



City of Seattle

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Mayoral Directive

Date: October 14, 2016
To: **Department Heads**
From: Mayor Edward B. Murray
Subject: **New urban forestry coordination structure to enhance urban forestry services**

There are eight City departments engaged in Seattle's urban forestry work. The current multi-department approach for managing our trees offers several benefits including: cooperation among departments results in more sustainable solutions; greater opportunities to leverage resources, and a more robust City response to community concerns. Also, in-house urban forestry professionals and arborists bring tree advocacy and specialization to help resolve department-specific tree issues. However, we have more work to do in order to deliver well-coordinated services for our residents.

I strongly believe we can improve our work in this area by maintaining our interdepartmental approach with a few modifications. Going forward, our urban forestry initiatives and activities will be coordinated among three urban forestry teams. I have directed OSE to serve as the lead facilitator of these teams and OSE will be accountable to the Mayor's Office for performance monitoring and tracking outcomes.

This new coordination structure will ensure shared citywide priorities on urban forestry, along with work plans to implement them. The new structure will provide a clear point of contact for tree issues and a coordinated citywide response on time-sensitive matters. The new teams will be:

- **Urban Forestry Sub-Cabinet:** consisting of Directors of all eight departments with urban forestry mandates, tasked with meeting twice a year to set citywide priorities on trees that all departments work to achieve.
- **Urban Forestry Core Team:** formed by staff from key departments (Parks, SPU, SDOT, SDCI, SCL, and OSE) and tasked with crafting the work plan to deliver on the sub-cabinet's identified priorities and rapid response to emerging situations.
- **Urban Forestry IDT:** transition the existing IDT from pure information sharing to meeting monthly to work on strategies and tactics to support urban forestry goals, share information on day-to-day operations, and elevate issues to the Core Team.

Contact for Further Information

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact OSE Director, Jessica Finn Coven.