

# Sandra Bradley

**#331619 | April 12, 2022**

## Testimony to **Portland City Council** on the **Environmental Overlay Zone Map Correction Project, Recommended Draft**

Last month City Council received a report on the status of Portland's tree canopy cover. The canopy grew to 30.7% by 2015, then receded to 29.8% in 2020. The ~1% loss equates to 820 acres...or losing Mt. Tabor Park every year during the last five years. Housing development and remodeling permits were the strongest indicators of tree loss. The current revisions to the Ezone map change portions or all of some "P" parcels to "C" parcels to preserve the potential for development on these lots. This revision, if adopted, should require that any proposed development on a "C" parcel include the submission to and approval by the Urban Forester of a reforestation and revegetation plan before any permit for any activity is issued on the site. Site inspection to confirm plan completion and compliance should be required prior to issuance of final occupancy permit. Future site inspections could verify the efficacy of the reforestation plan. As it addresses the city's immediate housing needs, City Council must also advance its goal of 33% canopy cover by 2035. Replacement trees planted today will not provide additional canopy for many years, leaving the City further behind its canopy cover goal. A Chinese proverb reminds us that "the best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now." We can't time travel to 20 years ago, but we can adopt practices now that will make the 2035 goal achievable.

Testimony is presented without formatting.