

**From:** [brita morgan](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Ryan Office](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Commissioner Mapps](#); [Commissioner Rubio](#); [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** my letter for the trees  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 11:35:54 AM

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hi ted wheeler, and all whom this letter reaches,

brita here. I am writing to you about the trees in our south park blocks. About a week ago i got word that there is a idea to make a “greenway” for bicycles in the park blocks. Several days later i got word that scientists or other educated folks said that cutting the trees down is more cost efficient than treating them. Upon hearing that the trees are at risk for falling down because of insects i felt deep frustration and grief.

have you ever heard of natural hygiene? The premise of such is about how if wellness is cultivated, nurtured, and maintained sickness will naturally be kept away. This same holistic wisdom can be applied to our plant and tree friends. Just like in farming, insects only attack plants because in monocrop farming balance, wellness, and thus diversity are awry.

no matter which trees you plant they will all eventually grow weak, and riddled with insects if humans keep behaving in ways that are wanting of foresight. The soil needs to be amended, more space for nutrients to be offered and more space for water to be absorbed. Each autumn leaves and other plant matter are taken from the trees. Natures complete beautiful cycle of fertility is to give lots of spring and summer growth back to the roots each autumn, nature’s wiser mulching. This cycle sustains plant and tree vitality and keeps all insect populations in balance, a place of mutual reciprocity. The insects are arriving because the trees are in need of fertilizer and more biodiversity. The bugs are eating the trees because in nature bugs help decompose the infirm, which in a forest would make room for healthier trees and plants to grow.

However, often in a city tree planting is inherently counter to natures fertilities cycles of wellness and thus trees and plants will eventually get weakened—unless we model after a forest. IE. fungi & rhizomes, ground cover, herbaceous plants: flowers & herbs etc, shrubs, lower growing trees, crawling plants, and canopy trees. All plants in a forest help the trees to be well and vice versa, AND they all wonderfully help us and other animals to be well too. The more roots the more the soil is held, and the more leaves the more the soil is sheltered from being exposed to the elements of rain, sun, and wind —keeping soil vitality for both trees and plants to flourish. Each plant that grows amends the soil for the plants yet to grow. See the book: “Weeds And What They Tell” —author: Ehrenfried E. Pfeiffer.

Have you read about the natural succession of a landscape?

Here in portland i found a book about the history of forest park. I am yet to complete reading such though yet far i love a lot of the wisdom in the book.

Title:  
“One Cities: Portland’s Forest Park Wilderness”  
Author:  
Marcy Houle

I wish that you and any folks in this decision making process read this book in addition to

books about keeping plants and trees well so that insects stay in balance. The book, in detail, describes the natural succession: all the way from native plants to old growth forest here in portland!

All of us are beautiful in our true natures. Though we are a ways yet from living from our true natures—in making steps of reparations for our environment and peoples we are at least creatively collaborating the beginning of reclaiming ourselves.

Trees and plants keep erosion away, their roots purify water, their leaves give us air to breathe, and they make vertical rivers to the sky for more rains to be created. Additionally trees and plants significantly cool the air: through sheltering lots of earth and through moistening the air.

Amend the soils: naturally, how a forest does, and save the trees! Our fates and earths are interwoven and interdependent.

wishing for healing,  
brita