



## Background

Portland's Tree Code, Title 11, requires mitigation payments for large trees (20" dbh or greater) which are removed in development projects. These payments are based on the size of the tree and have funded the planting of more than 12,000 trees in priority neighborhoods. This policy, referred to as the Large Tree Amendment, will expire on December 31, 2024 if it is not extended.



## Impact on Tree Preservation

The Large Tree Amendment has been effective at preserving the largest trees in Portland's neighborhoods.



↓ **68%**  
reduction in large  
tree removals since  
implementation



Trees 20" in diameter and greater make up just 13% of Portland's urban forest but provide 59% of the value in benefits to public and ecological health.



## Impact on Housing Development

Portland's Tree Code is designed to meet the community's need for equitably distributed tree canopy and the production of new housing. **Affordable housing projects, lots under 5,000 square feet, and high-density zones where 80% of Portland's housing growth is planned are exempt from tree preservation requirements.**



A 2020 economic analysis found the Large Tree Amendment would result in just 2.7 fewer housing units produced annually over twenty years.

Fewer than **4%**  
of housing developments  
have **paid mitigation fees**  
under this policy.



## Community Values

Preserving large trees is prioritized by numerous city plans and policies including the Urban Forest Management Plan, Portland Plan, 2015 Climate Action Plan, 2035 Comprehensive Plan, and Climate Emergency Workplan. **Community engagement in 2020 found widespread support for the policy with 81% of 3,000 survey respondents supporting it.**

