

## SOS: Save Our Substations

The Seattle Green Spaces Coalition, working with PlantAmnesty and TreePAC, are trying to keep 35 surplus city properties as green spaces rather than selling them for development. Some of them are near you.

### WHAT ARE THE SUBSTATIONS?

The substations are 50-year old, decommissioned electrical facilities about the size of one or two house lots. They are scattered throughout the city, though few remain in south and NE Seattle. No electrical equipment or buildings remain on the sites. Typically they are a concrete pad, surrounded by a tall slatted chain-link fence, often, but not always surrounded by mature, park-like landscaping. They are practically ready-made pocket parks.



Avalon Substation

### IF THE CITY OWNS THEM, WHY CAN'T THEY JUST BE MADE INTO PARKS?

State law requires that departmental properties be sold rather than given to each other. Neither the Parks Department nor Seattle Public Utilities wants these orphan properties because of budget constraints. And Seattle City Light can't keep them since they must have a 'utility use' for all its properties. However, we have developed a list of 'work-arounds' which may, or may not, be feasible.

SEE OVER

## WHAT IS BEING DONE?

Because of a sustained effort by the Seattle Green Spaces Coalition the City Council passed a Statement of Legislative Intent. It directs the departments to look at innovative ways the land can be repurposed as green space. Unfortunately it includes provision that the neighborhoods help with the funding. SGSC thinks we can do better! Why? Because it still doesn't make sense to ask the public to come up with money to buy land that it already owns, in order to use it for the public good.

## WHAT DO WE WANT?

We would like to 1) inventory all the properties 2) use an independent Think Tank-- not the City departments--to look at the ways that the land could be kept without requiring neighborhood funding and without Parks having to pay full price. 3) to apply what we've learned to preserve some of the other excess properties (there is an estimated \$50,000 million worth) as open space.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you want to keep these properties as any sort of green spaces—native plant garden, community p-patch, community orchard, a green buffer without public access, rain garden, etc—you should do one or more of the following: express your support, contribute ideas, sign the petition, send a prewritten and addressed emails to council using the [TreePAC.org](http://TreePAC.org) Take Action button, distribute flyers to your neighbors, volunteer to take photos, sign up to attend hearings when they occur, participate in SOS events, do a plant inventory of a substation, or contribute money to the SOS project.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Mary Fleck of Seattle Green Spaces coalition can be reached by going to [www.seattlegreenspacescoalition.org](http://www.seattlegreenspacescoalition.org). Cass Turnbull of TreePAC and PlantAmnesty can be reached at [cassturnbull@comcast.net](mailto:cassturnbull@comcast.net) or by calling 206-783-9093. To donate write a check to TreePAC \* 906 NW 87<sup>th</sup> Street Seattle WA 98117.

NORTH WEST SEATTLE North Beach Substation 9407 19th Ave. NW: Loyal Heights Substation 7750

28th Ave. NW; Ballard Substation 6730 24th Ave. NW ; Monroe Substation 1405 NW 65th

St.; Olympic Hill Substation 8032 15th Ave. NW (no longer surplus); Sunset Substation 3209 NW

65th St; Interbay Substations 2000 13<sup>th</sup> Av W & 3222 17<sup>th</sup> Ave W; Market Street Substation (excess)

2826 NW Market St; Leary Substation 1414 NW Leary St (currently a car dealership);

Whittier Substation 7605 6th Ave. NW, with difficulty it was sold to Parks;

Phinney Substation, 6109 Phinney Ave. N; Greenlake Substation 949 N 80<sup>th</sup> just **sold** 11-14-14

#### SOUTHWEST QUADRANT

Arbor Heights Substation, 9450 34<sup>th</sup> Ave SW (excess); Ambaum Substation, 1006 SW144th Street

(Burien); Andover, 2100 SW Andover Street; Avalon Substation, 35<sup>th</sup> Ave SW and SW Genesee Street

(excess); Dakota Substation, 4918 SW Dakota Street; Dawson Substation (excess), 5211 47<sup>th</sup> Ave SW;

Delridge Substation, 5601 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. SW; Dumar Substation, 1605 SW Holden Street; Fauntleroy

Substation 4520 SW Brace Point Drive; Glendale Substation, 2423 S 132th Street, SeaTac; Morgan Street

Substation (excess) 4118 SW Morgan Street; Roxbury Substation (excess) 9370 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S; Wabash

Substation, 5122 S. Cloverdale Street **sold** to Seattle Public Utilities; White Center Substation 8820 - 9<sup>th</sup>

Ave. SW