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URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION COMMENTS ON 2035 DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Dear, XX.

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The Urban Forestry Commission has reviewed the draft 2035 Comprehensive Plan, and we are glad so see the incorporation urban forestry related goals and policies throughout the draft Plan. Seattle's urban forest is an important piece of the City's environmental health, economic vitality and social wellbeing, which are central to Seattle's quality of life and the goals of the 2035 Comprehensive Plan. We have a number of comments and additions we believe will strengthen how the Plan addresses urban forestry issues. Our comments are organized by section and element, beginning with the Executive Summary.

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Draft Plan Executive Summary

Comments

- Add tree canopy as ~~an possible key~~ indicator (page 8) for Comprehensive Plan progress

Introduction

Comments

- Include the Urban Forestry Stewardship Plan under examples of implementing plans (page 16).
- ~~Consider including~~ tree canopy coverage as a key indicator for monitoring progress (page 17).

Growth Strategy Element

Comments on Draft Goals and Policies

- GS 4.2: Better define "public vistas" so as not to compromise the value of trees relative to view. ~~Consider~~ referencing Park's identified public vistas.
- GS 4.5: ~~Consider~~ removing "visual". It is unclear what this means and it may compromise the value of trees in these areas.
- GS 4.7: ~~Consider adding~~ reference to native species and trees, or ~~possibly making~~ the role of native species a separate new policy.

~~ADD JEFF'S COMMENTS~~ Add a point under Natural Environment

- GS 4.8 (or): Promote a healthy urban forest throughout the city including an emphasis on native species and increasing canopy coverage.

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Possible New Policies

- ~~Consider adding~~ policy on urban forest as a significant contributor to Seattle’s natural environment.
- ~~Consider adding~~ policy on promoting native species for protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

Land Use Element

Comments on Draft Goals and Policies

- LU 5.8: Specific mention of tree canopy coverage ~~as a stormwater mitigation strategy~~ ~~a tool that minimizes impacts on the natural environment~~
- LU 5.16: Reference Park’s current identified public vistas on third bullet.
- LU 11: Acknowledge the need to balance industrial uses with environmental natural areas, such as the Duwamish Greenbelt, and environmental justice issues related to adjacent or nearby residential neighborhoods, which often have a higher share of low-income households.
- LU 11.11: ~~Consider removing~~ reference “to a minimum” ~~and replace with “compatible with industrial activities...”~~. The intent of the policy should be on the special needs and flexibility of landscaping requirement in industrial areas. This does not require minimizing standards. Also consider referencing the need to offset impact for adjacent residential areas.
- Add a new item:
- LU 11.27 Recognize the common adjacency between industrial zones and environmentally critical areas, shoreline and habitat by creating voluntary incentives for green infrastructure and buffers at these borders.

Possible New Policies:

- ~~Consider adding~~ policy acknowledging that the large share of canopy coverage is on private property and the importance of maintaining this canopy coverage for reaching the City’s canopy coverage goal.

Transportation Element

Comments on Draft Goals and Policies

- T 2.5 and 2.6: Clarify what “greening” and other uses include. Also, define the “transition zone” or include in the glossary. Clarify if the transition zone is expected to accommodate all the predominate uses listed.
- T 3.15: Include greening as an element that enhances the public realm and creates vibrant public spaces.
- T 4.5: ~~Consider changing~~ to “**Increase** and enhance the public street canopy...”

Environment Element

Comments on Draft Goals and Policies

- E1.1: Add a reference to native trees in addition to thriving and sustainable mix of tree species.

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- E1.2: ~~R~~Consider referencing the Urban Forest Stewardship Plan's goal of 30% canopy coverage by 2037 and a goal of 40% over time.
- E1.7: ~~A~~Consider adding reference to exceptional trees specifically

Possible New Policies

- ~~C~~Consider adding policy related to tree pruning and maintenance...

Parks and Open Space Element

Comments on Draft Goals and Policies

- P1.11: Add qualifier of ensuring protection of environmentally critical areas and wildlife habitat
- P3.3: Include reference to tree pruning and maintenance...