

Jaclyn Norton

From: Carolyn Lattin <info@email.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 1:47 PM
To: Jaclyn Norton
Subject: Yes on a Temporary Tree-Cutting Moratorium & Yes on the Councilors' Tree Protections

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Members of the Programs&Services Committee,

As a longtime resident of Newton (277 Park St), I am devastated by the ongoing removal of trees throughout our various villages. In this era of climate change, we MUST protect our existing tree canopy and increase it wherever possible. If progressive, "garden city" Newton can't lead the way, serving as a model for other communities, who can?

Accordingly, I ask that you pass the temporary moratorium on tree-cutting as soon as possible, and that you pass City Council's proposed ordinance protecting 6-inch diameter trees shortly thereafter.

This ordinance must be binding on all properties in Newton and must include an environmental mitigation payment for cutting healthy, mature trees that are not dangerous.

Protecting our tree canopy lowers Newton's average heat index (crucial, as summer temperatures rise!), improves neighborhood air pollution, helps with runoff from storms; and provides significant benefits to local public health
(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8125471>) .

Gradual tree removal leads to treeless blocks that become heat islands with less-manageable water run-off and faster deterioration of roads.

Let's stop thinking of trees as belonging to individual property owners. Instead, let's view them as a public resource, a public good to be cherished by all for the benefit of all.

To promote the public good, let's agree that individual property owners who remove mature, healthy trees, even on their own land, they should be required to make a substantial climate mitigation payment to offset the monetary, environmental, and health costs to the rest of us!

And before trees are removed, please hold public hearings at which neighbors and other Newton residents can weigh into the process.

Please vote to enact a temporary moratorium and then vote to pass the City Council's proposed ordinance changes to require an environmental mitigation payment for cutting healthy, not-dangerous trees; to protect trees 6-inch-DBH and larger on all lots; and to give voice to the local people most impacted by tree cutting.

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