

Stewarding Seattle's Urban Forest: The Tree Ambassador Project



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Seattle reLeaf's Mission



Increase canopy cover on private property by increasing residents' awareness of the urban forest and engaging residents in urban forest stewardship.



Tree Ambassador



- Grant funding for pilot from USFS
- 40 volunteers
- Training in:
 - Community engagement
 - Forestry basics
- Volunteer-led projects



Partnership



- Strong partnership between SPU, SDOT, and Forterra
- Supports and expands SDOT's community engagement goals
- Focus on trees and landscapes in the Right of Way



Tree Walks



- Public events led by volunteers
- Self-guided versions available on website
- Very popular!



Street Tree Mulching



- Weeding, stake removal, mulching of young street trees
- Tools, mulch provided



Landscape Renewal



- Publically owned residential landscapes
- Invasive species removal
- Tools, mulch provided



Volunteer Support



- Jackets, name tags
- Annual picnic
- Awards for outstanding volunteers



2013 Accomplishments



- 8 Tree Walks
- 2 Street Tree Mulchings
- 4 Landscape Renewals
- 2 workshops
- Engaged over 300 people

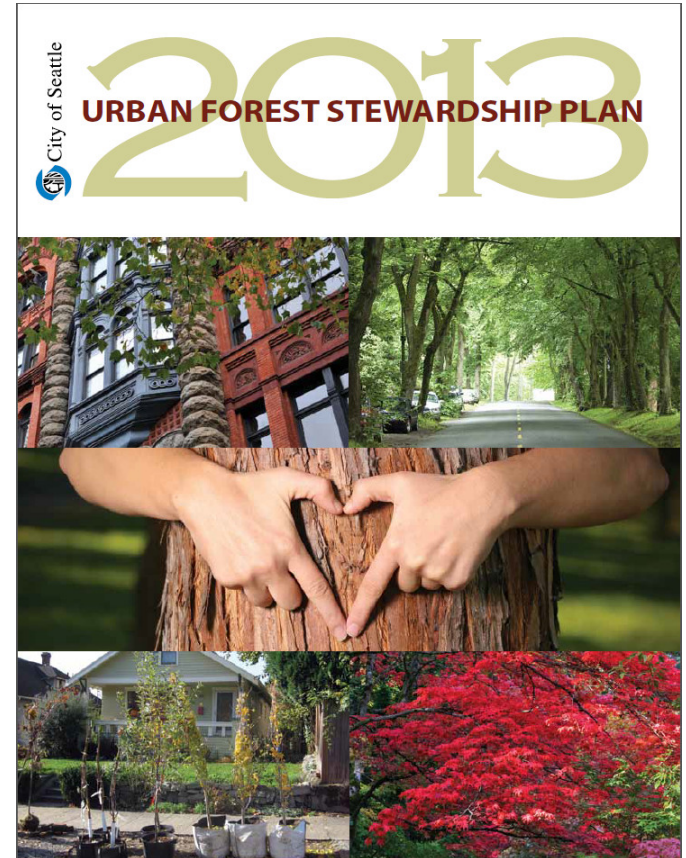


Urban Forest Stewardship Plan



Tree Ambassador is integral to meeting the goals of the UFSP:

1. Create an ethic of stewardship
2. Improving health of the urban forest



Opportunities & Challenges



- Opportunities: Expansion of the program
 - More volunteers
 - Better geographic coverage
 - Regular public events and communications
 - Deeper engagement of target audiences
- Challenges: Funding
 - Grant funding about to expire
 - 340 of 640 staff hours from Forterra will be lost



Questions?

