Keep the Emerald City Green
Urban Forest Stewardship Plan
2015 Progress Report

Greening Georgetown

Seattle's Urban Forestry Team implemented two creative tree planting projects in Georgetown in response to community concerns about air quality and a lack of trees and green space.

SDOT removed pavement and planted 16 street trees on three blocks along Corson Avenue. SDOT amended poor soils along E Marginal Way with the help of a donation of 100 cubic yards of compost from Cedar Grove's, a local composting facility that diverts organic waste from landfills.

With a facility in Georgetown, Cedar Grove recycles some 45,000 tons of Seattle's organic waste annually. Seattle's food and yard waste are nurturing trees and helping to clean the air in Georgetown, creating a closed loop system.

Increasing Access to Trees for Neighborhoods

Seattle believes that a healthy forest should be accessible to all. City government strives to ensure that urban forestry work is equitable by engaging people from all communities and striving for equitable geographic distribution of efforts and investments. City staff examines urban forestry work to find new ways to engage underserved communities, and to identify and address unintended consequences.

One example of this work is the Trees for Neighborhoods project pilot effort to assist elderly and disabled residents in planting new trees with the help of volunteers. Trees for Neighborhoods has helped thousands of Seattle residents plant trees over the past seven years. However, there are barriers to participation for some due to physical or other limitations. Trees for Neighborhoods staff helped residents identify the appropriate site, tree species, and locate possible utility conflicts. In addition to the free trees, water bags and mulch were provided free through the project. Trained volunteers arrived with shovels in hand to plant the trees and teach the residents how to water and care for it. The project has received very positive feedback, and we hope to expand this work in 2016.

Seattle Urban Forest Management Plan
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Strategy	2015 Actions (Lead Department)	Accomplishments
COMMUNITY APPROACH		
Inspire, inform, and engage the community in active stewardship of Seattle's urban forest	Strengthen public outreach, education, and engagement, building on efforts already underway. (reLeaf, Parks)	Engaged 2,235 people through Seattle reLeaf; held 50 public events; addressed 390 technical assistance requests; launched monthly e-newsletter to 854 people. Parks held over 1,400 restoration events with GSP
	Create a brand to encompass all interdepartmental urban forestry work, to replace reLeaf (reLeaf)	Completed design; brand to launch in 2016
	Leverage BTG planting program to educate public about tree benefits (SDOT)	Expanded outreach materials to address the benefits of trees
	Update City urban forestry websites through inter-departmental effort to ensure a coordinated approach and public usability (reLeaf, SDOT, SCL, OSE)	City departments are waiting for the overall City of Seattle website overhaul before working on their individual sites. 18,770 users on Seattle reLeaf website
	Maintain outreach and education programs provided by the Green Seattle Partnership (Parks, SPU, OSE)	Held 14 continuing ed trainings for Forest Stewards and one Forest Steward orientation. Engaged with 52 schools
	Provide volunteer stewardship opportunities through Green Seattle Partnership, "Friends of" groups, Tree Ambassador, and other programs (Parks, SPU, OSE, reLeaf)	Supported 1,800 hours of volunteer work through Seattle reLeaf and over 73,000 volunteer hours through GSP
	Work closely with the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) on development of policies and programs to implement and achieve UFSP goals. (OSE, IDT)	The Urban Forestry Team briefed the UFC on a diverse set of issues including the Arboretum multi-use trail, Cheasty Greenspace, green stormwater infrastructure, Parks' pruning for view policy, Parks supplemental use guidelines for natural areas/green belts, Freight Master Plan, Major Institution Master planning, and the Green Seattle Partnership strategic plan update
	reLeaf to coordinate departmental participation in 2015 Arbor Day. (reLeaf/SDOT/SPU/Parks/SCL/OSE)	75 participants and nine partner organizations came together to plant five trees on Arbor Day in Georgetown's Oxbow Park; efforts led by Seattle reLeaf with support from SDOT, Parks, OSE, and SCL
ECOLOGICAL APPROACH		
Understand the character and complexity of the urban forest resource	Explore options for canopy cover assessment (OSE, reLeaf)	Worked with University of Vermont on a simple canopy cover assessment. Results will be validated with 2016 assessment
	Work with local universities and research institutions to pursue the Research Agenda. (OSE, reLeaf)	OSE and Parks sponsored UW/Plant Amnesty's Urban Forestry Symposium. The 2015 agenda was focused on trees and health
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT APPROACH		
Coordinate inter-departmental and inter-agency communication, cooperation, and decision-making	Convene Urban Forest Interdepartmental Team (IDT) as the group primarily responsible for implementing the Urban Forest Stewardship Plan (UFSP) through the work of the represented departments. (OSE)	The Urban Forest IDT met monthly and worked on several issues including revising the City's Two-for-One Tree Replacement Policy, improving coordination and building stronger interdepartmental partnerships.
	Explore options for dedicated funding sources to provide alternative funding to supplement General Fund revenues for all departments (OSE, IDT)	Parks obtained WA State DNR grant to begin working on a tree inventory. SDOT's new Move Seattle Levy provides funding for a third tree crew, landscape maintenance and tree replacement programs

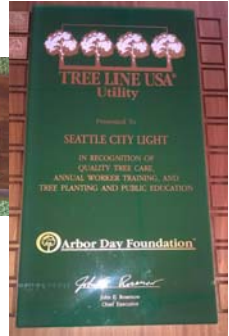| Strategy	2015 Actions (Lead Department)	Accomplishments
<td colspan="3" align="center">**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT APPROACH**</td>
Coordinate interdepart-mental and interagency communication, cooper-ation, and decision-making (continues)	Coordinate urban forestry work in the Duwamish area (reLeaf / UF IDT)	Worked with local partner organizations to focus Arbor Day and planting efforts in South Park and Georgetown (reLeaf/IDT). OSE and SDOT partnered up to remove pavement and improve soil to plant street trees next to Oxbow Park and along East Marginal Way. SCL trimmed 12 miles for safety and reliability of the grid in Georgetown and South Park
	Develop a monitoring framework and robust set of indicators to track progress on achieving UFSP goals (OSE, reLeaf)	Worked with a consultant to produce a monitoring framework for the UFSP
	Monitor UFSP performance and issue an annual report (OSE)	Completed the 2014 UFSP annual progress report
Preserve, restore, and enhance the urban forest	Produce the Street Tree Master Maintenance Plan (SDOT)	SDOT developed the Street Tree Master Maintenance Plan that will be implemented over the next nine years
	Trees planted and maintained by the City: Plant two trees for each tree removed across all departments. (UF IDT) Plant 100 trees in Developed Parks (Parks) Plant 200+ trees with BTG and Capital Projects (SDOT)	The Zoo removed 11 and planted 39 trees Seattle Center removed 4 and planted 17 trees SPU removed 119 and planted 163 trees (+949 with T4N) SDOT removed 83 and planted 258 trees (181 BTG, 77 Capital Projects) Parks removed 414 and planted 162 trees FAS removed 8 and planted 38 trees SCL removed 105 and planted 373 (61 with T4N)
	Trees funded by the City, planted and maintained by residents: Assist community members in residential areas to plant and care for 1,000 trees through the Trees for Neighborhoods (T4N) project. (reLeaf)	Residents planted 1,010 trees with 422 households; trained volunteers to plant 18 trees for 8 elderly and disabled residents
	City-wide tree planting total: 2,060 City-wide tree removals total: __744__ Net gain (loss): 1,316 (Two-for-One tree replacement policy met)	
	Continue restoration of 1,200 acres of forested parkland. Begin restoration on 30 new acres (Parks)	Continued restoration on 1,200 acres and brought 21 new acres into restoration
	Maintain 1,500 trees. Inventory 1,500 trees for risk (Parks) Maintain 3,000 trees (SDOT)	Parks maintained 1991 trees and recorded inspection of 2,940 trees SDOT maintained 3,665 trees
	Prune trees away from 480 miles of electrical distribution for electrical safety and reliability (SCL)	Trimmed 486 miles of electrical distribution for electrical safety and reliability
	Create a GIS layer which identifies heat islands in Seattle to target tree planting and restoration to help mitigate heat islands through opportunities which may include Trees for Neighborhoods, street tree planting, planting in developed parks and boulevards, and Green Seattle Partnership projects (reLeaf, OSE, SDOT, Parks)	The UF IDT worked with City GIS group to produce a heat island effect map. The results will be analyzed as part of the 2016 canopy cover assessment
Regulate private property to ensure minimum standards for care of the urban forest	Work on 10-year update of the Right-of-way Improvements Manual (SDOT)	The ROWIM update process began in 2015 with stakeholder meetings and will continue in 2016

Park(ing) Day

Seattle's Urban Forestry team turned a Georgetown on-street parking spot into a pop-up urban forest as part of Park(ing) Day 2015. The mini urban forest was located in front of All City Coffee (1205 South Vale Street) to illustrate how trees fit into the urban fabric and create a walkable, livable, and healthy city. Department staff were on site all day to talk with community members about efforts to expand and protect our urban forest. The display had 85 visitors talking to staff and learning about the benefits of urban trees. The display included a mini Oxbow Park and provided an opportunity to promote the Arbor Day event.

Arbor Day

The City of Seattle celebrates Arbor Day annually as a way to engage the public and recognize the importance of trees to our community.

This year, Mayor Ed Murray welcomed over 75 community members that attended the event and received Seattle's 30th annual Tree City USA award and 4th Tree Line USA awards from the Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands. Volunteers planted trees, removed invasive plants and participated in a neighborhood Tree Walk.
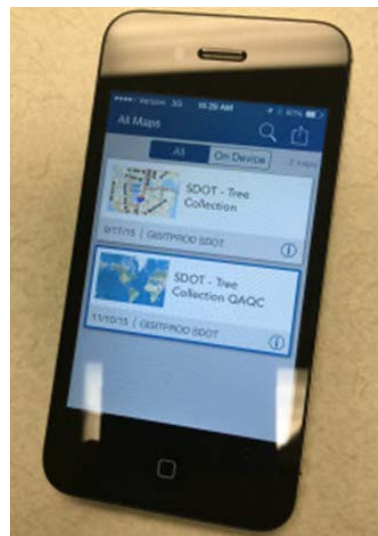

SDOT Tree Collector App

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) needs to keep track of the 40,000+ street trees it maintains, including information about their location, size, and species. SDOT also needs to track the 210,000+ privately maintained street trees which are an important component of our city's urban forest.

To support urban forestry efforts, SDOT developed an app to update the tree database. Staff can now add a tree, delete a tree, or update tree characteristics in the field using an Apple or Android device. Before the app, staff would conduct field checks, fill out a paper form, then return to office to input the data into the City's asset management system.

The app will improve data quality and allow for much more timely data input. With better tree data, SDOT can better project maintenance requirements, create maps and schedules for watering trees, and plan for better species diversity in the future.

The app uses the GPS on Apple or Android devices to easily locate a tree; it's intuitive for first time users, and the business process includes a QA/QC process to ensure data integrity; it also includes drop down menus for 350 tree species and 250 other plants.