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District: 5

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?

Yes, I do, although I admit I do not know exactly what level of protection they receive right now. But in general, trees, especially big, leafy, old ones, are a central part of the fabric of the street or park they are on and deserve special protections recognizing that, and what their loss would do to that place.

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?

I support conserving habitat and canopy cover. I support that this protection remains the default but that there is the option for exemption for needed new housing development.

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?

YES. My family and I greatly value the time we can enjoy in our parks and having them so close by. I see the GSP workers all over the city and greatly appreciate them. As your councilmember, I would work to give them the resources they need to maintain our parks and 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 support this for exceptional trees/heritage trees/old/big trees - perhaps trees of a certain diameter. But for smaller trees on private property then no, I think that private property owners should have some flexibility and not need to go through an entire process. I think that most residential property owners value the trees on their property most of the time and understand the value they bring and want to preserve them.

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?

Yes, absolutely. Working in the food bank at Asian Counseling and Referral Service for (years, or how regularly?) I see the need for food among many in our community. I also support harvesting food locally, which has a myriad of benefits. Fruit trees are also beautiful and enrich our soil. For many reasons, I support funding to preserve our urban fruit tree canopy.

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?

Parks, green spaces, waterfront, tree lined streets, and grassy/tree'd parking strips are all spaces where we can either combine greenery with our modern, urban life, or places where we can go to breathe, relax, see beauty, and recreate. Having adequate spaces are vital to our humanity, and the quality of life that we need to maintain, even as our city booms with over 100,000 new people moving here in the next ten years. Ensuring adequate park, green, and open space to support our population growth - continuing to strive for our aspirational goal of 1 acre for every 100 people, and certainly our actual goal of 1 acre/1,000 people - is vital, the same as ensuring adequate school facilities are. There is no single strategy to protect them, other than electing policymakers who share these values and this goal and having them take this mission to their jobs. I have these values and as your city council member I will work to ensure that we do not bulldoze our greenspace, whose loss would be irreparable, but rather that we figure out where and how to have as much greenery and open space as we can in our fast growing city.

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?

As I said above, we need additional open space, especially in the face of the many new people moving to Seattle. I do in general support preserving and using some surplus city property as open/green space. I also however believe we need to do more to house the many low income and homeless people we have, and would strive to strike an appropriate balance here.

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

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 do not have enough information at this time to speak to 30 or 40%. However, as I said above, we are a fast growing city and I think that more needs to be done to house people, and at the same time parks and greenery (incl. trees) are as vital "infrastructure" as any to support our humanity and quality of life, and so finding the right balance is important to me.

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.