



Ordinance to Adopt TMC 9.20 Urban Forestry

City of Tacoma | Environmental Services

Tacoma City Council

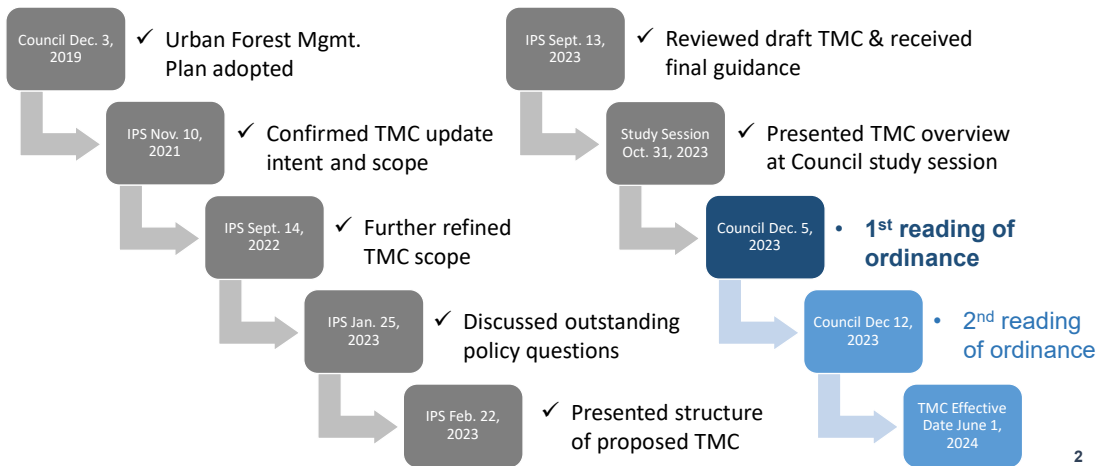
December 5, 2023

ITEM #



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HISTORY / SCHEDULE



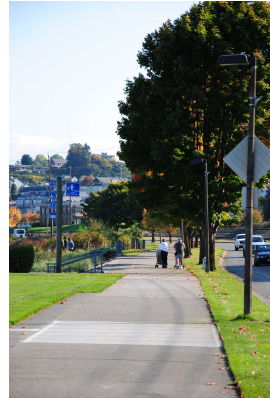
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PURPOSE

1. Fix outdated & unclear requirements for right-of-way (ROW) tree planting, pruning, & removal
2. Remove inconsistencies with City policies, incorporate technical manuals, & industry standard BMPs
3. Discourage illegal tree removals through clear requirements and permitting processes
4. Establish a heritage tree program
5. Provide process for individuals to request tree pruning on City property
6. Update antiquated violations, penalty structure, & due process for illegal pruning & removal

Ruston Way Street Trees



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STREET TREE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Pruning (no fee permit)

- Must be conducted in a manner that keeps trees healthy and avoids future hazards

Planting (no fee permit)

- Must be done in accordance with City standards to avoid future conflicts

Removal (no fee permit, except *Conflict Trees)

- Removals permitted for specific purposes
- Fee for Conflict Tree removals, resulting from development / construction impacts
- Low-income qualifying fee reduction

N. Yakima Tree Removal



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EXEMPTIONS & ENFORCEMENT



Street Tree Permit Exemptions:

- **Owner:** pruning small trees (under 15 feet) & fruit trees
- **City & DOT:** pruning for clearance & tree health
- **Utilities:** pruning for Electric Safety Code, restoration of utility services & emergency communications
- **City & DOT:** tree removal to abate threat to public health, safety, welfare, or public nuisance

Enforcement:

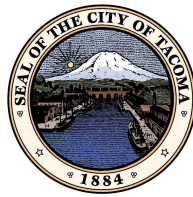
- Unpermitted tree pruning or removal in ROW or City real property includes monetary penalty 3x the value of permitted tree removal
- May include fees for natural resources damages

Schuster Pkwy Tree Pruning



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