

EDMONDS, WA TREE CODE AMENDMENT PROJECT

230 PUBLIC SURVEY RESPONSES AS OF 5-22-2023 (229 ONLINE, 1 PAPER)

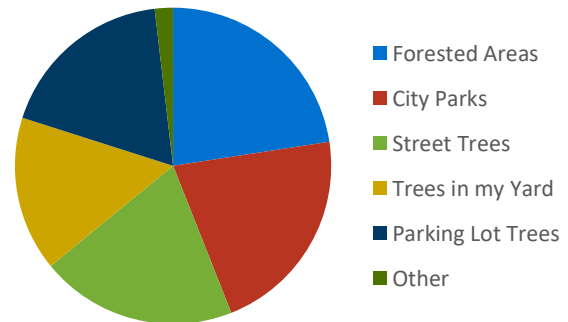
Question 1: What do you consider to be part of Edmonds' urban forest? Check all that apply.

Question 1			
Response	#	% of Total Selections	% of Total Responders
Forested Areas	218	23%	95%
City Parks	207	21%	90%
Street Trees	194	20%	84%
Trees in my Yard	153	16%	67%
Parking Lot Trees	176	18%	77%
Other	18	2%	8%
Total Selections	966		
Total Responders	230		

“Other” (freeform responses):

- All trees in the city
- green space areas that give homes to small ecosystems in neighborhoods that are at high risk of losing these green spaces b/c of the larger lot sizes that only have 1 house on them (developer-interest) - i have seen 75 trres removed on one acre in my neighborhood and there was a clear isplacement of the wildlife that once depended on that area. There is more noise, wind, it's been notable over the 15 years i have lived here. trees are left vulnerable by this- more innovative low impact development ideas and codes are needed if we really care about preservation of old growth trees - which is a must.
- Trees in vacant lots
- Trees in municipal areas (PSE, water retention ponds etc)
- Any where a tree could be planted
- In public Education, PLEASE, teach kids to be citizens by teaching real civics and the pledge in the morning. Such a small thing but kids will then identify with being American.
- All trees within city limits are part of the urban canopy coverage.
- I don't consider "urban forest".
- I mean, isn't it basically trees within the city limits?
- Stay out of my yard !!!
- Trees on sites of businesses, churches and other places of worship, hospitals, medical and professional offices, government offices, etc.

Question 1



- Office buildings, businesses, government buildings
- Forested areas depend on location
- Trees in schools
- Trees in public areas such as city hall, library, port, etc.
- Stupid question so I'm not answering
- County parks within Edmonds boundaries
- Any tree within the city

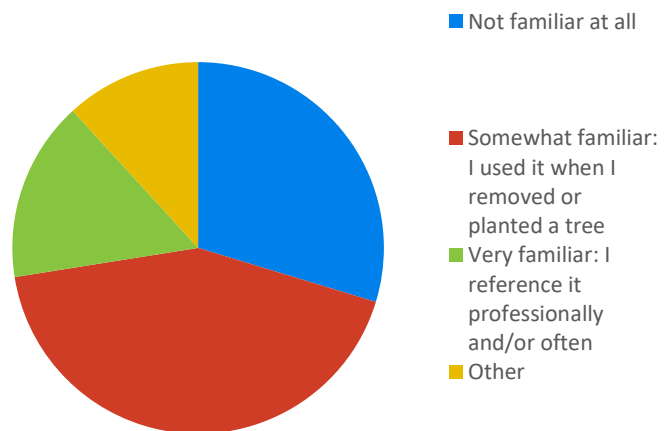
Question 2: How would you rate your awareness and understanding of Edmonds' current tree code (adopted 2021)?

Question 2			
Response	#	% of Total Selections	% of Total Responders
Not familiar at all	68	30%	30%
Somewhat familiar: I used it when I removed or planted a tree	98	43%	43%
Very familiar: I reference it professionally and/or often	36	16%	16%
Other	27	12%	12%
Total Selections	229		
Total Responders	230		

“Other” (freeform responses):

- New to town but reviewed the code
- From its beginnings
- Aware of the tree code feel the city should manage the parks property they own.
- Yes
- It is not related to my profession, but I have followed the issue for several years
- Familiar, but not when removing a tree or as a professional
- Have talked to people at the City about the code.
- The code violates my personal property tights
- I read through it, and wished there was a synopsis
- Somewhat familiar
- In public Education, PLEASE, teach kids to be citizens by teaching real civics and the pledge in the morning. Such a small thing but kids will then identify with being American.
- I'm opposed to any sort of official tree code that mandates behavior
- Survey response is on what should be - not what is.
- I've re-read the entire tree code, formerly engaged a City arborist

Question 2



- Somewhat familiar I am a professional who uses tree codes in other jurisdictions but reside in Edmonds
- I've heard of it and know there are regulations on removing trees
- Familiar only from news stories regarding its development.
- Tried to stop the deforestation of 2.5 acres for a development.
- I am aware of this because it has become excessively expensive to develop our property to build our family a new home
- Somewhat familiar from a Glen street condo I used to own
- Very familiar but I do not reference it prof'ly &/or often
- We "tuned in" last time there was discussion about a new tree code
- Somewhat familiar although I haven't used it
- familiar, not used.
- It's confusing and designed to protect the developer not citizens
- I have read the code
- I called the city when the land was cleared on 104 by the pot shop and I was told there is no current tree cutting enforcement.

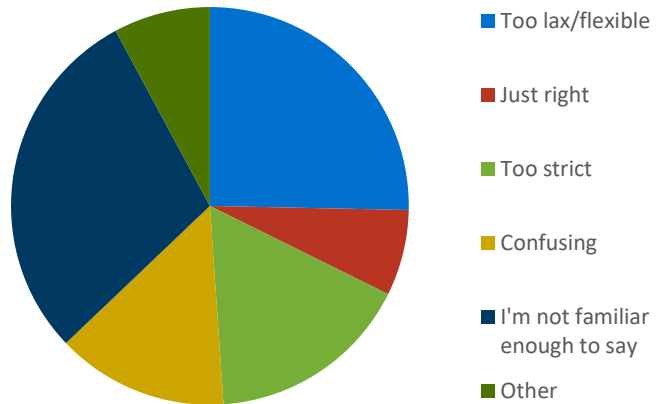
Question 3. In your opinion, the current tree code is:

Question 3			
Response	#	% of Total Selections	% of Total Responders
Too lax/flexible	58	25%	25%
Just right	16	7%	7%
Too strict	38	17%	17%
Confusing	32	14%	14%
I'm not familiar enough to say	67	29%	29%
Other	18	8%	8%
Total Selections		229	
Total Responders		229	

“Other” (freeform responses):

- A mess
- improved but still not seeming to be effective in preserving significant trees where development projects occur. 30% is not a high enough threshold and/or it s/b focused on old growth significant trees , or else the developer leaves only smaller younger trees to meet the threshold
- Just another way to tax residents and does little to actually save trees
- Should not be applicable to private property
- Confusing AND strict in weird areas AND unenforced (multiple answers should have been able to be checked)
- First I have no problem with the present code, our condo actually had to use it when we need to remove some diseased trees. BUT - I thought this current tree board effort was to 'refine,' but after the 3/27/23 meeting, it sounded the rules that condo owners needed follow were different from private resident owners regarding tree removal and replacement. Shouldn't these requirements be the same? Also, I remember with Northwood Apartments converted to condos in 2005. A lot of trees were removed - because it was in 98045. I was told that if it was 98020, it would not have been allowed. Again I think same rules should apply.
- I'm opposed to any sort of official tree code that mandates behavior
- Not relevant to my survey responses.
- I have never needed help but I should know. I'll find out.
- Too open to exemption, penalties lack prevention value, empty enforcement system
- Incredibly strict and an extreme financial burden on families trying to build a new home
- Too strict, confusing, contradictory and way overboard. For example, too many plants required for the glen st condo such that we had issues hitting siding, etc
- Not familiar but apparently it doesn't allow trimming. Our canopy is overgrown.
- Penalizes treed property owners and created disproportionate costs for those living outside the bowl.
- inconsistently enforced
- Too lax for developers to strict for home owners
- It is pro developer and builder and con for citizens
- What current the code?

Question 3



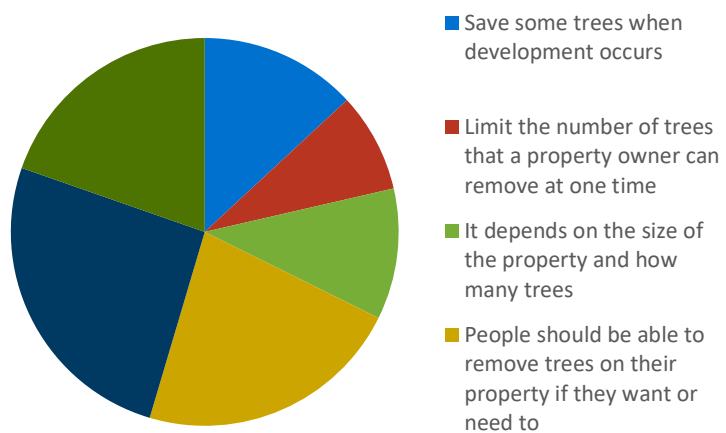
Question 4: How should trees be protected in Edmonds?

Question 4			
Response	#	% of Total Selections	% of Total Responders
Save some trees when development occurs	30	13%	13%
Limit the number of trees that a property owner can remove at one time	19	8%	8%
It depends on the size of the property and how many trees	25	11%	11%
People should be able to remove trees on their property if they want or need to	51	22%	22%
Large/mature trees should have greater levels of protection	59	26%	26%
Other	45	20%	20%
Total Selections		229	
Total Responders		229	

“Other” (freeform responses):

- All trees under individual circumstances should be protected to some extent
- Protect all trees
- Home owners should be able to remove dead/toppled trees in adjacent Edmonds protected property and replant healthy trees to protect slope stability.
- All of these topics should be addressed.
- Depends on the size of the property, how many trees AND the health of the trees.
- Save trees when development occurs and greater protection of large/mature trees
- All of the above
- If trees pose a safety risk they should be readily removed. So too, if there is significant obstruction of view that has evolved after the property was purchased.
- There should be more than one option here. Large trees are my priority but the first 3 options are all important
- AGAIN, multiple answers should be able to be chosen. I choose 1, 2, 3 and 5.
- Need to save trees everywhere; on private property or elsewhere- and special care for mature trees special care for mature trees require replanting
- you know this poll is so limiting, all of these options are valid except for option 4. we do need to limit tree removal on private property.
- Save trees with grandfathering: require tree protection only of owners who purchase properties after restrictions have been placed.

Question 4



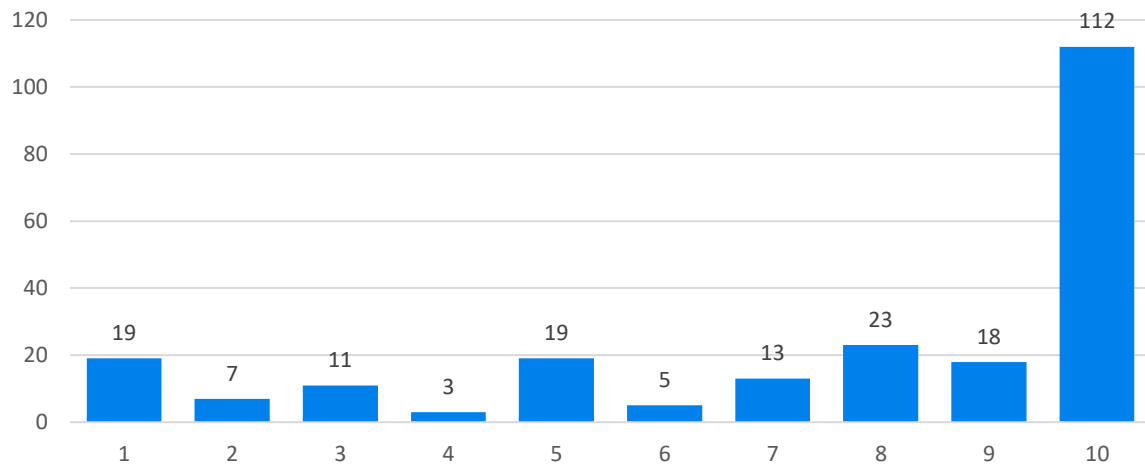
- Edmonds needs to augment its tree canopy. Trees need to be preserved wherever possible, especially large and mature trees.
- I think we need to recognize a rule needs to be enforceable. For example, we followed the rules, replacing trees if they did not live - but for one tree, we have replaced it twice and still it died.
- Provisions for replanting, right tree in the right place.
- Save some trees when development occurs. Protect critical areas from slides.
- There should be a number of trees/sqft. Prunus, Pyrus, and Fraxinus trees should not be seen as replacement trees.
- The city should only be concerned with trees in parks and public spaces
- Depends on amount of trees and location of property.
- All of these answers are true. This question should allow multiple answers. You are not going to increase tree canopy without doing all of these answers. With allowance made for folks who want to remove some trees on their property. You are not going to get increase in tree canopy by doing any one of these answers. You need to do all of them with allowances made for property owners who want to remove some trees.
- Significant trees that are not considered a nuisance should not be removed under any circumstance.
- Incredibly strict and an extreme financial burden on families trying to build a new home
- I am in favor of some regulation but I also wonder if more outreach and education regarding the importance of trees or alternatives to removal would be helpful?
- Only on public property
- Developments should have much more strict requirements to leave more trees. Allowing them to pay a small fine and plant a tiny tree if they go over the restriction is ridiculous.
- I feel that People should be able to remove trees on their property if they want or need to - particularly for the small DT Edmonds lots. However, if there is a larger property that is next to greenbelt, perhaps there should be some restrictions for the goal of maintaining forestry
- Protect mature trees, develop spaces that replant when others are taken down, integrate into all living spaces in ways that add beauty and are good living spaces for trees, prioritize ecology over the one species called humans
- This question should allow multiple answers!!! No one answer fits.
- We should have been able to check more than one box!
- One choice is not enough: large trees are priority, so is saving trees in development and limiting cutting on private property
- The diameter and health of a tree should be the only consideration for tree removal, as in, if a tree has a 6 inch diameter a permit is needed for removal.
- If trees must be removed for development, we might have an area where developers are required to pay for trees to be planted in order to offset that carbon.
- Need to take circumstances into consideration, like views.
- Save some trees when development occurs, limit the number that can be removed, large/mature trees should have more protection, provide \$& to plant and successfully tend new trees
- Large trees on city property should be pruned properly
- This is a biased question, and misses the point of promoting trees. People need to be able to remove trees when needed from their property.
- Lines 1, 3 and 5
- Ecological analysis

- Pretty much all of the above. However people should be limited on how many trees they want to remove on their property, or they should be required to donate to planting more elsewhere if they remove too many. Something along those lines.
- Your survey is flawed as it only allows one response. Protect trees with new development and allow property owners freedom to cut their trees when needed
- Prohibit clearing of trees for new development; also bullets 2 & 5
- Our sweet old city is pretty much screwed. Thank you developers and whoever else allows that to happen.
- All the above EXCEPT property owners need to adhere to standards for tree protection. Trees should only be removed in certain circumstances.

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

Question 5			
Response	#	% of Total Selections	% of Total Responders
1 (not important)	19	8%	8%
2	7	3%	3%
3	11	5%	5%
4	3	1%	1%
5	19	8%	8%
6	5	2%	2%
7	13	6%	6%
8	23	10%	10%
9	18	8%	8%
10 (extremely important)	112	49%	49%
Total Selections	230		
Total Responders	230		

Question 5



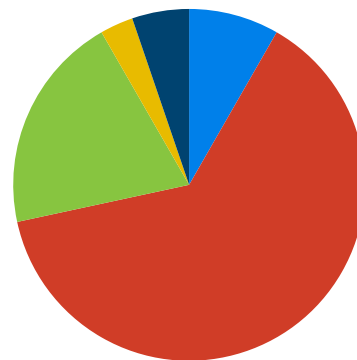
Question 6: Critical Areas are defined as high landslide hazard areas, streams, wetlands, and their buffers. Should the same rules apply to tree removals in critical areas as those not in critical areas?

Question 6			
Response	#	% of Total Selections	% of Total Responders
Yes, the same rules should apply regardless of critical areas	19	8%	8%
No, there should be stricter rules on tree removals in critical areas	145	63%	63%
It depends on the situation	46	20%	20%
I don't know enough about the subject to say	7	3%	3%
Other	12	5%	5%
Total Selections		229	
Total Responders		229	

“Other” (freeform responses):

- Depends on who owns the property: a yes for public land, no for private land
- Common sense should prevail.
- Critical area tree removals are only enforced after the trees have been removed ,as in the Union oil condo project near the dog park
- Want to trim branches
- If the trees pose a safety risk to lives or homes, they should be removable.
- Rules should be strict everywhere, but especially in critical areas.
- No rules for private property
- The city should consult with experts and file lawsuits for injunction if harm of people or the environment is expected
- Critical area tree regulations should apply to all areas uniformly

Question 6



- Yes, the same rules should apply regardless of critical areas
- No, there should be stricter rules on tree removals in critical areas
- It depends on the situation
- I don't know enough about the subject to say
- Other

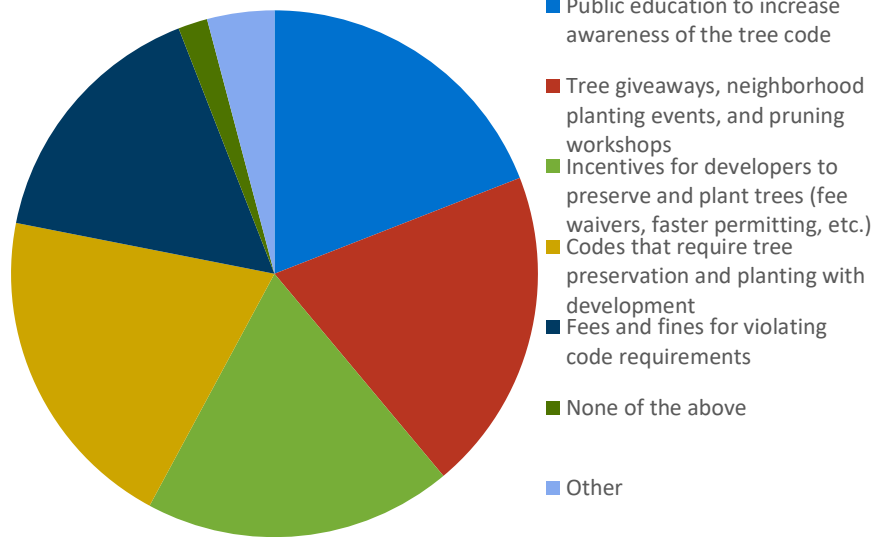
Question 7: What strategies should the City use in enhancing Edmonds' urban forest? Check all that apply.

Question 7			
Response	#	% of Total Selections	% of Total Responders
Public education to increase awareness of the tree code	148	19%	65%
Tree giveaways, neighborhood planting events, and pruning workshops	154	20%	67%
Incentives for developers to preserve and plant trees (fee waivers, faster permitting, etc.)	147	19%	64%
Codes that require tree preservation and planting with development	157	20%	69%
Fees and fines for violating code requirements	124	16%	54%
None of the above	14	2%	6%
Other	32	4%	14%
Total Selections		776	
Total Responders		229	

“Other” (freeform responses):

- Too many rules
- Plant more trees in Edmonds parks
- are there zones where certain legacy tree growth exist- for instance, we have 3 old prune plum trees on our proerty- the area i live in apparently used to be all fruit tree orchards- can neighborhoods have a legacy /historical idea to rally around?
- Incentivise private property owners to plant trees
- If the City owns the property they can manage it
- Planting the correct size trees for the landscape
- How about all of the above?
- Much is written about preserving views. Educated the public on how to accomplish that and don't cave to loud voices like those objecting to the Civic Park tree plan.

Question 7



- Encouragement and incentives like fees waivers or faster permitting, but NO allowance for disregarding the tree code, and vigilance in checking to see that large fines and public exposure if developers but down trees
- Plant as many trees in public parks and other public areas. If we really own our property we should have the rights to maintain our views and safety from falling branches.
- institute a "tree voucher" program in Edmonds. Use the carrot and stick approaches. If we are to limit tree removal, we should also encourage tree planting by subsidizing it dmprovide
- Educate on right tree for right space.
- In public Education, PLEASE, teach kids to be citizens by teaching real civics and the pledge in the morning. Such a small thing but kids will then identify with being American.
- Do as much as possible to increase awareness of tree codes. Farmers markets, fliers, no-topping sings...
- Fee in-Lieu when replanting on-site isn't an option.
- Restrict tree removal on already developed lots. Such as no more than 4 significant trees removed in a three year time period, depending on lot size,.
- Put teeth in preserved tree planning. Preserved trees that are part of an approved development plan that don't survive are not preserved trees. Establish a fee-based retention account for property development projects, funds held in escrow. Funds are returned to developer four years after permit of occupancy date. Preserved trees that are part of an approved development plan that are determined by City arborist to be dead or dying prior to the end of the retention period are charged current valuation against the retention account in accordance with 21.10.100 C2d. Retention balance is returned to the developer.
- Ban CC&Rs that require tree removal or "topping" for the sake of neighbors' views. Promote trees as view-enhancing, rather than view-blocking.
- Do what works and has an overall assessment of advancing the ecosystem, not just this for that if the overall impact is no good.
- More carrots than sticks.
- Creative solutions like thinning of large trees to improve views.
- Education around the impact of removing trees on the environment (release of carbon); permits required for tree removal
- Look at actual science, Focus on where it appropriate to have trees and where it is not.
- Pruning workshops for city and county tree maintenance.
- Address planting correct mature tree sizes for the space.
- the city should use the strategies in the UFMP not make up new ones. Correctly apportion fees for properties that remain in an un-treed state.
- Lower property tax for plots with trees.
- Help paying for the care of large and older trees. If you are under an income threshold the city could buy large trees or invest in smaller ones.
- Developers should not be able to cut down large/mature trees for housing development. Our ecosystem and biodiversity needs those trees more than we need more housing.
- How about we get real talk about the desire for citizens to have better views in the bowl that's what makes property values go up and increases tax revenue
- How about if you start with the developers and everyone who's in bed with them. It won't happen. So I answer these silly questions and get so worked-up and upset. I love trees. A lot. It feels almost insulting answering these questions knowing developers will simply continue doing what they do.
- fees should be high enough to keep developers from taking all trees.

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.

34 Responses:

- Government should have less control over private property. Please stop trying to regulate our PRIVATE PROPERTY that we've owned for years. Protect property rights!!
- Total waste of time and \$'s. Typical Edmonds council BS Waste!!!
- Please don't restrict my ability to manage trees on my
- Private property.
- Developers are not held to account when it comes to the code- although improved from prior code- it just doesn't protect the important and large growth trees, the ecosystems, and they just pay the fines to get around it. I have seen it multiple times in my neighborhood even since the new code was implemented. There needs to be more vision and attention put on which trees are preserved not just the number of trees. Private citizens should have the freedom to decide what they do with their land, but at the same time, they could be incentivized to take a preservationist approach, where it can be achieved. It's a slippery slope to achieve desired results without stepping on the rights of a landowner. Perhaps the focus c/b on properties that meet a "designated threshold" of tree canopy/clusters (need to get the data//science to back up and validate this thought) as removal or loss of these could most impact the vulnerable ecosystems that I spoke of previously. whereas a single tree on a property that is just poorly located might be handled differently. Doesn't seem to be a 1-rule for all approach....
- Good lord! My comment pertains to private property. Do what you want with public areas. Cutting down or planting a tree on my property is none of the cities business.
- With respect to fees/permits: Housing costs are insane. City, state and federal taxes/fees/permits are a large part of those costs. Politicians complain about the lack of affordable housing all the while imposing extra costs for builders, homeowners and potential homeowners. I am not a builder or developer but I am a homeowner. My advice, stop it.
- More emphasis is needed on proper tree maintenance/care/pruning. Stricter fines to discourage topping and improper care of existing trees of any size.
- This group does not intervene when a home owner has trees they want to save ,they lack any support
- The current exemptions are fine. Adjusting those to restrict private property owners from removing trees would effectively make a property owner like myself (numerous mature conifers that were topped decades ago and then subjected to subsequent further damage to roots and canopies from adjoining property development) unable to remove a hazardous tree due to cost considerations. As it's working now for us, we must remove every 2-3 years or so a tree that has declined, in order to prevent a threat to our house. In addition, a neighboring property has dropped FOUR mature trees onto our property, all of them narrowly missing our house. As it is, arborist costs are right on the edge of prohibitive, and adding city permit costs designed to be further prohibitive, would mean we wouldn't be able to manage tree hazards on our property.
- The fee allowance for developers to remove and not replace trees is laughably low. The cost is a no brainer when weighed against the benefits of clear-cutting. Ref. 23.10.080, E and 23.10.060, F.4.b. Developers should be required to maintain or plant X number of trees per Y development size...no exceptions. Housing density is removing all green space due to single family mega-

houses. Coding can force development upwards or drive to more compact housing to protect green space footprint.

- Our neighborhood is surrounded by trees, which we love. But in the past few years several older and large trees have fallen, damaging community and private property and very nearly striking homes. However, because of the city's tree code it has been terribly and unwisely difficult to reduce the threat of more trees of the exact same age and type falling because they are near a small creek that runs through the neighborhood. As the result, our homes and potentially lives are left in danger every time there's a high wind. If two trees of the same type, age and location have now fallen, it stands to reason that others just like and adjacent to them may also come down in the next storm, but because an arborist cannot prove they are an "immediate threat", we are stuck. This is unwise and ridiculous. So too, if an owner wants to replace an unsightly and unhealthy tree on their private property, not necessarily one that is an immediate hazard, they should be able to do so without terrible bureaucracy, cost, or threat of a fine. It should be a simple online process indicating which tree is getting removed, why, and how it will be replaced. Finally, and similarly, if the view of a property begins to become obscured by growth of secondary trees, e.g. alders, maples etc., the owner should be able to think or prune the trees, not necessarily clearcut a whole hill side, to preserve the view.
- I have a comment about item #5 above. Planting new trees is better than not, but let's not lead people to believe that planting a new twig will take the place of a mature tree in any way. Carbon sequestration is the most important, but water absorption and alleviating heat zones are also critical.
- I already filled this out, but didn't see a place where it said "submit" Did I miss it?
- Maintaining our urban forest should encompass ways to also maintain views of the water and Olympics. Opportunities for 'window-planing' views should be accommodated.
- I don't want it to apply to residences. Trees are already expensive to own. They have to be maintained and the debris has to be removed all the time and especially after a storm. And there is no easy way to get rid of waste now that the solid waste facilities are not accepting yard waste.
- While I love trees, and am a firm believer in the "right tree, right place" mantra, I believe there also should be strong view protection laws.
- I am very concerned with the ability for developers to avoid planting trees by paying fines. Under the current plan where do the fines go that developers pay and how are those fines managed to support planting trees and providing for their care? This needs to be managed with transparency to the public.
- Developers should be required to plant native trees at a set % of the trees they remove and provide care for those planted trees for a set period of time instead of allowing them a way out by paying fines.
- How can building occur on a creek?
- Under tree replacement , 080.d.3: replacement of conifers should be conifers. There is a true cost/value in carbon emissions from the loss of a big Doug Fir. And it should be taken into account. A weeping cherry tree does not take the place of a mature doug fir.! There needs to be true accounting for the loss of big conifers, due to development. Don't let the developers say that they have a landscaping plan and then not question that plan...
- Every big conifer taken down, for whatever reason , needs to be replaced with multiple conifer tree replacement trees. That's basic forestry practices. That's basic carbon accounting.
- Private property that citizens pay tax on should have no restrictions on cutting trees on their property or fee's, we already pay taxes to the city

- When critical area trees are removed, replacement trees are then planted but there is no protection for the new trees as they are too small. So they can be cut down. What can be done to protect them?
- Please consider having a preferred tree list that favors aggressive shade trees such as hornbeams and zelkovas over high-maintenance fruit trees. 23.10.090 Bonding: Please consider increasing the maintenance period to 4 years, to ensure saplings receive enough water to survive our new drought cycles. Deep infrequent watering! Turn irrigation doesn't count.
- 2310 030 Does Edmonds auto-grant permit to "Davey?"/ PUD to remove mature trees instead of providing some financial support to low income owners to appropriately trim back? Because they topped mine. after second time in around 10yrs the tree grew crazy and became a leaning mess. Third time they insisted removal due to its growth, which they created the problem in first place.
- As a home owner I should have final right to remove a tree. It's okay to have some rules around when/where/how but it should be simple.
- I don't understand why Edmonds can't model our code on the Sno County tree code which apparently has been successful for over 10 years
- Need high fees to remove a tree. Look to Lake Forest Park's tree code
- We should consider ecological offsets for accounting for replacement trees that can't be planted on the site of development, such as contributing to a regional Tree Bank/preserve.
- 23.10.060.B.2.b.ii: I have a significant tree right next to my property line. If the adjacent property is ever developed a tree retention and protection plan must include this tree and it's critical root zone (which extends well into the neighboring property). However, I have no rights as to the protection of my tree's root system on the said property. Shouldn't some sort of protection for neighboring trees be added to this section? At least during major developments of a property? I know the tree code is a work in progress, but this seems like a big oversight.
- Currently, trees can be removed from single family lots without a permit so long as they are not in a critical location. Requiring that trees be removed with a permit, preferably where one or more replacements are planted would do a lot to offset older/dead/dangerous trees that do need to come down and make sure we have the next generation growing to replace them rather than treading water by allowing our tree numbers to fall by attrition.
- The following comments are related to Chapter 23.10.100 Violation, enforcement and penalties.
 - Deterrence and prevention are two different things. Penalties enforced after illegal tree removal do not preserve trees. The City needs to establish a quick-reaction enforcement system that can respond to illegal tree cutting in real time. That would be a notification network whereby citizens are able to notify the City of tree cutting activity beginning in their neighborhood. City Arbor Enforcement cross references the property address with the tree cutting permits database to determine if the tree cutting activity is permitted or illegal. If illegal, police enforcement is dispatched to the address to halt the activity and issue citations. The City needs the assistance of an alert citizenry to successfully apply real prevention measures, not just gamble on deterrence as prevention.
 - Too many trees are removed by casual, drop-by and non-professional cutters. Only bonded tree cutting services listed, licensed and approved by the City should be allowed to remove trees in Edmonds. Regulating tree cutting service companies incentivizes code compliance and provides for oversight. Hiring a non-bonded, unapproved cutting service for tree removal should be a misdemeanor enforced by fine.
- Fines as stated in 21.10.100 C2c and C2d are insufficient deterrent for tree cutting services that remove trees without the prior verification of the existence of a current tree cutting permit. Besides fine-sharing already in the code, cutting without a valid permit should result in a two-year

disbarment of a company and severally its owners (who could otherwise simply start a new llc) from providing cutting service in Edmonds. A second infraction should result in permanent disbarment. Disbarred individuals and companies discovered performing cutting services should be subject to additional penalty.

- Home owners should not be penalized for landscaping their private yards while developers clear cut land.
- We have a neighbor's tree that has cracked our driveway and is now a tripping hazard. There should be a way to deal with that through the city without hiring attorneys.
- Once again this survey and study wasted money
- Trees on private property should be up to the owners discretion to remove. It can impact both their ability to maintain/improve property value and mitigate risk/liability of property damage to their home or their neighbors. Unless the city is going to reimburse for damages associated with a tree they won't allow to be removed, they should not put this burden on property owners. I have a tree greater than 24" in diameter in my backyard less than 20 feet from our house. During the ice storm multiple branches crushed a play structure and came a few feet from hitting our house. I can't tell by reading your code whether big trees on single family lots are considered 'protected' or not.
- It should not cost \$40,000 to remove some (~50%, not all) of the trees on a 0.5 acre lot to make room for a single family home.
- I am unfamiliar with all of the details, but I am wondering if (for example) tree health, safety concerns, or overcrowding are part of these considerations, particularly with regard to private property. For example, if a homeowner has trees that are unhealthy or growing too closely to other trees or damaging property, would that be considered a reasonable removal without fines or penalties? If removing an established unhealthy tree, what would be the timeline for replacement? Some established trees have impressive root structures that make it difficult, even with stump grinding, for new life to thrive in the same spot for years (considering that some homes may not have enough space to plant in a different spot). Would there be a calculation of trees to available land on property? What size of trees would be considered? Although I believe in preservation, I wonder how this will play out as each decision is unique and complex, particularly in established neighborhoods with thick canopies. Thank you for seeking input. I am hopeful that we can continue to work to preserve our environment while also providing reasonable accommodations.
- Because the majority of Edmonds' urban canopy is on private property, it is clear that property owners are already doing a FINE JOB of maintaining the canopy
- Do not count invasive trees, require thier removal and replacement with natives.
- Do not allow invasive trees to be counted as canopy.
- I would like to provide the following comments to aid in your deliberations about the proposed tree code amendments. I would like to specifically ask that you:
 - A. Follow the current urban forest management plan (UFMP) and do not regulate the maintenance or removal of trees on private property outside of development.
 - B. Follow the current UFMP and compensate the owners of treed properties through surface water fee incentives.
 - C. Require funds gathered from the tree code be spent in the sub-area from which they are harvested.
 - D. Apportion surface water fees and redevelopment penalties to un-treed properties to correctly assess the increased public investment needed to provide stormwater flow control, stormwater treatment, stormwater conveyance to properties maintained in an

un-treed state (i.e. stop subsidizing the downtown view corridor with surface water fees from treed areas of the City). Additional fees should also be considered for un-treed properties that reflect the increased public health burden for not providing urban heat protection, mental health benefits, wildlife benefits, or benefits to public roadways. If you want to encourage trees in the urban environment and through re-development you need to make it a benefit not a liability to maintain properties in a treed state.

- E. Prohibit property owners from entering into agreements/covenants that restrict the growth of trees. No generation should be able to restrict tree growth on property in perpetuity through a private view agreements.
- If we are "One Edmonds" then we all must equitably share the burden of protecting and enhancing the environment. Property owners who maintain properties in a treed state provide incredible ancillary benefit to the public at tremendous personal cost; it costs property owners tens of thousands of dollars through the life of each large tree in the urban environment. This is not an exaggeration, in past 4 years for a subset of trees- >\$1.7K to remove dead wood from canopy, >\$500 moss treatment, >\$5K electrical line damage during winter storms. If a property owner can no longer afford trees (or wants other use and enjoyment) on their properties you should not compel them to maintain them for your benefit. The correct response from the City should be "thank you" and not increased costs, regulatory burden and fear for their health, safety and property.
- Suggestion D honours the existing UFMP and should be strongly considered, it simply asks those who want to maintain their view, sunlight, etc. to fully pay for the public impact that is currently subsidised by surface water fees from underserved and treed areas. I happen to be a person who is not served by the City storm sewer, in a basin where stormwater is not treated by the City on a treed property. I am directly harmed by these continued attempts to disproportionately burden underserved areas to meet the City's urban forest goals.
- Also basing the future urban forest on where trees are currently located is completely arbitrary and penalizes those living outside the bowl. By 2080 this will no longer be habitat for Douglas fir (Kralicek, et. al 2022). It is ridiculous (and costly) for the City to require property owners to maintain trees outside of their habitat and there is no reason that tree codes need to disproportionately penalize properties where trees are currently located. The tree code should be future-focused.
- Please watch and consider all tree-related public comments provided at the following meetings:
 - City council - 4/20/21
 - City council - 4/27/21
 - Planning Board - 4/28/21
 - City Council - 5/4/21
 - City Council - 5/11/21
 - Planning Board - 5/12/21
 - City Council - 8/18/21
 - City Council - 5/25/21
 - Planning Board - 5/26/21
 - City Council - 6/1/21
 - City Council - 6/8/21
 - Planning Board - 6/9/21
 - City Council - 6/15/21
 - City Council - 6/22/21
 - Planning Board - 6/23/21

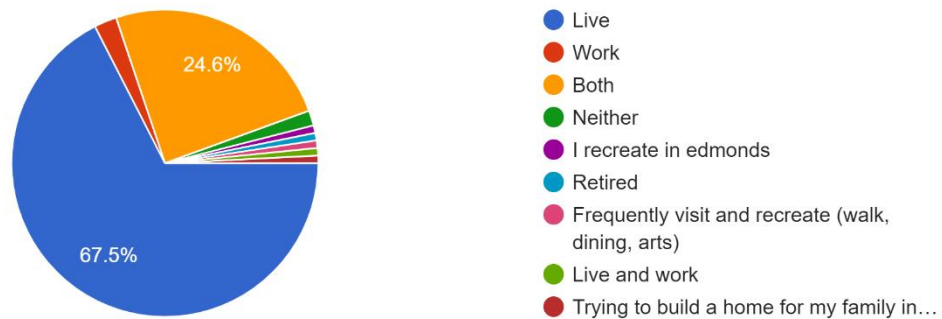
- City Council - 7/13/21
 - Planning Board - 4/14/21
 - City Council - 7/27/21
 - Planning Board - 7/28/21
 - City Council - 8/3/21
 - City Council - 8/10/21
 - City Council - 8/17/21
 - City Council - 8/24/21
 - Planning Board - 8/25/21
 - City Council - 9/7/21
 - Planning Board - 9/8/21
 - City Council - 9/21/21
 - Planning Board - 9/22/21
 - City Council - 10/19/21
- Native trees should be required whenever physically suitable for the site.
 - I think nuisance trees should be a challenging thing to prove for specimen trees. For example, if a specimen tree is tearing up a driveway, I feel that should be insufficient for removal approval and alternative driveway materials should be considered.
 - I think developers get off way to easily while home owners are over regulated. I would sooner chop down any tree that is closing in on a regulated size then deal with tree code compliance. This could limit tree cover as people like myself will just chop down large trees. Also we should focus on re-developing de-forested land not chopping down woodland. Develop downtown. Urban forests and biodiversity are more than just trees. What good is an old growth holly tree? What good is one old growth Doug fir? The holly tree has no ecological benefit, and the solitary Doug fir is not an effective habitat unit.
 - Much like gender or racial covenants are illegal now, so called view covenants should potentially be disallowed, especially when mature trees are involved.
 - I wasn't able to tell, but some sort of enforcement requiring trees over a certain age and/or size to be preserved should be part of the code.
 - The tree code is perfect the way it is but forests and parks should be protected but home owners should be able to remove trees at they please
 - Too detailed and will need to submit later. The current code is quite complex and hard to understand.
 - I want the tree code to also protect views which people pay a lot of money for. There should be a tree height limitation code.
 - Failure to disclose and provide easy access to the draft text of the proposed expanded and modified tree code does nothing to promote public confidence and support. The implication is that Edmonds bureaucrats fear the expansion/revisions will encounter early opposition if disclosed. Hasn't the Edmonds city council declared its (alleged) commitment to transparency?
 - Again, flawed survey. Stop protecting developers and start protecting citizen rights
 - New development on previously un-constructed land should prohibit any removal of substantial existing trees. Designers/developers/builders need to re-learn how to work around heritage trees and not just destroy them (even with intent to replace later)
 - Let's just keep allowing developers to do as they please - soon enough we won't have to worry about any trees.
 - How do I find out or report someone I think is illegally removing a tree?

- Citizens should be able to do what they want with the landscaping in their own yards. Especially when you give developers carte blanche to strip lots and build to the lot lines.
- Codes are only effective if enforced. Don't rely upon public to do the city's job of oversight. And even when complaints are made, it can be too late to intervene . Developers are issued permits more readily than enforcement of tree codes. When the codes are violated, there should be a fine, court, and threat of loss of license, and/or stricken from list of qualified builders. Otherwise all this is just talk and trees continue to fall.

Demographic info

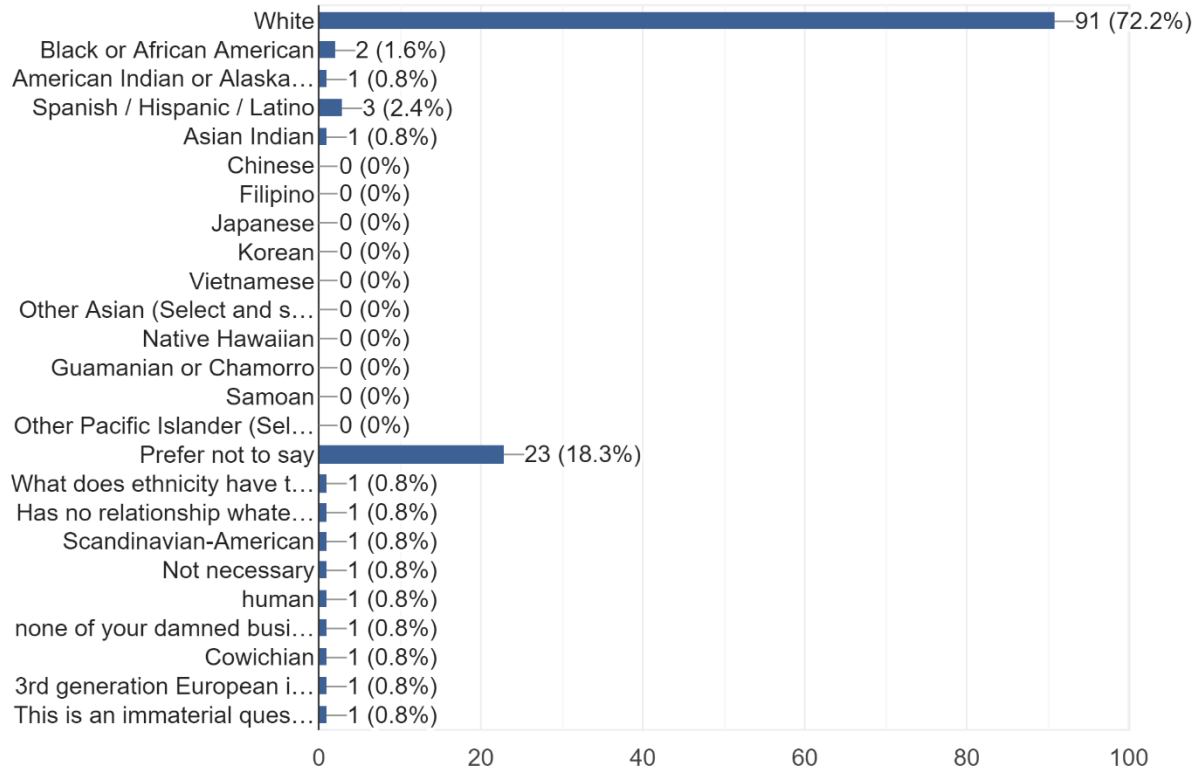
Do you live or work in Edmonds?

126 responses



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

126 responses



How long have you lived in Edmonds?

126 responses

