

Trees4Livability
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NONPROFIT REACHES 1,000 SIGNATURES TO STRENGTHEN TREE CODES

[Bellevue, WA, June 2022] Trees4Livability has collected 1,000 signatures on its petition to strengthen Bellevue tree protections ahead of the City Council Retreat this month. You can sign the petition at trees4livability.org/tree-code-petition.

Bellevue Mayor Lynne Robinson presented an interim tree code proposal at the June 6 city council meeting which would require permits for the removal of trees with a diameter of at least 24 inches. The permit costs \$464 for under two trees and \$857 for three or more trees and can take between 5–9 weeks to process. Robinson cited safety and awareness as reasons for the proposal, pointing to the damage to a neighbor’s house in April when a 140-foot-tall tree was improperly cut down.

“We are grateful to Mayor Robinson and the city council for taking this important first step and look forward to continuing the discussion of what makes a strong tree code,” said Trees4Livability founder Khaiersta English. “Thank you to all who have signed the petition and volunteered to raise awareness about how we can best preserve Bellevue’s tree canopy.”

The nonprofit recently formed a board of directors, including:

- Khaiersta English, Founder
- Ruth Lipscomb, early volunteer and working group team member
- Jane Gershovich, early volunteer and working group team member
- Lee Sargent, early volunteer and working group team member
- Don Marsh, early volunteer and founder of 300 Trees

Board members are a group of newly arrived and long-time Bellevue residents striving to protect Bellevue’s tree canopy. They represent a variety of professions including software engineering and photography. To learn how to get involved, visit trees4livability.org/get-involved.

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

Read and sign the petition at <https://trees4livability.org/tree-code-petition> and help spread the word!