

**Trees4Livability**  
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## **COUNCIL RETREAT POSTPONED – NONPROFIT PUSHES FOR ADDITIONAL SIGNATURES FOR BELLEVUE TREE CODE REFORM**

**[Bellevue, WA, April 2022]** Trees4Livability is hoping to reach 1,000+ signatures on a petition to the Bellevue City Council to increase tree protections by the June 9th City Council Retreat.

Sign the petition at [trees4livability.org/tree-code-petition](https://trees4livability.org/tree-code-petition) and join Trees4Livability at the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association Earth Day Event on **Sunday, April 24th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. outside the Lake Hills Library** to show your support. For other ways to get involved—such as distributing flyers, contacting the city council, and spreading the word on social media—visit [trees4livability.org/get-involved](https://trees4livability.org/get-involved).

Originally scheduled for the end of next month, the postponement of the city council retreat has given Trees4Livability more time to share the petition with people who live and work in Bellevue and are concerned about preserving the tree canopy. Currently, Bellevue's tree code policy is among the weakest in the region. Up to five Significant Trees are allowed to be removed without a permit, and there are no special protections for Landmark Trees. With development continuing to grow, these practices are causing significant damage to the future of Bellevue's tree canopy.

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 in preparation for the city council's retreat in June. Read the study and sign the petition at [trees4livability.org/tree-code-petition](https://trees4livability.org/tree-code-petition). You can watch a recording of past city council meetings on the [Bellevue TV YouTube channel](#) or on the [Trees4Livability's News & Press page](#).

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Trees4Livability receives regular reports from members witnessing unexpected and destructive tree removals all over the city. The removal of large trees is changing the character of our neighborhoods. Tree codes are complicated, and the Bellevue city website is tricky to navigate. Our Tree Code Research Group provides assistance navigating tree codes and pointing the public to the right people to contact within the city to investigate claims. If you witness trees coming down in your neighborhood and you're interested in looking into applicable permits, especially in the case of new development or subdivisions, please visit <https://trees4livability.org> to contact us.

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!