

SEATTLE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Weston Brinkley (Position #3 – University), Chair • Joanna Nelson de Flores (Position #7 – NGO), Vice-Chair
Steve Zemke (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • Sandra Whiting (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist)
Sarah Rehder (Position #4 – Hydrologist) • Stuart Niven (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA)
Michael Walton (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA) • Andrew Zellers (Position #8 – Development)
Craig Johnson (Position #9 – Economist) • Bonnie Lei (Position #10 – Get Engaged)
Whit Bouton (Position #11 – Environmental Justice) • Jessica Jones (Position #12 – Public Health)
Shari Selch (Position #13 – Community/Neighborhood)

The Urban Forestry Commission was established 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

December 12, 2018

Meeting Notes

Seattle Municipal Tower, Room 2750 (27th floor)
700 5th Avenue, Seattle

Attending

Commissioners

Weston Brinkley – chair
Stuart Niven
Sarah Rehder
Shari Selch
Michael Walton
Sandra Whiting
Steve Zemke

Staff

Sandra Pinto de Bader - OSE

Guests

Elijah Selch

Public

None

Absent- Excused

Whit Bouton
Bonnie Lei
Jessica Jones
Craig Johnson
Joanna Nelson de Flores
Andrew Zellers

NOTE: Meeting notes are not exhaustive. For more details, listen to the digital recording of the meeting at: <http://www.seattle.gov/urbanforestrycommission/meetingdocs.htm>

Call to order

Weston called the meeting to order

Public comment

None

Letter or recommendation RE: Green Factor DR update – continues and possible vote

Michael walked the group through the changes made to the letter since the last meeting. The UFC discussed the draft and made amendments.

ACTION: A motion to approve the Green Factor Director’s Rule letter of recommendation as amended was made, seconded, and approved.

UFC Chair and Vice-Chair elections

ACTION: Commissioners voted to re-elect Weston as next year's Chair and Sandra Whiting as Vice-Chair.

UFC 2018 annual report and 2019 work plan – initial discussion

Sandra PdB will send out Annual Report text for Commissioners to review and comment. Include in January meeting to vote. UFC will discuss 2019 work plan at first January meeting.

King Conservation District – Brandy Reed (KCD)

King Conservation District is a special purpose district. They get funding through rates and charges to the different municipalities in the county (currently there is a \$8 - \$10 rate per parcel). The programs and services funded through these rates are:

- Rural and Urban Forest Stewardship
- Shoreline & riparian habitat improvement
- Rural farm management services & community agriculture
- Member jurisdiction and regional food systems grants, and
- Landowner incentive program cost-share.

The work KDC does includes:

- Member jurisdiction grant program. In Seattle they have been providing Seattle Community Partnership grants.
- Work on shorelines includes stream and wetlands restoration.
- Engagement of urban aquatic resources landowners through 15 workshops since 2016 with 239 participants from Bellevue, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kent, Kirkland, Maple Valley, Newcastle, Redmond, Renton, Seattle, Shoreline, and Woodinville.
- Landowner Incentive Program: provides financial incentives through cost-share and technical assistance.
 - o Cost-share ratio: 50%-90%
 - o \$10,000 - \$30,000
 - o 236 King County landowners with cost-share contracts
 - o 344 best management practices implemented
 - o \$1,965,000 invested in local conservation
- Better forests
 - o Urban forest health management
 - 28% canopy coverage in Seattle
 - 63% in Single Family residential areas
 - o Rural forest health management
 - Help with addressing issues such as invasive species and declining canopy
 - Forest stewardship planning services
 - 51 forest stewardship plans
 - 39 technical assistance services
 - 6 coaching forest stewardship courses
 - 3 forest filed days
 - 9 twilight tours
 - Forest health prescriptions and cost-share
 - 31 landowners with forest health cost-share contracts
 - 19 landowners with installed cost-share projects
 - 294 acres of small lot private forest land treated
 - Over 51,000 trees and shrubs planted

- Over \$500,000 invested
- Firewise
 - National program on fire risk management, education, technical assistance and implementation.
 - One of the communities where they've worked is Vashon Cohousing.
 - Provides Vashon Cohousing with the tools for monitoring eight acres of forest and four acres of landscaping around homes. The program identified priority measures for protecting properties and support for projects that would not have been implemented otherwise.
- Work plan priorities
 - Support forest stewardship public-private partnerships
 - Collaborate with jurisdictions on forest stewardship priorities
 - Assist neighborhoods and residents
- Urban Forest health management project priority
 - 57.5 acres treated/planted
 - 19 tree canopy assessments
 - Over 62,000 trees and shrubs planted
 - 26 jurisdictions engaged
 - 5 on-the-ground Forest Stewardship Projects

Projects with Seattle:

- Deadhorse canyon – engage residences abutting Green Seattle Partnership (GSP) focus areas.
 - Backyard forest stewardship pilot projects.
 - Produced a backyard forest stewardship toolkit and guide.
- Cheasty Greenspace/Seattle Housing Authority (SHA)
 - SHA's property adjacent to GSP investment locations. Created a forest stewardship plan.

Other projects KCD is working on:

- South King County Tree Canopy Assessment
- Promoting Stormwater benefits from urban canopy cover in Puget Sound

NOTE: Meeting notes are not exhaustive. For more details on the presentation, specially the Q&A section, please listen to the digital recording of the meeting at:

<http://www.seattle.gov/urbanforestrycommission/meetingdocs.htm>

Public comment

None

New Business

Steve – Talked to Noah (CM Johnson's staff) about the tree regulations update and was informed that it is no longer a Q1 2019 priority.

Adjourn

Public input

Full public input is posted on the notes on line.

From: ReVisioning Northgate <aldnorthgate@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, December 06, 2018 5:33 PM

To: rob.johnson@seattlegov.org; mike.o'brien@seattlegov.org; lisa.herbold@seattlegov.org; lorena.gonzález@seattlegov.org; Juarez, Debora <Debora.Juarez@seattle.gov>; teresa.mosqueda@seattlegov.org; Susan Ward <aldnorthgate@gmail.com>; Jeff Laufle - Thornton Creek Alliance (lauflejl@comcast.net) <lauflejl@comcast.net>; John Lombard <jlombardwriter@gmail.com>; Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>

Subject: Tree Code: SMC 25.11 and Council's proposed changes

December 6, 2018

Dear Councilmembers Johnson, Herbold, O'Brien, and González,
City Council Planning, Land Use & Zoning Committee

ReVisioning Northgate is a community group dedicated to advocating for a healthy, safe, and livable Northgate with its surrounding neighborhoods. We applaud the effort to build a stronger and more enforceable, city-wide Tree Code, SMC 25.11, and of expanding protections to trees on private land. We urge the Council to keep tree preservation as the uppermost goal in each step of revising the Code, and to make this goal explicit in the final ordinance language.

RVN strongly supports the following:

- Greater emphasis must be given to protecting large trees and groves of trees
- The category of "Exceptional Trees" should be maintained, with modifications specified by the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission on November 18, 2018
- New legislation require developers and builders work with City tree experts to adjust plans that would require tree removal, with the goal of preserving trees
- Tree service providers must be made liable for violations of protections
- Removed trees should be replaced on or near the original site, in the same block or neighborhood when possible
- Better definitions of hazardous trees should be written, with review of these claims provided by the City
- A City corps of tree experts should be funded to enforce protections, review claims, and work with builders towards the preservation of existing trees.

We urge adoption of several of the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission's suggested revisions from its letter to you dated August 31, 2018, and its responses to questions from the Council on November 18, 2018, especially that:

- The prohibition on cutting Exceptional trees be maintained: RVN also urges limiting exceptions to the prohibition, such as that of "precluding full development potential"
- The measurement unit for permitting be based on size and species, not on canopy cover
- Exceptional trees include all those greater than 24" DBH , with the exception of invasive non-native species
- "Habitat value and and ecosystem service provided" be added to protection criteria
- All trees removed a year prior to a property's sale be considered to be under the ordinance, to discourage cutting prior to the new protections taking effect
- The ratio of replacement be greater than 1:1, to better ensure survival of at least one replacement, and depend on species, increasing with size of the tree removed
- Best-management practices of fall/winter planting and 5 year watering of replacement trees be mandated
- No more than 2 trees per year be removed from a developed lot
- Require a longer posting period: RVN suggests 3 weeks

- On a single family lot where a unit is to be constructed, the minimum number of trees required by SMC 23.44.008 be maintained, and this requirement be extended to other zones.

We agree with Councilmember O'Brien that preservation of and replacement with native hardwoods and conifers should be prioritized. We also urge that if trees are to be removed, they will be replaced by trees that will reach the same size or greater.

The reduction in diameter (DBH) of protected trees from 12" to 6" is greatly appreciated. As is the requirement to make tree service providers sign a statement affirming they know the rules.

We urge that new legislation require developers and builders work with City experts to adjust plans that would require tree removal, with the goal of preserving trees.

The removal of invasive, habitat-threatening trees should not require fees for permitting. These should be listed as exempt, and should include such species as *Ilex aquifolium* (English holly) and *Laburnum anagyroides* (chain tree).

And finally, RVN questions whether the fee to be charged for removing non-hazardous trees is a sufficient deterrent, or if it should be increased. At the same time, we question whether property owners should be charged for removing a truly hazardous tree, if experts agree it should be removed. The rules should be reasonable, and not simply a mechanism to generate fees and encourage non-compliance.

Trees are one of our city's greatest resources. They are our allies in cleaning the air, cooling our increasingly warm, dry summers, controlling storm run-off, and soothing our collective and individual souls. They are indispensable to our streets and neighborhoods. They define the character of Seattle.

Thank you.

ReVisioning Northgate
Susan Ward, Chair

From: Mira Latoszek <mira.latoszek@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 1:23 PM

To: Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Steve Zemke <stevezemke@msn.com>

Subject: Re: New documents posted on the Urban Forestry Commission website

Thank you for sending the recording of the December 5th meeting. We appreciate the time that the commissioners took to listen and consider the various issues regarding the Trails proposal at Cheasty Greenspace. We also appreciate the opportunity to speak at the meeting. Please share this with the rest of the commissioners.

I would like to share and highlight the maps from the DNS document for this project (http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/ParksAndRecreation/Projects/Cheasty/Cheasty_SEPA_DNS.pdf). The first shows that geological hazardous areas, including known and potential landslides) and steep slopes of Cheasty. The second shows the wetlands, wetland buffers, watercourses, exceptional and non-exceptional trees and the proposed trail alignment.

We believe that the proposed trails to the north of the large wetland are completely not appropriate for the following reasons:

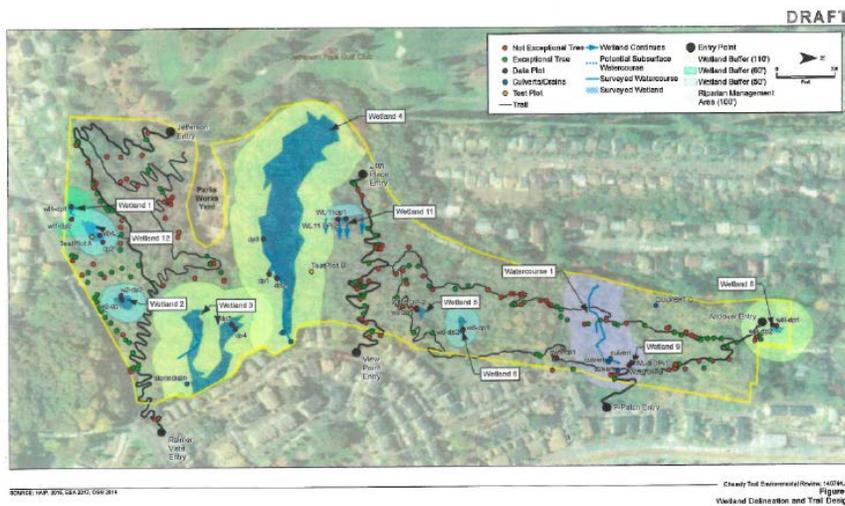
- The trails that are in the steepest slope areas traversing through potential slide zones.

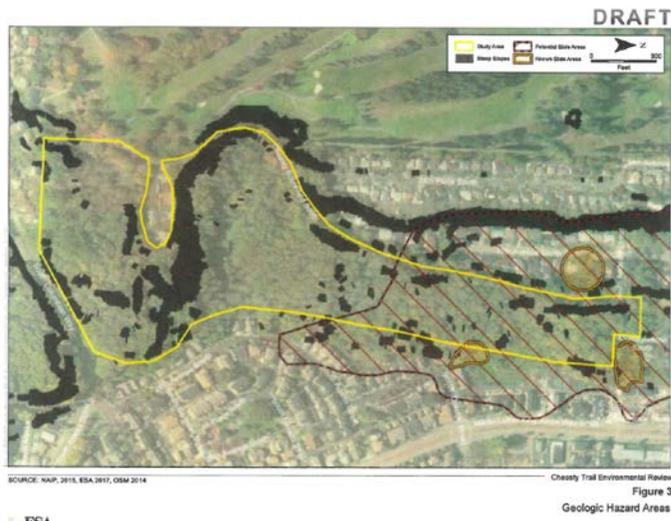
- The trails cross a surveyed water course and it's associated buffer zone which requires the construction of bridge structures.
- The trail from the 24th Place Entry to the View Point entry is very close to the large wetland which has the most intact wildlife habitat. The potential for damage from mountain bikes going off trail toward the wetland would potentially cause the greatest damage to the wildlife and native plant areas of Cheasty Greenspace.
- The trails in this area have many trees along the alignment. Even if the trail goes around the trees, the proximity of the trail to the trees will require clearing around the root zone of the trees. The potential for damage to the trees due to changes in the hydrology and the mechanical damage from mountain biking is too great.

We recommend that if the proposal is to go forward, it should be limited to a portion of the trails to the south of the Parks Work Yard from the Jefferson entry. Additionally, the Parks Department should analyze rerouting the portion of the trail that goes between Wetland 2 and Wetland 3. This is the steepest part of this area as evidenced by how the trail zigzags between these wetlands toward the Rainier Vista Entrance. There is very little space between the buffer areas of these wetlands. The trails could instead be connected to an entry point at Columbian Way between the buffer areas of Wetland 2 and Wetland 12.

Thank you for considering these ideas for protecting this unique riparian environment of South East Seattle.

Mira Latoszek
Friends of Cheasty member





From: Mira Latoszek <mira.latoszek@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:35 PM

To: Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Steve Zemke <stevezemke@msn.com>

Subject: Cheasty Greenspace Vegetation Management Plan and Maps + SPR Bicycle Use Policy

Please share with the other commissioners.

As I mentioned in my comments at the December 5th meeting, the vegetation management plan for Cheasty and other parks is missing from the SPR website. If you look at the Planning and Policy Document Library page (<https://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/policies-and-plans/planning-and-policy-document-library>), you'll notice that the public can download any of the documents except for the vegetation management plans. These were available on the SPR website in the past and I downloaded the VMP and associated maps for Cheasty Greenspace. These are attached in case you find them useful.

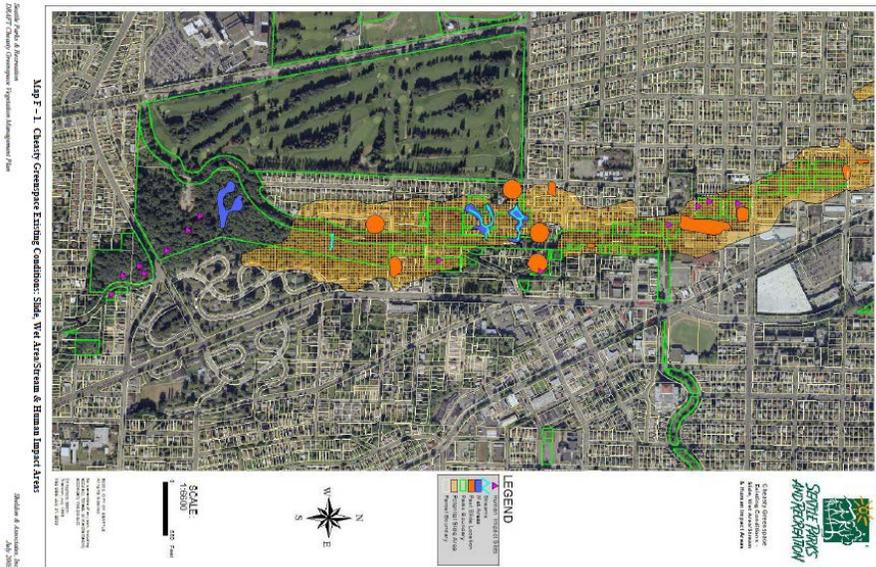
Also attached is the SPR Bicycle Use Policy document which is not mentioned in the Planning and Policy Document Library page. The bicycle use policy was developed to prevent damage:

"This policy has been developed because bicycling on park roads, trails, and within park areas has become an extremely popular recreational activity. The increasing use of mountain bicycles has created a need to develop management policies to reduce conflicts between other park users, and reduce negative impacts on Parks' resources.

Sensitive Natural areas such as: Ravenna, Carkeek, Woodland Park, Seward, Schmitz, Washington Park Arboretum, Water Front Trail, Camp Long, Discovery Park and Interlaken have been damaged by excessive bicycle use and must be protected."

I request that these documents be added to the Urban Forestry Commission website so that the public is able to have access to them.

Thank you,
Mira Latoszek



Map 5-1: Quantitative Estimating Conditions. SRA, WA State Survey & Mapping Agency. Seattle Parks and Recreation. 2008.

Department Policy & Procedure

Subject: **Bicycle Use**

Number: 060-P 7.11.1

Effective August 25, 1995

Supersedes:

Approved: *[Signature]* Department: Parks and Recreation

Page 1 of 3

PREFACE

This policy has been developed because bicycling on park roads, trails, and within park areas has become an extremely popular recreational activity. The increasing use of mountain bicycles has created a need to develop management policies to reduce conflicts with other park users and reduce negative impacts on park resources. Sensitive natural areas, such as: Ravenna, Carkeek, Woodland Park, Seward, Schmitz, Washington Park Arboretum, Waterfront Trail, Camp Long, Discovery Park, and Interlaken have been damaged by excessive bicycle use and must be protected.

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To establish a policy for responsible bike use in Seattle Parks system.

2.0 ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED

2.1 Department of Parks and Recreation

3.0 REFERENCES

4.0 POLICY

4.1 Bicycles will be allowed in Seattle parks on roads and paths designed for shared use (60 inches in width), or where high use will not adversely impact sensitive environments.

4.2 All bicycles are prohibited off roads and paths in environmentally sensitive or natural areas within Seattle parks such as wetlands, streams, meadows, newly forested sites or steep slopes where bicycle use could cause damage to plants, soils, streams or natural elements of the park land.

4.3 Bicycle use is prohibited in Camp Long.

- 060-P 7.11.1
Page 2
- 4.4 Bicycles will be operated at a safe speed, especially when passing other users, and in a responsible manner as determined by Department staff. The code of behavior or conduct contained in this policy is required of all wheeled device operators using Seattle park lands.
- 4.5 Bicycles are restricted to paved surfaces only at Discovery Park, Schmitz Park, and in the Washington Park Arboretum.
- 4.6 Bicycle use in Ravenna, Carkeek, Seward, Interlaken, Lincoln and Woodland Parks, and in natural areas and greenbelts will be restricted to trails 60 inches wide or greater.
- 4.7 Bicycle riding is restricted from docks, floats and connecting ramps, including the Arboretum Waterfront Trail, because of danger to the bicyclist as well as the general public using those facilities, and deterioration of the waterfront wood chip trail surface.
- 4.8 The Superintendent has the discretion to designate specific trails as either limited to pedestrian use only or allowed for pedestrian and bicycle use, regardless of trail width. The Superintendent can only do so after public review by the Park Board.
- 4.9 This policy is not intended to prohibit the use of wheelchairs by disabled persons or strollers anywhere in parks. Bicycle users may dismount and walk bicycles on established trails where bicycle use is prohibited.
- 5.0 DEFINITIONS**
- 5.1 Bicycles or any wheeled, non-motorized device which is operator-propelled and transports the operator on land. Examples include, but are not limited to bicycles (mountain bicycles), tricycles, quacycles, and scooters.
- 5.2 Bicyclist Code of Behavior: Sections of the National Off-Road Bicycle Association (NORBA) in their "Off-Road Cyclist's Code":
- Always yield the right of way - even if, at times, it seems inconvenient.
 - Pass with care - let others know of your presence well in advance.
 - Stay on permitted trails - riding cross-country damages the landscape.
 - Control your speed - safe speeds are relative to the terrain and your experience as a rider.

Don't litter - pack out what you pack in.

Other guidelines are:

Ride within your capabilities.

Walk your bike in congested areas.

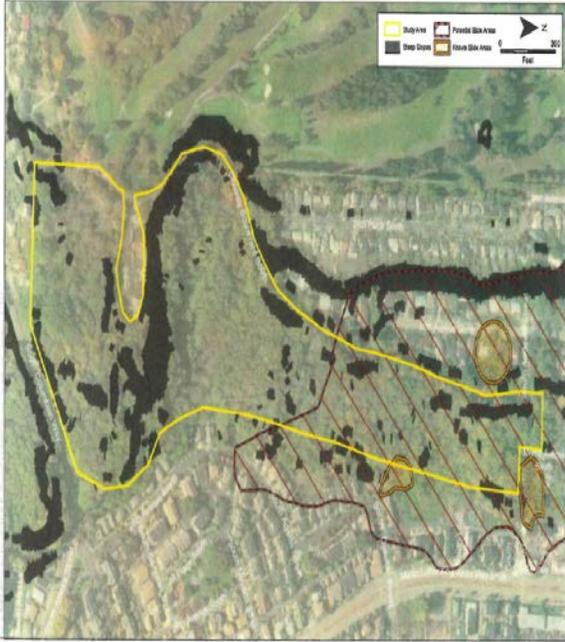
Obey bicycle and other regulatory signs.

Supervise and instruct youngsters in the proper techniques of cycling.

6.0 RESPONSIBILITY

- 6.1 It is the responsibility of all Department of Parks and Recreation staff to monitor and ensure these policies are carried out. Each affected Director will assign staff to inspect impacted parks and recommend appropriate actions to the Superintendent including closure of an area or park.
- 6.2 The Park Resource Managers are responsible to have signs made and installed as needed, to control and direct bicycle use in parks.
- 6.3 The Recreation Information Office will keep a log of complaints involving bicycles and report to Park Resource Managers particular problems and trends.
- 6.4 Prior to closing any new park or trails to bicycle use, the Superintendent will notify the Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board, the Seattle area mountain bicycle clubs and interested community groups. Also, the Park Board will hold a public hearing prior to the Superintendent taking such action.
- 6.5 It is the responsibility of the Engineering and Design section to prepare a bicycle use sign manual with layouts for standard signs. The warehouse shall stock an inventory of standard bicycle use signs.

DRAFT



SOURCE: MAP 2718, ESA 2410, DSM 2714

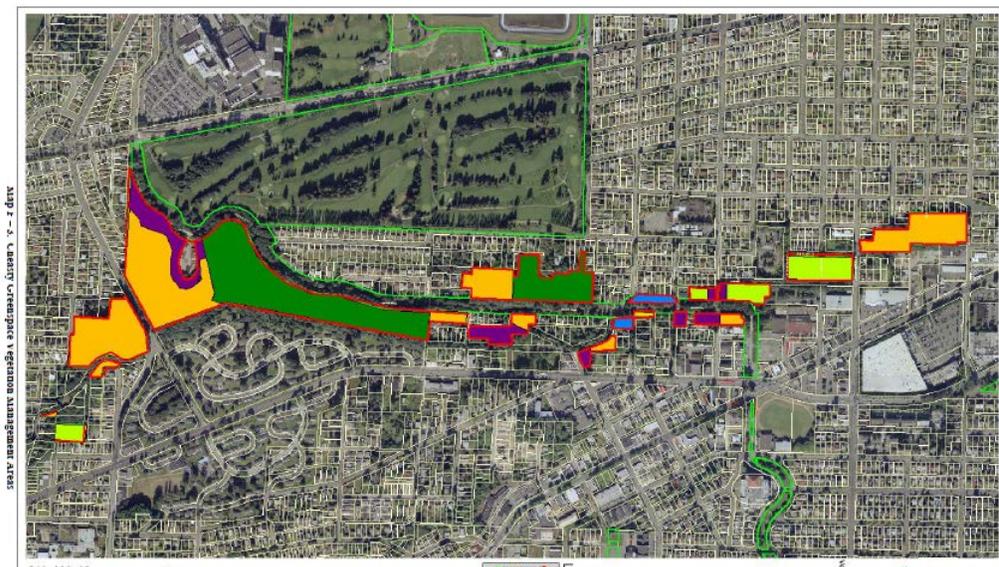
Choate, Todd Environmental Review

Figure 3

Geologic Hazard Areas



Seattle Parks & Recreation
Department of Community Development
Department of Parks and Recreation



Map 7 - 2 - Utility Corridors Vegetation Management Areas

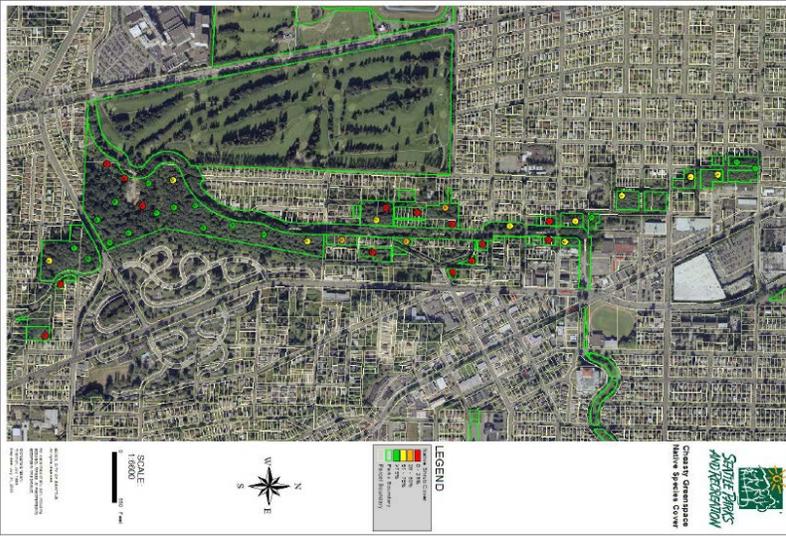
Shawhan & Associates, Inc.
July 2009



LEGEND

- High Priority Vegetation Management Areas
- Medium Priority Vegetation Management Areas
- Low Priority Vegetation Management Areas
- Other Vegetation Management Areas





Map F - 4. Chertsey Greenpark North Specific Core

South West of London
2007/7 Chertsey Greenpark North Specific Core
Mole Valley District Council
2007



Map F - 4. Chertsey Greenpark North Specific Core

South West of London
2007/7 Chertsey Greenpark North Specific Core
Mole Valley District Council
2007



Map F - 8. Chertsey Greenpark Existing Vegetation Characteristics by Management Area

South West of London
2007/7 Chertsey Greenpark Existing Vegetation Characteristics by Management Area
Mole Valley District Council
2007

From: Mira Latoszek <mira.latoszek@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 3:41 PM

To: Pinto de Bader, Sandra <Sandra.Pinto_de_Bader@Seattle.gov>; Steve Zemke <stevezemke@msn.com>

Subject: Re: New documents posted on the Urban Forestry Commission website

Also, please note that the Cheasty Greenspace Vegetation Management Plan identifies the large wetland and the area to the north of it as "Quality Habitat" (please see the attached map). This is another reason to avoid putting trails through this area. Quality habitat should be kept intact.

Thank you,
Mira Latoszek

