



Planning Commission Draft Recommendations

Tree Regulations Update

Tonight's Schedule

- 7:00 – 7:20 Arrive, Review Materials
- 7:20 – 7:40 Discussion of Recent Tree Removals
- 7:40 – 8:00 Presentation Overview for Proposed Changes
- 8:00 – 9:00 Community Interaction and Feedback



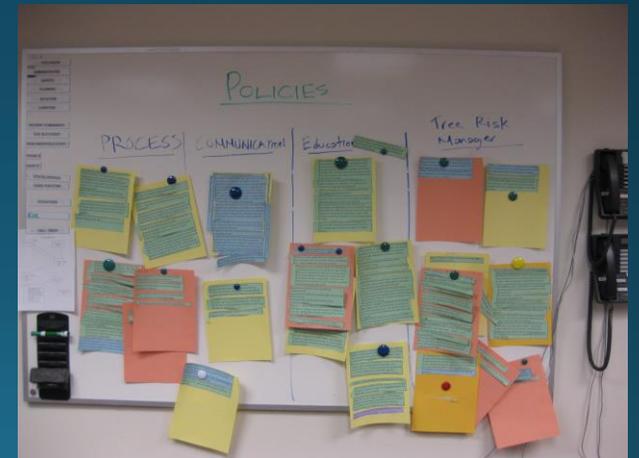
Tree Regulation Update Timeline

2015

- *Tree Board begins review of tree regulations.*
 - Public Meeting / Brainstorming Event
 - [Read Suggestions and Comments – Public Meeting](#)
 - [Read Suggestions and Comments – Visioning Workshop](#)
 - Phone Survey of Permittees from past years
 - Panel Discussion with Stakeholders
 - [Video](#)
 - [Discussion Summary](#)
 - Review of other cities' regulations
- *Tree Board submits Memo to Council.*
 - [Read the memo](#)

2016

- *Council requests Planning Commission to provide a draft update to tree regulations based on Tree Board Memo & Council guidance.*



Major Themes for the Draft Tree Regulation Update

**Streamline and Improve the
Permitting Process**

**Close Loopholes for
Developers**

**Provide Additional Protection
of Tree Canopy**

Provide Targeted Flexibility

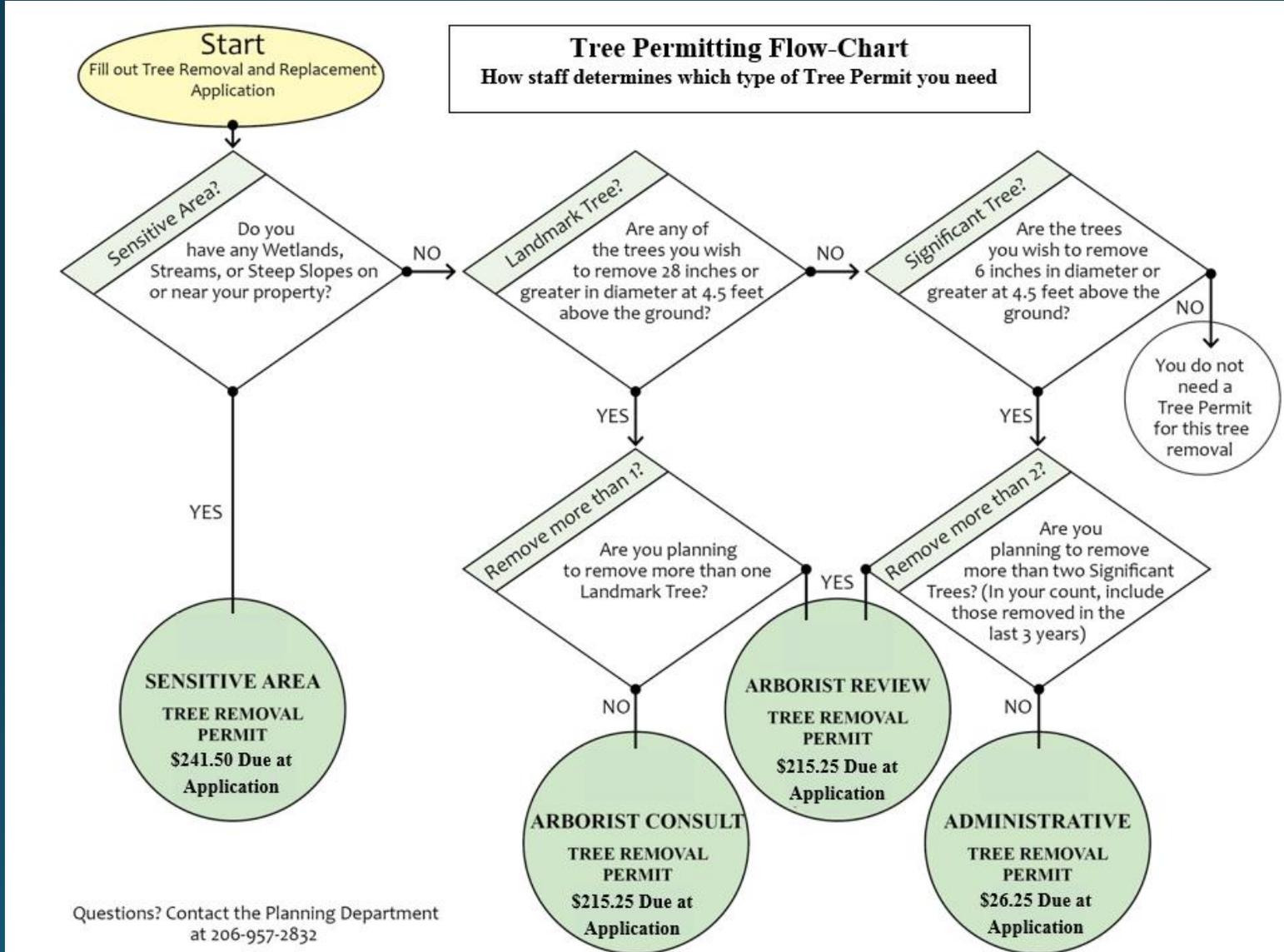


Tree Board Recommendation:

“Allow applicants to fill out the same form initially, if possible, online”

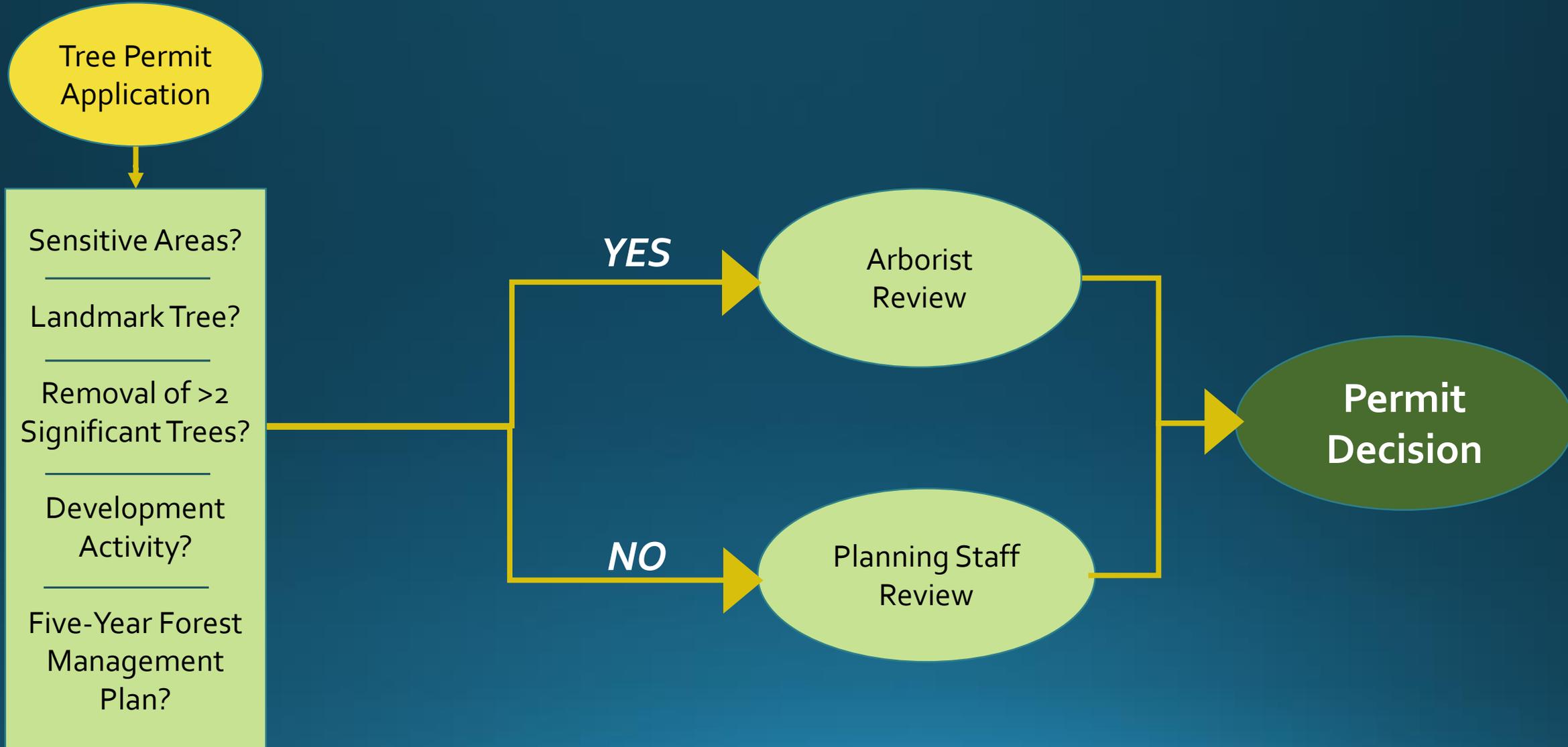


Current Tree Removal Permitting Process



Streamline the Permitting Process

Revised Permitting Process:



Tree Board Memo Recommendation:

“Create a list of invasive species that would be exempt.”



Invasive Species Exception

Removal of species listed as “noxious weeds” by King County will no longer require a permit.

Process:

- Property owner fills out application.
- City confirms invasive species for removal.
- City issues Notice of Exception which must be posted on site.



Tree Board Memo Recommendations:

“Remove definition of ‘New development’ so that the City Arborist is involved with all new single-family, multi-family, and commercial construction.”



New Requirements for Construction

Definition of Major Development expanded to apply to all new single-family, multi-family, and commercial buildings.

- Retained trees and proposed replanting must meet canopy coverage goal (or contribution to Tree Fund).



Tree Board Memo Recommendations:

“Require moratorium on tree removal for new development.”



Five-Year Restriction on Tree Removal

- After Major Development Activity is completed, no Viable Trees may be removed for five years.



Tree Board Memo Recommendation:

***“Consider additional criteria
for permit denial.”***



Exceptional Trees and Tree Tracts

- Removal of a viable exceptional tree is only allowed through a public hearing process.
- Removal of viable trees in a tree tract is prohibited.



Encourage Landmark Tree Retention

Require double canopy replacement for any viable landmark trees that are removed.

Example: Viable tree providing 1,000 sqft of canopy coverage is proposed for removal.

2,000 sqft of canopy coverage replacement would be required.



Provide Targeted Flexibility

Tree Board Recommendation:

“Encourage long-term forestry management planning for lots over 60% canopy coverage, through use of a multi-year permit.”



Five-Year Forest Management Plan

A long-term permit to encourage responsible management of forest canopy and avoid the necessity for multiple permits.

- City approves five-year plan.
- Annual inspections required.
- Posting required each time trees are removed.
- Trees must be planted to achieve canopy goal.
- Cannot be used with Major Development Activity.



Utility Tree Removals

- Do not allow Seattle City Light or other utilities to top trees in Lake Forest Park



Next Steps

- Gather community Feedback (tonight)
- Planning Commission consideration of community feedback
- Planning Commission recommends draft regulations to City Council
- Review of Planning Commission draft by City Attorney
- Review by Other Agencies (SEPA/Dept of Commerce)
- Public Hearing Held by Council
- Adopt Regulations



Tonight, please share your thoughts!

- Visit each of the four stations
- Share feedback on Planning Commission draft

