

SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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March 6, 2019

Seattle Park District Board
City Hall
600 4th Ave
Seattle, WA 98124

RE: Cheasty Mountain Bike and Pedestrian Trail Pilot Project

Dear Councilmembers,

Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) briefed the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) about the Cheasty Mountain Bike and Pedestrian Trail Pilot Project in December 2018.

SPR staff mentioned that they will be making adjustments to the pilot as they monitor the project, which is expected to last 15-16 months (the briefing mentioned 16 months, and the [project website](#) states 15 months). Though the project team plans to monitor the project on a quarterly basis, the UFC believes monitoring during winter wet months should take place more often and that such efforts should be fully funded.

The UFC recommends site visits (with photographic documentation) to track change in erosion, tree injuries, hydrology conditions, biodiversity, soil compaction, forest disruption due to off-trail traffic, and homeless encampment activity.

The UFC believes it is important to clearly determine what the goals for a successful pilot are with pre-determined metrics for usage, environmental impacts, desired future condition, etc., and use these metrics to provide objective evaluation tools to design monitoring protocols for future use.

The UFC would also like to recommend adding signage to the trails with SPR contact information for the public to give feedback on the pilot and to report any damages or problems they encounter.

Sincerely,



Sandra Whiting, Vice-Chair

cc: Mayor Jenny A. Durkan, Christopher Williams, Jessica Finn Coven, Michelle Caulfield, Robert Stowers, Jon Jainga, Urban Forestry Management Team, Urban Forestry Core Team, Sara Maxana, Aaron Blumenthal, Eric McConaghy, Yolanda Ho, Amanda Hohlfeld

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