



Natural Area and Greenbelt Supplemental Use Guidelines



**CITY COUNCIL PARKS, SEATTLE CENTER,
LIBRARIES AND GENDER EQUITY
COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2015



Natural Area and Greenbelt Supplemental Use Guidelines



- **WHY?**
 - Request from community to develop guidelines in order to evaluate future use proposals in Natural Areas and Greenbelts
- **WHAT?**
 - A checklist for reviewing use proposals
- **WHERE?**
 - Park property classified as Natural Areas and Greenbelts

Classified Natural Areas and Greenbelts

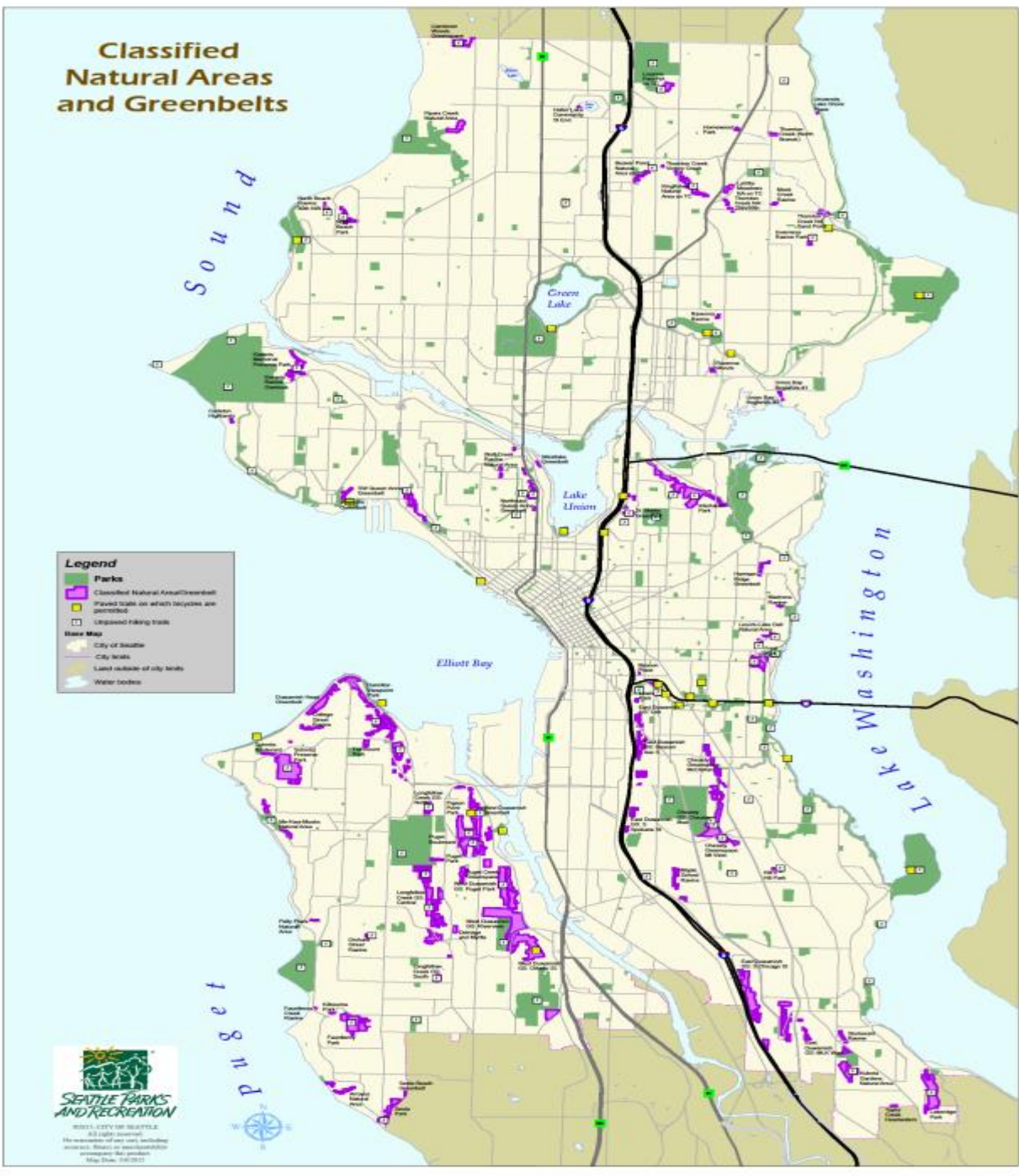
Legend

- Parks
- Classified Natural Area/Greenbelt
- Planned trails on which bicycles are permitted
- Unplanned hiking trails

Base Map

- City of Seattle
- Land outside of city limits
- Water bodies

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 Map Date: 10/2011





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- Recognizing the needs of a changing, growing City, the criteria in the checklist balance:
 - Preserving and enhancing forest habitat, tree canopy and water quality,
 - Increasing environmental education and stewardship,
 - Getting youth engaged and involved in their environment,
 - Providing recreation opportunities to meet changing needs,
 - Ensuring equitable access to all park land, including Natural Areas and Greenbelts, and
 - Enhancing positive use



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Process & Next Steps:

- Mini-summit and focus group public process held in the spring
- Park Board public hearing on proposed Guidelines was June 25
- **Based on the June 25 testimony and written comments, the Guidelines have been revised**
- Park Board discussion of the revised Guidelines July 23
- Board recommendation in September



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Key points in the *revised* Guidelines:

- Preamble added to emphasize Parks and Recreation's commitment to the environment, to the Green Seattle Partnership and to the valued work of forest stewards
- More emphasis that not all uses will be allowed in all locations
- Proposals must demonstrate community support
- Alternate locations for the use must be explored, including non-Parks and Recreation property
- Benefits of the activity should be greater than potential impacts to the site
- More clarity on review process: all proposals must go through a public review process including review by and a recommendation from the Park Board



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Questions?