

From: Ruth Gundle [mailto:ruth.gundle@icloud.com]

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To: Planning and Sustainability Commission <psc@portlandoregon.gov>; Commissioner Fish <nick@portlandoregon.gov>; Commissioner Novick <novick@portlandoregon.gov>; Commissioner Saltzman <dan@portlandoregon.gov>; Commissioner Fritz <amanda@portlandoregon.gov>; Hales, Mayor <mayorcharliehales@portlandoregon.gov>

Subject: Reform Portland's Tree Code To Preserve Large Healthy Trees

And in the meantime, I urge you to adopt Audubon Society of Portland's proposed Tree Code reforms as a temporary stop-gap measure until Title 11 reforms can be developed and adopted, specifically:

a. Require inch-for-inch mitigation for cutting large, healthy, non-dangerous and non-nuisance trees ≥ 30 " diameter at breast height "dbh" in development and non-development situations until Title 11 preservation standards can be reformed.

b. Require posting and a 30-day delay before any tree ≥ 30 " dbh is permitted to be cut.

Portland's trees are a precious resource. Large healthy trees provide a number of environmental functions and values to a much greater degree than smaller trees. Since past urbanization has undervalued trees in our cities, large healthy trees are rare. That makes their preservation and protection all the more critical to human health and environmental quality in cities.

A number of studies have found large healthy trees play a particularly critical role in supporting clean air and water, wildlife, human health and energy conservation. Large healthy trees are particularly important for:

Air Quality - A 2002 study by the USDA found that large, healthy trees greater than >30 inches in diameter remove 70 times more urban air pollution annually than small, healthy trees (<3 inches in diameter) often planted to replace them.

Urban Heat Island - The size, density, and structure of a tree's canopy - which is directly related to tree health, age and size - influence the extent of shading, the ability of trees to lower temperatures, and thus reduce and mitigate the impacts of the urban heat island effect. Recent research found that Portland has one of the worst urban heat island effects in the United States.

Water Quality - The ability of trees to intercept, store, and infiltrate rainfall and reduce urban stormwater runoff is directly related to the size of its canopy and root zones.

Biodiversity - The size, age, and species of trees are critical to supporting urban wildlife and biodiversity. Not surprisingly, larger older trees support a greater diversity of birds.

Energy Conservation - The size and canopy of urban trees is also directly related to their energy conservation benefits.

Ruth Gundle
624 SE 29th Avenue
Portland, OR 97214