

# HOW CAN SNOHOMISH BECOME A TREE CITY?

The Tree City USA program started in 1976 by the Arbor Day Foundation. There are 3,600 participating communities across the country. Achieving Tree City recognition is a demonstration of the city's commitment to the environment and quality of life for residents. The City Council has directed staff to working toward the Tree City award. This effort, through the Urban Forestry Plan, began in 2022 with the tree inventory and DNR grant, and will continue through 2023 and 2024. The Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA standards are summarized below, with more information about standard 2 on the back side.



## Establish a Tree Board

Whether it's an advisory board or a City department, the Arbor Day requires an entity to be responsible for our community's trees. The City will be recommending the Parks Board for this important role.

01



## Adopt a Tree Care Ordinance

An ordinance that establishes the tree board, assigns responsibility, and provides clear guidance about tree planting, removal, and maintenance of public trees. See the back side for more information on policy options.

02



## Develop a forestry program with a \$2 per capita annual budget

The annual budget can be spent on tree planting and care, maintenance, removal, management, utility line clearance, developing the annual work plan, and preparing supporting documents.

03



## Celebrate Arbor Day

The Arbor Day Foundation requires annual celebration of Arbor Day through a proclamation and other observances.

04



**SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR URBAN FORESTRY PLAN**





# WHAT IS BEING CONSIDERED?

The Urban Forestry program will include several different elements to help us manage this important and valuable resource. Make your voice heard and help decide the best options for Snohomish!

## REGULATIONS

The City's tree regulations can be found in Chapter 14.240 SMC, which is in the Land Use Development code. Regulations are heavily oriented toward new development rather than preserving and retaining existing trees.

The Arbor Day Foundation provides a model ordinance with required and recommended elements to include in the regulations. Staff will be reviewing this and reporting back to the Parks Board, Planning Commission, and City Council on recommended changes. Policy decisions will include:

- Should a permit be required to install or remove a tree in the right-of-way?
- Should a permit be required to remove a tree on private property?
- What criteria should be required for tree planting and removal?
- What replacement ratio should be required for tree removal?

## MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT

An urban forestry program with an annual budget of \$2 per capita is required. In Snohomish, this would amount to about \$20,000 per year in tree management and planning. How should this money be spent?

- Annual inspection by professional arborists
- Regular management such as pruning
- Planting projects
- Planning efforts
- Education, outreach, and resources

## PLANTING STANDARDS

Trees are important to urban areas for a variety of reasons; they lower the air temperature, reduce heating and cooling costs, increase property values, mitigate climate change, improve water quality, reduce flooding, and provide a respite from the bustle of the urban environment. However, trees planted in cities often don't live as long as trees in rural areas, and struggle to compete for limited space with infrastructure like utilities, roads, and sidewalks. Planting the right tree for the right space is important to ensuring it will thrive. But what *is* the right tree? Part of this project will be to develop resources, guidance, and tree planting standards including a recommended species list that will help residents and businesses take advantage of the benefits the urban forest provides.

