede any CA or other zoning regs in Edmonds?

Thanks again,
Katy

On Thu, Apr 27, 2023 at 8:59 PM Powers, Deb <deborah.powers@edmondswa.gov> wrote:

Hi Katy, Anna, Susan, Justina, et al,

Thank you again for attending today's stakeholder meeting, and apologies again for the late start/tech issues. As promised, here's the cheat sheet I mentioned that I created to streamline review of property owner tree removal

1

requests. I would encourage you to view last night's Planning Board video to get an idea of staff recommendations and their direction concerning property owner tree removals. They're considering:

- Prohibiting tree removals in critical areas with exception of hazard/nuisance trees and requiring permit for review/approval.
- They don't have specific numbers, but they want to allow a certain number of tree removals within a certain period of time, like Kirkland's pre-2021 code "two-per" that allowed 2 tree removals per every 12 months, no permit but notification requested to avoid having to send code enforcement whenever neighbors here chainsaws/call City.
- Limit Landmark (DBH undetermined at this point) tree removal with a higher level of protection than smaller trees. For example if the two-per allowance was applied, fewer Landmark trees could be removed at the same time, with longer time periods in between.

FYI - watch for a stakeholder survey link that will go out later next week, too.

Best,

Deb Powers | Urban Forest Planner

Planning & Development Department

City of Edmonds, WA

425-771-0220, ext. 1278

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PNW ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified
Registered Consulting Arborist® #490
Member - American Society of Consulting Arborists

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CITY OF EDMONDS, WA TREE CODE AMENDMENT PROJECT FOCUS GROUP #2 SUMMARY AND ASSESSMENT TREE BOARD

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 amendments with the following objectives:

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

As a part of the Tree Code Amendment Project's Community Engagement Strategy, a series of focus group sessions are scheduled to hear perspectives and ideas from various interest groups about changes to the tree code. City staff sent out invitations with the following stakeholder groups in mind:

* Developers
* Arborists
* Environmental sciences
* Tree preservation advocacy
* Climate action
* Underserved and underrepresented

This Tree Board special meeting was organized in a hybrid format so that attendees could join virtually via Zoom, or in person at the Edmonds City Hall, 121 5th Avenue N, on the 2nd floor in the Kerr Room. The meeting results analysis and summary are included in this document as a progress report.

Tree Code Amendment Focus Group #2: Tree Board

Date: May 3, 2023 Special Meeting
Time: 6:00 – 7:30pm
Location: Edmonds City Hall, 2nd floor in the Kerr Room
                  121 5th Ave. N., Edmonds, WA 98020
Virtual Option: Zoom link provided via email
                  Zoom recording available at request
Attendees: 6 Tree Board Members in person, no virtual attendees

AGENDA

A. INTRODUCTIONS
B. CONTEXT/BACKGROUND
    1. ECDC 23.10 Review/Facilitated Discussion
C. SUMMARY: HOW THE CURRENT CODE WORKS
    1. Property Owner Tree Removals
    2. Tree Retention With Development
D. FACILITATED FEEDBACK
    1. What's wrong with Edmonds tree code? Problems, issues, gaps
    2. How could it work better?
E. CONCLUSION
F. TREE BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS
G. ADJOURNMENT

TREE BOARD COMMENTARY FOLLOWING INTRO/PROJECT BACKGROUND

- Tree Board: The City should include history farther back than 2018 and look at public feedback from 2015.

  Staff response - code amendments are a legislative process with public engagement efforts tied to the specific code issues at that time.

- Tree Board: It is very likely the same comments from 2015 will arise again because of the opposition to private property tree codes. The City should include public testimony from 2015 in the current process.

  Staff response -. we know it's a polarizing topic here, and in any city considering new tree codes in the past or now. That is why we hired a consultant to assist with a robust public engagement.

- Tree Board: The tree code process may go a little better this time, but the City should still consider including prior public comments.

FACILITATED Q&A

FACILITATED Q&A: PROPERTY OWNER TREE REMOVALS (NO DEVELOPMENT)

Should property owner-related tree removals be limited to help slow the loss of canopy?

- Tree Board question/discussion: what are all the reasons why people remove trees?

  The Board discussed they never got an answer from Davey on this; the Board had asked Davey to include this question in their survey related to the Urban Forest Management Plan. The Board needs to understand the full picture of why people remove trees to answer the question. The Board's general assumption was that trees were being removed due to people moving into Edmonds from other cities and having a fear of trees from natural disasters such as fires in other areas of the country…

  Staff response - there is no actual data as to why people remove trees from their property. That information is not being tracked in Edmonds, which is one of the reasons for the proposed notification process. Anecdotally, removals are due to many reasons: desire to create open space, more light, other uses on the property The question is just to understand the Board's view on property owner tree removals.

- Tree Board question/discussion: Are we experiencing canopy loss under the current code? It seems we don't need to add new codes if there are increases to canopy.

  Staff response – Edmonds canopy had a slight gain overall. When we look at individual land uses is where the differences can be seen where the greatest losses were. In some areas, gains were due to tree growth, which was greater than losses in those areas.

  YES: (initially) there should be a limit to how many trees you can cut down, but group became undecided based on discussion of anticipated pushback.
  NO: need more information
  *EMAIL SURVEY: YES (3)

Should property owners be allowed to remove x number of trees (within a certain timeframe)?

- Tree Board: without requiring a permit, a notification process for tree removal may generally be supported by the community. The concept seems straightforward. Those that did not respond did not clearly state opposition or support.

<u>YES</u>: some of the group (3)
*EMAIL SURVEY: YES (3)

Is 12 months adequate between allowed removals?
<u>NOT ANSWERED /UNCLEAR</u>
*EMAIL SURVEY: YES (1), NO (1), UNDECIDED (1)

Should "Landmark" tree be defined as minimum 24" DBH?
- Tree Board discussion: originally agreed yes, but further discussion supports varying tree size thresholds.
<u>YES</u>
*EMAIL SURVEY: YES (3), NO (0), UNDECIDED (0)

Should "Landmark" tree removals be prohibited (except hazard or nuisance trees)? Or, if a tree removal allowance ("2-per" notification) was enacted, should Landmark tree removals fall under the same allowance?
- Tree Board discussion: there should be a good reason for large tree removals, not just because of leaves or pollen. The Board discussed further the many good or unsupported reasons why people remove trees from their property, and some expressed a desire to have data on that. There were some assumptions on how people would work around the rules and the difference between prohibiting Landmark tree removals or allowing a limited number of removals.

    Staff response: regardless of the reason why people remove trees, allowing a certain number of removals still slows canopy loss over time. Code can allow hazard/nuisance tree removal without identifying every reason justifying tree removal. The question is whether larger trees should have a higher level of protection than smaller trees.

<u>YES</u>: Landmark tree removals should be limited, with higher replacement requirements.
*EMAIL SURVEY: YES (3), NO (0), UNDECIDED (0)

Should the time between "Landmark" tree removals be longer than what's allowed for smaller trees?

<u>UNDECIDED</u>
*EMAIL SURVEY: YES (2), NO (0), UNDECIDED (1)

Should the same tree removal allowances apply in critical areas?
<u>YES/UNDECIDED</u>: trees in critical areas should be regulated more strictly than other trees.
*EMAIL SURVEY: YES (0), NO (3), UNDECIDED (0)

Should a permit be required for tree removals in critical areas?
<u>UNDECIDED</u>: initially yes, permits should be required for tree removal in critical areas.
*EMAIL SURVEY: YES (3), NO (0), UNDECIDED (0)

What are appropriate tree replacement requirements for property owner tree removals in Edmonds?
- Tree Board discussion: there was a difference of opinion on replacement requirements, such as whether conifers or certain species should be required to be planted, what the site conditions may be, and other policies related to replanting removed trees/
<u>YES/UNCLEAR</u>
*EMAIL SURVEY: FREEFORM

FACILITATED Q&A: CHANGES TO THE EXISTING CODE RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT

Should the code be reorganized using charts and graphics?

- Tree Board discussion: the Board inquired as to who primarily uses the code and whether graphs and charts can be added to the existing code. There was some confusion about the question relating to code content versus formatting and whether this is a question for the Tree Board at all.

  Staff response: The code is mainly used by developers, arborists, and property owners. Getting their feedback was the purpose of the first stakeholder meeting. There's an assumption that the Tree Board is familiar enough with the code that they are asked the same stakeholder questions as the Planning Board and other focus groups.

  YES: most of the group
  *EMAIL SURVEY: YES (3), NO (0), UNDECIDED (0)

Should the code use one method/calculation to determine the minimum number of trees required to be retained/replanted?

- Tree Board discussion: the specific formula would have to be "reasonable" but there was no consensus on what that would look like.

  Staff response: This would simplify the current development code by using a formula instead of all the multiple layers of retention, tree replacement and fee in lieu requirements in the existing code. It's based on the desired outcome of trees retained and planted on a lot. The "quota" considers a unit of trees per lot area. Board Member Lyon (Certified Arborist) advocated for this system. The question relates to the general concept, not necessarily the specific requirement.

  YES/UNCLEAR: most of the group initially
  NO: the calculation must be "reasonable", but no parameters were provided
  *EMAIL SURVEY: YES (3), NO (0), UNDECIDED (0)

Should the code prioritize replanting over requiring fees in lieu? Currently, there are no replanting requirements for healthy trees removed on development sites >24" DBH.

- The Tree Board discussed how/when fees are collected, the current balance of the Tree Fund (where fees in lieu are deposited) and asked how to initiate a Tree Fund reporting process.

  Staff response: the question relates to planting and fees: what is the higher priority?

  YES: most of the group supports replanting Landmark trees, pay fees as a last resort.
  *EMAIL SURVEY: YES (3), NO (0), UNDECIDED (0)

Should the $2 per square foot "cap" be eliminated from the code?

- Tree Board discussion: it depends on changes to the existing tree retention requirements. If it pencils out, then it may not be necessary.
  UNCLEAR

Should the 25% tree retention threshold that applies to multifamily development be removed from the code?

- Tree Board discussion: Tree Fund should support land acquisition rather than maintaining parks. (City budgets) should fund staff positions, inspections and education and promote better tree maintenance.
  UNCLEAR
  *EMAIL SURVEY: YES (1), NO (1), UNDECIDED (1)

Should the Conservation Subdivision code specify a numerical tree retention threshold?
> YES: initial support for defining a specific threshold, possibly the same calculation formula but increased, then discussion ensued, Board position became unclear.
> *EMAIL SURVEY: YES (3), NO (0), UNDECIDED (0)

The Tree Board was unable to address additional questions or complete the whiteboard exercise due to time constraints from in-depth discussions.

*Note the Tree Board communicated responses informally rather than by quorum vote. For reporting purposes and to gain greater clarity on questions that were not answered, unclear or divided in response, PlanIT Geo emailed a follow-up survey to Tree Board members. Responses from the emailed survey are shown under the previous questions, in the Public Engagement Report on page 13 and Attachment E.

WHITEBOARD EXERCISE

What's the one thing you would change about the existing code?
Tree Board responses:
- Require conifer replacements for conifer removals (like for like)
- Use a calculation/formula approach for tree retention/replanting requirements that's "reasonable and fair"
- Simplify the existing code
- Streamline the current permit review process
- Replace the current Protected Tree Notice on title with a 3 to 5-year Maintenance Agreement, so that new property owners know to care for trees that were protected.
- Restructure the Tree Fund so the Planning Board and/or Tree Board have some input on expenditures. Require regular reports for greater Tree Fund accountability.

What are some ways Edmonds tree code could be improved?
NOT ANSWERED DUE TO TIME – see Follow-Up Survey results at the end of this report.
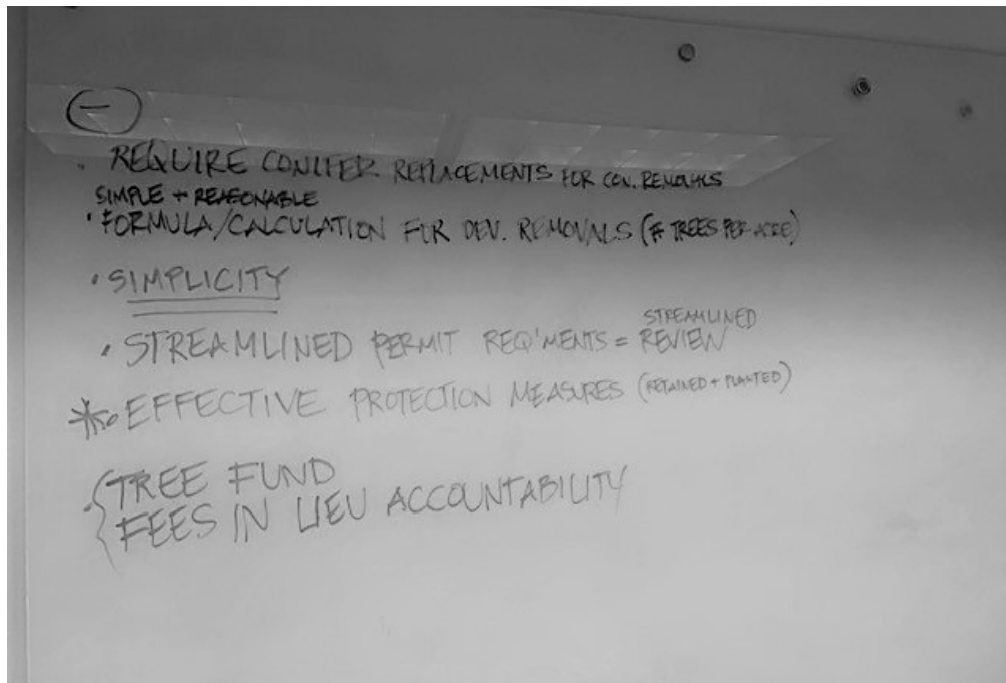
ATTENDEES

CITY OF EDMONDS:
Deb Powers

PLANIT GEO:
Alex Hancock
Mike Martini

TREE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Janelle Cass
Bill Phipps
Wendy Kliment
Crane Stavig
Kevin Fagerstrom
Ross Dimmick

TREE BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:
Andy Lyon
Chris Eck

FOLLOW-UP SURVEY

To clarify responses from Focus Group #2 and to provide feedback on all key questions, a survey was distributed by PlanIT Geo so that staff may present results to the Planning Board at the May 10, 2023 Planning Board meeting. With just one business week to respond, only three Tree Board members responded, with the following results:
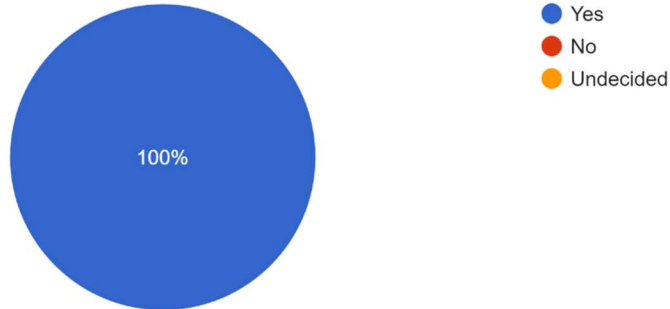
1. Should property owner tree removals be limited* to help slow the loss of canopy? *Reasonable exceptions: hazard and nuisance trees

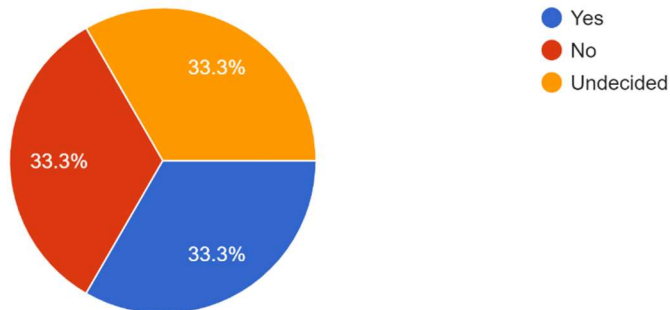3 responses

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

100%
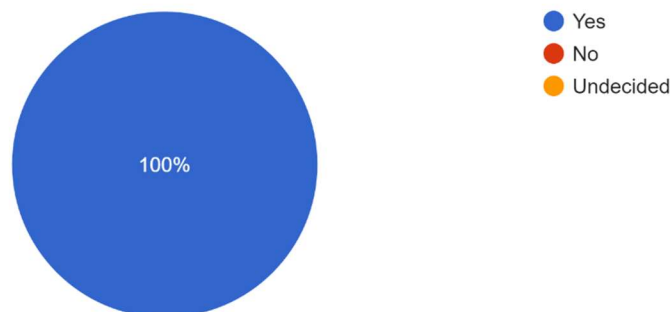
2. Should property owners be allowed to remove x number of trees* within a certain timeframe (no permit)? *Reasonable exceptions: hazard and nuisance trees
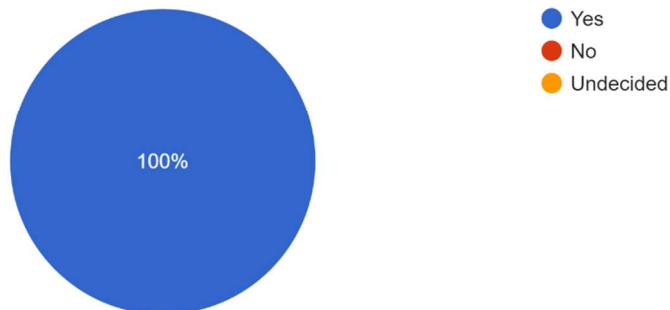
3 responses

Yes
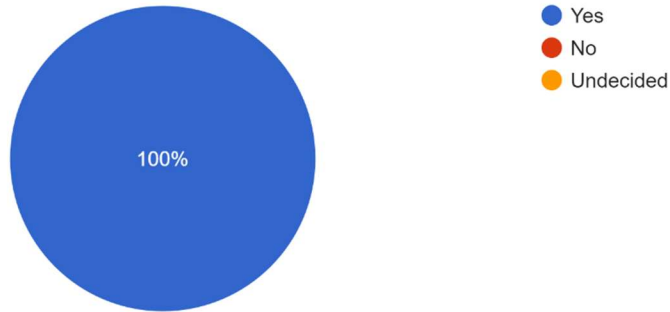No
Undecided

3. Is 12 months adequate between allowed removals?

3 responses

Yes
No
Undecided

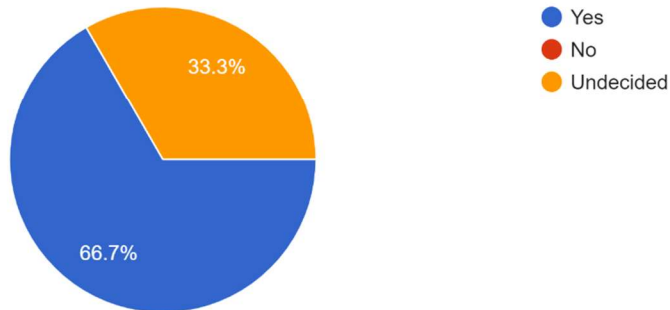4. Should "Landmark" tree be defined as minimum 24" DBH?

3 responses

Yes
No
Undecided

5. Should "Landmark" tree removals be limited?* *Except hazard or nuisance trees
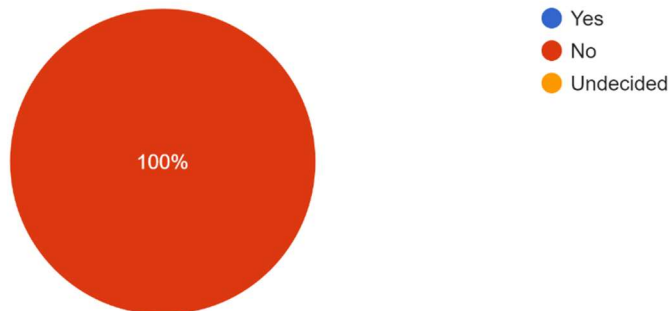3 responses

● Yes
● No
● Undecided

100%

6. Should the time between "Landmark" tree removals be longer than what's allowed for smaller trees?
3 responses

● Yes
● No
● Undecided

33.3%

66.7%
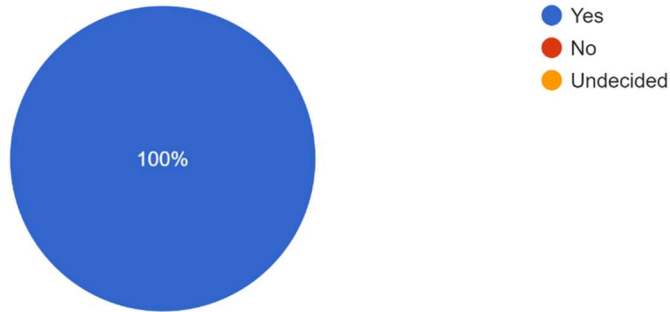
7. Should the same tree removal allowances apply in critical areas (compared with tree removals not in critical areas)?
3 responses

● Yes
● No
● Undecided

100%

8. Should a permit be required for tree removals in critical areas?

3 responses

- ● Yes
- ● No
- ● Undecided

100%

9. What are appropriate tree replacement requirements for property owner tree removals in Edmonds? 3 responses
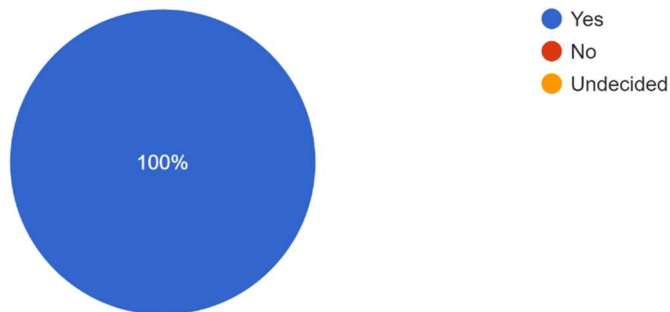
I like the idea of a percentage rather than a specific number of trees per our discussion

Owners choose from an approved tree list. Base on canopy coverage, not # of trees.

depends on size of tree...3 replacements for large conifers. And the replacements should be conifers.

10. Should the code be reorganized using charts and graphics?

3 responses

- ● Yes
- ● No
- ● Undecided

100%

11. Should the code use one method/calculation to determine the minimum number of trees required to be retained/replanted?

3 responses

- ● Yes
- ● No
- ● Undecided

100%
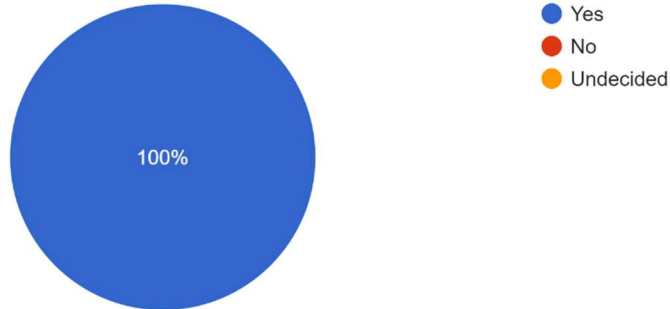
12. Should the code prioritize replanting over requiring fees in lieu, such as with Landmark tree replacements?

3 responses
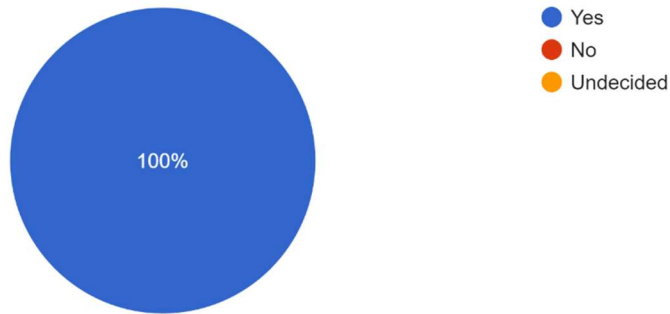
- ● Yes
- ● No
- ● Undecided

100%

13. Should the $2 per square foot "cap" be eliminated from the code?

3 responses

- ● Yes
- ● No
- ● Undecided

33.3%
33.3%
33.3%
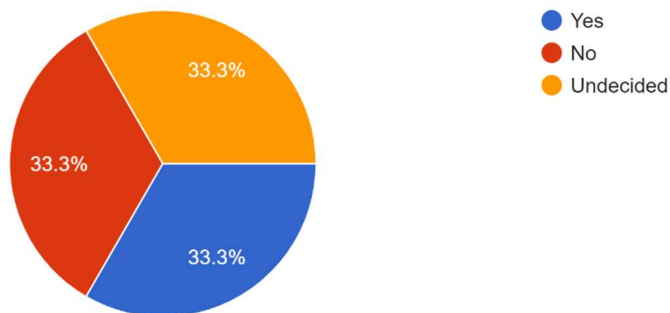
14. Should the 25% tree retention threshold that applies to multifamily development be removed from the code?

3 responses

- Yes
- No
- Undecided
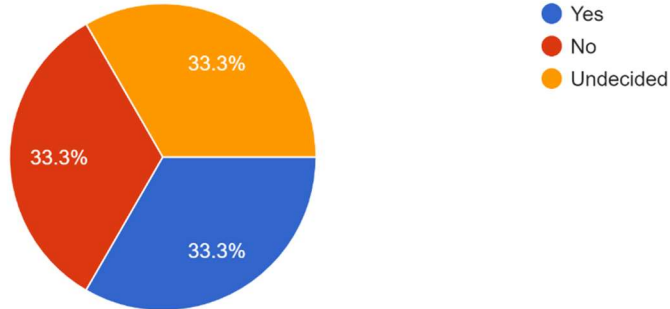
15. Should the Conservation Subdivision code section specify a quantity for "greater tree retention"?

3 responses

- Yes
- No
- Undecided
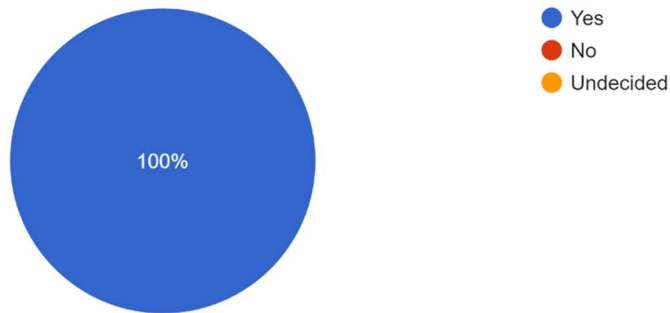
16. Should the "priorities and procedures" section include specific qualitative retention criteria vs quantitative "quotas"?

3 responses
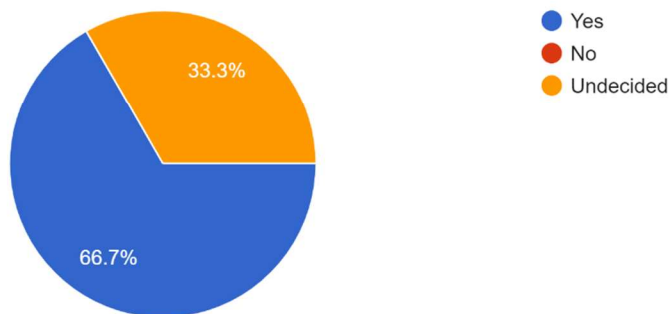
- Yes
- No
- Undecided

17. Should Landmark trees have a higher degree of protection requirements than other trees?

3 responses

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

100%
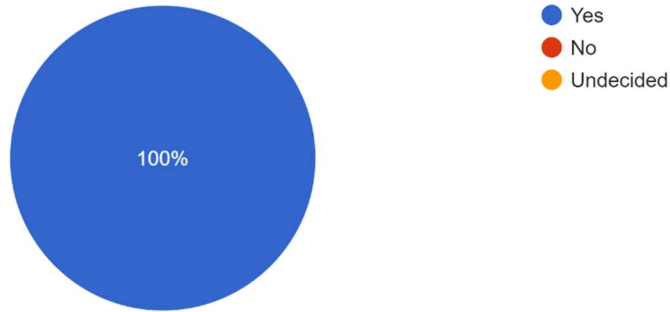
18. Should groves have a higher degree of protection requirements than other trees?

3 responses

- Yes
- No
- Undecided

100%
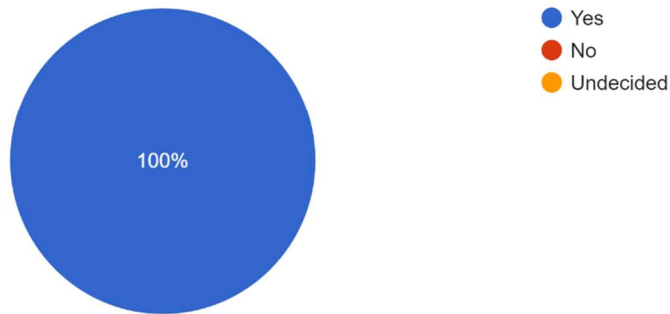
19. What's the one thing you would change with the existing code? 3 responses
- Going to a percentage rather than number of trees
- Strengthen tree RETENTION for developers.
- Replacement trees for conifers lost should also be conifers We need to find a mechanism to plant conifers in nearby tree preserves as a sort of ecological offsets.

20. What are some ways that Edmonds' tree code could be improved? 3 responses
- See answer above
- Add transparency to "fees in lieu". Use funds for tree replacement.
- Every tree cut down, for whatever reason anywhere in Edmonds should have replacement trees planted in its place

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CITY OF EDMONDS, WA TREE CODE AMENDMENT PROJECT FOCUS GROUP #3 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 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, a series of focus group sessions are scheduled to hear perspectives and ideas from various interest groups about potential tree code amendments. City staff sent out invitations with the following stakeholder groups in mind:

- Developers
- Arborists
- Environmental sciences
- Tree preservation advocacy
- Climate action
- Underserved and underrepresented

Public engagement efforts sought feedback from the community and stakeholders with a range of little or no familiarity with the current tree code to those with a considerable understanding of the existing code. The latter group includes developers and arborists that regularly submit development permit applications or written reports to the City for review. The Developer/Arborist focus group meeting was held on April 27, 2023, followed by a Tree Board special meeting on May 3, 2023 and then Edmonds' Planning/Development/Code Enforcement staff on May 10 and 12, 2023. While the Developer/Arborist and Planning staff groups focused on changes to the existing code pertaining to development, the Tree Board focus group meeting also included facilitated questions on new codes that would apply to property owner tree removals.

Having implemented the code since its adoption two years ago, Planning and Code Enforcement staff have an interest in providing a high level of customer service by reducing revision cycles and in simplifying the code, streamlining the review process, and enabling effective code enforcement efforts. To the last point, feedback related specifically to code enforcement is noted in red text.

This meeting took place in lieu of a regular staff meeting using a hybrid format so that attendees could join virtually via Zoom, or in person at Edmonds City Hall, 121 5th Avenue N, on the 2nd floor in the Kerr Room.

The meeting results analysis and summary are included in this document as a progress report.

Tree Code Amendment Focus Group #3: Planning, Development & Code Enforcement Staff

Date: May 10, 2023, 2:00-3:30pm/Planning & Development
               May 12, 2023, 9:00-10:00am/Code Enforcement
Location: Edmonds City Hall, 2nd floor in the Kerr Room
               121 5th Ave. N., Edmonds, WA 98020
Attendees: 10 (9 in person and 1 virtual)

FACILITATED Q&A

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED WORKING WITH THE TREE CODE?

- It could be more concise and clearer if it was organized using charts and graphics instead of lengthy descriptions and overly narrated code language.

- Different code sections bounce back and forth, resulting in some disparate code sections within ECDC 23.10 (tree code) that are not in sequence.
- Outside of ECDC 23.10 (tree code), other code chapters relate to regulating trees, such as 20.13 (Required Landscaping for multi-family, commercial, etc.), 20.75.048 (Conservation Subdivision) and 23.40 (tree removals in critical areas) could be either cross-referenced from 23.10 more prominently or consolidated into 23.10.
- Too many redundancies.
- Overly complex
- Lack of specific tree retention threshold for subdivisions to get design flexibility in 20.75.048 (Conservation Subdivision), difficult to require 50% since the code doesn't directly tie together.
- Lengthy, verbose arborist reports…are they necessary? Can we just ask for TRAQ forms for tree removal requests and only an inventory/site plan for development review?
- Post-development tree protection (Protected Tree on Notice of Title) implies all trees on site are protected in perpetuity. Protected Tree Notice should apply to high retention value trees only, other trees should fall under a maintenance agreement for 3-5 years post-development (see below for other code examples).
- "Priorities" for tree retention in 23.10.060.D seem subjective and unclear
- 23.10.100 (code enforcement section) is too complex yet doesn't have enough "teeth" to effectively enforce.
- Obtaining appraised values for unauthorized tree removals is a lengthy process, so that Notice to Correct response deadlines are not feasible. Appraisals can be subjective. The appraisal process is unnecessarily complicated for all involved: property owner, code enforcement, staff reviewer, etc. See suggestion below under examples from other cities.
- Code doesn't distinguish high retention value tree criteria for critical areas, by species, etc.
- Code complexity can result in neighbor disputes and the expectation that City mediate/resolve.
- Invasive species are not identified or prohibited

CONVERSELY, WHAT WORKS WELL WITH EDMONDS' TREE CODE?
- ECDC 23.10.060 (tree retention plan requirements) works like a checklist for applicants.
- ECDC 20.75.048 (Conservation Subdivision) is an effective incentive for developers to retain trees with shortplats and subdivisions!
- Bonding process for multifamily and commercial tree planting is a straightforward section, but code could clarify it doesn't apply to SF.
- Not the code itself, but Planning resources help staff and customers overcome a confusing, complex code (i.e.: handouts, cheat-sheets, etc. and in-house subject matter expertise).

CAN YOU POINT TO ANY EXAMPLES OF INCENTIVES AND CODES FROM OTHER CITIES THAT WORK BETTER TO RETAIN AND/OR MITIGATE TREES WITH DEVELOPMENT? ENFORCE TREE CODE?
- Use the same system (formula) for the ideal tree "quota" that applies to both retained and planted trees, instead of so many different requirements for tree retention, replacement, fees.
- Replant trees versus requiring the payment of appraised values for healthy trees >24" DBH removed with development.
- Require a 3 or 5-year maintenance agreement be recorded on title of property and protect in perpetuity only high retention value trees (once defined clearly in the code).
- For code enforcement of unauthorized tree removals, assess an $ amount for every inch DBH of the stump of removed tree (versus requiring the applicant to get appraised values of each tree). Or, a dollar amount for each illegally removed per tree per DBH. Make it simple, make it fair.

IN-PERSON WHITE BOARD NOTES
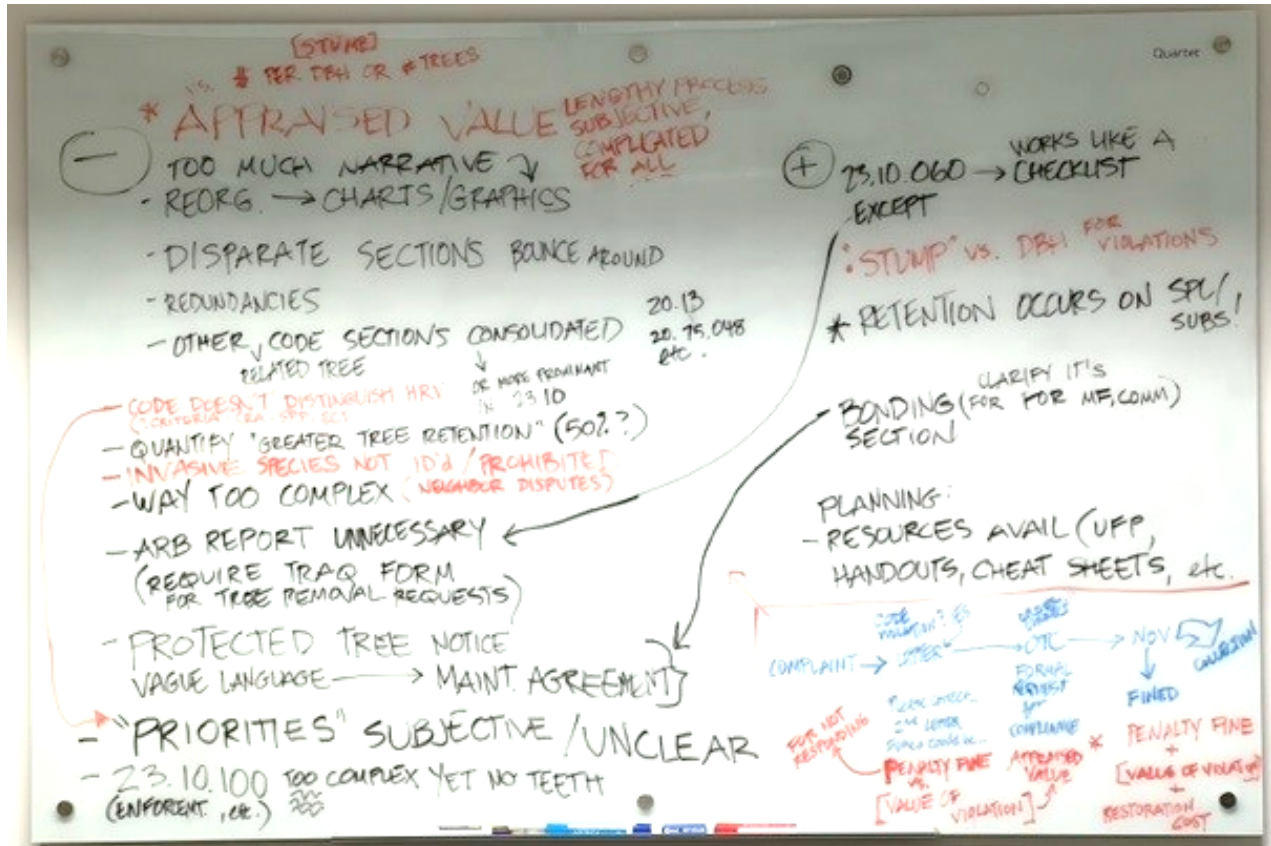
ATTENDEES

IN-PERSON ATTENDEES:
Dave Levitan, Planning Manager
Brad Shipley, Senior Planner
Mike Clugston, Senior Planner
Amber Brokenshire, Planner
Tristan Sewell, Planner
Rose Haas, Planner
Michelle Martin, Senior Administrative Assistant
Dan Gooding, Code Enforcement Officer
Deb Powers, Urban Forest Planner (Meeting Facilitator)

VIRTUAL ATTENDEES:
Michele Szafran, Associate Planner

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EDMONDS, WA TREE CODE AMENDMENT PROJECT

230 PUBLIC SURVEY RESPONSES AS OF 5-22-2023 (229 ONLINE, 1 PAPER)

Question 1: What do you consider to be part of Edmonds' urban forest? Check all that apply.

Question 1			
Response	**#**	**% of Total Selections**	**% of Total Responders**
Forested Areas	218	23%	95%
City Parks	207	21%	90%
Street Trees	194	20%	84%
Trees in my Yard	153	16%	67%
Parking Lot Trees	176	18%	77%
Other	18	2%	8%
Total Selections	**966**		
Total Responders	**230**		

"Other" (freeform responses):

- All trees in the city
- green space areas that give homes to small ecosystems in neighborhoods that are at high risk of losing these green spaces b/c of the larger lot sizes that only have 1 house on them (developer-interest) - i have seen 75 trres removed on one acre in my neighborhood and there was a clear isplacement of the wildlife that once depended on that area. There is more noise, wind, it's been notable over the 15 years i have lived here. trees are left vulnerable by this- more innovative low impact development ideas and codes are needed if we really care about preservation of old growth trees - which is a must.
- Trees in vacant lots
- Trees in municipal areas (PSE, water retention ponds etc)
- Any where a tree could be planted
- In public Education, PLEASE, teach kids to be citizens by teaching real civics and the pledge in the morning. Such a small thing but kids will then identify with being American.
- All trees within city limits are part of the urban canopy coverage.
- I don't consider "urban forest".
- I mean, isn't it basically trees within the city limits?
- Stay out of my yard !!!
- Trees on sites of businesses, churches and other places of worship, hospitals, medical and professional offices, government offices, etc.

Question 1

- Forested Areas
- City Parks
- Street Trees
- Trees in my Yard
- Parking Lot Trees
- Other
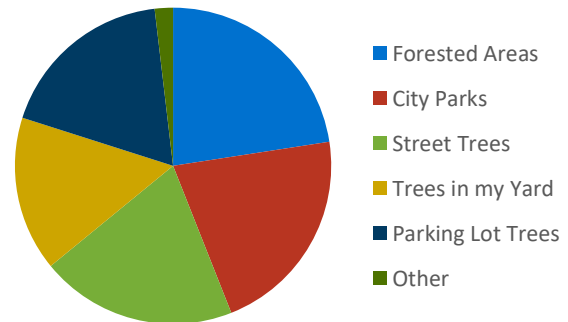
- Office buildings, businesses, government buildings
- Forested areas depend on location
- Trees in schools
- Trees in public areas such as city hall, library, port, etc.
- Stupid question so I'm not answering
- County parks within Edmonds boundaries
- Any tree within the city

Question 2: How would you rate your awareness and understanding of Edmonds' current tree code (adopted 2021)?

Question 2			
Response	**#**	**% of Total Selections**	**% of Total Responders**
Not familiar at all	68	30%	30%
Somewhat familiar: I used it when I removed or planted a tree	98	43%	43%
Very familiar: I reference it professionally and/or often	36	16%	16%
Other	27	12%	12%
Total Selections	*229*		
Total Responders	*230*		

"Other" (freeform responses):

- New to town but reviewed the code
- From its beginnings
- Aware of the tree code feel the city should manage the parks property they own.
- Yes
- It is not related to my profession, but I have followed the issue for several years
- Familiar, but not when removing a tree or as a professional
- Have talked to people at the City about the code.
- The code violates my personal property tights
- I read through it, and wished there was a synopsis
- Somewhat familiar
- In public Education, PLEASE, teach kids to be citizens by teaching real civics and the pledge in the morning. Such a small thing but kids will then identify with being American.
- I'm opposed to any sort of official tree code that mandates behavior
- Survey response is on what should be - not what is.
- I've re-read the entire tree code, formerly engaged a City arborist

Question 2

- Not familiar at all
- Somewhat familiar: I used it when I removed or planted a tree
- Very familiar: I reference it professionally and/or often
- Other
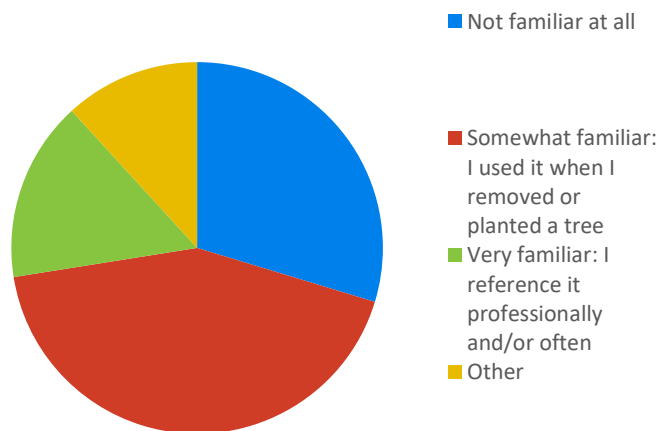
- Somewhat familiar I am a professional who uses tree codes in other jurisdictions but reside in Edmonds
- I've heard of it and know there are regulations on removing trees
- Familiar only from news stories regarding its development.
- Tried to stop the deforestation of 2.5 acres for a development.
- I am aware of this because it has become excessively expensive to develop our property to build our family a new home
- Somewhat familiar from a Glen street condo I used to own
- Very familiar but I do not reference it prof'ly &/or often
- We "tuned in" last time there was discussion about a new tree code
- Somewhat familiar although I haven't used it
- familiar, not used.
- It's confusing and designed to protect the developer not citizens
- I have read the code
- I called the city when the land was cleared on 104 by the pot shop and I was told there is no current tree cutting enforcement.

Question 3. In your opinion, the current tree code is:

Question 3			
Response	#	% of Total Selections	% of Total Responders
Too lax/flexible	58	25%	25%
Just right	16	7%	7%
Too strict	38	17%	17%
Confusing	32	14%	14%
I'm not familiar enough to say	67	29%	29%
Other	18	8%	8%
Total Selections	**229**		
Total Responders	**229**		

"Other" (freeform responses):

- A mess
- improved but still not seeming to be effective in preserving significant trees where development projects occur. 30% is not a high enough threshold and/or it s/b focused on old gowth significant trees , or else the developer leaves onlly smaller younger trees t omeet the threshold
- Just another way to tax residents and does little to actually save trees
- Should not be applicable to private property
- Confusing AND strict in weird areas AND unenforced (multiple answers should have been able to be checked)
- First I have no problem with the present code, our condo actually had to use it when we need to remove some diseased trees. BUT - I thought this current tree board effort was to 'refine,' but after the 3/27/23 meeting, it sounded the rules that condo owners needed follow were different from private resident owners regarding tree removal and replacement. Shouldn't these requirements be the same? Also, I remember with Northwood Apartments converted to condos in 2005. A lot of trees were removed - because it was in 98045. I was told that if it was 98020, it would not have been allowed. Again I think same rules should apply.
- I'm opposed to any sort of official tree code that mandates behavior
- Not relevant to my survey responses.
- I have never needed help but I should know. I'll find out.
- Too open to exemption, penalties lack prevention value, empty enforcement system
- Incredibly strict and an extreme financial burden on families trying to build a new home
- Too strict, confusing, contradictory and way overboard. For example, too many plants required for the glen st condo such that we had issues hitting siding, etc
- Not familiar but apparently it doesn't allow trimming. Our canopy is overgrown.
- Penalizes treed property owners and created disproportionate costs for those living outside the bowl.
- inconsistently enforced
- To lax for developers to strick for home owners
- It is pro developer and builder and con for citizens
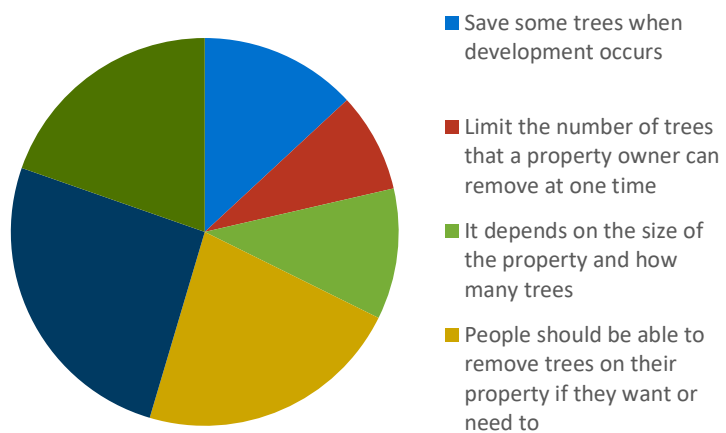- What current the code?

Question 3

- Too lax/flexible
- Just right
- Too strict
- Confusing
- I'm not familiar enough to say
- Other
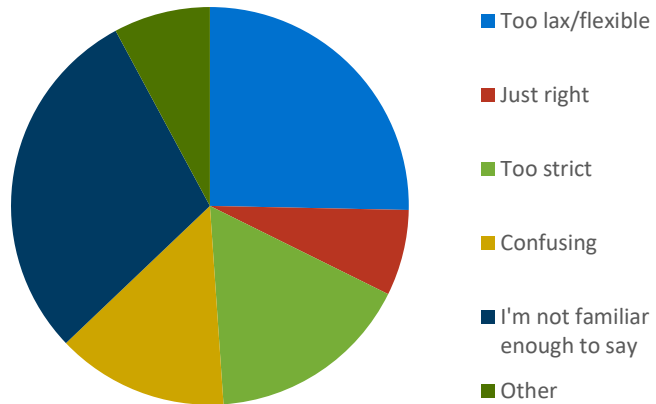
Question 4: How should trees be protected in Edmonds?

Question 4			
Response	**#**	**% of Total Selections**	**% of Total Responders**
Save some trees when development occurs	30	13%	13%
Limit the number of trees that a property owner can remove at one time	19	8%	8%
It depends on the size of the property and how many trees	25	11%	11%
People should be able to remove trees on their property if they want or need to	51	22%	22%
Large/mature trees should have greater levels of protection	59	26%	26%
Other	45	20%	20%
Total Selections	*229*		
Total Responders	*229*		

"Other" (freeform responses):

- All trees under individual circumstances should be protected to some extent
- Protect all trees
- Home owners should be able to remove dead/toppled trees in adjacent Edmonds protected property and replant healthy trees to protect slope stability.
- All of these topics should be addressed.
- Depends on the size of the property, how many trees AND the health of the trees.
- Save trees when development occurs and greater protection of large/mature trees
- All of the above
- If trees pose a safety risk they should be readily removed. So too, if there is significant obstruction of view that has evolved after the property was purchased.
- There should be more than one option here. Large trees are my priority but the first 3 options are all important
- AGAIN, multiple answers should be able to be chosen. I choose 1, 2, 3 and 5.
- Need to save trees everywhere; on private property or elsewhere- and special care for mature trees special care for mature treesrequire replanting
- you know this poll is so limiting, all of these options are valid except for option 4. we do need to limit tree removal on private property.
- Save trees with grandfathering: require tree protection only of owners who purchase properties after restrictions have been placed.

Question 4

- Save some trees when development occurs
- Limit the number of trees that a property owner can remove at one time
- It depends on the size of the property and how many trees
- People should be able to remove trees on their property if they want or need to

- Edmonds needs to augment its tree canopy. Trees need to be preserved wherever possible, especially large and mature trees.
- I think we need to recognize a rule needs to be enforceable. For example, we followed the rules, replacing trees if they did not live - but for one tree, we have replaced it twice and still it died.
- Provisions for replanting, right tree in the right place.
- Save some trees when development occurs. Protect critical areas from slides.
- There should be a number of trees/sqft. Prunus, Pyrus, and Fraxinus trees should not be seen as replacement trees.
- The city should only be conscerned withtrees in parks and public spaces
- Depends on amount of trees andlocation of property.
- All of these answers are true. This question should allow multiple answers. You are not going to increase tree canopy without doing all of these answers. With allowance made for flolks who want to remove some trees on their property. wers. You not going to get increase in tree canopy by doing any one of these answers. You need to do all of them with allowances made for property owners who want to remove some trees.s
- Significant trees that are not considered a nuisance should not be removed under any circumstance.
- Incredibly strict and an extreme financial burden on families trying to build a new home
- I am in favor of some regulation but I also wonder if more outreach and education regarding the importance of trees or alternatives to removal would be helpful?
- Only on public property
- Developments should have much more strict requirements to leave more trees. Allowing them to pay a small fine and plant a tiny tree if they go over the restriction is ridiculous.
- I feel that People should be able to remove trees on their property if they want or need to - particularly for the small DT Edmonds lots. However, if there is a larger property that is next to greenbelt, perhaps there should be some restrictions for the goal of maintaining forestry
- Protect mature trees, develop spaces that replant when others are taken down, integrate into all living spaces in ways that add beauty and are good living spaces for trees, prioritize ecology over the one species called humans
- This question should allow multiple answers!!! No one answer fits.
- We should have been able to check more than one box!
- One choice is not enough: large trees are priority, so is saving trees in development and limiting cutting on private property
- The diameter and health of a tree should be the only consideration for tree removal, as in, if a tree has a 6 inch diameter a permit is needed for removal.
- If trees must be removed for development, we might have an area where developers are required to pay for trees to be planted in order to offset that carbon.
- Need to take circumstances into consideration, like views.
- Save some trees when development occurs, limit the number that can be removed, large/mature trees should have more protection, provide $& to plant and successfully tend new trees
- Large trees on city property should be pruned properly
- This is a biased question, and misses the point of promoting trees. People need to be able to remove trees when needed from their property.
- Lines 1, 3 and 5
- Ecological analysis

- Pretty much all of the above. However people should be limited on how many trees they want to remove on their property, or they should be required to donate to planting more elsewhere if they remove too many. Something along those lines.
- Your survey is flawed as it only allows one response. Protect trees with new development and allow property owners freedom to cut their trees when needed
- Prohibit clearing of trees for new development; also bullets 2 & 5
- Our sweet old city is pretty much screwed. Thank you developers and whoever else allows that to happen.
- All the above EXCEPT property owners need to adhere to standards for tree protection. Trees should only be removed in certain circumstances.

Question 5: When property owners remove trees, how important do you think it is to plant new trees?

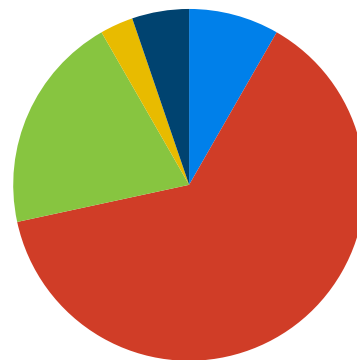| Question 5			
Response	#	% of Total Selections	% of Total Responders
1 (not important)	19	8%	8%
2	7	3%	3%
3	11	5%	5%
4	3	1%	1%
5	19	8%	8%
6	5	2%	2%
7	13	6%	6%
8	23	10%	10%
9	18	8%	8%
10 (extremely important)	112	49%	49%
Total Selections	*230*		
Total Responders	*230*		

Question 5
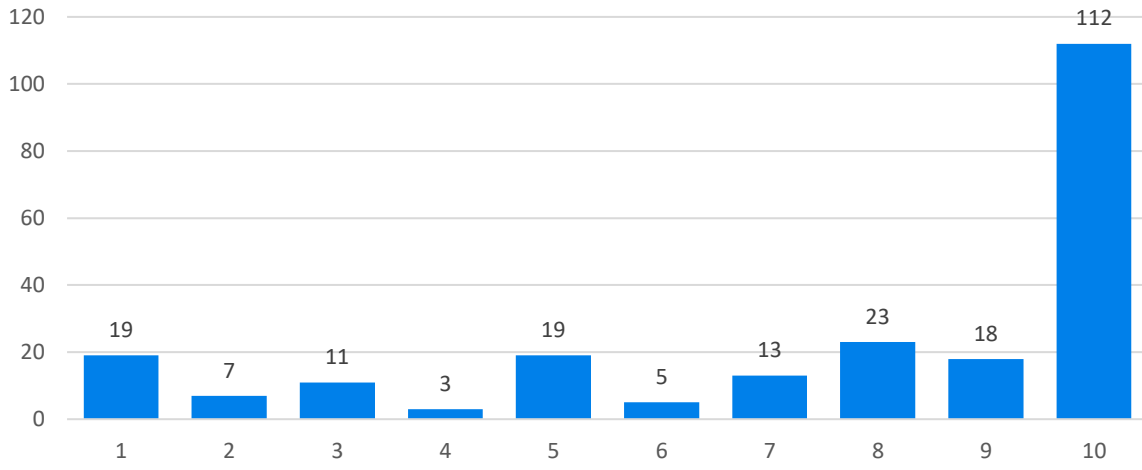
Question 6: Critical Areas are defined as high landslide hazard areas, streams, wetlands, and their buffers. Should the same rules apply to tree removals in critical areas as those not in critical areas?

Question 6			
Response	**#**	**% of Total Selections**	**% of Total Responders**
Yes, the same rules should apply regardless of critical areas	19	8%	8%
No, there should be stricter rules on tree removals in critical areas	145	63%	63%
It depends on the situation	46	20%	20%
I don't know enough about the subject to say	7	3%	3%
Other	12	5%	5%
Total Selections	*229*		
Total Responders	*229*		

"Other" (freeform responses):

- Depends on who owns the property: a yes for public land, no for private land
- Common sense should prevail.
- Critical area tree removals are only enforced after the trees have been removed ,as in the Union oil condo project near the dog park
- Want to trim branches
- If the trees pose a safety risk to lives or homes, they should be removable.
- Rules should be strict everywhere, but
- especially in critical areas.
- No rules for private property
- The city should consult with experts and file lawsuits for injunction if harm of people or the environment is expected
- Critical area tree regulations should apply to all areas uniformly

Question 6

- Yes, the same rules should apply regardless of critical areas
- No, there should be stricter rules on tree removals in critical areas
- It depends on the situation
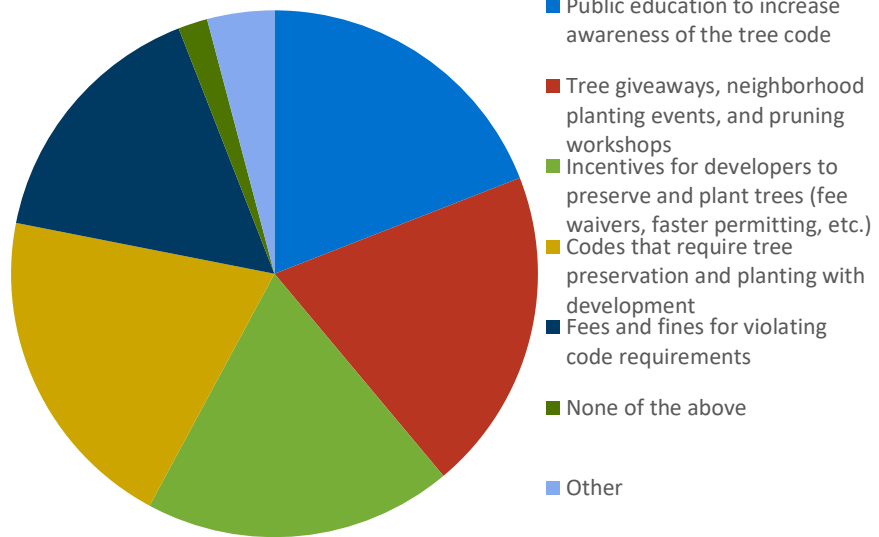- I don't know enough about the subject to say
- Other

Question 7: What strategies should the City use in enhancing Edmonds' urban forest? Check all that apply.

Question 7			
Response	#	% of Total Selections	% of Total Responders
Public education to increase awareness of the tree code	148	19%	65%
Tree giveaways, neighborhood planting events, and pruning workshops	154	20%	67%
Incentives for developers to preserve and plant trees (fee waivers, faster permitting, etc.)	147	19%	64%
Codes that require tree preservation and planting with development	157	20%	69%
Fees and fines for violating code requirements	124	16%	54%
None of the above	14	2%	6%
Other	32	4%	14%
Total Selections	776		
Total Responders	229		

"Other" (freeform responses):

- Too many rules
- Plant more trees in Edmonds parks
- are there zones where certain legacy tree growth exist- for instance, we have 3 old prune plum trees on our proerty- the area i live in apparently used to be all fruit tree orchards- can neighborhoods have a legacy /historical idea to rally around?
- Incentivise private property owners to plant trees
- If the City owns the property they can manage it
- Planting the correct size trees for the landscape
- How about all of the above?
- Much is written about preserving views. Educated the public on how to accomplish that and don't cave to loud voices like those objecting to the Civic Park tree plan.

Question 7

- Public education to increase awareness of the tree code
- Tree giveaways, neighborhood planting events, and pruning workshops
- Incentives for developers to preserve and plant trees (fee waivers, faster permitting, etc.)
- Codes that require tree preservation and planting with development
- Fees and fines for violating code requirements
- None of the above
- Other

- Encouragement and incentives like fees waivers or faster permitting, but NO allowance for disregarding the tree code, and vigilance in checking to see that large fines and public exposure if developers but down trees
- Plant as many trees in public parks and other public areas. If we really own our property we should have the rights to maintain our views and safety from falling branches.
- institute a "tree voucher" program in Edmonds. Use the carrot and stick approaches. If we are to limit tree removal, we should also encourage tree planting by subsidizing it dmprovide
- Educate on right tree for right space.
- In public Education, PLEASE, teach kids to be citizens by teaching real civics and the pledge in the morning. Such a small thing but kids will then identify with being American.
- Do as much as possible to increase awareness of tree codes. Farmers markets, fliers, no-topping sings...
- Fee in-Lieu when replanting on-site isn't an option.
- Restrict tree removal on already developed lots. Such as no more than 4 significant trees removed in a three year time period, depending on lot size,.
- Put teeth in preserved tree planning. Preserved trees that are part of an approved development plan that don't survive are not preserved trees. Establish a fee-based retention account for property development projects, funds held in escrow. Funds are returned to developer four years after permit of occupancy date. Preserved trees that are part of an approved development plan that are determined by City arborist to be dead or dying prior to the end of the retention period are charged current valuation against the retention account in accordance with 21.10.100 C2d. Retention balance is returned to the developer.
- Ban CC&Rs that require tree removal or "topping" for the sake of neighbors' views. Promote trees as view-enhancing, rather than view-blocking.
- Do what works and has an overall assessment of advancing the ecosystem, not just this for that if the overall impact is no good.
- More carrots than sticks.
- Creative solutions like thinning of large trees to improve views.
- Education around the impact of removing trees on the environment (release of carbon); permits required for tree removal
- Look at actual science, Focus on where it appropriate to have trees and where it is not.
- Pruning workshops for city and county tree maintenance.
- Address planting correct mature tree sizes for the space.
- the city should use the strategies in the UFMP not make up new ones. Correctly apportion fees for properties that remain in an un-treed state.
- Lower property tax for plots with trees.
- Help paying for the care of large and older trees. If you are under an income threshold the city could buy large trees or invest in smaller ones.
- Developers should not be able to cut down large/mature trees for housing development. Our ecosystem and biodiversity needs those trees more than we need more housing.
- How about we get real talk about the desire for citizens to have better views in the bowl that's what makes property values go up and increases tax revenue
- How about if you start with the developers and everyone who's in bed with them. It won't happen. So I answer these silly questions and get so worked-up and upset. I love trees. A lot. It feels almost insulting answering these questions knowing developers will simply continue doing what they do.
- fees should be high enough to keep developers from taking all trees.

Question 8: If you have concerns or comments about a specific section of the tree code, please provide your feedback here. If possible, include the code references. Click here to view Chapter 23.10 Tree Related Regulations.

34 Responses:

- Government should have less control over private property. Please stop trying to regulate our PRIVATE PROPERTY that we've owned for years. Protect property rights!!
- Total waste of time and $'s. Typical Edmonds council BS Waste!!!
- Please don't restrict my ability to manage trees on my
- Private property.
- Developers are not held to account when it comes to the code- although improved from prior code- it just doesn't protect the important and large growth trees, the ecosystems, and they just pay the fines to get around it. I have seen it multiple times in my neighborhood even since the new code was implemented. There needs to be more vision and attention put on which trees are preserved not just the number of trees. Private citizens should have the freedom to decide what they do with their land, but at the same time, they could be incentivized to take a preservationist approach, where it can be achieved. It's a slippery slope to achieve desired results without stepping on the rights of a landowner. Perhaps the focus c/b on properties that meet a "designated threshold" of tree canopy/clusters (need to get the data//science to back up and validate this thought) as removal or loss of these could most impact the vulnerable ecosystems that I spoke of previously. whereas a single tree on a property that is just poorly located might be handled differently. Doesn't seem to be a 1-rule for all approach....
- Good lord! My comment pertains to private property. Do what you want with public areas. Cutting down or planting a tree on my property is none of the cities business.
- With respect to fees/permits: Housing costs are insane. City, state and federal taxes/fees/permits are a large part of those costs. Politicians complain about the lack of affordable housing all the while imposing extra costs for builders, homeowners and potential homeowners. I am not a builder or developer but I am a homeowner. My advice, stop it.
- More emphasis is needed on proper tree maintenance/care/pruning. Stricter fines to discourage topping and improper care of existing trees of any size.
- This group does not intervene when a home owner has trees they want to save ,they lack any support
- The current exemptions are fine. Adjusting those to restrict private property owners from removing trees would effectively make a property owner like myself (numerous mature conifers that were topped decades ago and then subjected to subsequent further damage to roots and canopies from adjoining property development) unable to remove a hazardous tree due to cost considerations. As it's working now for us, we must remove every 2-3 years or so a tree that has declined, in order to prevent a threat to our house. In addition, a neighboring property has dropped FOUR mature trees onto our property, all of them narrowly missing our house. As it is, arborist costs are right on the edge of prohibitive, and adding city permit costs designed to be further prohibitive, would mean we wouldn't be able to manage tree hazards on our property.
- The fee allowance for developers to remove and not replace trees is laughably low. The cost is a no brainer when weighed against the benefits of clear-cutting. Ref. 23.10.080, E and 23.10.060, F.4.b. Developers should be required to maintain or plant X number of trees per Y development size...no exceptions. Housing density is removing all green space due to single family mega-

houses. Coding can force development upwards or drive to more compact housing to protect green space footprint.

- Our neighborhood is surrounded by trees, which we love. But in the past few years several older and large trees have fallen, damaging community and private property and very nearly striking homes. However, because of the city's tree code it has been terribly and unwisely difficult to reduce the threat of more trees of the exact same age and type falling because they are near a small creek that runs through the neighborhood. As the result, our homes and potentially lives are left in danger every time there's a high wind. If two trees of the same type, age and location have now fallen, it stands to reason that others just like and adjacent to them may also come down in the next storm, but because an arborist cannot prove they are an "immediate threat", we are stuck. This is unwise and ridiculous. So too, if an owner wants to replace an unsightly and unhealthy tree on their private property, not necessarily one that is an immediate hazard, they should be able to do so without terrible bureaucracy, cost, or threat of a fine. It should be a simple online process indicating which tree is getting removed, why, and how it will be replaced. Finally, and similarly, if the view of a property begins to become obscured by growth of secondary trees, e.g. alders, maples etc., the owner should be able to think or prune the trees, not necessarily clearcut a whole hill side, to preserve the view.
- I have a comment about item #5 above. Planting new trees is better than not, but let's not lead people to believe that planting a new twig will take the place of a mature tree in any way. Carbon sequestration is the most important, but water absorption and alleviating heat zones are also critical.
- I already filled this out, but didn't see a place where it said "submit" Did I miss it?
- Maintaining our urban forest should encompass ways to also maintain views of the water and Olympics. Opportunities for 'window-planing' views should be accommodated.
- I don't want it to apply to residences. Trees are already expensive to own. They have to be maintained and the debris has to be removed all the time and especially after a storm. And there is no easy way to get rid of waste now that the solid waste facilities are not accepting yard waste.
- While I love trees, and am a firm believer in the "right tree, right place" mantra, I believe there also should be strong view protection laws.
- I am very concerned with the ability for developers to avoid planting trees by paying fines. Under the current plan where do the fines go that developers pay and how are those fines managed to support planting trees and providing for their care? This needs to be managed with transparency to the public.
- Developers should be required to plant native trees at a set % of the trees they remove and provide care for those planted trees for a set period of time instead of allowing them a way out by paying fines.
- How can building occur on a creek?
- Under tree replacement , 080.d.3: replacement of conifers should be conifers. There is a true cost/value in carbon emissions from the loss of a big Doug Fir. And it should be taken into account. A weeping cherry tree does not take the place of a mature doug fir.! There needs to be true accounting for the loss of big conifers, due to development. Don't let the developers say that they have a landscaping plan and then not question that plan...
- Every big conifer taken down, for whatever reason , needs to be replaced with multiple conifer tree replacement trees. That's basic forestry practices. That's basic carbon accounting.
- Private property that citizens pay tax on should have no restrictions on cutting trees on their property or fee's, we already pay taxes to the city

- When critical area trees are removed, replacement trees are then planted but there is no protection for the new trees as they are too small. So they can be cut down. What can be done to protect them?
- Please consider having a preferred tree list that favors aggressive shade trees such as hornbeams and zelkovas over high-maintenance fruit trees. 23.10.090 Bonding: Please consider increasing the maintenance period to 4 years, to ensure saplings receive enough water to survive our new drought cycles. Deep infrequent watering! Turn irrigation doesn't count.
- 2310 030 Does Edmonds auto-grant permit to "Davey?"/ PUD to remove mature trees instead of providing some financial support to low income owners to appropriately trim back? Because they topped mine. after second time in around 10yrs the tree grew crazy and became a leaning mess. Third time they insisted removal due to its growth, which they created the problem in first place.
- As a home owner I should have final right to remove a tree. It's okay to have some rules around when/where/how but it should be simple.
- I don't understand why Edmonds can't model our code on the Sno County tree code which apparently has been successful for over 10 years
- Need high fees to remove a tree. Look to Lake Forest Park's tree code
- We should consider ecological offsets for accounting for replacement trees that can't be planted on the site of development, such as contributing to a regional Tree Bank/preserve.
- 23.10.060.B.2.b.ii: I have a significant tree right next to my property line. If the adjacent property is ever developed a tree retention and protection plan must include this tree and it's critical root zone (which extends well into the neighboring property). However, I have no rights as to the protection of my tree's root system on the said property. Shouldn't some sort of protection for neighboring trees be added to this section? At least during major developments of a property? I know the tree code is a work in progress, but this seems like a big oversight.
- Currently, trees can be removed from single family lots without a permit so long as they are not in a critical location. Requiring that trees be removed with a permit, preferably where one or more replacements are planted would do a lot to offset older/dead/dangerous trees that do need to come down and make sure we have the next generation growing to replace them rather than treading water by allowing our tree numbers to fall by attrition.
- The following comments are related to Chapter 23.10.100 Violation, enforcement and penalties.
  - Deterrence and prevention are two different things. Penalties enforced after illegal tree removal do not preserve trees. The City needs to establish a quick-reaction enforcement system that can respond to illegal tree cutting in real time. That would be a notification network whereby citizens are able to notify the City of tree cutting activity beginning in their neighborhood. City Arbor Enforcement cross references the property address with the tree cutting permits database to determine if the tree cutting activity is permitted or illegal. If illegal, police enforcement is dispatched to the address to halt the activity and issue citations. The City needs the assistance of an alert citizenry to successfully apply real prevention measures, not just gamble on deterrence as prevention.
  - Too many trees are removed by casual, drop-by and non-professional cutters. Only bonded tree cutting services listed, licensed and approved by the City should be allowed to remove trees in Edmonds. Regulating tree cutting service companies incentivizes code compliance and provides for oversight. Hiring a non-bonded, unapproved cutting service for tree removal should be a misdemeanor enforced by fine.
- Fines as stated in 21.10.100 C2c and C2d are insufficient deterrent for tree cutting services that remove trees without the prior verification of the existence of a current tree cutting permit. Besides fine-sharing already in the code, cutting without a valid permit should result in a two-year

disbarment of a company and severally its owners (who could otherwise simply start a new llc) from providing cutting service in Edmonds. A second infraction should result in permanent disbarment. Disbarred individuals and companies discovered performing cutting services should be subject to additional penalty.

- Home owners should not be penalized for landscaping their private yards while developers clear cut land.
- We have a neighbor's tree that has cracked our driveway and is now a tripping hazard. There should be a way to deal with that through the city without hiring attorneys.
- Once again this survey and study wasted money
- Trees on private property should be up to the owners discretion to remove. It can impact both their ability to maintain/improve property value and mitigate risk/liability of property damage to their home or their neighbors. Unless the city is going to reimburse for damages associated with a tree they won't allow to be removed, they should not put this burden on property owners. I have a tree greater than 24" in diameter in my backyard less than 20 feet from our house. During the ice storm multiple branches crushed a play structure and came a few feet from hitting our house. I can't tell by reading your code whether big trees on single family lots are considered 'protected' or not.
- It should not cost $40,000 to remove some (~50%, not all) of the trees on a 0.5 acre lot to make room for a single family home.
- I am unfamiliar with all of the details, but I am wondering if (for example) tree health, safety concerns, or overcrowding are part of these considerations, particularly with regard to private property. For example, if a homeowner has trees that are unhealthy or growing too closely to other trees or damaging property, would that be considered a reasonable removal without fines or penalties? If removing an established unhealthy tree, what would be the timeline for replacement? Some established trees have impressive root structures that make it difficult, even with stump grinding, for new life to thrive in the same spot for years (considering that some homes may not have enough space to plant in a different spot). Would there be a calculation of trees to available land on property? What size of trees would be considered? Although I believe in preservation, I wonder how this will play out as each decision is unique and complex, particularly in established neighborhoods with thick canopies. Thank you for seeking input. I am hopeful that we can continue to work to preserve our environment while also providing reasonable accommodations.
- Because the majority of Edmonds' urban canopy is on private property, it is clear that property owners are already doing a FINE JOB of maintaining the canopy
- Do not count invasive trees, require thier removal and replacement with natives.
- Do not allow invasive trees to be counted as canopy.
- I would like to provide the following comments to aid in your deliberations about the proposed tree code amendments. I would like to specifically ask that you:
    - A. Follow the current urban forest management plan (UFMP) and do not regulate the maintenance or removal of trees on private property outside of development.
    - B. Follow the current UFMP and compensate the owners of treed properties through surface water fee incentives.
    - C. Require funds gathered from the tree code be spent in the sub-area from which they are harvested.
    - D. Apportion surface water fees and redevelopment penalties to un-treed properties to correctly assess the increased public investment needed to provide stormwater flow control, stormwater treatment, stormwater conveyance to properties maintained in an

un-treed state (i.e. stop subsidizing the downtown view corridor with surface water fees from treed areas of the City). Additional fees should also be considered for un-treed properties that reflect the increased public health burden for not providing urban heat protection, mental health benefits, wildlife benefits, or benefits to public roadways. If you want to encourage trees in the urban environment and through re-development you need to make it a benefit not a liability to maintain properties in a treed state.

- o E. Prohibit property owners from entering into agreements/covenants that restrict the growth of trees. No generation should be able to restrict tree growth on property in perpetuity through a private view agreements.

- If we are "One Edmonds" then we all must equitably share the burden of protecting and enhancing the environment. Property owners who maintain properties in a treed state provide incredible ancillary benefit to the public at tremendous personal cost; it costs property owners tens of thousands of dollars through the life of each large tree in the urban environment. This is not an exaggeration, in past 4 years for a subset of trees- >$1.7K to remove dead wood from canopy, >$500 moss treatment, >$5K electrical line damage during winter storms. If a property owner can no longer afford trees (or wants other use and enjoyment) on their properties you should not compel them to maintain them for your benefit. The correct response from the City should be "thank you" and not increased costs, regulatory burden and fear for their health, safety and property.

- Suggestion D honours the existing UFMP and should be strongly considered, it simply asks those who want to maintain their view, sunlight, etc. to fully pay for the public impact that is currently subsidised by surface water fees from underserved and treed areas. I happen to be a person who is not served by the City storm sewer, in a basin where stormwater is not treated by the City on a treed property. I am directly harmed by these continued attempts to disproportionately burden underserved areas to meet the City's urban forest goals.

- Also basing the future urban forest on where trees are currently located is completely arbitrary and penalizes those living outside the bowl. By 2080 this will no longer be habitat for Douglas fir (Kralicek, et. al 2022). It is ridiculous (and costly) for the City to require property owners to maintain trees outside of their habitat and there is no reason that tree codes need to disproportionally penalize properties where trees are currently located. The tree code should be future-focused.

- Please watch and consider all tree-related public comments provided at the following meetings:
  - o City council - 4/20/21
  - o City council - 4/27/21
  - o Planning Board - 4/28/21
  - o City Council - 5/4/21
  - o City Council - 5/11/21
  - o Planning Board - 5/12/21
  - o City Council - 8/18/21
  - o City Council - 5/25/21
  - o Planning Board - 5/26/21
  - o City Council - 6/1/21
  - o City Council - 6/8/21
  - o Planning Board - 6/9/21
  - o City Council - 6/15/21
  - o City Council - 6/22/21
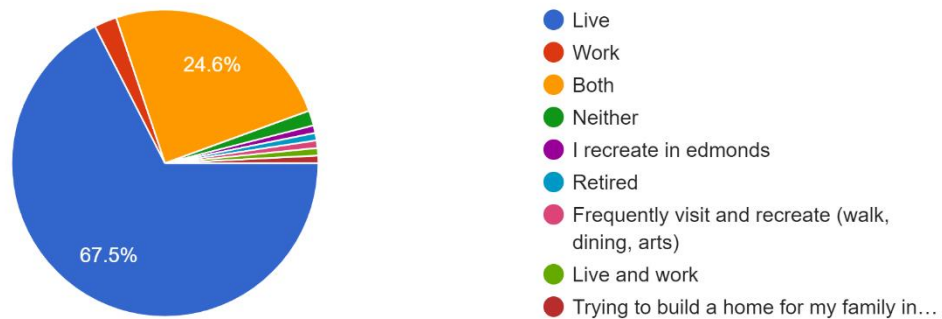 - o Planning Board - 6/23/21

- o City Council - 7/13/21
- o Planning Board - 4/14/21
- o City Council - 7/27/21
- o Planning Board - 7/28/21
- o City Council - 8/3/21
- o City Council - 8/10/21
- o City Council - 8/17/21
- o City Council - 8/24/21
- o Planning Board - 8/25/21
- o City Council - 9/7/21
- o Planning Board - 9/8/21
- o City Council - 9/21/21
- o Planning Board - 9/22/21
- o City Council - 10/19/21

- Native trees should be required whenever physically suitable for the site.
- I think nuisance trees should be a challenging thing to prove for specimen trees. For example, if a specimen tree is tearing up a driveway, I feel that should be insufficient for removal approval and alternative driveway materials should be considered.
- I think developers get off way to easily while home owners are over regulated. I would sooner chop down any tree that is closing in on a regulated size then deal with tree code compliance. This could limit tree cover as people like myself will just chop down large trees. Also we should focus on re-developing de-forested land not chopping down woodland. Develope downtown. Urban forests and biodiversity are more then just trees. What good is an old growth holly tree? What good is one old growth Doug fir? The holly tree has no ecological benefit, and the solitary Doug for is not an effective habitat unit.
- Much like gender or racial covenants are illegal now, so called view covenants should potentially be disallowed, especially when mature trees are involved.
- I wasn't able to tell, but some sort of enforcement requiring trees over a certain age and/or size to be preserved should be part of the code.
- The tree code is perfect the way it is but forests and parks should be protected but home owners should b able to rove trees at they please
- Too detailed and will need to submit later. The curretn code is quite complex and hard to understand.
- I want the tree code to also protect views which people pay a lot of money for. There should be a tree height limitation code.
- Failure to disclose and provide easy access to the draft text of the proposed expanded and modified tree code does nothing to promote public confidence and support. The implication is that Edmonds bureaucrats fear the expansion/revisions will encounter early opposition if disclosed. Hasn't the Edmonds city council declared its (alleged) commitment to transparency?
- Again, flawed survey. Stop protecting developers and start protecting citizen rights
- New development on previously un-constructed land should prohibit any removal of substantial existing trees. Designers/developers/builders need to re-learn how to work around heritage trees and not just destroy them (even with intent to replace later)
- Let's just keep allowing developers to do as they please - soon enough we won't have to worry about any trees.
- How do I find out or report someone I think is illegally removing a tree?

- Citizens should be able to do what they want with the landscaping in their own yards. Especially when you give developers carte blanche to strip lots and build to the lot lines.
- Codes are only effective if enforced. Don't rely upon public to do the city's job of oversight. And even when complaints are made, it can be too late to intervene . Developers are issued permits more readily than enforcement of tree codes. When the codes are violated, there should be a fine, court, and threat of loss of license, and/or stricken from list of qualified builders. Otherwise all this is just talk and trees continue to fall.
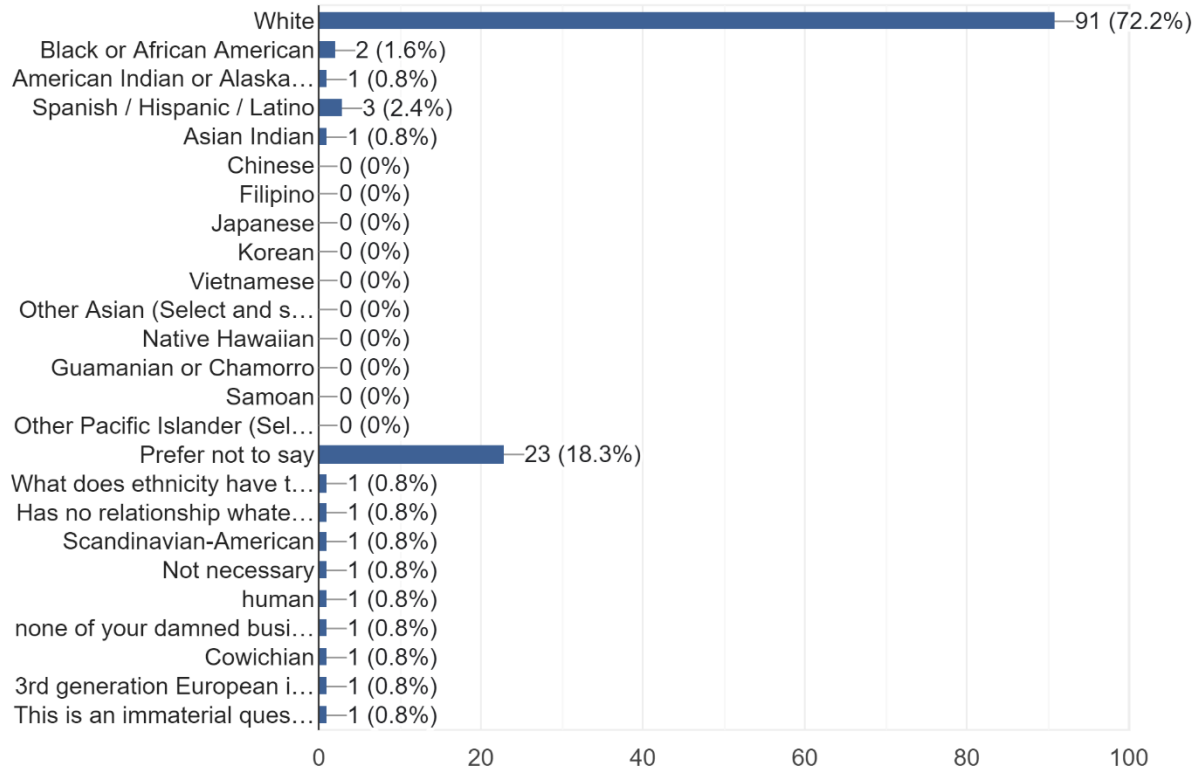
Demographic info

Do you live or work in Edmonds?
126 responses

- Live
- Work
- Both
- Neither
- I recreate in edmonds
- Retired
- Frequently visit and recreate (walk, dining, arts)
- Live and work
- Trying to build a home for my family in…

What is your race/ethnicity? (Select all that apply and use the "other" option to include a more specific answer)

126 responses

Category	Count
White	91 (72.2%)
Black or African American	2 (1.6%)
American Indian or Alaska...	1 (0.8%)
Spanish / Hispanic / Latino	3 (2.4%)
Asian Indian	1 (0.8%)
Chinese	0 (0%)
Filipino	0 (0%)
Japanese	0 (0%)
Korean	0 (0%)
Vietnamese	0 (0%)
Other Asian (Select and s...	0 (0%)
Native Hawaiian	0 (0%)
Guamanian or Chamorro	0 (0%)
Samoan	0 (0%)
Other Pacific Islander (Sel...	0 (0%)
Prefer not to say	23 (18.3%)
What does ethnicity have t...	1 (0.8%)
Has no relationship whate...	1 (0.8%)
Scandinavian-American	1 (0.8%)
Not necessary	1 (0.8%)
human	1 (0.8%)
none of your damned busi...	1 (0.8%)
Cowichian	1 (0.8%)
3rd generation European i...	1 (0.8%)
This is an immaterial ques...	1 (0.8%)

How long have you lived in Edmonds?

126 responses

Pie chart:
- 1 - 5 years: 19%
- 6 - 10 years: 15.9%
- 11 - 20 years: 19%
- 21 - 30 years: 8.7%
- 30+ years: 32.5%
- I don't live in Edmonds
- Prefer not to say