

# Tree Canopy Code Amendments

## Study Session

Nick Whipple, Planning Manager  
Kristina Gallant, Senior Planner  
Development Services Department

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# Planning Commission Direction

Information Only





# Agenda

1. Project Goals
2. Engagement Plan
3. Questionnaire
4. Council Discussion
5. Project Scope
6. Next Steps



# Project Goals

## Strategy N.1. Increase Tree Canopy Citywide

- 40% goal
- Ensure sufficient code provisions
- Incentivize the right tree in the right place
- Identify opportunities for tracking data





# Project Goals

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- **Comprehensive** code review
- Support tree **preservation, retention, replacement,** and **protection**
- **Balance** housing production needs
- Improve the function and **clarity** of code
- Capture better **data**



# Engagement Plan

## Phase One (Complete)

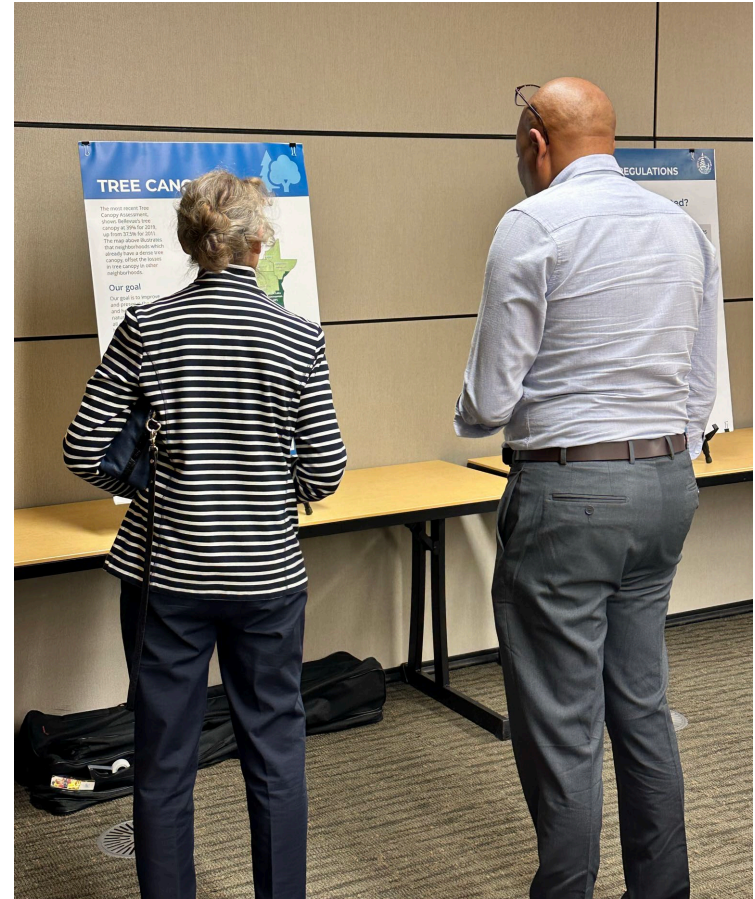
- Engaging Bellevue project site
- Direct Engagement
- Listening Sessions
- Online Questionnaire
- Public Information Session



# Engagement Plan

## Phase Two

- Continued direct engagement
- Up to 6 listening sessions
- Up to 2 public information sessions
- Planning Commission Public Hearing
- **Flexibility for additional outreach**

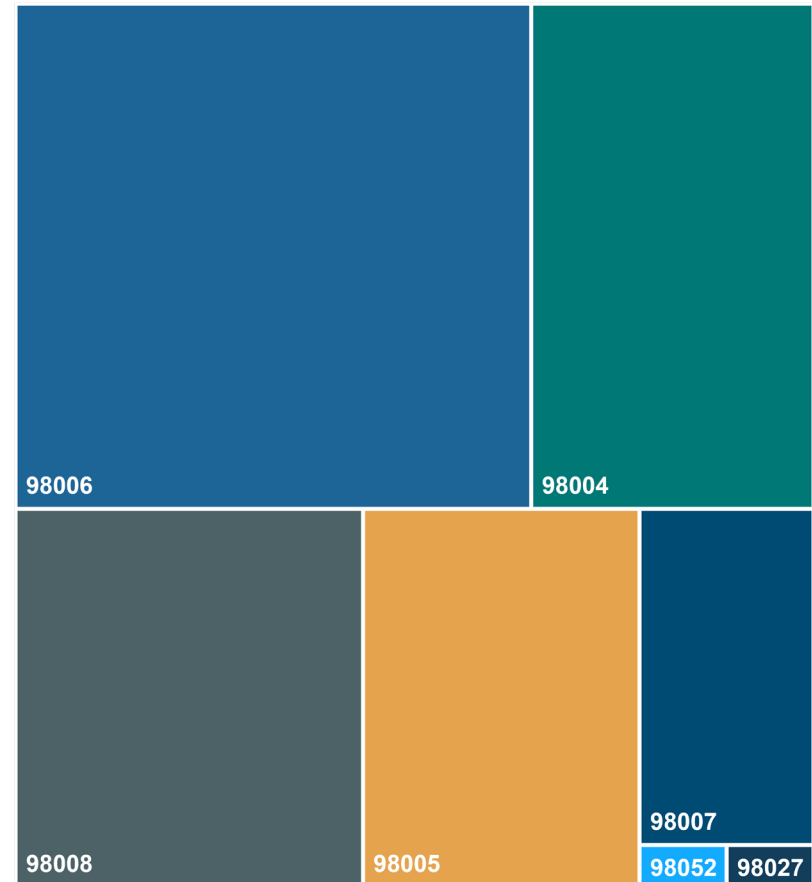




# Questionnaire

## Who did we hear from?

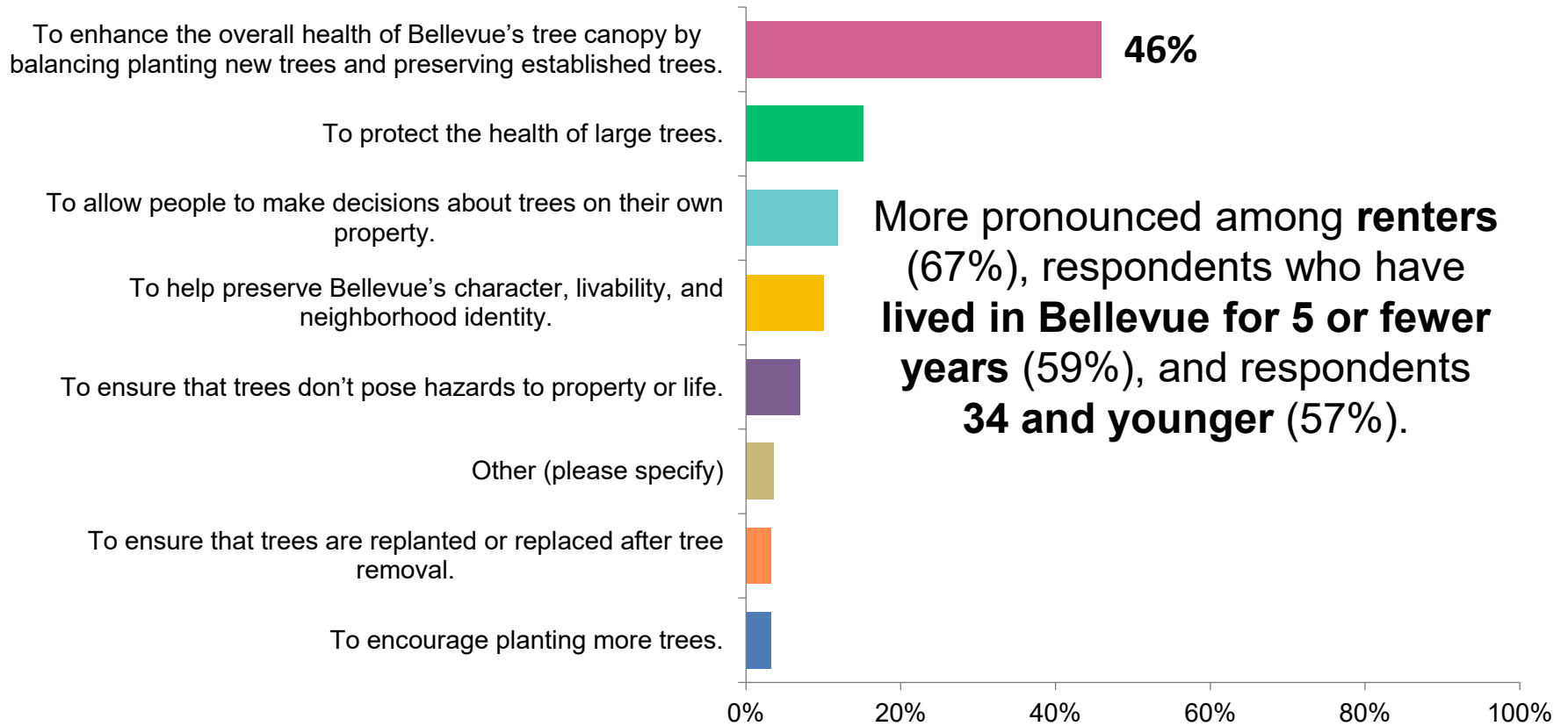
- Open May 17-June 12
- Available in 7 languages
- 687 complete responses
- 92% live in Bellevue, and generally:
  - Older, longer time residents
  - More likely to identify as white and female
  - More likely to own single family homes





# Questionnaire

What should be the **most important objective** of Bellevue's tree code?





# Questionnaire

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## Tree removal ideas:

- Assess monetary penalties for removing trees without a permit, especially for repeat offenders **(4.27)**
- Limit the number of landmark trees that can be removed with a permit **(4.26)**
- Add replacement requirements to remove significant and landmark trees in non-critical areas **(4.20)**
- Limit the number of significant trees that can be removed with a permit **(3.93)**
- Protect more trees by changing the definition of significant tree to a smaller diameter **(3.29)**
- Require an affordable, easy-to-get permit to remove any significant tree **(3.04)**





# Questionnaire

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## Tree retention ideas:

- Provide incentives for developments that retain more trees than required **(4.47)**
- Encourage retaining large trees **(4.45)**
- Establish a minimum tree planting requirement in cases where there are few trees or no trees on a site being developed **(4.44)**
- Discourage removing trees before applying for a development permit **(4.42)**



# Council Discussion

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For project scope:

- Emphasis on **preventing lot clearing**
- Encouraging the **right tree in the right place**
- Incorporating **species** considerations
- **Avoid** “one size fits all” requirements
- Evaluate **inspection** requirements
- Develop **incentives**
- Ensure regulations are **simple** to follow



# Council Discussion

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For engagement, implementation, and coordination:

- Continuing to **expand outreach**
- Evaluating **canopy goal**
- Providing **education** to community on tree regulations and benefits

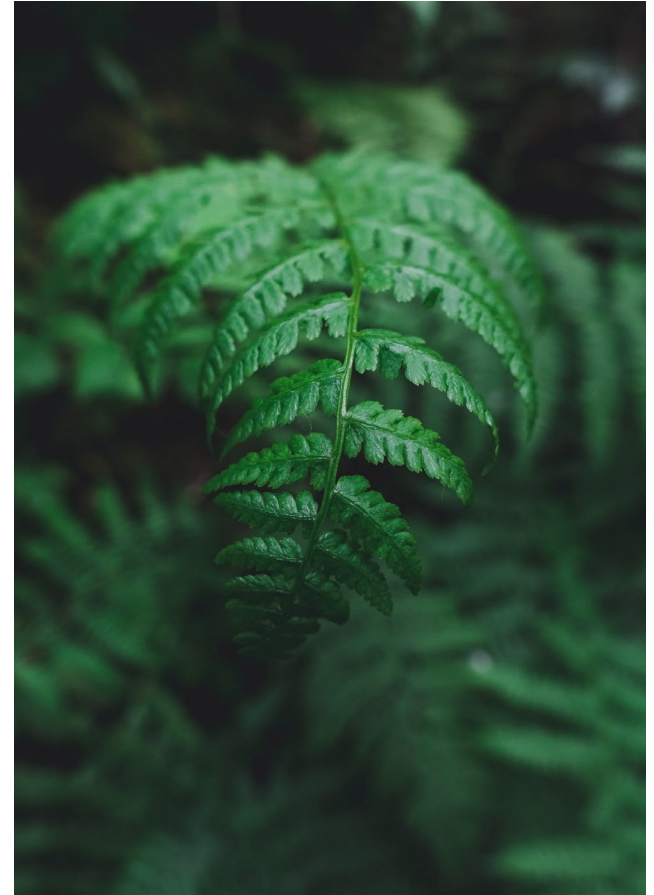




# Project Scope

## Definitions

- Update **significant tree** definition
- Implement permanent definition for **landmark trees**
- Develop definition for **hazardous trees**





# Project Scope

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## Tree Removal

- **Permit** to remove any significant tree
- Discourage **lot clearing** before development
- Evaluate expanding **replacement requirements**
- Evaluate imposing **financial penalties** for violations



# Project Scope

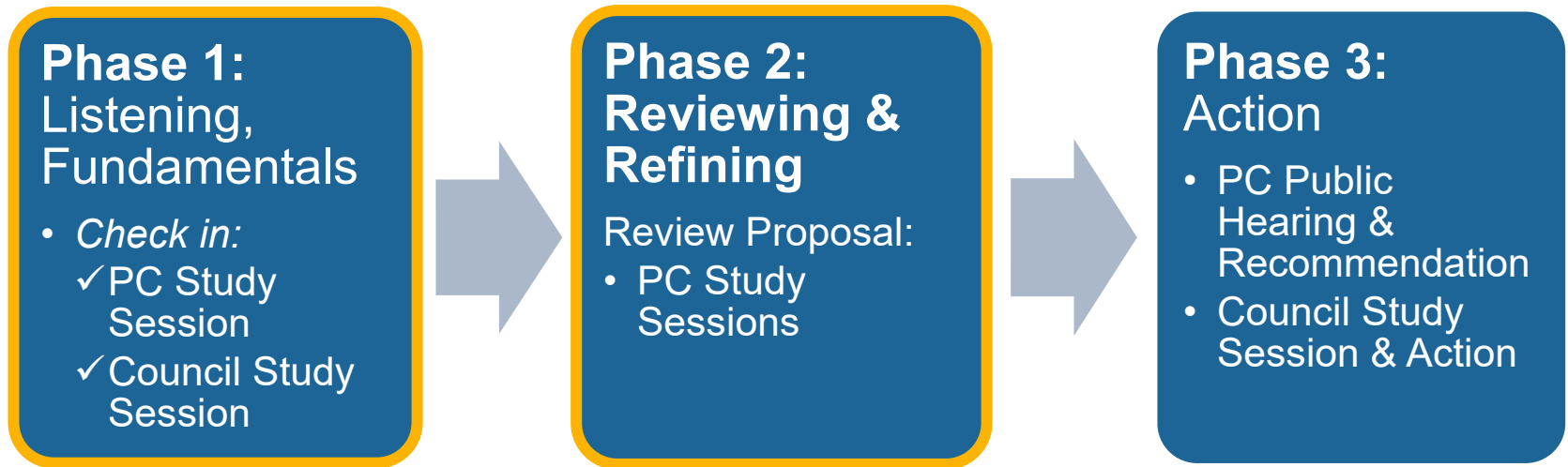
## Tree Retention

- Evaluate alternative **minimum canopy approach**
- **Clarify duration** for retained trees
- Update retention **criteria**
- Codify **key protections** during construction
- Evaluate **inspection** requirements





# Next Steps



Questionnaire

Technical Analysis

Listening Sessions

Public Info Sessions ★  
6/8





# Planning Commission Direction

Information Only

