



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Park Commissioners

FROM: Green Seattle Partnership

DATE: September 10, 2015

SUBJECT: 10 Year Update to the Green Seattle Partnership Strategic Plan

### **Information Only**

No formal action is requested. This is an opportunity for the Commissioners to be informed of the progress on the 10 year update to the Green Seattle Partnership Strategic Plan.

### **Background**

Green Seattle Partnership (GSP) was formed in 2004 by a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Seattle and Forterra (formerly the Cascade Land Conservancy) as a one-time, 20 year investment in the restoration of our forested parklands. Seattle's forested parklands were in danger of disappearing as a result of invasive plants dominating the understory, aging and dying forest canopies, and a diminished seedbank for regeneration of a native conifer forest. 2015 marks the program's half way point with an opportunity to update the plan, celebrate our accomplishments, and plan for the future.

Green Seattle Partnership's vision is to promote a livable city by re-establishing and maintaining healthy urban forests. By including a heavy reliance on community support to achieve this goal, GSP facilitates tens of thousands of volunteer hours per year, fostering a sense of ownership and community among volunteers. These volunteers become stewards of Seattle's forested parklands, ensuring a legacy of preservation.

The 10 year update will cover a broad range of topics including:

- Describing GSP's vision, goals and objectives
- Highlighting GSP's accomplishments to date
- Explanation of GSP's restoration strategies and how they have been refined over 10 years of implementation
- Updating the organization as a result of Seattle Park District funding
- Tracking and reporting of restoration activities
- Analysis of what is left to meet GSP's vision
- Identifying opportunities for improvements and considering limitations to the program
- Addressing the Race and Social Justice Initiative goals within the program
- Establishing the six year capital improvement plan (CIP) as well as long-term funding for maintaining restored sites

**Public Process**

Seattle Parks and Recreation has hired HBB Landscape Architecture to assist with the process of public involvement. To date, a number of workshops have been conducted with GSP oversight and advisory committees. Two surveys were also conducted for the advisory committees and the GSP Forest Stewards. An additional public survey is currently in progress. The public survey will be advertised through partner email lists, at City Neighborhood District Council meetings, and outreach to specific stakeholder groups or target audiences, such as youth organizations. Presentations will also be made to the Urban Forestry Commission, Seattle Park District Oversight Committee and at all the City Neighborhood District Councils to provide additional input into the plan update.

**Funding**

Funding will be from the Seattle Park District beginning in 2016 for the capital improvement portion of restoration. CIP portions include actively removing invasive plants, planting native plants, and establishing new plantings. Long term funding of on-going maintenance for GSP sites already in restoration has currently not been established.

**Schedule**

The 10 year update is anticipated to be completed during the first quarter of 2016. It is currently in the draft stage, and community participation will be ongoing through October.

**Additional information**

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<http://greenseattle.org/about-us/20-year-strategic-plan/>