

2015 Urban Forest & Green Space City Council Candidate Questionnaire



Name:

District:

1. Larger trees provide significantly more ecological value to Seattle's green infrastructure, by reducing storm water runoff, cleaning pollutants from the air, and providing animal habitat. **Do you support giving greater protection to large trees like Heritage Trees and exceptional trees? What measures would you propose to provide this protection?**

I support giving protection to trees that are not causing problems or issues with water, sewer, and gas lines. If a tree is causing problems and damage to streets and sidewalks they should be removed and a tree that is more urban friendly should replace it.

2. Seattle's interim tree ordinance protects existing groves of trees (group of 8 or more trees 12" in diameter). The Department of Planning and Development has proposed removing this protection. **Do you support continuing the policy of protecting tree groves to conserve habitat and canopy cover?**

If the tree groups are on private property I do support this move to remove the protection.

3. Deferred maintenance results in the costly loss and replacement of trees and landscapes. **Do you support funding for the maintenance of public greenspaces, including increased funding for the Green Seattle Partnership so that the goals to restore our parklands, greenbelts, and critical areas can be met?**

We have lost many valuable trees around Greenlake because sick trees were not removed. I support removing sick trees to save other trees. I support, within limits, funding maintenance of public greenspaces.

4. Seattle currently has a 23 percent tree canopy cover. Seattle's Urban Forest Stewardship Plan targets a 30 percent canopy cover goal by 2037. **To help reach this goal, do you support strengthening tree protection by requiring permits to remove trees on private property?**

I do not support requiring permits to remove trees from private property or parking strips if the trees are causing structural problems with roads, sidewalks, water, sewer, and gas lines.

5. Seattle is one of the very few urban environments that still boasts an extensive, diverse, and impactful urban fruit tree canopy. Over the last six years, over 80,000 pounds of fruit has been gleaned from public and private property, and donated into the

emergency food system. **Do you support funding to continue the maintenance of fruit trees on public land and gleaning of fruit from private property for food banks?**

I would support home grown fruits and vegetables being donated to the food banks if there were a process to do so. I have a small orchard in my yard and would like to donate to the food bank but the fruit will go bad so quickly I fear all will be lost.

6. Seattle is one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. Over the last two years, there has been a 25 percent increase in apartment building, which often involves the destruction of single-family homes that provide open space and trees. In 2014, Seattle reports that it has 5,546 acres of designed parkland plus natural areas. The Trust for Public Lands 2014 report places Seattle's ranking among the 200 largest U.S. cities as 188th -- that's 12th from the bottom. **What do you propose to stop this loss of open space, and to increase open space in the city?**

I propose that new commercial and multifamily buildings provide adequate land to absorb rainwater to reduce run off into the Sound. Rooftop gardens should be seriously considered as viable options for all new construction and possible opportunities for old construction.

7. The Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan calls for the addition of 1400 acres of open space by 2035 to accommodate population growth. **What is your opinion of this goal? What ideas do you have to achieve this goal? Do you support this goal and saving current surplus city properties to help meet this goal?** **I believe that goal is too low. I believe that current greenbelts along Queen Anne, Magnolia, Capital Hill and other neighborhoods should not be built upon. Homeowners should be allowed to donate their property to the city parks department, similarly to Lincoln Park.**

8. Currently, the Department of Planning and Development is responsible for drafting the urban forest ordinance. **Do you support the Mayor and City Council appointing a citizens committee to prepare a draft urban forest ordinance instead, such as the Parks Legacy Committee and Parks and Green Spaces Citizens' Advisory Committee?** **Yes. Arborists should also be included as well as advisors from Washington State University.**

9. The Department of Planning and Development is proposing to reduce the current long-term tree canopy aspirational goal in the Seattle Comprehensive Plan from 40 percent to 30 percent. **Do you support maintaining the 40 percent long-term goal in the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan?** **I would need to know more about their plan and their intent for reducing the current goal.**

10. Trees and open space offer a number of community benefits: increased housing values; decreased rates of crime; offering protection against climate change; filtering stormwater run-off; and quality of life for communities. **Share with us your favorite**

tree or memory of an open space and why you support continued investment in these community resources. *I enjoy Lincoln Park. I also enjoy Golden Gardens and Myrtil Edwards Park. These types of spaces are open and easily accessible to young, old, and disabled.*

Please add any clarifications or comments you would like to convey to us regarding the questions above, or on protecting trees and the urban forest and open space in general.

Are you willing to meet briefly with representatives from TreePAC, at a time and place that is mutually convenient? *Yes*

Thank you for your participation!
Please return questionnaire by July 15 to treepac@comcast.net.