



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

Date: March 2, 2016

To: Portland City Council

From: Portland Parks Board

Re: Proposals for Title II Amendments: Tree Preservation in Development Situations

Dear Mayor Hales and City Commissioners,

Over the past year, the Parks Board has been apprised about the status of the new Tree Code. We were informed about the Administrative Rule directive and most recently, reviewed supporting materials about the various stopgap proposals to preserve large, healthy trees.

We are writing to show our support for the Urban Forestry Commission's comments and recommendations as per their letter dated January 29th, 2016. With less than 2% of the city's trees larger than 48' dbh, the Bureau proposals will do little to preserve what remains of Portland's iconic canopy. The dbh threshold for protecting trees in development situations must be markedly lower if we are to curtail the rampant removal of large, healthy trees. Inch for inch mitigation should begin at that lower threshold as a means to recover the social, economic and environmental benefits from exceptionally large trees.

The Parks Board is in agreement that the amendments should apply to City and Street trees in addition to Private Trees. The City should be eager to protect its \$6 billion dollar asset and serve as a model for the private and public sector to follow.

We support the amendments to adopt a sunset date of three years after the effective date of the amendment ordinance and agree to the notification requirement of 30 days.

Finally, we strongly encourage you to direct the appropriate Bureaus to collaborate together and allocate sufficient resources for revising the Tree Code as soon as possible.

On behalf of the Parks Board, I want to thank you for addressing this important issue that is impacting communities across the city.

Sincerely,

Judy BlueHorse Skelton
Chair, Portland Parks Board

Portland Parks Board

Judy BlueHorse Skelton, Chair

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