



## **Comments collected from Shareholder's Meeting held on September 28, 2014**

*Responses developed and reviewed by Seattle Plant Ecologists, GSP Management Team, and Forterra GSP support staff.*

**Our volunteers are dissatisfied with the way contract crews are working in our area. They seem to be: poorly instructed as original tasks, poorly trained to do the task, and not able to adjust during the contract. In any case they often do as much damage as they do good things. Consequently we do not look forward to their presence. As stewards cannot supervise such crews, how can crew effectiveness be improved? Or can they receive supervision from GSP personnel.**

*As the Green Seattle Partnership is a community-based program, community feedback on the success or failure of specific aspects of the program is important and valued. A contractor's reported performance on projects helps us determine whether that contractor will be used again or not, and for what types of projects.*

*Crews are directed by Seattle Parks and Recreation Plant Ecologists. Scopes of work are shared with volunteers and Seattle Parks staff. Parks staff is continually working on process improvement. Plant Ecologist will conduct a training workshop on BMPs (required for contracts) before beginning any work in the fields, to make sure contractors are providing a quality product.*

*Issues such as this should be discussed with the Seattle Parks Plant Ecologist that services your area (and possible the Field Committee as needed). If you would like to know who your Plant Ecologist is, please contact the Green Seattle Partnership at [contact@greenseattle.org](mailto:contact@greenseattle.org)*

**I don't recall this number being mentioned: If every volunteer were (was) paid 10 or 15 dollars an hour, what would that amount be?? All volunteer hours times....??**

*The 2013 national value of a volunteer-hour calculated by the Independent Sector is \$22.55 (for Washington State it is \$26.72). This year we already have 56,000 hours recorded! That is a value of \$1,262,800 if using the 2013 national rate and \$1,503,961 if using the 2013 Washington State rate.*

**Inviting communities of color to be at these meetings. I was the only 'black' person here.**

*Adding more diverse representation across the program is an important goal for Green Seattle Partnership and focus of the GSP Public Engagement Committee. The Green Seattle Partnership has actively incorporated the City's Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) into all aspects of the program. While there is still a lot of work to be done, the good news is we have been seeing more diversity in our Forest Stewards, and committee members over the last couple of years. We're hoping that over time, the demographics of our leadership volunteers more closely matches that of our general volunteers, who tend to better reflect Seattle's population. The Plant Ecologists are working with the City's RSJI group to provide feedback and input into the Green Seattle Partnership programs.*

**1. Need much more community education. Many new (if not most) new people moving to Seattle have NO idea why it's important to remove invasive species and to help keep areas green. 2. Think BIG- we need new green areas in Capitol Hill area. Connect a "necklace" of parks in the greater Seattle areas through walking trails from park to park. Imagine being able to walk from one park to the next for miles and miles and miles (get people out of their chairs and out onto the forest floor)**

*Yes, education is a big part of the 20-Year Plan to restore Seattle's forested parklands and we definitely need more people helping to spread the word about issue with invasive plants, and the benefits to healthy forests. We provide outreach and education at most of our GSP events- which occur every weekend. There has also been a significant investment in K-12 education, including the development of a forest restoration curriculum. We have teamed up with organizations such as Washington Native Plant Society, Seward Park Audubon to host educational workshops open to the public. The Green Seattle Partnership has focused specifically on forested parklands with very limited resources available to devote to private land owners education. However, there are other city programs that are helping with education. The new City of Seattle Urban Forest Stewardship Plan has a strong focus on community engagement. The City's Seattle reLeaf program (<http://www.seattle.gov/trees/>) and the Tree Ambassador project (<http://www.seattle.gov/trees/treembassador.htm>) provides education and outreach around property tree care and the importance of trees throughout the City not just in parkland. Seattle reLeaf sponsors events such as neighborhood Tree Walks, tree mulching and care work parties, and landscape restoration events and produced outreach materials including the brochure: 'The Truth about Ivy'. (<http://www.seattle.gov/trees/restoration.htm>).*

**Natural area maintenance needs to be integrated into the day to day maintenance activity of Parks Resources District Crews. Each district needs its own plant ecologist just as each one has a senior gardener.**

*Currently, the Seattle Metropolitan Parks District will be funding a much needed additional Natural Area Crew that will support Plant Ecologists, Forest Stewards and volunteers enhance and maintain natural areas City-wide. So that will be double what we have now. As more property is restored, more Natural Area Crews will be needed. The Metropolitan Parks District has identified money for the Green Seattle Partnership for the long-term viability of the Seattle's natural areas. Please continue to advocate and*

*write letters to Council to maintain this level of funding commitment for the ongoing preservation of restored sites.*

**Foremost, thank you for all you do! Please consider becoming more knowledgeable about place-making movement and how the land participates in this ethos and WHY it is critical. It elevates restoration to something greater than just restoration—it makes it on behalf of access to relation with nature. This invites a socially sustainable program! Thank you. Gene hit on themes that we have been personally engaged in at our neighborhood for years. Thank you for acknowledging how equitable access is key to this program.**

*Great idea, we will definitely consider having training on this topic if we can find the right instructor. We will pass your idea on to our Education and Training Committee.*

**Too many speakers, problem with time, appreciate hearing from stewards.**

Thank you for your input. We will keep that in mind as we put together the agenda for future years.

**Plan to water new plantings.**

*In an ideal scenario we would water all of our plantings. However, access is our main constraint (along with funding). Research in 2009 ([http://depts.washington.edu/uwbq/research/theses/Lisa\\_Ciecko\\_2009.pdf](http://depts.washington.edu/uwbq/research/theses/Lisa_Ciecko_2009.pdf)) suggests that proper mulch in certain sites is just as effective as irrigation and results in better soil development. Talk to your Plant Ecologist on a regular basis to make sure you have a clear plan for what to plant and how to help it get established.*

**Please compile budget for Urban Forestry program in all city departments and contractors. Distribute staff directory. Put Forest Stewards in contact with each other. Monthly planning meeting. Circulate notes from meeting on arrest warrant. Reopen Atlantic City Nursery.**

*Urban Forestry budgets are allocated among eight different departments. You can find specific figures in the City's budget: <http://www.seattle.gov/financedepartment/>*

*When you log in to CEDAR, you can find a list of both Seattle Parks and Forterra employees that support GSP along with their contact information on the right hand side.*

*Forest Stewards can connect on the Forest Steward Facebook Page and there are opportunities for Forest Stewards to collaborate at trainings EVERY month in addition to events like the shareholder's meeting and appreciation events.*

Several years ago there were Forest Steward planning meetings that were organized and driven by the Forest Stewards, and supported by staff to help answer questions and give updates. Overtime Forest Stewards lost interest and it we couldn't find Forest Stewards to organize the meetings on a regular basis. If any Forest Steward wants to organize a planning meeting with other Forest Stewards in their geographic area and there is interest from other Forest Stewards we could consider starting them again. If you are interested contact Green Seattle Partnership at [contact@greenseattle.org](mailto:contact@greenseattle.org)

Good reminder. Notes from the Superintendent's meeting were sent out on Dec. 4th.

Atlantic City Nursery is now being managed as Rainier Beach Urban Farm and wetland by Seattle Tilth. Seattle Tilth is a GSP project partner, in the recent past they have produced about a thousand native plants a year for restoration sites. The Jefferson Horticulture facility is expanding its greenhouse capacity to support the Green Seattle Partnership.

### I can't find the "button" on cedar to join a volunteer event - Jim Denison

Up to the day of the event, if you click on the link for the event in CEDAR, the button should appear underneath the heading "Extra Info."

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [seattle.cedar.greencitypartnerships.org/event/6091/](http://seattle.cedar.greencitypartnerships.org/event/6091/). The main content area features a green header with the date '12/06/2014' and the event title 'Northeast Queen Anne Greenbelt - NE Queen Anne'. Below the header is a Google Map of the area, showing streets like W Bertona St, Fremont, and Gas Works Park. To the left of the map is a photo of a person wearing gloves working in a garden. Below the map and photo are several sections: 'Activities' (clearing invasives), 'Date & Time' (December 6, 2014 10am - 2pm), 'Contact' (Jake Wimberger), 'What to Bring' (work clothes, water bottle), 'Where to Meet' (Trolley Hill Park), and 'Where to Park'. To the right of the main content is a sidebar with a 'Join this Event' button at the top, followed by 'Share this Event' options (Facebook, Calendar), and a 'Youth Volunteer Waiver' section. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a 'Join this Event' button circled in red.

If you for some reason this is not showing up, please contact Green Seattle Partnership at [contact@greenseattle.org](mailto:contact@greenseattle.org)

**Branch out and specialize steward positions to: wetland stewards or riparian stewards. More training?! Working onsite workshops or training work parties. For example: a workshop on best practices in wetland restoration would be conducted at a park (Kingfisher?) in a wetland/riparian area with hands-on training. Love the trainings- thanks for all you do. I want to work near streams/wetlands still intimidated though wetland workshop was great.**

*Great idea! Look for that in 2015! The GSP Field Committee is working on the wetland Best Management Practices and will look at putting together a field course/training work party to share the new BMPS.*

**I hope we get the Mountain Bike Park.**

**Don't give up natural areas for "active use" (e.g. bike trails in what have been green spaces.)**

**1. Stop the Cheasty Mountain Bike Park. 2. Stop parks attempt to commercialize Seattle's few remaining forests with outdoor recreation sports facilities like mountain bike parks and zip lines. 3. Restoration has one purpose- the creation of "quality habitat" for native wildlife—Restoration is NOT for the purpose of development of recreational sports facilities like mountain bike parks. 4. Mark Mead and friends of Cheasty Greenspace Mountain View must STOP LYING about Cheasty. Cheasty is NOT dying. They are confusing and failing to education volunteers. Stop it right now! 4. Parks is splitting the Forest Steward community over their push to commercialize our forests. Stop it now!!!**

*Seattle Parks has a mandate from Parks Superintendent and City Council to pilot a multi-use trail project with trails for walking and mountain bikes at one park, Cheasty Greenspace. Parks has formed a Project Advisory Team to explore the design and implementation of the project. These meetings are open to the public and will be held over the coming months. There is currently no final design for the plan. Concurrently, Parks is working on Natural Areas and Greenbelts Guidelines that will provide greater definition of the natural areas. The community will be invited to participate in the development of values-based guidelines for the appropriate use of Seattle's natural areas and greenbelts. Parks is in the process of developing a community outreach and engagement process that we hope will maximize input and result in use guidelines that truly represent the community's values and ideas.*

*Cheasty Multi-Use Trail Pilot Project:*

*If you would like to participate in the discussion about the Cheasty Pilot Multi-use trail, please attend one of the several public meetings being conducted about the issue. You can find information about the project at: [http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/cheasty/gs\\_bike\\_trail.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/cheasty/gs_bike_trail.htm)*

*Greenspace Policy:*

*In the next several weeks a project plan and schedule will be communicated to the public. We expect to ask for community participation beginning early in 2015.*