

# Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

Matt Mega, Chair • John Small, Vice-Chair • Nancy Bird • Gordon Bradley  
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May 13, 2011

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

RE: Community Tree Planting and Education Programs Consolidation

Dear Council President Conlin,

The Seattle Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) would like to express its support of the Mayor's proposal to consolidate the City's community tree planting and education programs in the Seattle Public Utilities Department.

The UFC is also supportive of the creation of a new, fully funded, permanent position to implement the consolidated program's work plan. We agree with the City Auditor's findings and recommendation on the importance to achieving the City's urban forestry goals of a full-time community engagement position. According to the Office of City Auditor's recommendation #8 contained in the 2009 Management of City Trees report, "to implement education and outreach activities for the UFMP, the City needs to fund a full-time position to implement education and outreach activities for the Urban Forest Management Plan."

It will be very important for this new position to be an active member of the Urban Forest Interdepartmental team so that the City's community outreach and education efforts related to tree planting can be well coordinated among the several departments with tree responsibilities.

Sincerely,



Matt Mega, Chair  
Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

cc: Mayor Mike McGinn, Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember Burgess, Councilmember Clark, Councilmember Godden, Councilmember Harrell, Councilmember Licata, Councilmember Rasmussen, Councilmember O'Brien, Jill Simmons, Beth Goldberg, Bernie Matsuno, Ray Hoffman, Jorge Carrasco, Peter Hahn, Christopher Williams, Brennon Staley, Michael Jenkins, Christa Valles

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