

**2018-2023 SBP Update  
Reduction Option Template**

<b>Cost Reduction:</b> Green Seattle Partnership #3	<b>Owner:</b> Ben Marre
<b>Focus Area:</b> Protecting Environmental & Public Health	<b>Sponsor:</b> Madeline Goddard
<b>Risk Level:</b> HIGH	<b>Rate Path Option:</b> 5.3

**1. Short summary of the cost reduction (suitable for using with Customer Review Panel and other members of the public, plus additional specifics required for clarity of action).**

This reduction option would decrease the baseline \$100,000 annually by eliminating SPU's contribution to the City's public-private partnership with Forterra to restore forested parklands. The goal of the Green Seattle Partnership (GSP) is to promote a livable city by re-establishing and maintaining healthy forests in Seattle parks. The goal is to restore all 2,500 acres to a healthy state, free of invasive plants.

Each year SPU's contribution (paid to Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation, DPR) completes the initial stage of restoration on five acres of new areas of forested parkland. It also completes the planting and establishment of native vegetation on five additional acres previously cleared of invasive plants each year.

This reduction would likely require GSP to find funding elsewhere or restore fewer acres. It would also end SPU's role on guiding the program through work on the GSP Executive Council, Management Team and other implementation committees.

Working together since the GSP was formed in 2004, the City of Seattle, Forterra and other non-profit partners have built a nationally recognized program and successful urban forest restoration model. SPU was a founding member and has been involved in program Executive Council, Management Team and Implementation Committee since its inception.

**2. What are the impacts or risks of this cost reduction? How will you mitigate these risks?**

Fewer acres of degraded forest will be restored and maintained each year. The urban forest is the cornerstone of the City's green infrastructure. The process of forest growth builds new soils, improves air and water quality, and retains stormwater. Healthy forests provide a direct water quality and flow control benefits that are key to improving the health of our receiving water bodies.

Community members and non-profit organizations may raise concerns about SPU ending its 13-year involvement in the program. GSP logs the most volunteer hours of any volunteer organization in Seattle (more than 70,000 per year). A healthy urban forest is an asset that serves the community in many ways.

**3. Implementation plan and timeline.**

SPU would end program funding and all other involvement starting January 2018.

**4. Budget and FTE changes**

**Changes (relative to baseline)**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
O&M (Non- Labor) Budget Change	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)
CIP Budget Change						
FTE Change						

**5. Identify possible race and social justice implications for this reduction. How will it impact service equity and how will you resolve this impact?**

Establishing greater racial and ethnic diversity among volunteers and Forest Stewards in Seattle's forested parklands is a significant program objective. GSP works with DPR, other partner organizations, and race and social justice specialists in City departments to develop strategies to engage new audiences. The goal is to match the demographics of the Forest Stewards, and eventually all volunteers, to the individual communities where volunteers operate.

Having less overall program resources in GSP may diminish these efforts. Ensuring that alternative funding is available is a way to mitigate this impact.

**6. Describe your plan for evaluating the impacts of this reduction. Include any metrics you have.**

If alternative funding is not obtained, SPU would ask Seattle Parks and Recreation to provide information on the impacts of losing SPU's contribution. This would include data on the number of acres that were not restored or maintained.