

Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

Matt Mega, Chair • John Small, Vice-Chair
Gordon Bradley • Tom Early • Leif Fixen • John Floberg • Jeff Reibman • Peg Staeheli

November 7, 2012

Councilmember Tim Burgess
Budget Committee Chair
Seattle City Council
Seattle City Hall
600 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98124

RE: Sustainable Funding for the Green Seattle Partnership

Dear Councilmember Burgess,

On August 8 The Urban Forestry Commission composed the attached letter urging Mayor McGinn and Councilmember Conlin to find a sustainable source of funding for the Green Seattle Partnership. Today you have before you just such a proposal.

Green sheet 28-3-A-1 describes a 0.8% increase in drainage rates dedicated to funding the Green Seattle Partnership. The rate increase is projected to generate up to \$500,000 per year to support the Green Seattle Partnership's urban forest restoration work that will directly support SPU's watershed enhancement efforts. The Urban Forestry Commission supports this proposal as one component of a long-term sustainable funding solution for this exemplary program. The Commission would support a greater increase in drainage rate to bring in a total of \$1 million dollars per year through the rate, in addition to the \$500,000 of new REET funds already programmed for the Green Seattle Partnership in the Mayor's budget proposal.

Seattle's urban forests provide extensive benefits to the City and Seattle residents. Perhaps the most significant of these is the capture and retention of storm water, saving the City an estimated \$9 million per year. Investing drainage rate revenue in green infrastructure such as storm water retention makes good business sense.

The Green Seattle Partnership is a model of effective cooperation between government, the private sector, non-profits and resident volunteers. The City's investments have been leveraged by countless volunteer hours and the matching investments of our partners. Now, the Green Seattle Partnership needs new and sustainable funding sources to maintain the long term goal of restoring all of Seattle's forested parks.

For these reasons, and those explained in our previous letter, the members of the Urban Forestry Commission urge your support for this proposal and urge the City to commit funding sources to meet the full funding needs of the Partnership to meet the original goals of the program.

Thank you,



Matt Mega
Urban Forestry Commission Chair



Jeff Reibman
Urban Forestry Commissioner

cc: Mayor Mike McGinn, Council President Clark, Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember Godden, Councilmember Harrell, Councilmember Licata, Councilmember Rasmussen, Councilmember O'Brien, Jill Simmons, Christopher Williams, Nancy Ahern, Leah Tivoli, Miles Mayhew, Mark Mead, Joanna Nelson de Flores, Michael Jenkins, Christa Valles

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