



City of Seattle
Urban Forestry Commission

Weston Brinkley (Position #3 – University), Chair
Sarah Rehder (Position #4 – Hydrologist), Vice-chair
Julia Michalak (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • **Elby Jones** (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist - ISA)
Stuart Niven (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • **Michael Walton** (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)
Joshua Morris (Position #7 – NGO) • **David Moehring** (Position # 8 – Development)
Blake Voorhees (Position # 9 – Realtor) • **Elena Arakaki** (Position #10 – Get Engaged)
Jessica Hernandez (Position #11 – Environmental Justice) • **Jessica Jones** (Position # 12 – Public Health)
Shari Selch (Position # 13 – Community/Neighborhood)

July 15, 2021.

Mami Hara
Seattle Public Utilities
700 5th Ave
Seattle, WA 98124

RE: SPU Restoration work presentation

Dear Mami,

The Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) would like to extend its gratitude to Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) for its ongoing work in support of Seattle’s Urban Forest. Specifically, the UFC appreciates Josh Meidav recently sharing the work involved in maintaining, restoring, and enhancing the natural area properties that SPU manages in urban areas. These water management sites are critical for stormwater runoff management, especially as climate change intensifies storm events. These sites located throughout the city also provide opportunities for important carbon sequestration, habitat, urban forestry, and public experience elements.

These city-owned sites are opportunity spots, and the UFC encourages leveraging them for providing additional green space and urban canopy where possible. There is an inverse relationship between properties that have been enhanced with public experience amenities and the race demographics, socioeconomic and health priority areas. The UFC recommends the city review the properties beginning with those in the priority areas for opportunities to enhance the sites’ environmental functions to mitigate climate change and to work with the residents to understand what kind of changes could enhance their lived experiences in the neighborhoods.

The UFC would like to see that these sites receive adequate funding such that they can maximize these benefits. These sites can potentially be expanded to support not only SPU’s goals but also the goals of the Green New Deal, the Urban Forest Management Plan, the Climate Action Plan and potentially other programs.

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 appears to read 'Sarah C. Rehder'.

Sarah Rehder, Vice-Chair

cc: Mayor Jenny A. Durkan, Council President Lorena González, CM Lisa Herbold, CM Debora Juarez, CM Andrew Lewis, CM Tammy Morales, CM Teresa Mosqueda, CM Alex Pedersen, CM Kshama Sawant, CM Dan Strauss, Michelle Caulfield, Sharon Lerman, Urban Forestry Management Team, Urban Forestry Core Team, Josh Meidav, Yolanda Ho

Patti Bakker, Interim 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