

**From:** [Whitney Bailey](#)  
**To:** [Planning Commission](#); [Parks - Urban Forestry Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Remove the December 31, 2024 sunset clause in PCC 11.50.040.C  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 23, 2024 1:47:38 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for **removing the sunset clause** for the Large Tree Amendment in Title 11.

Large trees provide significant benefits for human health and well-being, wildlife, and ecosystem services such as evapotranspirative cooling and stormwater uptake. Their relative impact is far greater than small trees, and no matter how many small trees we plant now, it will take them decades to reach significant size and comparable impact. On the scale of human lifetimes, large trees are functionally irreplaceable. Losing even one is too many.

Portland's urban canopy is declining for the first time in decades, contrary to City policy across many programs. Removing the sunset clause would only hasten the decline, and set Portland's climate and equity goals back by decades. The long-term negative impacts on the residents of this City from keeping it would FAR outweigh the nominal short-term impact on developers from removing it. This is also not the Victorian era, where the short-term economic interests of a few are prized over the long-term health and well-being of the many.

We must protect every large tree we have, and the only way to do that is to remove the sunset clause.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Whitney Bailey  
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