

SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

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March 6, 2019.

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan
Councilmember Debora Juarez
City Hall
600 4th Ave
Seattle, WA 98124

RE: Friends of Discovery Park vegetation management platform

Dear Mayor Durkan and Councilmember Juarez,

Friends of Discovery Park briefed the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) on their efforts to create a [vegetation management platform](#). The platform's foundation is a geographic information system (GIS) that combines multiple sources of information including vegetation management plans, trails management plans, park uses, tree inventory, and ecosystem services. By bringing this information into a single platform, maps can be created and analyzed to get a holistic view of, in this case, Discovery Park's condition, to inform planning and decision-making.

The UFC would like to commend this community effort to show how a single platform can be used to consolidate information gathered by the different City departments, partner NGOs, community groups, educational institutions, and the public.

At present there are a number of online maps for street trees that are being managed by the City. SDOT's [map of street trees](#) and the [Trees for Seattle Map](#) begin to provide what Friends of Discovery Park has done by combining data from SDOT with the tree canopy assessment to provide static maps. These maps do not include the majority of our trees, which are on private property. The task of filling in the data gap for private property is large. Friends of Discovery Park were able to bring in data from multiple sources, so using this platform citywide could help distribute the effort for data gathering and baseline establishment to the community at large and at the same time engage residents.

The UFC supports the Friends of Discovery Park platform approach and encourages the City to consider this as an example of how to bring the different databases the City already has into a single space to support decision-making.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Weston Brinkley'.

Weston Brinkley, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and clearly reads 'Sarah C. Rehder'.

Sarah Rehder

cc: Council President Harrell, Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember Gonzalez, Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Mosqueda, Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Sawant, Christopher Williams, Jessica Finn Coven, Sam Zimbabwe, Mami Hara, Michelle Caulfield, Robert Stowers, Jon Jainga, Urban Forestry Management Team, Urban Forestry Core Team, Garrett Esperum, Sara Maxana, Aaron Blumenthal, Eric McConaghy, Yolanda Ho, Amanda Hohlfeld

Sandra Pinto de Bader, Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator
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