

Trees4Livability
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NONPROFIT PRESENTS TREE CODE RECOMMENDATION AT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

[Bellevue, WA, March 2022] Trees4Livability continued to promote their proposed tree code changes at the Bellevue City Council meeting on Monday, March 21, with a long-time local architect and a Bellevue 7th-grader presenting.

“As architects, we consider the landscape including trees to be vital to the design. We should be able to develop and preserve at the same time,” Lake Hills resident Rick Chesmore said during his presentation. “As a long-time Bellevue homeowner and an architect, I’m deeply concerned about the depletion of our important tree canopy. I have seen properties completely cleared of every tree, every bush, and every blade of grass...This type of development must be stopped immediately!”

An Odle Middle School student spoke to the council as well: “I’m here to talk with you about our future. In 2044 when I’m an adult, I hope Bellevue will have beautiful trees. When you make planning decisions for Bellevue – please keep my generation in mind. We will be the ones around to feel the effects of the actions you take now.”

Mayor Lynne Robinson commented later in the meeting that she views maintaining and protecting the tree canopy as part of local neighborhood character.

“Beyond the environmental impact, (tree codes are) a character issue for our neighborhoods...I know a lot of people have strong feelings about it and we are hearing from many of them. I am interested in addressing that. I think if we can look at another city to speed it up I would like that – there are a lot of good examples out there.”

Volunteers created the Bellevue Tree Code Study with findings from other cities in the region and recommendations to strengthen the current tree code. The proposed code changes would affect properties zoned for single-family housing and funding for the program would be raised by

tree-removal permits. Trees4Livability is collecting petition signatures throughout March in preparation for the city council's retreat at the end of the month. Read the study and sign the petition at trees4livability.org/tree-code-petition. You can watch a recording of the March 21st meeting on the [Bellevue TV YouTube channel](#), or on the [Trees4Livability's News & Press page](#).

Trees4Livability comprises a group of concerned citizens from many backgrounds and neighborhoods across the city. Their volunteer Tree Code Working Group headed by Khaiersta English and Ruth Lipscomb collaborated to produce a research study comparing regional city tree codes and offering detailed recommendations.

The report has been endorsed by more than ten civic, environmental, and advocacy organizations, including 300 Trees, People for Climate Action, 350 Eastside, Bellevue Green & Clean, and Eastside Audubon, with more taking up the cause weekly. Read and sign the petition at <https://trees4livability.org/tree-code-petition> and help spread the word!