



June 3, 2013

Urban Forestry Commission  
c/o Sandra Pinto de Bader  
Office of Sustainability and Environment  
700 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98124  
Att'n. John Floberg - Chair

Dear John,

I'd like to thank the Urban Forestry Commission for the opportunity to introduce City Fruit at your May 22 meeting. It was great to meet you, and I appreciated your attention and the ideas that emerged from the discussion. I'm following up on several of those.

As the City of Seattle moves into its budget process, I'm hopeful that the work now underway between the City of Seattle and City Fruit will be acknowledged and supported by both the Council and the Mayor. Partnering with a number of City Departments (Parks & Recreation, Neighborhoods, SPU, OSE, SDOT), City Fruit has worked to address many City priorities in an integrated manner: supporting the local food system, reducing yard waste, improving the urban forest canopy and natural habitat, and raising resident awareness. Specifically, we have:

- Trained 65 urban orchard stewards in fruit tree care and habitat maintenance in partnership with Seattle Parks & Recreation;
- Mapped and maintained fruit trees and removed invasives in the following parks: Amy Yee Tennis Center, Burke-Gilman Trail, Bradner Gardens, Dr. Jose Rizal Park, Martha Washington Park, Meadowbrook Community Center Park, Meridian Park, Picardo P-Patch, and Queen Pea P-Patch Park;
- Facilitated the planting of 200 fruit trees on public and private properties;
- Prevented a total of 24 tons of fruit from entering the yard waste system;
- Donated 45,000 pounds of fruit to the emergency food system;
- Inventoried fruit trees on more than 1,000 private properties;
- Logged more than 1400 volunteer hours in community orchards;
- Provided 54 classes on tree care and habitat maintenance, reaching over 800 residents;
- Trained 18 P-Patch gardeners on fruit tree care in partnership with Seattle Department of Neighborhoods and Seattle Parks & Recreation.
- Loaned our cider press to dozens of groups, reaching hundreds of residents through cider pressing community events.

The costs of ignoring our urban orchards and the fruit they produce are significant. Untended orchards in City parks aren't attractive to the public, and neglected trees produce inedible fruit. While City Fruit has harvested an estimated 3,000 pounds of fruit from public orchards, most of it has been difficult to reach and infested with worms. On private properties, unpicked fruit creates yard waste, attracts pests, creates a public safety hazard on public walkways and means that the emergency food system must purchase product that could have been donated.



Finally, urban orchards are important because neglected fruit trees and rotting fruit undermine the City's reputation for sustainability and stewardship. Seattle was one of a handful of cities cited in a recent *New York Times* article on urban orchards: maintaining this reputation requires commitment and support.

City Fruit needs \$146,000 to accomplish its orchard stewardship, fruit harvest, and community education goals for 2014. Except for the small P-Patch pilot, City Fruit has self-funded all partnership activities with the City of Seattle through 2013. We feel it is appropriate to ask the Council and the Mayor for financial support in the 2014 budget process and would very much appreciate it if the Urban Forestry Commission issued a letter of support for City Fruit's valuable work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gail Savina". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gail Savina  
Director, City Fruit