

Subject: Tree Bylaw/Urban Forest Protection (Oct 20/25 Public Hearing).

Dear Mayor and Council,

I support the proposed bylaw amendments to protect trees with a diameter greater than 20 cm at breast height during new home construction. In fact, I think the amendments don't go far enough and should include protection of mature hedges that border properties. While some may complain that this could result in a smaller building footprint, I see that as a positive outcome. Among other benefits it would help curb the proliferation of "monster" homes.

Today's houses are far bigger and leave little room for yards or gardens. They have become a commodity, built to maximize resale value rather than reasonably accommodate today's smaller families.

West Van residents used to take pride in our natural, treed environment and homes with lovely gardens were once the norm, contributing to the beauty of our community. Now older homes are bulldozed along with virtually all vegetation to facilitate construction. Rainwater runoff from impermeable surfaces is increasingly problematic.

Preserving mature trees and hedges also helps soften the visual impact of new construction and supports the character and livability of our neighborhoods. As we face the harsh consequences of climate change, it is essential that West Vancouver take proactive steps to protect our tree canopy.

Please implement the suggested changes and expand this to protect mature hedges as well. Also, please ensure the changes are effective immediately and not at some future date to prevent a rush of clearcutting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Melinda Slater
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West Vancouver

Please do not redact