

From: [Grace Hasler](#)
To: [Board of Public Works](#)
Subject: re legistar 89254
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Dear Members,

Late this afternoon I was alerted by email that the BPW would be addressing the proposed changes and updates for the protection of canopy trees on city owned land during construction by private developers.

I have lived downtown for 18 years and have been increasingly cognizant of the loss of mature tree canopy, particularly on the Isthmus as it experiences rapid development. The city maps of tree canopy documents this loss over time and it is far below the recommended 40% tree cover for a healthy and vibrant community

I spoke in support of Legistar 8924 at the August meeting. I appreciated your questions and comments and understood that the development community, in particular, felt left out of the conversation regarding proposed changes. BPW requested that forestry consider their concerns and provide clear final language to be provided before a vote of the board.

Others present spoke in favor of the increased protection based on the disregard from the development community for the adequate protection of city owned trees.

In fact since that meeting as I walk our streets, it continues to be alarming at the disregard for even the current protection standards. As recently as today I noted that a new project on W Washington has construction equipment already stashed under a significant tree on city property.

There is also a development on Bassett that not only has equipment around the base of every street tree within their project perimeter but across the street on Dayton on the terraces outside their project area.

At the August DPW meeting it was mentioned numerous times that a tree on Main Street at the Neutral Project had been badly damaged; while walking home today I noticed that the tree nearby also has construction equipment stored at its base. In every case the orange protection around trees has collapsed and is disregarded.

I also learned today that there is a request to remove a tree in the way of a project on Gorham St. The intent of protection is to determine these issues before development begins.

We have a forester and his staff hired to care for and protect our community trees that are doing their best to communicate to the private development community the extreme value these trees have to all of us. A city will not thrive well if the loss of tree canopy and natural habitat create an unhealthy urban heat island. We owe it to future generations to take action. I encourage you to support the proposed changes to our tree ordinance when you address it at the September 17th meeting.

Co-Chair of the CNI Tree Preservation and Protection Committee.,

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