

**From:** [Peter Banitt](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Title 11 Amendments  
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Large trees can be dangerous and often do not have a safe place in an urban environment. This past winter many large trees fell and caused millions of dollars of damage throughout Portland.

Very rarely is any large or mature tree taken down electively because it is diseased or dying. Almost all large trees will only come down when brought over by a storm -- often causing significant damage or personal injury. Most of Portland was clear cut 100 years ago so now there are many mature and large trees which are not suitable to be extremely close to housing and people. I suspect that the vast majority of large trees will eventually all come down due to wind / storm/ ice damage. It is not a surprise or unusual event - it is inevitable.

I strongly urge the city to allow property owners to trim or remove large trees which - if they fall - would damage their property.

If property owners are forced to leave trees growing on their property until the inevitable storm hits next year or 20 years from now, then I feel the city should indemnify property owners for all costs that the eventual damage that will occur.

Sincerely,  
Peter Banitt