

Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

Matt Mega, Chair • John Small, Vice-Chair • Nancy Bird • Gordon Bradley
John Floberg • John Hushagen • Jeff Reibman • Peg Staeheli

March 2, 2011

Honorable Council President Richard Conlin
Chair, Regional Development & Sustainability Committee
Seattle City Council
PO Box 34025
Seattle, WA 98124

RE: City Council adoption of the Urban Forest Management Plan

Dear Council President Conlin,

In April 2007, the City of Seattle's Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) was created by the City of Seattle's Urban Forest Coalition (now know as the Urban Forest Inter-departmental Team), a group representing nine City departments with tree management or regulatory responsibility. This visionary plan recommends tangible measures to preserve and expand Seattle's urban forest, which has experienced significant decline over the past several decades. The Coalition's objective in this plan was to ensure that Seattle would be worthy of its name as *Emerald City* and "a city among the trees."

The Seattle Urban Forestry Commission was created in 2009 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. The UFMP's overarching goal is to increase city tree canopy from 23 to 30 percent by 2037. In order for the Commission to effectively answer its charge and advise the City on issues related to important initiatives including tree permits, planting programs, and incentives, we respectfully ask for the full support of the City Council by formally adopting the UFMP.

It is the opinion of the Commission that only through a strongly aligned City Council, Mayor's Office, and Urban Forest IDT can we hope to achieve the ambitious goals of the UFMP. We strongly encourage the City Council to adopt the UFMP. If it is in the Council's opinion that a substantive change needs to be made to the document prior to adoption, please articulate this need to the Urban Forestry Commission as soon as possible.

The Commission is strongly interested in facilitating the inclusion of those changes in the 2012 update of the UFMP so that this update can be formally adopted by Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Mega", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matt Mega, Chair
Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

cc: Diane Sugimura, Jill Simmons, Marshall Foster, Brennon Staley, Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember Burgess, Councilmember Clark, Councilmember Godden, Councilmember Harrell, Councilmember Licata, Councilmember Rasmussen, Councilmember O'Brien, Michael Jenkins, Christa Valles

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