

## SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

**Weston Brinkley** (Position #3 – University), Chair • **Sarah Rehder** (Position #4 – Hydrologist), Vice-chair  
**Steve Zemke** (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • **Elby Jones** (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist - ISA)  
**Stuart Niven** (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • **Michael Walton** (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)  
**Joshua Morris** (Position #7 – NGO) • **Steven Fry** (Position #8 – Development)  
**Blake Voorhees** (Position #9 – Realtor) • **Neevati Johnson** (Position #10 – Get Engaged)  
**Whit Bouton** (Position #11 – Environmental Justice)  
**Jessica Jones** (Position #12 – Public Health) • **Shari Selch** (Position #13 – Community/Neighborhood)

January 15, 2020.

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan and City Councilmembers  
City Hall  
600 Fourth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98124

RE: [Urban Forestry Commission](#) 2019 [Annual Report](#) and 2020 [Work Plan](#) (as required by [Ordinance 123052](#))

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

The UFC thanks the Mayor's and City Council's for their ongoing support for their work to advise them concerning the establishment of policy and regulations governing the protection, management, and conservation of trees and vegetation in the City of Seattle and supporting the City in increasing Seattle's tree canopy cover.

Enclosed is the 2019 annual report which provides a summary of the UFC's activities. In 2019 the UFC marked the end of its first decade of work with what was perhaps the most impactful year yet. Many ongoing critically important policies and plans were implemented or took major steps forward this year. These included multi-year efforts on the vegetation components of the [Mandatory Housing Affordability code](#), implementation of [Executive Order 2017-11](#): Tree Protection, and the [update](#) to the City's Urban Forest Management Plan.

Most significantly, substantial progress was made on the Tree Protection Ordinance update (Seattle Municipal Code [Chapter 25.11](#)), including substantial input provided by the [UFC's draft Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance](#). In all, the UFC issued more than a dozen letters of recommendation in 2019. The UFC sees this trend of progress sustaining into 2020.

For 2020, the UFC looks forward to seeing a revised Tree and Urban Forest Protection Ordinance passed, and will be eagerly awaiting work on implementation, management, and tracking of its success. The UFC will continue to incorporate the City's [Race and Social Justice Initiative](#) principles to its work. Also, in 2020 the UFC will be focusing on the climate crisis and integration of forestry with Seattle's [Climate Action Initiative](#) and [Green New Deal](#).

Lastly, the UFC would like to thank the [Office of Sustainability & Environment](#) for their continued support by providing staff time to assist the UFC in carrying out its important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Weston Brinkley'.

Weston Brinkley, Chair

cc: Jessica Finn Coven, Nathan Torgelson, Jesus Aguirre, Debra Smith, Mami Hara, Calvin Goings, Sam Zimbabwe, Samuel Assefa, Robert Nellams, Urban Forestry Management Team, Urban Forestry Core Team, Chris Strader, Stephen Socie, Peter Jeu, Akshay Iyengar, Yolanda Ho, Amanda Hohlfeld

Sandra Pinto de Bader, Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator  
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