

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

December 3, 2014.

Mayor Ed Murray and Councilmember Sally Bagshaw
Seattle City Hall
600 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98124

RE: Revised Permanent Use Policy for Seattle's Natural Areas and Greenbelts

Dear Mayor Murray and Councilmember Bagshaw,

In response to a request from the Thornton Creek Alliance, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Christopher Williams mentioned that Parks is working on developing a community outreach and engagement process that will provide input to values-based guidelines for the appropriate use of Seattle's natural areas and greenbelts.

Mr. Williams said that Parks hopes to finalize the project plan and schedule in this quarter and expect to ask for community participation beginning in January.

The Commission has contacted Parks staff to request our involvement throughout the policy development process. Seattle's natural areas and greenbelts are an important element of our broader city-wide 30% canopy cover goal as stated in the Urban Forest Stewardship Plan. Preserving wildlife habitat is an equally important goal.

We request your support of our involvement in the Citizen's Committee working on this revised policy as we work together to meet the varying needs of our residents and to maintain the many green infrastructure services provided by Seattle's natural areas.

Sincerely,



Peg Staeheli, Chair
Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

cc: Council President Burgess, Councilmember Clark, Councilmember Godden, Councilmember Harrell, Councilmember Licata, Councilmember Rasmussen, Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Sawant, Jill Simmons, Christopher Williams, Doug Critchfield, Mark Mead, Erik 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