

**From:** [alexandra wiley Pengelly](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Parks - Urban Forestry Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Title 11 Amendments  
**Date:** Monday, July 22, 2024 11:39:45 PM

---

To Whom It May Concern,

**Please extend the Portland's Large Tree Amendment.** With climate change, increasing development, and a growing biodiversity crisis, we need to protect what trees we have. There are many studies showing that communities without tree cover suffer more due to heat and Portland is on [list of cities with tree canopy inequity](#). We have work to do to close this gap- and extending the amendment will help.

Trees that already exist in our urban forest and are healthy and creating habitat as well as casting shade into our city and communities are precious and we need to continue to protect them. It **should** be costly to cut them, as it needs to be carefully thought out. Does it really need to be cut? Or can we build around it. If a large tree is cut- how do we balance that true cost/loss out?

The Large Tree Amendment has been **effective at preserving the largest trees** in Portland's neighborhoods. This is REALLY GOOD news. There is a lot of pressure for affordable housing and development costs, but we should not compromise livable habitat for other species as well as the health and safety of our communities. We need to safeguard large trees and habitats that we have within our city and reward developers for building designs that work to save trees and develop in ways that help preserve our urban forest. *"Trees 20" in diameter and greater make up just 13% of Portland's urban forest but provide 59% of the value in benefits to public and ecological health.*" (Portland Parks & Recreation)

After the heat dome in 2021 killed residents, the city is still having difficulty maintaining ways to protect its most vulnerable people. *"Portland's tree canopy provides shade and other cooling effects, but it is shrinking, both city and independent studies show."* ([Oregonian, 2022](#))

Please continue the legacy of the Large Tree Amendment. Even as we save trees we are still losing more trees to development every day. We need to put protections into place for nature and those species or people that are not being heard. Let's do the right thing and continue to protect trees in Portland. We never know when we will have a disease break out or some other issue where we will lose trees. We need to have a diverse, healthy, and strong urban forest to support a healthy vibrant city.

We need to think of ways to reward developers that work around trees and homeowners that do the same.

thank you,  
Alexa Pengelly

**Alexa Wiley Pengelly**  
[alexa.pacificnw@gmail.com](mailto:alexa.pacificnw@gmail.com)

"I say beware of all the enterprises that require new clothes, and not rather a new wearer of clothes" -Thoreau