

I'm heartened by the number of large trees that may have been saved due to the amendment. And I wish it's extension. But I find some troubling inconsistencies that could be rectified.

On the one hand the amendment dictates that I trust in the decades away, potential of a 2" diameter sapling, planted as mitigation, yet at the same time it affixes no "fee in lieu of preservation" or a minimal one for removal of a 35" tree. Even though the mature tree has huge REAL TIME value. Providing oxygen, stormwater management, carbon storage, summer cooling, habitat, noise buffering, even improving mental health. Mitigation can be a poor trade off..especially if it omits the passage of time needed to fully recompense. We need these trees to maintain and renew our urban forest. You don't get to be a 36" inch tree without having first been a 20" inch tree. At this point, with Mother Nature taking a beating in so many ways, I am not a fan of running a deficit for 30 yrs. and calling it progress..

To fix this inequity, I propose that for trees from 21" through 35" that each inch over 20" would see the "fee in lieu of preservation" increased by \$840 plus \$3600(the base fee for a 20" tree). That is arrived at by subtracting the fee for a 20" tree from the fee for a 36" tree and dividing by the 15 inches that separate the 2 categories. Or please develop some other method that more truly reflects the very real and current contributions of these trees. Simply lowering the threshold for the highest fees to 30" would help.

As I drive around it becomes clear that climate change is stressing our trees. Many have or will succumb, increasing the value of each healthy mature tree. I would recommend the amendment be applied to 1/2 or 2/3 of the trees on site. Sadly, we humans seem unable to sustain something without placing a monetary value to it.

And I suggest no longer exempting Commercial, Industrial development or Residential lots under 5000 sq. ft. The trees present at those sites help with all the other aforementioned issues that effect us all as Portlanders.

Perhaps Parking requirements could be waived to save mature trees.

I would also want to increase fees in keeping with inflation and for any additional care needed for saplings due to drought and I wish to know the survival rate for saplings.

I believe that progressive Developers who truly care about Portland will show their ability to incorporate mature trees into their projects. Such that all Portlanders can share their benefits.

Thank you all for your efforts.

I wish to thank Mike Houck, Chris Smith and Daiy Quinonez for their years of service.

Robert B. Bernstein
7415 SE Main Street
Portland, OR 97215