

Keep the Emerald City Green

Another Year of Progress

Most people think trees belong in forests, but they are vital to our urban environment as well. They improve air and water quality, increase property values, hold rainwater, provide shade, and make our lives better. Last year, we launched the Seattle reLeaf campaign to get the word out about urban forests and to provide easy access to lots of great information about tree planting and care. Seattle reLeaf includes a website, brochure, poster campaign, and opportunities to get involved. Check out www.seattle.gov/trees.

We made good progress toward our urban forest goals in 2008 including planting 3,000 trees through City programs and beginning restoration on 100 new acres of forested parkland through the Green Seattle Partnership. In addition to planting trees, departments instituted new management tools to improve our planning, protection and care of trees. Seattle Department of Transportation completed an inventory of the street trees they manage which will allow more effective planning.

The Seattle Center completed a landscape management plan which identifies opportunities for trees as new projects are developed on the campus. Interim tree protection legislation was developed and adopted early this year. Look inside for more details about our 2008 accomplishments.



This spring we are completing a new tree canopy assessment for Seattle, the first review since 2000. We are using satellite data to look at canopy cover in 2002 and 2007 which will give us great information about the current state of our trees as well as information about recent trends. Due to technology changes, the data won't match precisely with earlier reports, but it will provide a good sense of changes over time.

The results of the assessment are expected later this spring and we will provide the information through our website and community forums.

Stay tuned to www.seattle.gov/trees to learn more as results become available.

Vision for the Future

Seattle's urban forest is a thriving and sustainable mix of tree species and ages that creates a contiguous and healthy ecosystem that is valued and cared for by the City and all of its citizens as an essential environmental, economic, and community asset.



Seattle reLeaf
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Seattle Urban Forest Management Plan

2008 Performance Monitoring

Goal	Objective	Accomplishments	
TREE RESOURCE			
Maintain trees to promote health and longevity	Continue restoration on 262 acres of forested parkland	Restorations continued on 264 acres	
	Begin restoration on an additional 125 acres	122 new acres entered restoration	
	Prune trees on developed parkland on an 18-year cycle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,000 trees/year maintained 	2,043 trees maintained	
	Maintain Dept. of Transportation-managed trees on a 12-year cycle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,000 trees/year maintained 	3,222 trees maintained 92 downtown tree pits were restored to accommodate growing trees, or re-mulched to make them pedestrian safe	
Increase canopy cover and environmental benefits	Clear trees away from power lines along 210 miles of arterial streets for electrical safety and reliability	Pruned trees along 301 miles of power lines	
	Department of Parks & Recreation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet 2 for 1 Tree Replacement Policy 	Planted 1,212 trees 397 trees removed Policy met	
	Dept. of Transportation Plant 900 street trees with Bridging the Gap levy funding Meet 2 for 1 Tree Replacement Policy	Planted 927 trees 16 trees removed Policy met	
	Seattle City Light <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist community members to plant 600 trees through the Urban Tree Replacement Program • Meet 2 for 1 Tree Replacement Policy 	423 trees planted 190 trees removed Policy met	
	Seattle Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Seattle Center Tree Replacement Program • Meet 2 for 1 Tree Replacement Policy 	Planted 50 trees 42 trees removed Policy not met	
	Assist community members to plant 800 trees through the Department of Neighborhoods Tree Fund	378 trees planted 397 water bags distributed to 2007 tree recipients	
	Tree planting totals:		2,990 trees planted (net increase 2,345 trees)

Goal	Objective	Accomplishments
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK		
Improve management of trees on private property through incentives & regulations	Identify and analyze potential regulatory changes to enhance tree preservation and planting on private property.	Analysis was initiated in 2008 and will be continued in 2009 with the incorporation of updated tree canopy cover data
	Release regulatory strategy for public comment, incorporate comment, draft legislation and forward to City Council	Adopted interim tree protection legislation limiting tree removal on private property outside of development
		A permanent regulatory strategy will be released in 2009
Track implementation of the Urban Forest Plan	Monitor performance annually	2007 annual report and 2008 work plan completed
Implement resource management tools	Update and maintain the street tree inventory of 35,000 City-managed trees (4 year process)	Complete
Facilitate interdepartmental cooperation	Convene Urban Forest interdepartmental team monthly and brief Sustainability & Environment sub-cabinet as needed	Urban Forest IDT met regularly and the Growth Management sub-cabinet, Senior Staff and Executive Teams were briefed as needed to provide policy and program direction
COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK		
Enhance awareness of the urban forest as a community resource	Launch Seattle reLeaf campaign with new website and brochure, follow with poster campaign and realtor outreach and articles in City and community newsletters	Campaign launched with website, brochure, poster and bus campaign, and realtor outreach
Increase community engagement in urban forest management	Engage stakeholders on a regular basis in urban forest issues	Seattle reLeaf participated in 12 community events
	Recruit and manage 63,000 hours of volunteer support through the Green Seattle Partnership	A tree blog and ask the expert features were incorporated into the website to engage the community 78,000 volunteer hours donated

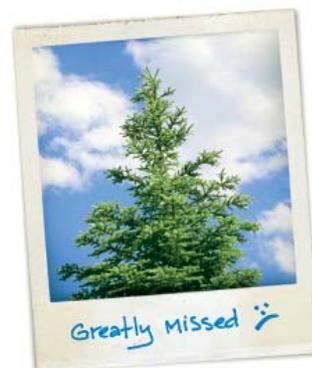
LOST

Tall tree with soft needles, textured bark. Last seen in neighborhood with other leafy companions.

Help reduce the loss of trees in Seattle. Keep your trees and take good care of them. Tree care tips:

Seattle.gov/trees or (206) 615-1668.

Please Help!!!



REWARD! ←

- Charming neighborhoods
- Clean streams
- Fresh clean air
- Chirping birds
- Reduced global warming



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City of Seattle

Over 3,000 Street Trees Planted

Thanks to programs in several City departments and planting by residents, over 3,000 new trees were planted along city streets in 2008. This impressive number includes 927 trees funded by the Bridging the Gap levy, 427 trees planted by neighbors with the support of the Department of Neighborhoods Tree Fund, 423 trees by City Light as they plant appropriate tree species under power lines, 393 trees planted by private citizens, and 613 trees required of private contractors during development projects. Street trees provide our community numerous benefits such as:

- Street trees catch rainwater before it hits our roads and sidewalks reducing runoff
- People are more likely to walk down streets lined with trees which helps keep us healthier and creates opportunities to chat with our neighbors
- Drivers slow down
- Trees capture pollutants and help us breathe easier
- The shade street trees provide over pavement helps keep our neighborhoods cooler in summer
- Healthy mature street trees increase home values

You can learn more about the benefits of street trees at www.naturewithin.info/Roadside/TRB_UrbnStsTrees.pdf

Interim Tree Protection Ordinance

Seattle has adopted legislation to limit tree removal except when associated with a development permit or when the tree is found to be a hazard. The law, Ordinance 122919, prohibits the removal of exceptional trees, which now includes certain groups of trees, and sets a 3-tree limit on trees 6" in diameter or greater that can be removed in any given year from lots 5,000 square feet or more. Tree removal associated with a development permit will continue to be reviewed under existing regulations. This ordinance will remain in effect as the city develops a more comprehensive regulatory framework to protect and enhance our valuable urban tree canopy.

To learn more about the legislation and how it may impact you, visit www.seattle.gov/dpd/news/20090302a.asp



Photo courtesy of EarthCorps

Green Seattle Partnership

For 100 years, our beautiful trees have helped Seattle grow into one of America's most livable cities. Now, our trees and parks need help as invasive plants like ivy and blackberry take over the forested areas of our parks. If we don't restore our forested parklands, we could lose 70% of the trees in those areas in just 20 years.

Seattle residents are taking action to reverse this trend by joining one of the largest public-private forest restoration programs in the country, the Green Seattle Partnership. Individuals, community groups, schools, businesses, the City of Seattle and the Cascade Land Conservancy are working together to restore 2,500 acres of Seattle's parks by 2025. In 2008, volunteers logged nearly 80,000 hours at Green Seattle restoration events. These events protect our forested parks, foster a strong sense of civic pride and community, and provide opportunities to work and learn outdoors.

The Partnership's vision is guided by the many benefits that forested parklands bring us. They help clean the air and water, prevent erosion, retain storm water runoff, provide habitat for urban wildlife, and are essential to vibrant, livable neighborhoods. The Green Seattle Partnership is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect our city's natural legacy for future generations.

It's easy to get involved! To find events at parks in your area, visit www.greenseattle.org.