




City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: Aaron D. Clark		
Board/Commission Name: Urban Forestry Commission		Position Title: 1 – Wildlife Biologist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		City Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Appointing Authority: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		Term of Position: * 4/1/2023 to 3/31/2026 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>
Residential Neighborhood: View Ridge	Zip Code: 98115	Contact Phone No.: [REDACTED]
Background: Aaron Clark (he/him) has over two decades of professional experience working at the interface of ecological restoration and environmental justice. He is highly trained in ornithology, ecological science and biology. Aaron has mostly worked in applied fields including 11 years within the urban green infrastructure sector in Seattle. For the last 1.5 years Aaron has worked as E'lip Tilikum Conservancy Director at a Native women-led NGO (Na'ah Illahee Fund), focusing on Native land return and advocacy for equitable development policy at the city and county level. Through the Urban Forestry Commission, Aaron hopes to advance environmental justice through urban forestry policy and equitable access to the benefits of trees. He is excited about the growing body of research showing the very real health, mental health, and economic benefits that healthy urban ecosystems can provide, especially for communities who bare the brunt of environmental degradation in the form of premature death and health impairments.		
Authorizing Signature (original signature):  Date Signed (appointed): 3/20/2025		Appointing Signatory: CM Solomon Councilmember – District 2

RESUME

Aaron D. Clark Ph.D.

Executive summary

My professional goal is to shift dominant culture away from domination and extraction toward healing people and nature. I am committed to leveraging my positional privilege and power as a white male for healing and collective liberation. I have deep scientific and emotional connections to the lands and waters of this region and believe that returning land back to the hands of its first people must become a foundational conservation strategy. My greatest professional accomplishment has been building a network of partners who collaborate generously and honestly across geography and across public and private sectors.

Professional Experience

- **Na'ah Illahee Fund:** E'lip Tilikum Conservancy Director (2023 to present)
 - Build a new land trust focused on returning Native land to Native hands
 - Build collaborative partnerships with Native nonprofits, Tribal governments, non-Tribal governments, land trusts and conservancies.
 - Advocacy for equitable development policy at the city and county level
 - Organization and program-level Strategic planning
 - Fundraising, grant writing, grant management
 - Collaborative support of other programs including grantmaking, convening and ecological restoration events.
 - Communicate approach and values with the wider conservation community (e.g. NW Land Camp 2024)
- **Stewardship Partners:** Director of Strategic Partnerships (2016 to 2023); Program Manager, Rain Gardens and Green Infrastructure (2012 to 2016):
 - Creation and management of the annual [Green Infrastructure Summit of the Salish Sea](#) (2016-2023)
 - Creation and management of equity-focused financial tools for green infrastructure: [RainWise Pilot Access Loan](#); [RainWise Access Grant](#); [GSI MiniGrant](#). Over \$200k granted, for over 100 projects, 75% granted to low-income households and non-profit organizations.
 - Creation and management of [Sound Impacts](#), an impact metrics mapping portal for Puget Sound.
 - [12,000 Rain Garden Campaign for Puget Sound](#)- partnership with WSU Extension: Coordinate resource sharing across a 12-county region
 - Strategic Planning- organization and program-level
 - Staff retreat planning, implementation, hosting, facilitation, team building
- **[Green Infrastructure Partnership](#)**, Steering Committee Chair (2014-2018); Steering Committee member (2014-2022):
- **North Seattle Community College**, Instructor of Biology (2011)
- **University of Washington Department of Biology**, Instructor; Research Assistant; Teaching Assistant (2003-2010):
 - Lab and field research at the [Wingfield Lab for Environmental Endocrinology](#)

RESUME

Aaron D. Clark Ph.D.

- Lab research at the [Center for Conservation Biology](#).
- Teaching and mentoring in subjects ranging from introductory biology to advanced-level ecology, evolution and experimental design.
- **University of Washington Department of Zoology, Research Technologist II** (2001-2003) [Laird Lab- Epigenetic Biology](#).
 - Pioneering research on human genetic disease, epigenetics, and molecular evolutionary process including: Experimental design; development of novel research methods; laboratory research and data collection including several highly specialized techniques and technologies; data analysis; and scientific manuscript writing, revision and publication
- **Committees:** King County EDI coalition member (2023-present); Salish Sea Collective founding member (2016-2023); [Emerald Alliance](#) Advisory Committee and Work Group (2017-present); [City Habitats](#) Leadership Committee (2016-2023); [King Conservation District Advisory Committee](#) (2018-2020); WA State Dept. of Commerce [Building Green Cities](#) Advisory Committee (2018-2020)/

Philanthropy Experience

- **Cuyamaca Foundation**, Co-chair (2016 to present); Board Member, portfolio manager, and Science Advisor (2003 to present): Solicitation and evaluation of research proposals (2003-16), fund shift to environmental justice and promoting a direct-to-community funding model to other funders (2017 to present)
- [Northwest Conservation Philanthropy Fellow](#) (2018)

Selected Honors and Awards:

- Governor's Smart Communities Award (2016) for collaboration on City of Duvall [Watershed Plan](#)
- [King County Green Globe Award \(2015\)](#) "Leader in Green Stormwater Infrastructure" for 12,000 Rain Gardens Campaign
- Pierce Conservation District: Community Partner Award (2015) for leadership and guidance in developing the [Depave Puget Sound](#) program
- Official selection for exhibition, William Turnbull Drylands Design Competition (2012) for "[AlleyCEQUIA](#)"

Education

- B.A. Biology- Reed College, 2000
- Ph.D. Biology- U. of Washington, 2010

References:

- Sean Watts: [REDACTED]
- Susan Balbas: [REDACTED]

Urban Forestry Commission

2/25/2025

13 Members: Pursuant to SMC 3.72, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms: Get Engaged clause added for 1-year term pursuant to SMC 3.51

- 6 City Council-appointed
- 6 Mayor-appointed
- 1 Commission-appointed

Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
6	M	4	1	Wildlife Biologist	Aaron D. Clark	4/1/23	3/31/26	1	Council
1	F	6	2	Urban Ecologist	Alicia Kellogg	4/1/23	3/31/26	1	Mayor
1	F	3	3	Natural Resource Agency or University Representative	Lani Chang	4/1/25	3/31/28	1	Council
			4	Hydrologist or Similar Professional		4/1/24	3/31/27	1	Mayor
6	F	6	5	Arborist	Drue Epping	4/1/24	3/31/27	1	Council
6	F	1	6	Landscape Architect	Tristan Fields	4/1/24	3/31/27	1	Mayor
6	M	3	7	NGO Representative	Joshua Morris	4/1/22	3/31/25	2	Council
2	M	7	8	Development Community or Utility Representative	David Baker	4/1/22	3/31/25	1	Mayor
8	M	1	9	Economist, Financial Analyst, Realtor, or Similar Professional	Nathan Collins	4/1/23	3/31/26	1	Commission
3	M	6	10	Get Engaged Member	Timothy Patrick Randazzo	9/1/24	8/31/25	1	Mayor
3	F	2	11	Environmental Justice Rep.	Melanie Ocasio	4/1/24	3/31/27	1	Council
6	F	2	12	Public Health Rep.	Andrea Starbird	4/1/24	3/31/27	1	Mayor
9	F	2	13	Community/Neighborhood Rep.	Lia Hall	4/1/24	3/31/27	2	Council

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

					(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
	Men	Women	Transgender	Unknown	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other	Caucasian/ Non- Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor	2	4			1	1	1			2			
Council	2	3			1		1			3			1
Other	1											1	
Total	5	7			2	1	2			5		1	1

Key:

***D** List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)

****G** List *gender*, **M**= Male, **F**= Female, **T**= Transgender, **NB**= Non-Binary **O**= Other **U**= Unknown

RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.