

**MATERIAL PREPARED FOR DISCUSSION BY THE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION. THIS DELIBERATIVE DOCUMENT DOES NOT REFLECT THE OPINION OF THE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION AND MAY OR MAY NOT MOVE FORWARD TO VOTE.**

**RECOMMENDATION LETTER**

March 7, 2023

Duwamish Lands (Seattle, WA) - the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) would like to first thank Seattle Parks and Recreation for their Green Seattle Partnership (GSP) update given on February 15, 2023.

UFC found the presentation informative and helpful. Particularly, we would like to highlight and commend Seattle Parks and Recreation on the following actions taken in 2023:

1. Revisioning goals in particular cultivating new partners, building relationships for long term stewardship, and changing GSP governance.
2. Recruiting and retaining 187 active forest stewards.
3. Highlighting the crucial and important role Indigenous Ways of Knowing (IWK) plays in restoration work.
4. Acknowledging that local Indigenous Peoples have been coexisting and stewarding these landscapes since time immemorial.

As UFC, we respectfully recommend the following to Seattle Parks and Recreation:

1. Cite Indigenous scholarship or testimonies that has allowed you all to learn new strategies that are being implemented by Seattle Parks and Recreation.
  - a. This is crucial as these ideas and frameworks have been established by Indigenous peoples and is not a “new” idea developed by Seattle Parks and Recreation.
  - b. This will also provide testimonies or historical accounts to statements such as, “Acknowledge that local Indigenous tribes have practiced forest management since time immemorial.”
2. Strategize and reflect potential conservation approaches that are not as prescriptive.
  - a. This will allow Seattle Parks and Recreation to avoid implementing colonialist approaches to landscapes.
  - b. This will also connect the local conservation efforts with regional-scale initiatives, strategically benefiting the native species and habitats for climate resiliency.

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to make recommendations to the presentation given by Michael Yadrack on February 15, 2023. The UFC extends its gratitude to Seattle Parks and Recreation’s for its leadership and GSP’s continuous effort in stewarding the city’s green spaces.

UFC acknowledges the Coast Salish peoples of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Duwamish, Puyallup, Suquamish, Tulalip and Muckleshoot nations. As a commission, we are continuing our work to build strong and reciprocal relationships with the Indigenous lands and peoples of this city.

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We recognize the critical role of your work in addressing environmental and systemic injustices. We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with you and thank you once again.

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