



TREE CODE AMENDMENT PROJECT: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY ONLY CITY OF EDMONDS, WA

JUNE 2023



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Note this document is provided as a summary of public engagement efforts. Details on each event and public survey responses are available as Attachments A-G, accessible online from the project webpage at: www.edmondswa.gov/treecodeupdates



PROJECT OVERVIEW



Source: City of Edmonds, WA

The City of Edmonds' Tree Code Amendment project represents an important step in protecting, understanding, and managing the urban forest. This project used a planning approach consisting of extensive research and reviews of existing code and documents and a public outreach strategy to gather public input and shape ordinance development.

Edmonds' tree code, Chapter 23.10 ECDC was adopted in 2021 to primarily protect trees with development and to achieve Urban Forestry Management Plan Goal 1A. It was recognized that limitations on property owner tree removals could be considered at a future date. The scope of the 2022-2023 Tree Code Amendment Project ("project") is to consider limitations to property owner tree removals and to further clarify and simplify the existing development-related code with minor code changes.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Strategy is to ensure the 2022-2023 tree code amendment process aligns with the City's Equitable Engagement Framework in identifying the community's preferred solutions for property owner tree removals in Edmonds. This Strategy ensures the community has full access to information and opportunities to propose ideas for collective solutions related to private property tree removal in Edmonds. The resulting community input will support City board and council decision-making by providing a thorough understanding of how those decisions might impact the public.



DESIRED OUTCOMES

Gather Community Input with Robust Engagement



The City of Edmonds recognizes the value of community-driven decision-making. Using the *Edmonds Equitable Engagement Framework*, this project invites community members, developers, business owners, landscapers, utilities, and tree care professionals participate in discussing Edmonds' tree regulations. This project seeks to reflect the broader community's goals and vision for a healthy, sustainable urban forest.

Clarify and Simplify the Existing Development-Related Tree Codes



Chapter 23.10 Tree Related Regulations of the Edmonds municipal code was adopted in 2021 to primarily protect trees with development and to achieve Urban Forestry Management Plan Goal 1A. Since its adoption, various opportunities for improvement have been identified that will clarify and simplify the code language without changing the meaning. This project seeks to identify and discuss these minor amendments to the code relating to tree removal associated with development.

Consider Limitations on Tree Removal Not Associated with Development



Chapter 23.10 Tree Related Regulations currently exempts developed single-family properties from tree removal requirements, except for critical areas or their associated buffers. This project seeks to consider varying levels of limitations on tree removal for developed properties, and to generate healthy discussion with stakeholders and community members around potential recommendations to amend *Chapter 23.10*.

EDMONDS' TREE CODE BACKGROUND

In recent years, momentum for urban forestry has resulted in great progress for the Edmonds community leading up to this Tree Code Amendment Project. A summary of significant milestones is included below.

Year	Milestone	Details
2019	Urban Forest Management Plan	Goal 1A reads: Update tree regulations to reduce clearcutting or other development impacts on the urban forest and to consider changes to tree replacement requirements and penalties for code violations.
2020-2021	Tree Code Update	Code updated to reflect Goal 1A of the UFMP. The City Council and the Planning Board recognized that in addition to retaining and planting trees with development, regulations to limit tree removal not associated with development could be considered at a future date.
2022	Canopy Assessment	This assessment is guides canopy-enhancing strategies such as tree planting programs, public education, and tree code updates.
2022-2023	Tree Code Amendment Project	Process to engage the community for guidance on clarifying and simplifying the existing development-related tree codes, and considering limitations on tree removal not associated with development.

TREE CODE AMENDMENT PROJECT TIMELINE



PROJECT KICKOFF

DEC 2022



OUTREACH STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

JAN-FEB 2023



DIGITAL OUTREACH (SURVEY AND SOCIAL MEDIA)

MAR-MAY 2023



PUBLIC MEETINGS AND FOCUS GROUPS

MAR-MAY 2023



ENGAGEMENT ANALYSIS

JUNE 2023

MANUALS, GUIDES, AND FORMS

Should the Edmonds City Council adopt any Tree Code Amendments, City Staff will need to update all existing manuals, guides, and forms that reference outdated tree and landscape codes. New guides should be easily understood by staff in any City Department and any resident of Edmonds. Often, permit application forms need to be created or heavily modified upon adoption of new tree-related regulations so that the process is streamlined.

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES & RESULTS

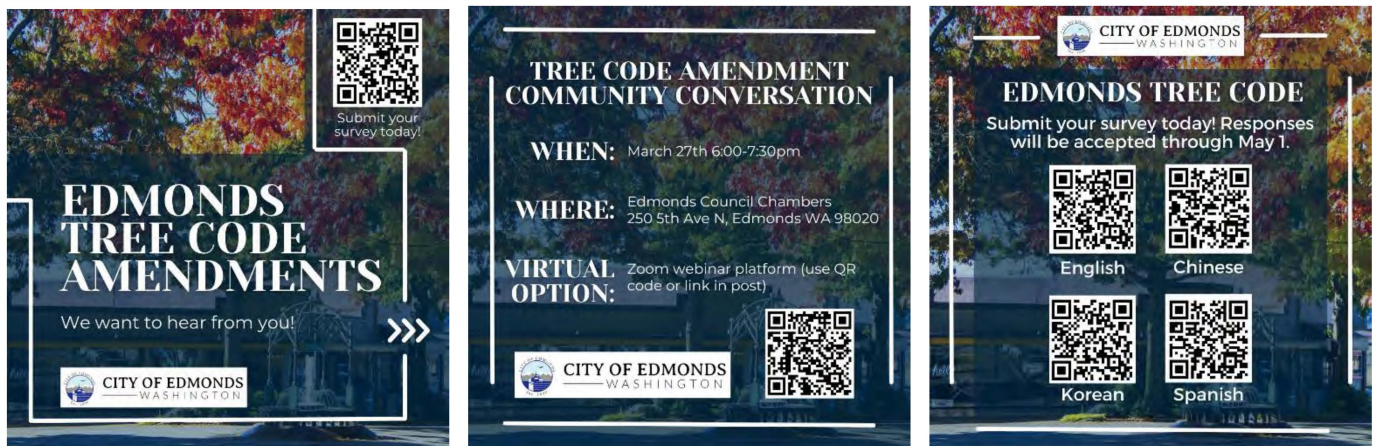
A Community Outreach and Engagement Strategy was developed to ensure that the 2022-2023 tree code amendment process aligns with the City's Equitable Engagement Framework in identifying the community's preferred solutions for the project objectives. With this Strategy, the community is given access to information and opportunities to propose ideas for collaborate solutions related to private property tree removal in Edmonds. The community input will support City Planning Board and Council decision-making by providing a thorough understanding of how those decisions might impact the public. A summary the engagement strategies and their results are included in this section.

CITY WEBPAGE CONTENT AND EMAIL

Project-related content was made available to the public on the City's website on the following webpage: <https://www.edmondswa.gov/treecodeupdates>. This site informs the public on the purpose, process, and importance of updating the code, and was updated periodically with progress updates. The content introduces residents to the importance of trees and their benefits, and that enhancing tree protection can combat climate change, strengthen community resilience and public health and address issues identified in the canopy assessment. The project webpage provided links to engagement opportunities such as the community survey, upcoming events, and public meetings. An email account trees@edmondswa.gov was created for community members to receive project updates.

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

The City of Edmonds used social media messaging to inform the public of engagement opportunities at key project intervals. The posts were provided in English, Chinese, Korean, and Spanish to avoid barriers to engagement.



PUBLIC MEETINGS

This City of Edmonds hosted two public meetings to gather public input on tree code amendments. The meetings were held in a hybrid format, using the interactive and intuitive webinar platform, Zoom, which allowed the City to provide similar opportunities for engagement between in-person attendees and virtual attendees. The meetings were recorded and made available on the City's website.

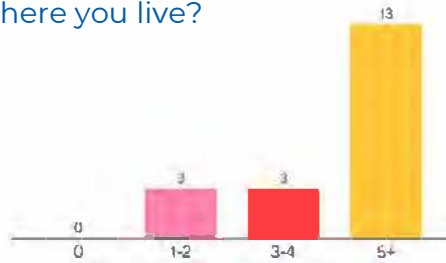


Community Conversation #1

The first meeting began with an educational presentation by City staff and was followed by live polling using Mentimeter and breakout group discussions. The presentation at this meeting informed residents of the tree code update purpose, approach, and opportunities to engage. The live polling results are included below.

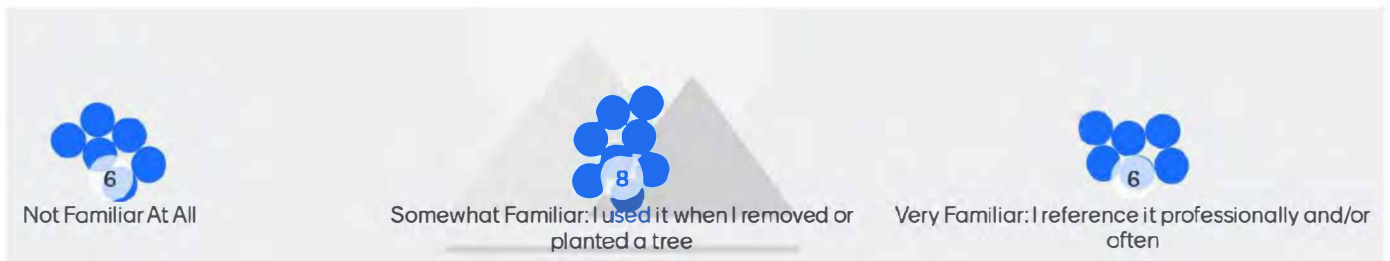
Q1: How many trees are on the property where you live?

Answer Option	Votes
0 trees	0
1-2 trees	3
3-4 trees	3
5+ trees	13



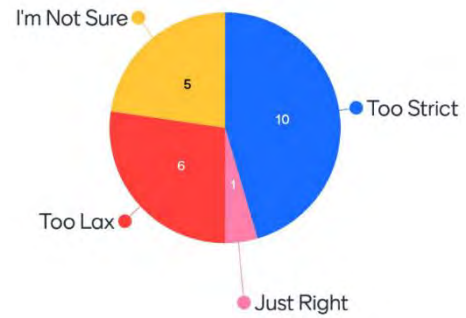
Q2: How familiar are you with the current tree code?

Answer Option	Votes
Not familiar at all	6
Somewhat familiar: I used it when I removed or planted a tree	8
Very familiar: I reference it professionally and/or often	6



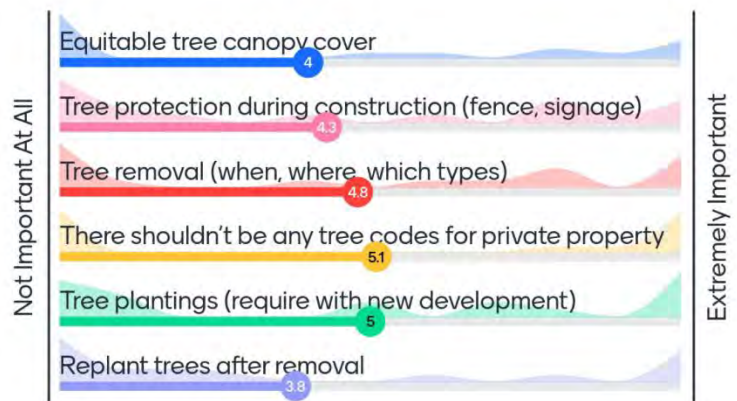
Q3: How would you describe the current tree code?

Answer Option	Votes
I'm not sure	5
Too lax	6
Just right	1
Too strict	10



Q4: How important are these tree code themes to you?

Answer Option	Score
Equitable tree canopy cover	4
Tree protection during construction (fence, signage)	4.3
Tree removal (when, where, which types)	4.8
There shouldn't be any codes for private property	5.1
Tree plantings (require with new development)	5
Replant trees after removal	3.8



Community Conversation #2

The second public meeting was informed by the first public meeting, the survey results from City staff and stakeholder groups including the Edmonds Citizen’s Tree Board, data analyses, and other key findings from planning tasks.

Attendees were provided multiple opportunities to provide input during this hybrid meeting. The following feedback was received during breakout groups and the Zoom chat. When possible, this feedback has been categorized using the [Tree Ordinance Checklist Framework](#) to prepare for potential tree code recommendations.



Breakout Groups

In this hybrid meeting format, breakout groups were held both in person and virtually. Code-related comments from all breakout rooms were organized and categorized in the summary charts below.

Tree Removal, No Development	
Question 1: Does the City have a role in limiting property owner tree removals?	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
If the tree is a hazard, you should be able to cut it down	Preservation
Require prop owner to hire an arborist, but not get a permit	Credential
Over-the-counter removal process	Management
Establish tracking system to know how many trees are removed vs planted	Management
Specify types of trees which are better for mitigation (i.e. deciduous vs conifer)	Planting
There should be notification of tree removal permits to surrounding neighbors	Management

Tree Removal, No Development	
Question 2: What's the one thing you'd change about the current code related to private property tree removals?	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Allow property owners to maintain viewsheds	Maintenance
Establish different regs for "The Bowl" (e.g. overlay district)	Management
Clarify critical areas regs	Preservation
Include liabilities when landslides occur after tree removals.	Management
Require public notice to surrounding property owners	Management
Require Geotech assessment.	Management
Establish critical area public education program	Other
Invasives should not be allowed – push for natives	Maintenance
Climate adaptation (doug firs not adaptive)	Maintenance
Switch from regulating trees to regulating property	Management
Protection for larger trees 30" DBH	Preservation
Enforcement needs improvement	Management
Require replanting in commercial development (Clarify in CRA)	Planting
Surface H2O fear – decreased fee structure for tree retention. (Tax incentives)	Preservation
Require the city to notice that they are doing removal and why	Management
Educate the public on the importance of preserving trees because they are multi-generational entities	Other



Responsibility needs to be on an arborist or someone for knowing the proper code and way to take the trees down. Some kind of mechanism knowing the proper removal steps and ensuring they are followed	Credential
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Tree Removal, No Development	
Question 3: Should anyone be required to plant replacement trees when trees are removed on private property?	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
City shouldn't say yes/no on removal, but should have a say in the replant requirement	Planting
Mitigation should be same for same species type (i.e. deciduous : deciduous and evergreen : evergreen)	Planting
Provide notification of trees removed (not a permit – no cost – no ability for the City to say “no”)	Management
Replacement should consider the size of the tree being removed in order to get the same ecological benefits	Planting
With Edmonds turning over like hotcakes, trees are cut without much consideration with consideration to the overall impact they have on the homeowner and other residents. Trees are not respected for their benefits over time, they are multi-generational.	Preservation
Concerned that the developers/private property owners are approved to cut down huge swaths of 100 yo forests and then are able to “replant” which does not support the MAJOR biodiversity is lost	Preservation
Recommendation: If there is a clear code and neighbors know what it is...they can help to enforce	Other

Tree Removal, With Development	
Question 1: Does the City have a role in requiring tree retention with development? Replanting? Assessing fees in lieu?	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Fees should be used for tree planting	Planting
Retention should be #1 focus	Preservation
Dislike fees in lieu – no cap on amount	Management
Provide a basic framework but let developers be the experts on site design	Credential
Planting requirements, no penalties	Planting
Tree diversity	Planting
Incentives to retain trees (esp drainage)	Preservation



Replanting – penalties	Planting
Incentives over penalties (e.g. “developers must use 10% for network in Seattle” 10% tree limitation	Preservation
Carrots over sticks – development incentives	Preservation
Gather data on replacement, planting, preservation, etc. for the urban forest	Management
Fees should be much higher than they are now	Management
The diameter classes do not capture the whole ecosystem cost, so either lowering the DBH threshold or increasing the costs with these because the other factors involved	Preservation
would prefer to make it more difficult to cut down old growth or second growth rather than the payout.	Preservation

Tree Removal, With Development	
Question 2: What’s the one thing you’d change about the current tree code related to development?	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Clarify it.	Other
Increase tree planting in commercial properties	Planting
Weak/confusing and needs revision	Other
Ensure equity in fees so replacement are throughout Edmonds	Planting
Overly complicated	Other

Tree Removal, With Development	
Question 3: Should certain trees (landmark, trees in critical areas, etc.) have a higher degree of protection on development sites?	
Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Property of concern - on Shell Creek by Theatre – City owns property on other side of the creek, but this property is up for development (asking for variance, which we don’t think they’ll get). How is this possible?	Preservation
Don’t want any development in certain types of critical areas.	Preservation
Landmark trees = Cultural significance to community (e.g. Monkey puzzle tree)	Preservation
Prefer incentives as opposed to regulations	Preservation
Use fees/fund for land acquisition	Management
Area of concern – Perraville development concerns	Preservation
Consider other development styles that preserve more land	Preservation
Natives and trees in critical areas	Preservation



Get away from single tree protection, but a whole ecosystem protection and do a pocket or a larger landmass protection for biodiversity. Change the name from tree code to forest code	Preservation
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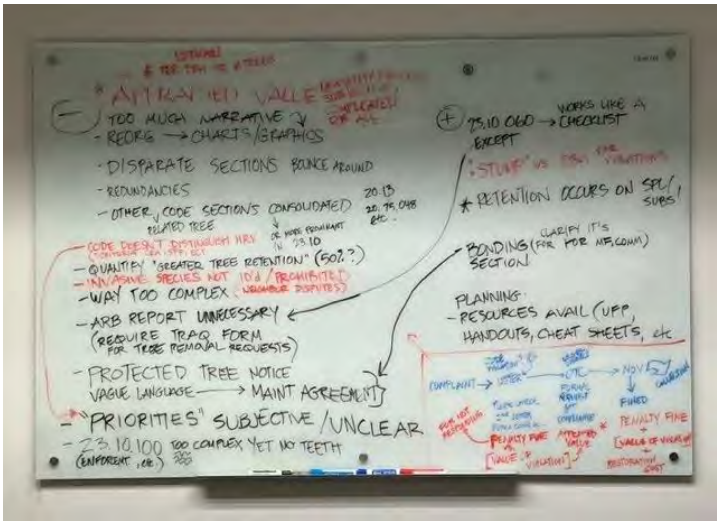
FOCUS GROUPS

As a part of the Tree Code Amendment Project’s Community Engagement Strategy, a series of focus group sessions were scheduled to hear perspectives and ideas from various interest groups about potential updates and amendments to the tree code. City staff sent out invitations with the following stakeholder groups in mind:

- Developers
- Arborists
- Environmental sciences
- Tree preservation advocacy
- Climate action
- Underserved and underrepresented

Under the guidance provided in the “Collaborative” Level of Engagement per the Equitable Engagement Framework, these groups were identified to provide advice and innovation in creating solutions so that decision-makers (Planning Board, City Council) may incorporate their advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible. The three facilitated stakeholder meetings were held with two main objectives in mind:

- 1) Understand how trees are currently regulated in Edmonds and
- 2) Develop partnerships with advisory boards and community groups that can provide input on alternatives and identify preferred solutions related to tree code amendment decisions.



Focus Group #1

Developers, arborists, and community members involved in development-related activity were included in the first focus group meeting. Five people attended virtually and five attended in person at Edmonds City Hall. The following questions were asked to guide the conversation and collect meaningful feedback

- 1) What challenges have you experienced working with the tree code?
- 2) Conversely, what works well with Edmonds' tree code?
- 3) What incentives would you consider to achieve greater tree retention, while developing the site to its maximum potential? Can you point to any examples from other cities?
- 4) Based on your work within the region, when considering development sequencing (from feasibility to final inspection/bonding), what tree code requirements, design review processes, on-site tree protection methods, maintenance plans, etc. Should Edmonds consider?
- 5) Tree removal replacements: what replanting standards are you most in favor of?

Focus Group #2

The Edmonds Tree Board participated in the second focus group meeting to gather input from these subject matter experts who have been involved with Edmonds' urban forest for years. The Tree Board discussed the focus questions at great length and while consensus was not achieved for each question, the discussion provides great value to the Tree Code Amendment Project process.

Tree Removal With or Without Development	Question	In-Person Answers (Yes/No/Undecided)	Follow-Up Survey (Yes/No/Undecided)
Without	Should property owner tree removals be limited to help slow the loss of canopy?	Undecided	Yes – 3 No – 0 Undecided – 0
Without	Should property owners be allowed to remove x number of trees (within a certain timeframe)?	Yes (3) / Undecided	Yes – 3 No – 0 Undecided – 0
Without	Is 12 months adequate between allowed removals?	Undecided	Yes – 1 No – 1 Undecided – 1
Without	Should “Landmark” tree be defined as minimum 24” DBH?	Yes	Yes – 3 No – 0 Unclear – 0
Without	Should “Landmark” tree removals be prohibited? Limited? (Except hazard or nuisance trees)	Yes, limited	Yes – 3 No – 0 Unclear – 0
Without	Should the time between “Landmark” tree removals be longer than what’s allowed for smaller trees?	Undecided	Yes – 2 No – 0 Undecided – 1
Without	Should the same tree removal allowances apply in critical areas?	Yes/ Undecided	Yes – 0 No – 3 Undecided – 0
Without	Should a permit be required for tree removals in critical areas?	Undecided	Yes – 3 No – 0 Undecided – 0
Without	What are appropriate tree replacement requirements for	Yes/ Undecided	Freeform

Tree Removal With or Without Development	Question	In-Person Answers (Yes/No/Undecided)	Follow-Up Survey (Yes/No/Undecided)
	property owner tree removals in Edmonds?		
With	Should the code be reorganized using charts and graphics?	Yes	Yes – 3 No – 0 Undecided – 0
With	Should the code use one method/calculation to determine the minimum number of trees required to be retained/replanted?	Undecided	Yes – 3 No – 0 Undecided – 0
With	Should the code prioritize replanting over requiring fees in lieu, such as with Landmark tree replacements?	Yes/ Undecided	Yes – 3 No – 0 Undecided – 0
With	Should the \$2 per square foot “cap” eliminated from the code?	Undecided	Yes – 1 No – 1 Undecided – 1
With	Should the 25% tree retention threshold that applies to multifamily development be removed from the code?	Undecided	Yes – 1 No – 1 Undecided – 1
With	Should the Conservation Subdivision code section specify a quantity for “greater tree retention”?	Undecided	Yes – 3 No – 0 Undecided – 0
With	Should the “priorities and procedures” section include specific qualitative retention criteria vs quantitative “quotas”?	Undecided	Yes – 2 No – 0 Undecided – 1
With	Should Landmark trees have a higher degree of protection requirements than other trees?	Undecided	Yes – 3 No – 0 Undecided – 0
With	Should groves have a higher degree of protection requirements than other trees?	Undecided	Yes – 3 No – 0 Undecided – 0
With	What’s the one thing you would change with the existing code?	Undecided	Freeform
With	What are some ways that Edmonds’ tree code could be improved?	Undecided	Freeform

Focus Group #3

A third Focus Group was hosted by City staff for City staff to inform code updates. Feedback to the same Focus Group questions identified specific ways to simplify the current code **and** streamline the development permit review process from a code enforcement, Planner and customer service point of view. A separate report details responses on what works well now, how the current code can be improved, and ideas from other jurisdictions.



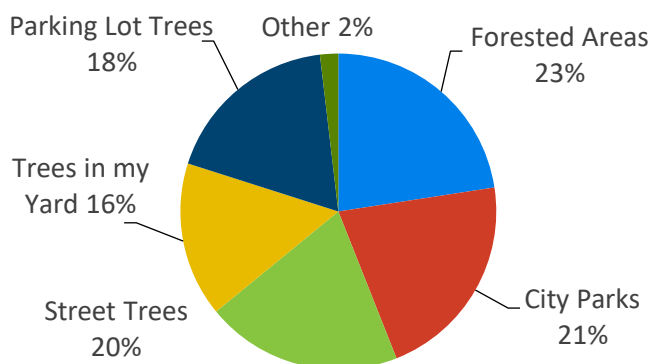
PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

A public survey was developed with questions to gauge community members' understanding of the urban forest and their sentiment on regulating tree removal on private property and in critical habitats. The survey was accessible to the public from March 28 – May 26, 2023 on City's project webpage, in social media posts, and in news releases. Public survey progress reports were made available for the second community conversation meeting, stakeholder meetings and Planning Board meetings. A total of 230 responses were received (229 online, 1 paper).

Question 1: What do you consider to be part of Edmonds' urban forest? Check all that apply.

Summary of Results

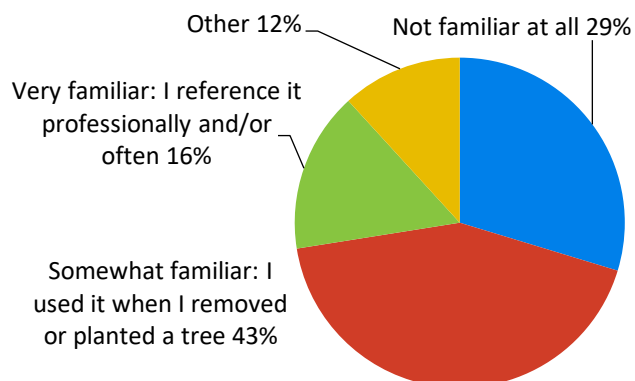
The responses reflect a well-rounded urban forest, with responders acknowledging that forested areas and City parks are thought of first in considering Edmond's urban forest. Results reflected a focus on publicly maintained trees, whereas in reality the majority of urban trees are located on residential property.



Question 2: How would you rate your awareness and understanding of Edmonds' current tree code (adopted 2021)?

Summary of Results

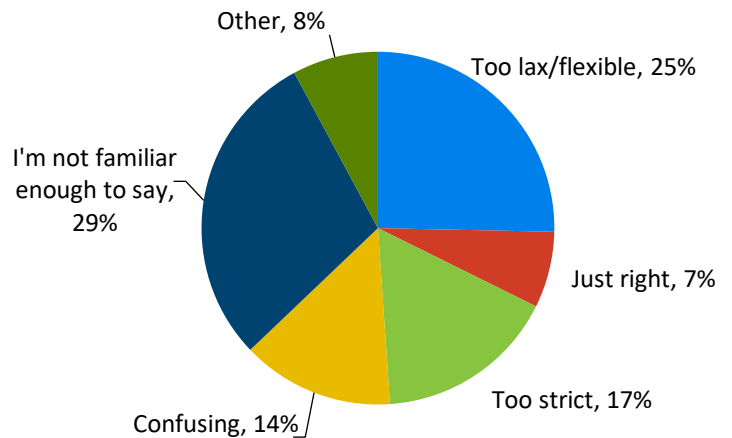
The majority of respondents (43%) rated their awareness of the tree code as "somewhat familiar," 29% were not familiar with the code at all, 16% were very familiar, and 12% had a different level of familiarity. This information was vital in understanding that additional education about the tree code would be beneficial for the Edmonds community.



Question 3. In your opinion, the current tree code is:

Summary of Results

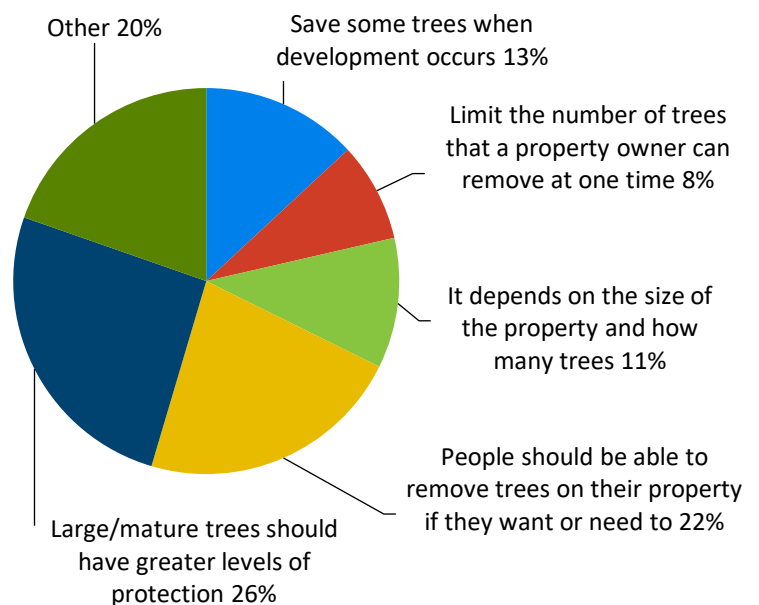
The majority of respondents (29%) did not feel comfortable expressing an opinion because they felt they were not familiar enough with the tree code. Those who did respond mostly felt that the code was too lax/flexible (25%), 17% felt it is too strict, and 14% thought it is confusing. These results help the City understand that the participants are divided in their opinions, but that the majority would say the code is too relaxed or flexible and would therefore be open to stricter regulations. With such a high percentage of participants expressing confusion (14%), additional education is necessary in Edmonds.



Question 4: How should trees be protected in Edmonds?

Summary of Results

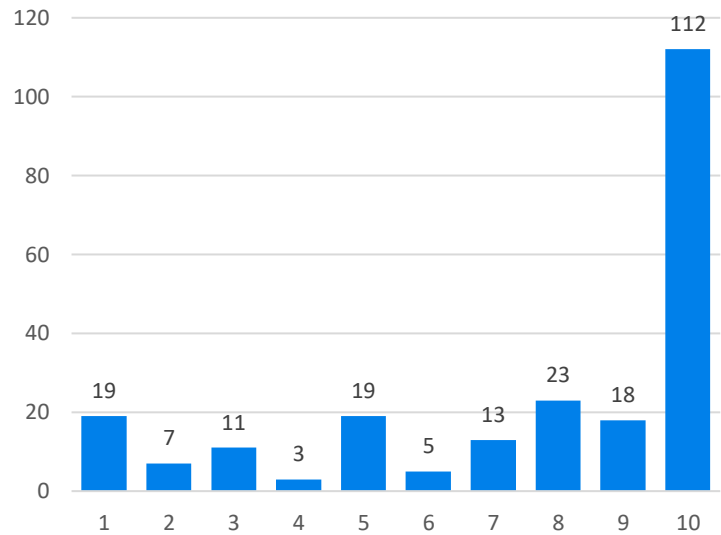
Most participants responded that large and mature trees should have greater levels of protection (26%). 22% of respondents stated that people should be able to remove trees on their property if they want or need to. This sentiment was consistent throughout the project's engagement for a significant number of those engaged in this project.



Question 5: When property owners remove trees, how important do you think it is to plant new trees?

Summary of Results

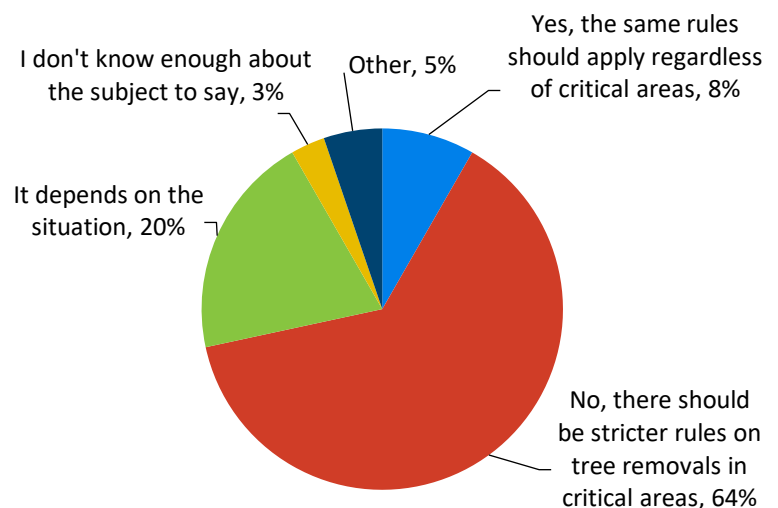
The vast majority of participants say it is “very important” to plant new trees when property owners remove trees (on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being “very important” and 1 being “not important at all”).



Question 6: Critical Areas are defined as high landslide hazard areas, streams, wetlands, and their buffers. Should the same rules apply to tree removals in critical areas as those not in critical areas?

Summary of Results

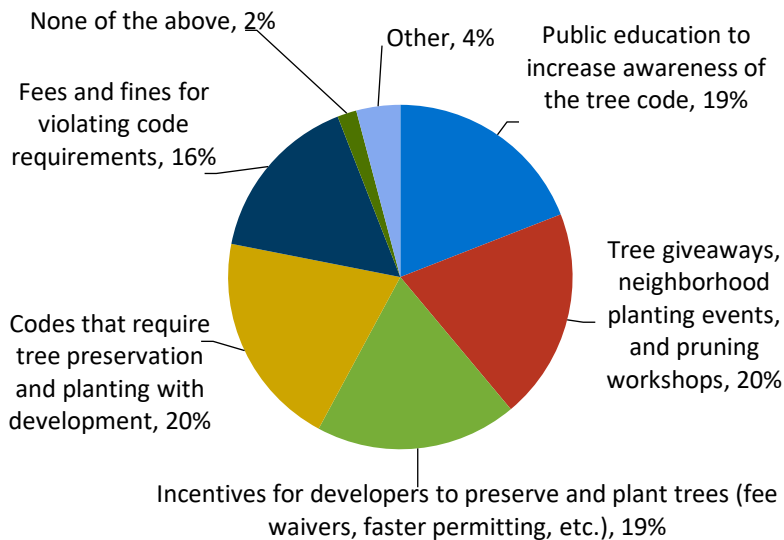
When asked about trees in critical areas, 64% of participants agreed that there should be stricter rules on tree removals in critical areas. 20% stated that it depends on the situation.



Question 7: What strategies should the City use in enhancing Edmonds' urban forest? Check all that apply.

Summary of Results

Of the strategies listed under this question, only 16% of participants selected “fees and fines for violating code requirements,” as a preferred strategy for the City to use for enhancing Edmonds’ urban forest. This means that the Edmonds community would like the City to explore other avenues before penalizing people financially.



Question 8: If you have concerns or comments about a specific section of the tree code, please provide your feedback here. If possible, include the code references. Click here to view Chapter 23.10 Tree Related Regulations.

Summary of Results

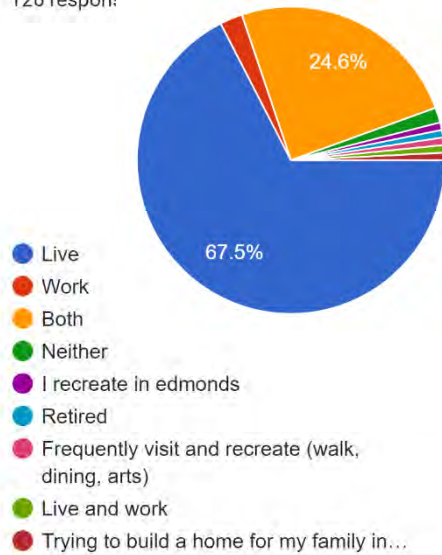
A wide variety of responses were received to this question in “free form” long answer format. The word cloud on the right was created from all answers to question 8.



Demographic Information

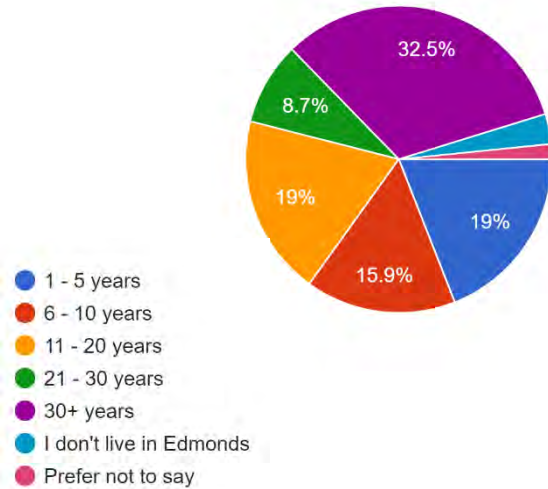
Do you live or work in Edmonds?

126 responses



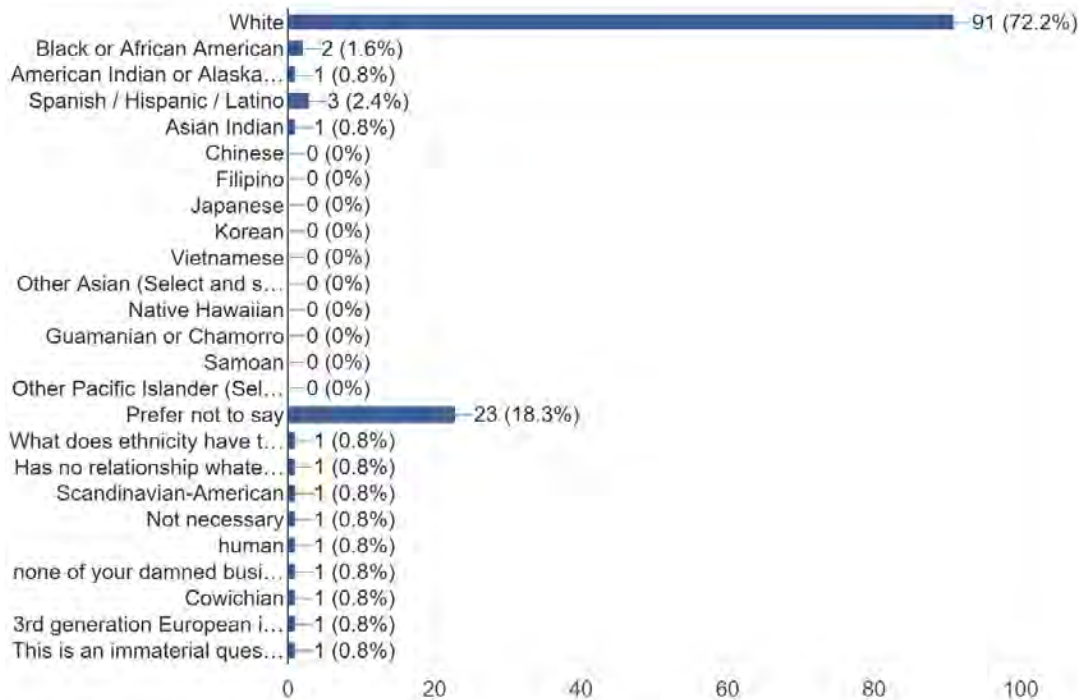
How long have you lived in Edmonds?

126 responses



What is your race/ethnicity? (Select all that apply and use the "other" option to include a more specific answer)

126 responses



INCORPORATING THE INPUT

Comments received during both public meetings were categorized into one of five categories (listed below with associated activities). These categories and activities are part of the framework utilized in the Tree Ordinance Checklist, which was created for the [Municipal Tree Care and Management in the United States: A 2014 Urban & Community Forestry Census of Tree Activities](#). This framework provides a starting point to assess and organize the comments received and prepares the feedback to be integrated into potential code recommendations.

TREE ORDINANCE CHECKLIST FRAMEWORK

Credential

- Requires certified arborist for paid private tree work
- Requires certified arborist for public tree work
- Requires licensing of private tree care firms
- Defines official authority for public tree management

Management/Maintenance

- Requires annual community tree work plans
- Identifies formula for determining monetary tree value
- Requires regular public tree maintenance
- Requires particular types of maintenance (e.g. pruning)
- Establishes permit system for work on public trees
- Establishes provisions for penalties for non-compliance
- Restricts burning of solid wood waste
- Establishes an insect/disease control strategy
- Defines tree maintenance requirements on public property
- Prohibits tree topping
- Regulates abatement of hazardous or public nuisance trees
- Regulates removal of dead or diseased trees

Planting

- Regulates tree species which may or may not be planted on private property (approved tree list)
- Requires tree planting around reconstructed parking lots
- Requires replacement of removed publicly owned trees
- Requires tree planting around new parking lots
- Requires tree planting in new developments
- Regulates tree species which may or may not be planted on public property (approved tree list)

Preservation

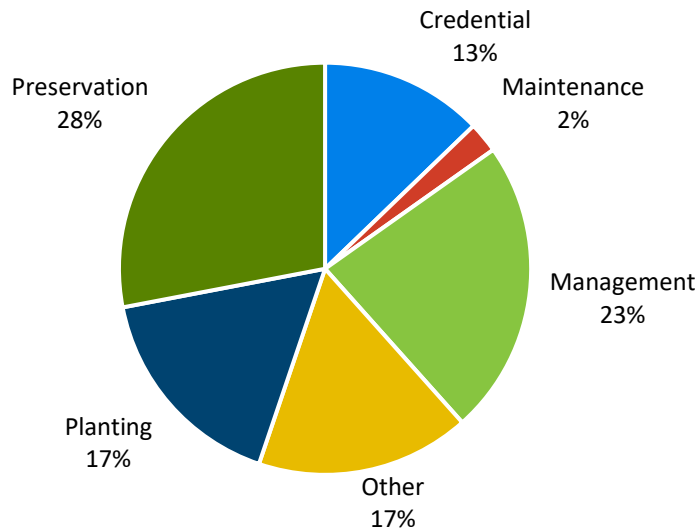


- Restricts tree cutting on private property
- Identifies preservation of heritage or significant trees
- Requires preservation of trees during development

Other

- Citywide canopy cover goals and targets
- Public education/engagement regarding codes
- Other

EDMONDS PUBLIC INPUT BY ORDINANCE CHECKLIST CATEGORY



CREDENTIAL

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Arborist on staff to determine tree health	Credential
Being proactive would be to adopt the public streets and not put it on the property owners	Credential
Code enforcement by arborist	Credential
Define easement responsibilities à City / owner	Credential
Greater role	Credential
Mediation would be nice	Credential
Minimal government role	Credential
Modify / update code – public process with expert tree	Credential
Nothing wrong with sharing the burden (public and private). Shouldn't do all or nothing	Credential
Private property rights should be preserved	Credential



Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Reasonable exceptions considered. The city arborist is qualified to make these decisions and they can be supported by an arborist report if needed, similar to zones having diff codes/considerations.	Credential
Requirement for licensed arborist	Credential
Yes, with Code enforcement	Credential
Provide a basic framework but let developers be the experts on site design	Credential
Responsibility needs to be on an arborist or someone for knowing the proper code and way to take the trees down.	Credential
Some kind of mechanism knowing the proper removal steps and ensuring they are followed	

MAINTENANCE

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Allow property owners to maintain viewsheds	Maintenance
Invasives should not be allowed – push for natives	Maintenance
Climate adaptation (doug firs not adaptive)	Maintenance

MANAGEMENT

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Care for new trees	Management
Condition of the tree	Management
Crown reduction instead of thinning should be penalized	Management
Depends on environment	Management
ECA requirements	Management
Here is the summary of what I hear: I want my trees. I want to cut my trees when I want to cut my trees. I want my views. I want my shade, oxygen, and green canopy. But most of all – I want my views. I want to be free of controls or costs from my community. Property uses are complex and big developers with deep pockets will rule. It is hard to develop a shared tree policy when everyone has their own axe to grind.	Management

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Incentive for maintenance of significant trees	Management
Maintenance tree limbing / topping	Management
NO alternative for developers to do anything but pay into the tree code. Depends on canopy goals or low-income housing	Management
No charges for worth of property owners' trees	Management
No enforcement, no checkups, follow-up	Management
Seems all or nothing = so developers choose to pay to cut down	Management
The role of the City should be to protect neighbors from erosion due to tree removal (meaning actual removal of a tree), and from hazardous trees.	Management
Trees are hazardous	Management
Use fees/fund for land acquisition	Management
Dislike fees in lieu – no cap on amount	Management
Gather data on replacement, planting, preservation, etc. for the urban forest	Management
Fees should be much higher than they are now	Management
Provide notification of trees removed (not a permit – no cost – no ability for the City to say “no”)	Management
Establish different regs for “The Bowl” (e.g. overlay district)	Management
Include liabilities when landslides occur after tree removals.	Management
Require public notice to surrounding property owners	Management
Over-the-counter removal process	Management
Establish tracking system to know how many trees are removed vs planted	Management
There should be notification of tree removal permits to surrounding neighbors	Management

PLANTING

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
A change should be made that no tree is untouchable, replanting trees should be tied to natives not undesirable	Planting
Better definitions / locations for replacement / number of replacement trees	Planting
Create the desire for more tree canopy. Take the OS in public spaces and set an example of how we can do better.	Planting
Dead tree removal must be replaced	Planting
Development will remove trees and plant in the small space. Look outside the development area in a park, etc. Need other options besides just paying into fund	Planting
Mitigation plantings to be based on dbh or canopy	Planting

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Native species	Planting
Natives planted	Planting
Planting for right tree right place	Planting
To the extent the City seeks to support "Right tree, right place," there must be acknowledgement of Wrong tree, Wrong place, and should be supportive of curing those conditions.	Planting
Increase tree planting in commercial properties	Planting
Ensure equity in fees so replacement are throughout Edmonds	Planting
Fees should be used for tree planting	Planting
Planting requirements, no penalties	Planting
Tree diversity	Planting
Replanting – penalties	Planting
City shouldn't say yes/no on removal, but should have a say in the replant requirement	Planting
Mitigation should be same for same species type (i.e. deciduous : deciduous and evergreen : evergreen)	Planting
Replacement should consider the size of the tree being removed in order to get the same ecological benefits	Planting
Require replanting in commercial development (Clarify in CRA)	Planting
Specify types of trees which are better for mitigation (i.e. deciduous vs conifer)	Planting

PRESERVATION

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Defining significant trees: 6" or greater	Preservation
# of removals depends on the property	Preservation
Consider equity when it comes to critical area protection	Preservation
Define landmark trees vs. heritage trees	Preservation
Get involved if more than 30-50% of trees are cut down	Preservation
I would like the city to adopt a provision to protect certain "Heritage" or "Historic" trees. In our area there are three very large Douglas Fir trees that were a part of Yost's farm over 100 years ago. They should be protected.	Preservation
Moratorium caused rush to cut trees	Preservation
Only opportunities right now are redevelopment (city is built out).	Preservation
Our group feels no need to control / have code (outside Critical Areas)	Preservation
Preserving viewsheds	Preservation



Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Property rights are very important. Critical areas are important. All circumstances are individual	Preservation
Remove within specific time	Preservation
Restrictions on size of trees that can be removed $\geq 24"$ \emptyset	Preservation
Property of concern - on Shell Creek by Theatre – City owns property on other side of the creek, but this property is up for development (asking for variance, which we don't think they'll get). How is this possible?	Preservation
Don't want any development in certain types of critical areas.	Preservation
Landmark trees = Cultural significance to community (e.g. Monkey puzzle tree)	Preservation
Prefer incentives as opposed to regulations	Preservation
Area of concern – Perraville development concerns	Preservation
Consider other development styles that preserve more land	Preservation
Natives and trees in critical areas	Preservation
Get away from single tree protection, but a whole ecosystem protection and do a pocket or a larger landmass protection for biodiversity. Change the name from tree code to forest code	Preservation
Retention should be #1 focus	Preservation
Incentives to retain trees (esp drainage)	Preservation
Incentives over penalties (e.g. "developers must use 10% for network in Seattle" 10% tree limitation	Preservation
Carrots over sticks – development incentives	Preservation
The diameter classes do not capture the whole ecosystem cost, so either lowering the DBH threshold or increasing the costs with these because the other factors involved	Preservation
would prefer to make it more difficult to cut down old growth or second growth rather than the payout.	Preservation
With Edmonds turning over like hotcakes, trees are cut without much consideration with consideration to the overall impact they have on the homeowner and other residents. Trees are not respected for their benefits over time, they are multi-generational.	Preservation
Concerned that the developers/private property owners are approved to cut down huge swaths of 100 yo forests and then are able to "replant" which does not support the MAJOR biodiversity is lost	Preservation
Clarify critical areas regs	Preservation
Protection for larger trees 30" DBH	Preservation
Surface H2O fear – decreased fee structure for tree retention. (Tax incentives)	Preservation
If the tree is a hazard, you should be able to cut it down	Preservation
For removal of significant tree, you can make a request with arborist report included	Preservation + Credential



Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
More code to restrict for new development / offsets	Preservation + Planting

PLANTING

Comment	Ordinance Checklist Category
Clarify it.	Other
Weak/confusing and needs revision	Other
Overly complicated	Other
Recommendation: If there is a clear code and neighbors know what it is...they can help to enforce	Other
Establish critical area public education program	Other
Educate the public on the importance of preserving trees because they are multi-generational entities	Other
Development is where the canopy disappears	Other – canopy
There are examples of how to bring UTC into urban setting	Other – canopy
Tree canopy downtown is a struggle	Other – canopy
Trying to create a tree policy that handles all zones but zones have different needs. E.g., industrial canopy is different than residential zone.	Other – canopy
UTC is important but look at public spaces first	Other – canopy
Could you review what the current code says about private tree removal?	Other - Education
Notify on property purchase / better notification	Other - education
Since the tree code affects single-family residential properties with critical areas, it may be informative for attendees and Council to understand what % of single-family parcels are a critical area.	Other - education
Education – Critical Areas	Other – Education
It would be great to understand the current code, as well as the overall goal to modification of tree code. Without this base information I am not sure we can understand what changes are needed	Other – education
More outreach / education / hotline	Other – Education
Quarterly fliers	Other – Education
Needs to be simplified	Other – General
Trees are great and there are so many options but there is a real need for affordable housing	Other – general
Maybe a problem statement would help on current code. It kinda feels like we are hunting for changes without a goal?	Other – goals