

TO: Board of Park Commissioners
Jesus Aguirre, Superintendent
Debora Juarez, City Council District 5

Comments Regarding: **View Tree Pruning Policies and Practices**

I welcome the Park Department proposal to revise the View Tree Pruning Policies and Practices.

The Seattle Park Department is long overdue to permanently hire a **certified arborist/ecologist** who would bring a scientific approach to our forested landscapes.

The arborist/ecologist:

- Would develop a policy that pursues the goal of a sustainable and healthy urban forest
- Would review and evaluate forest restorations on a regular basis
- Make recommendations for ongoing maintenance
- Evaluate and make recommendations for the restoration of view sites

Regarding Illegal Cutting for Views (ie. the Judge's Clearcut in Colman Park and the West Seattle Clearcut)

Please consider following the precedent of the Judge's Clearcut: Fine the offender to the full extent of the law and use that money to hire professional forest restoration crews to restore and monitor the site until it is established.

Eliminate All Existing Trimming for Private View Permits.

The Dose Terrace Gang of Ten in the Mount Baker neighborhood has had such a permit since 1997. It was just renewed in November 2015!!!! This permitted cutting and poisoning of trees has created a mess of invasive plants such as blackberries and ivy that threatens other areas of Colman Park worked on by Green Seattle Partnership volunteer stewards. This area is strictly a private view. If Parks had a certified arborist on staff to evaluate this travesty, I doubt that a permit would be renewed. This is an area that needs proper restoration, not cutting.

Finally the policy should have an educational component to overcome the public's Fear of Nature" where a forest is viewed as a dangerous place.

Thank you,
Joyce Moty
former Green Seattle Partnership Steward
Mount Baker resident