

Trees4Livability
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NONPROFIT HOLDING TREE CODE REWRITE KICKOFF RALLY

[Bellevue, WA, October 2022] Trees4Livability, which has collected 1,500 signatures on its petition to strengthen Bellevue tree protections, is celebrating the City Council and Land Use's efforts to rewrite tree codes. Supporters are invited to gather at **City Hall on November 21 at 5:45 pm** in advance of the City Council meeting to show a community presence.

Bellevue City Hall is located at 450 110th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004. Tree code work will be presented later in the evening, however, supporters are only asked to stay for the beginning of the meeting. Trees4Livability will distribute "I'm 4 Trees" stickers and suggests wearing black or green tee shirts.

A group of volunteers researched regional standards and created the Bellevue Tree Code Study with findings and recommendations on how to strengthen local tree codes. Among these are maintaining a minimum tree density in residential areas, requiring permits for large tree removals, and enforcing rules and regulations with regular inspections and penalties for offenders.

"We hear reports of trees coming down every day," says Trees4Livability Founder Khaiersta English. "Community members are concerned about the long-term effects the loss of the tree canopy will have on our neighborhoods. We appreciate that the City Council is ready to take action!"

"Recently, I witnessed a large cedar tree being removed in my neighborhood, one that I have been concerned about for months," says Lake Hills resident and Trees4Livability board member Jane Gershovich. "Caring for the environment needs to start with the problems here, in our own communities."

Trees4Livability has organized volunteers to present their viewpoints to the city council this year. Presentations have included environmental attorneys, green building advocates, architects, retirees, students, engineers, and long-time residents. Bellevue's tree codes are

among the region's weakest, with few protections for Significant and Landmark Trees, no enforcement for maintaining minimum tree density, and no consequences for illegal cutting. Multiple community members, many with their own stories of mature trees being removed from their neighborhoods, have reiterated their concern about the lack of tree protections.

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!