



Tree Stewardship



Seattle Parks and Recreation: City Council Parks, Seattle Center, Libraries & Waterfront Committee Presentation

April 7, 2016

Investment in Trees

Trees promote social, economic, and environmental health by capturing and slowing rain; filtering air pollution; providing food and habitat; and contributing to the character and aesthetic beauty of our city. City parks are many people's first contact with the great outdoors, and can spark a lifelong connection with the natural world.

- ✓ Seattle has over 2,500 acres of forested greenbelts and natural areas
- ✓ 120 miles of trails
- ✓ Park land accounts for 11% of the City's land
- ✓ The Park District is funding \$2.193M annually for the Green Seattle Partnership's forest restoration program



- ✓ Over 500,000 volunteer hours have been dedicated to parkland restoration in the last 5 years
- ✓ 459,933 new native plants were planted in the last 5 years; 120,755 of those plants were trees
- ✓ Over 1,200 acres of urban forested parkland, out of the 2,500 acre Green Seattle Partnership goal for 2025, are currently in some phase of restoration
- ✓ The community is deeply engaged in volunteer stewardship of natural areas

Vandalism and Tree Cutting

- ✓ Acts of vandalism are pervasive in public parks, including graffiti and damage to landscapes and buildings
- ✓ When vandalism occurs, policies are aggressively enforced
- ✓ The last major illegal tree-cutting incident occurred in 2003 and resulted in a settlement of over \$600K
- ✓ Given how much land we are responsible for, we rely on reports from Parks and Recreation staff, the public, other departments
- ✓ Once we learn of tree damage or removal, our tree crew inspects the site

Enforcement

- ✓ There are several relevant City codes and policies regarding tree cutting:
 - SMC, Chapter 18.30
 - SPR Tree Management, Maintenance, pruning and/or removal policy
 - DPD Director's Rule 16-2008 regarding designation of exceptional trees
 - DCI Tree Protection Regulations
 - DCI Environmentally Critical Areas regulations for trees and vegetation
- ✓ We have a permit process for trimming SPR trees – 29 have been issued in the last five years, generally to trim trees overhanging private property
- ✓ When SPR trees are cut down without permission, SPR works closely with the City Attorney's Office, SPD and other departments to determine the appropriate response
- ✓ We may bring regulatory action based on City code and/or pursue state law remedies
- ✓ The King County Prosecutor and/or City Attorney's Office may bring criminal charges in the appropriate cases

Opportunities for Education

Recruit and enlist new partners

Develop educational kiosks

Build on our work with environmental stewardship and education programs

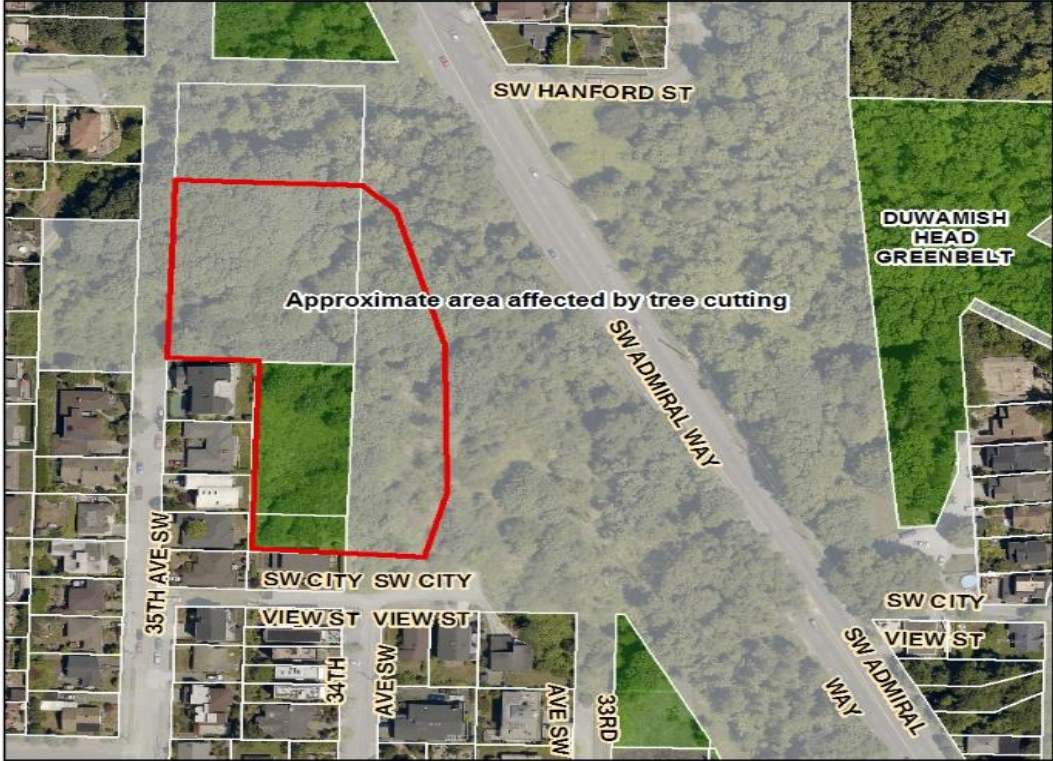
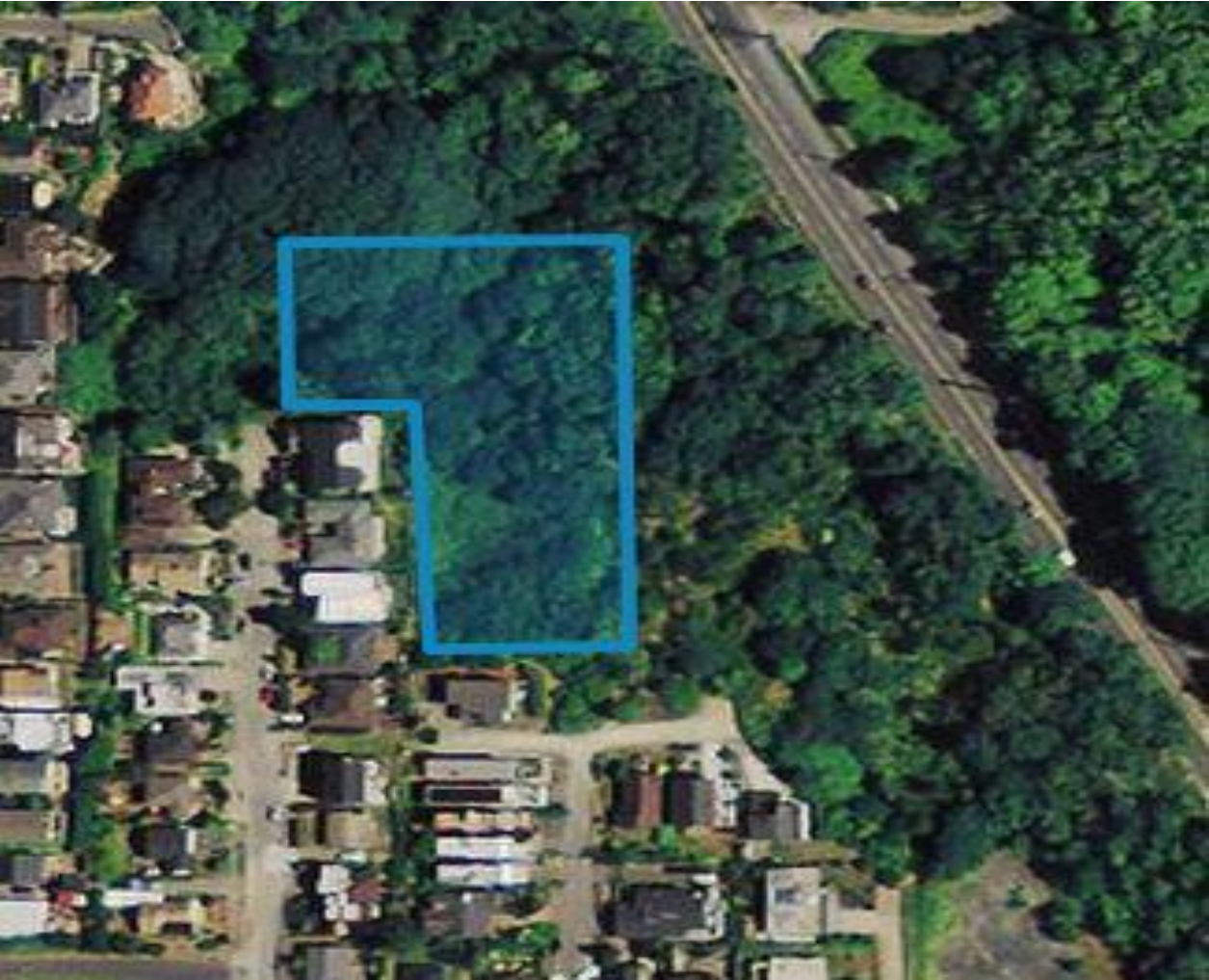
Ask for the public's help

Expand environmental education for youth, fostering future generations of park stewards.

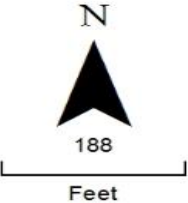
Enhance our partnership with Seattle Public Schools through the Student Conservation Association.



Location of Tree Cutting in the Duwamish Head Greenbelt in West Seattle

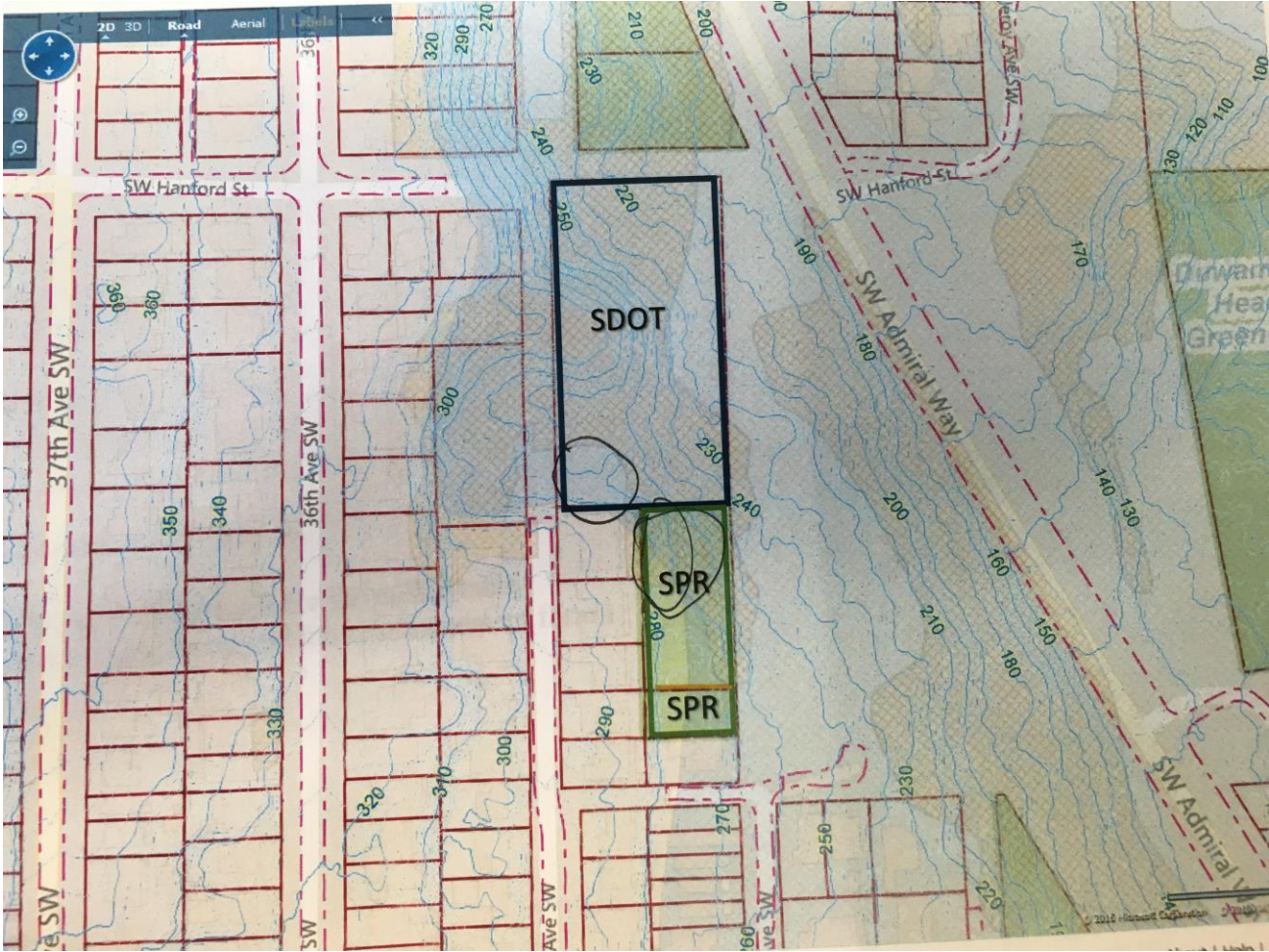


3200 Block of 35th Ave SW



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accompany this product. Coordinate System: State Plane,
NAD83-S1 Washington North Zone

Property Ownership



Photos of the
West Seattle site
(taken 2/12/16)



In addition to the strong commitment of over 40,000 volunteers, environmental partnerships are a key component of Park Stewardship

Green Seattle Partnership

Earth-Corp

The Nature Consortium

Puget Sound GIS

Washington Native Plant Society

Seattle Tilth

Forterra

Seward Park Audubon

Student Conservation Association

Seattle Public Utilities

Seattle Department of Transportation

Milepost

Department of Commerce 'Soundway'

As well as many others.....