

# 2015 Urban Forest & Green Space City Council Candidate Questionnaire



Name: Lisa Herbold

District: Seattle City Council District 1

1. Larger trees provide significantly more ecological value to Seattle's green infrastructure, by reducing stormwater 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, as Seattle grows, the importance of Seattle's Heritage Trees, and the benefits they provide, increases. I would consult with the Seattle Urban Forestry Commission, created to advise the Mayor and Council on preserving and preserving Seattle's urban forest and its trees and understory vegetation.

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?**

Yes, as Seattle grows we must not sacrifice the benefits provided by Seattle's urban forest.

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, funding for public green spaces is important. The Seattle Green Partnership has helped preserve our green spaces for several years, and is a worthwhile program.

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?**

This is worth exploring; I would want to consult with the Urban Forestry Commission, and see where this would fit in a comprehensive approach to meeting the goal.

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, the CityFruit program provides healthy, fresh fruit to food banks and meal programs--it's a worthy program.

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?**

The Seattle Metropolitan Parks District provides funding for park land acquisition, and developing parks at land-banked sites. Impact fees, as used in other cities in the Puget Sound region, could potentially provide funding for open space.

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?**

The Comprehensive Plan is designed to manage growth in Seattle, as population and density increase. Fulfilling the open space goals of the Comprehensive Plan is a vital element of keeping Seattle livable as we grow. Adding open space where it is most needed will be most likely to increase support. The Seattle Metropolitan Parks District provides funding for park land acquisition, and developing parks at land-banked sites.

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?**

The Urban Forestry Commission was created to advise the Mayor and Council "...concerning City plans, major or significant policy recommendations, policy and any City department's recommendations related to urban forestry". It makes sense to involve them in any ordinance regarding the urban forest.

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?**

As an aspirational goal it seems reasonable.

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.**

Shade provided by trees on 90 degree days we've had this summer in a welcome respite from heat and direct sunlight.

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 [info@treepac.org](mailto:info@treepac.org).***