



# **Urban Forest Stewardship Plan**

**Seattle Public Utilities and Neighborhoods  
Committee Briefing**

January 14, 2014

# UFSP Goals

1. Create an ethic of stewardship
2. Replace and enhance functional benefits
3. Expand canopy cover to 30% by 2037
4. Increase health and longevity, remove invasives, improve age and species diversity



# Types of trees

- **Public trees**

- Owned and managed by City government

- In developed parks and natural areas
    - On City property

- **Private trees**

- City plays regulatory and educational roles

- On private property

- **Street trees**

- Managed cooperatively between Department of Transportation and adjacent property owners

- In the right-of-way



# City department roles

- **DPD** – regulates trees on private property
- **FAS** – manages trees in City properties
- **OSE** – convenes inter-departmental team, coordinates policy issues, monitors performance, staffs Urban Forestry Commission
- **Parks** – plants/cares for trees, restores natural areas
- **SCL** – prunes trees for electrical compatibility, safety, and reliability and funds planting incentives
- **SDOT** – plants/cares and regulates street trees
- **Seattle Center & Zoo** – manage trees on campus-like settings
- **SPU** – stormwater code, manages riparian area trees, funds planting incentives

# Comprehensive Strategy

## Urban Forest Stewardship

### Regulations & Incentives

- Street trees
- Trees on private property
- Critical Areas Ordinance



### Outreach & Education

- Seattle reLeaf
- Green Seattle Partnership
- SDOT



### Stewardship of Public Trees

- 2-for- policy
- Tree maintenance
- Utility/tree issues
- Parkland restoration

### Oversight

- Mayor & City Council
- Urban Forestry Commission
- Urban Forest Interdepartmental Team

### Indicators/Monitoring/Data Collection/Research

# Action Agenda

- Steps to take to implement UFSP
- Over 100 action items (Short-, mid-, and long-term)
- 10 Quick Actions to implement by 2015



# 2014 Actions

## Regulations & Incentives

- Tree Protection Ordinance update to increase protection of private trees
- ROW Improvement Manual update to better protect street trees

## Outreach and Education

- Expand Tree Ambassador Program to engage more volunteers
- Coordinate and simplify public communications across departments

## Public Tree Management

- Evaluate effectiveness of 2-for-1 policy
- Develop toolkit to resolve tree/infrastructure conflicts (sidewalks, utilities)
- Continue forested parklands restoration (40 acres)

# Questions?

