



**City of Seattle**  
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

October 18, 2019

Dear Members of the Urban Forestry Commission:

Thank you for reaching out to Mayor Jenny Durkan regarding her 2020 Proposed Budget. We appreciate your time and input, and that you care so much about this issue that you took the time to write.

Mayor Durkan is deeply grateful to the Urban Forestry Commission for your partnership in making Seattle more livable and vibrant for all our communities. Her 2020 Proposed Budget includes more than \$4 million to fund the Green Seattle Partnership and urban forest restoration and maintenance.

We would like to respectfully correct your assertion that the Mayor's 2020 Proposed Budget decreases funding for the Green Seattle Partnership (GSP). Funding provided to the GSP has remained unchanged from 2018 levels at \$1.7 million annually; this project continues to be supported with Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funds.

Separately from the REET funding provided to the GSP, the Park District provides funding for the Saving Our Forests initiative. The total Park District funding for the Saving Our Forests initiative also remains unchanged at \$2.8 million annually; however, the 2019 Adopted and 2020 Endorsed budget did shift nearly \$1.4 million of Park District funds from capital to operating. To date, nearly 1,700 acres of the urban forest are in active restoration, representing significant progress towards meeting Saving Our Forests' goal of restoring 2,500 acres by 2025. As a result, the need for capital dollars for restoration has declined as the need for preventive maintenance has increased.

While Park District funding levels have not changed, Parks was able to identify efficiencies associated with the shift from capital restoration to preventive maintenance work. These operational efficiencies resulted in a General Fund reduction of \$880,000. This reduction is not expected to have any adverse consequences. Remaining funding should be sufficient to complete capital activities and provide ongoing maintenance.

Thank you again for reaching out. Please do not hesitate to send any further questions our way.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Nyland  
Communications Associate  
Office of Mayor Jenny A. Durkan