



Becca Neumann (Position #4 – Hydrologist), Co-chair
Joshua Morris (Position #7 – NGO), Co-Chair
Laura Keil (Position #10 – Get Engaged), Co-Chair
Julia Michalak (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist) • **Falisha Kurji** (Position #3 – Natural Resource Agency)
Stuart Niven (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • **Hao Liang** (Position #6 – Landscape Architect – ISA)
David Baker (Position # 8 – Development) • **Blake Voorhees** (Position # 9 – Realtor)
Jessica Hernandez (Position #11 – Environmental Justice) • **Jessica Jones** (Position # 12 – Public Health)
Lia Hall (Position #13 – Community/Neighborhood)

April 19, 2023

Michael Yadrick
1600 S. Dakota Street
Seattle, WA 98108

RE: Urban Forestry Commission response to GSP updates briefing

Dear Michael,

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

The UFC found the presentation informative and helpful. Particularly, we would like to highlight and commend SPR 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 SPR:

1. Cite Indigenous scholarship or testimonies that have allowed you all to learn new strategies that are being implemented by SPR.
 - a. This is crucial as these ideas and frameworks have been established by Indigenous peoples and are not “new” ideas developed by SPR.
 - 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. Regarding the potential Discovery Park thinning project, strategize and reflect on potential conservation approaches that are not as prescriptive as the selective removal thinning proposed and allow more natural, wild processes to occur.
 - a. This will allow SPR 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.

The UFC thanks you for giving us the opportunity to make recommendations to the presentation given on February 15, 2023. The UFC extends its gratitude to SPR for its leadership and GSP's continuous effort in stewarding the city's green spaces. 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.

Sincerely,



Josh Morris, Co-Chair



Becca Neumann, Co-Chair



Laura Keil, Co-Chair

CC: Stephanie Shelton, Lisa Ciecko, Jessyn Farrell, Sharon Lerman

Patti Bakker, Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator
City of Seattle, Office of Sustainability & Environment
PO Box 94729 Seattle, WA 98124-4729 Tel: 206-684-3194
www.seattle.gov/UrbanForestryCommission