

Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

Peg Staeheli, Chair • Tom Early, Vice-Chair

Gordon Bradley • Leif Fixen • Donna Kostka • Joanna Nelson de Flores • Jeff Reibman • Erik Rundell • Steve Zemke

The Urban Forestry Commission was established to advise the Mayor and City Council concerning the establishment of policy and regulations governing the protection, management, and conservation of trees and vegetation in the City of Seattle

October 1, 2014.

Scott Kubly, Director
Seattle Department of Transportation
700 5th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Scott,

The Urban Forestry Commission would like to welcome you to Seattle and congratulate you on your appointment to lead the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT).

The Commission along with SDOT, OSE and other City agencies, actively participated in the production of the 2013 Urban Forest Stewardship Plan which sets a canopy cover goal of 24% for the Right-of-way (ROW) Management Unit --compared with an overall citywide canopy goal of 30%. The ROW represents 27% of Seattle's land area.

SDOT has been doing great work in support of our urban forest, including updating the Street Tree Ordinance, updating the street tree list and inventory, creating a publicly accessible street tree map, working on the production of the Tree/Sidewalks Operations Plan, getting ISA certified staff, and updating the Right-of-Way Improvement Manual.

Moving forward, the Commission is especially interested in increasing the ROW canopy as a way to create more pedestrian-friendly streets while also mitigating pollution, helping manage urban storm water run-off, and providing habitat. We would like to partner with SDOT to build up the following programs:

- Continued emphasis on transitioning SDOT infrastructure from gray to green in un-used ROW;
- Enhanced tree planting to provide buffers for arterials, school routes, and near senior housing;
- Addressing inequities related to trees in different neighborhoods;
- Invasive removal and stewardship on SDOT ROW;

- Tree planting on Greenways; and
- Increased funding for street tree maintenance and inspection.

The Commission is excited to support your efforts on an ongoing basis on matters related to Seattle's urban forest. We invite you to attend one of our meetings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peg Staeheli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peg Staeheli, Chair
Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

Cc: Barbara Gray, Darren Morgan, Nolan Rundquist, Shane Dewald, Erick McConaghy

Sandra Pinto de Bader, Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator
City of Seattle, Office of Sustainability & Environment
PO Box 94729 Seattle, WA 98124-4729 Tel: 206-684-3194 Fax: 206-684-3013
www.seattle.gov/UrbanForestryCommission