



Help
Keep
Seattle
Green





Get Involved – Help Keep Seattle Green:

We need your help! Saving the forests in our parks will require an engaged Seattle community and a prepared volunteer workforce. Here are some easy ways for you to get involved:

- Volunteer at your local park
- Remove ivy in your own backyard
- Do not buy or sell invasive plants
- Tell your friends about the Green Seattle Partnership
- Make a financial contribution

Be a Volunteer:

Green Seattle Partnership hosts multiple volunteer events every week all across Seattle. Visit our website www.greenseattle.org for upcoming events and sign up for our enewsletter.

For information please call the program manager at (206) 292-5907 x 117



Donate Today:

The success of this program relies on support from our community. Donations from individuals like you will allow us to increase the number of acres restored each year.

Every gift, both large and small, makes a big difference. Please make a donation today by using the enclosed envelope.

To make a donation by phone, call 206-292-5907 x113 or make a gift online at www.greenseattle.org.

Our Problem: A Threatened Forest

Seattle is proud to be known as the Emerald City with more than 2,500 acres of forested parklands.

However, invasive plants like **English Ivy** and **blackberry** are **choking our native trees** that grace our wooded parks and greenways.

If nothing is done, within 20 years, we will lose 70% of the trees in our parks.



Our Solution: Requires Action

The Green Seattle Partnership is working with community members across the city to **restore and maintain all of Seattle's forested parklands** by 2025.

To get there will require action –

- Remove invasive plants and replant our magnificent native trees and shrubs
- Galvanize and inform the community to recruit both financial and human resources
- Expand our legacy of volunteer efforts.

Saving the forested parks of our neighborhoods and communities will serve our citizens well through the next century and continue to ensure the quality of life that makes Seattle so special.

This partnership will help ensure Seattle remains the Emerald City.



Why we need healthy city forests:

- Makes communities more attractive
- Promotes active lifestyles
- Reduces global warming
- Provides wildlife habitat
- Buffers noise
- Reduces stormwater runoff & erosion
- Improves air and water quality
- Increases property value

If forested parklands are Not Restored

Aggressive non-native vegetation will dominate the urban forest unless removed. In 100 years, the trees will be gone. City officials estimate that potentially billions of dollars in services such as stormwater control will be lost.



Present:

Seattle's forested parklands are dominated by deciduous trees, such as big leaf maples and alders, nearing the end of their lives. After decades of neglect, non-native invasive plants such as english ivy and wild clematis have covered the ground and grown up into the tree canopy.

In 20 Years:

Invasive plants out compete and grow over existing native vegetation, blocking the sunlight plants and trees need to thrive. English ivy now dominates the tree canopy, making the trees weak, top heavy, and more susceptible to windfall. Eventually trees die or fall over.

In 50 Years:

The trees are gone. Only a few native shrubs survive the stress of competition with invasive plants.

In 100 Years:

The forest is destroyed. Native trees can no longer establish on their own. We are left with a dense "ivy desert" where very few plant species can live and forest biodiversity is gone. Such conditions provide homes for rats, and scarce habitat for more desirable urban wildlife.

If forested parklands are Restored

Aggressively removing invasive vegetation and planting native trees and shrubs will return the urban forest to a more sustainable condition. In 100 years, the forest will provide the city valuable services and better resist invasive plant infestations.



Present:

Seattle's forested parklands are dominated by deciduous trees, such as big leaf maples and alders, nearing the end of their lives. After decades of neglect, non-native invasive plants such as english ivy are smothering native vegetation and weakening native trees.

In 20 Years:

Through restoration efforts and long term maintenance, the non-native plants are removed. Native groundcovers, shrubs and evergreen trees, such as douglas fir, western red cedar, and western hemlock, are planted.

In 50 Years:

As the evergreen trees grow, they shade out the sun-loving invasive plants such as blackberry. Native understory plants thrive.

In 100 Years:

With continued stewardship, the maturing forest requires less care and provides greater benefits to the city.



GREEN SEATTLE
PARTNERSHIP

About Green Seattle Partnership:

The Green Seattle Partnership is the largest civic engagement effort of our time to ensure that our children and their grandchildren continue to enjoy the health and economic benefits of vibrant parks, forests and natural areas throughout the city.

This unique public/private partnership between the City of Seattle and the Cascade Land Conservancy was created in 2004 to actively work with community members to restore and maintain Seattle's forested parklands.

Our vision is a healthy, livable city with sustainable forested parklands by 2025, where individuals, neighborhoods, non profits, businesses and city government work together to maintain this resource.



www.greenseattle.org



www.cascadeland.org



www.seattle.gov

For More Information

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