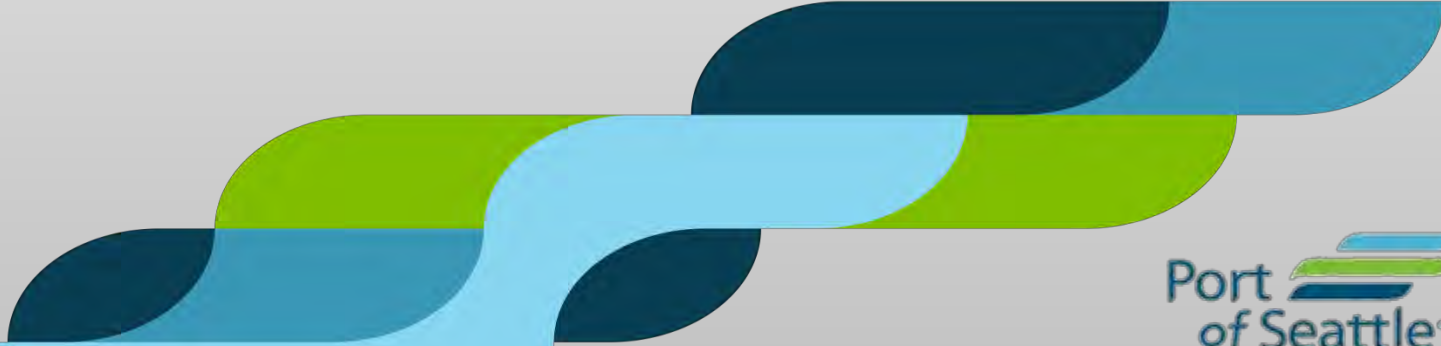


# Airport Community Ecology Fund

Pearse Edwards, Director, Government Relations  
Christina Billingsley, Environmental Engagement Program Manager



# Overview

## Airport Community Ecology Fund (ACE Fund)

- \$1 million fund
- Supports ecological and environmental projects and programs
- Focus communities: SeaTac, Burien and Des Moines

# Process to Date

- November – Commission approves ACE Fund
- January – Progress report submitted to Commission and Commission amended original motion
- February – Update to Commission
- February to May – Port staff outreach and research
  - Meetings with and outreach to cities and external stakeholders
  - Community meetings
  - Internal meetings and review with CPO, legal and audit

Port research, engagement, and collaboration contributed to developing the ACE Fund

# Program Criteria

- Action-Oriented
- Builds Public Participation and Trust
- Accomplishes Specific Goal(s)
- Identifies Geographic Location(s) (e.g. must be in one of three jurisdictions identified in Commission motion)
- Specific Metrics
- Measurable Outcomes
- Timely
- Shows 3x Return on Port Investment

Port staff worked across departments to develop strong criteria

# Approach

Small Grants Program	Green Cities Partnership Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$550,000 over three years</li><li>• Administered directly by Port</li><li>• Port and city representatives serve on grant application review panel to select projects</li><li>• Small-scale, community-based projects</li><li>• Bi-annual disbursements</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$450,000 over three years</li><li>• Administered by Forterra</li><li>• City and community engagement and implementation</li><li>• Large-scale projects</li><li>• Des Moines Memorial Way planning</li></ul>

ACE Fund consists of a two-pronged approach to meet Commission goals

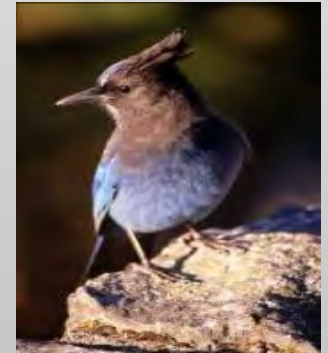
# Justification

- RCW 35.21.278 and 53.19.020
- Expertise and unique capacity
- Green City Partnership models successful across region
- Des Moines Memorial Way support and large-scale projects
- Legacy of rigor and high-impact
- Pro-equity program and community engagement

Green Cities Partnership demonstrates alignment with ACE Fund goals

# Benefits of Healthy Urban Forests

- Clean Air and Water
- Natural Water Retention and Erosion Control
- Habitat for Local Wildlife
- Recreational and Educational Opportunities
- Revitalized Neighborhoods
- Improved Property Values
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction
- Carbon Sequestration
- Physical and Mental Wellness



Communities benefit from vibrant and well-maintained greenspaces and forestry programs

# Green Cities Partnership



- 9 Green Cities
- Serving 1.3 million people
- Combined Goal: 9000 acres
- Over 1800 acres currently in restoration
- More than 1M volunteer hours since 2005

Green Cities Partnerships collaborate across sectors to ensure long-term stewardship outcomes



# Green Cities Partnership Goals

- Improve urban forest and natural area health
- Galvanize an informed and involved community
- Ensure long-term sustainability



Community engagement, rigorous metrics, and high environmental impact

# Assessment and Planning

## Elements of a 20-year plan

1. Statement of vision, objectives, and intended outcomes
2. Habitat assessment of parks and natural open space and maps
3. Capacity assessment of City resources and community input
4. Cost assessment
5. Structure of the Green City Partnership
6. Roles and responsibilities
7. Goals, benchmarks, and timelines



Collaborative long-term strategic planning with cities, communities, and other agencies

# Outreach and public education



Green Cities Partnerships lead trainings on tree care, maintenance, and forest ecology



# Forest Stewards



Volunteer education and leadership development improve the local environment

# Public Lands Restoration



Tree care and planting activities in parks and streetways improve quality of life for residents



# Healthy Sustainable Urban Forest



Inclusive community engagement for all

# Budget

- Objective 1: Assess and Plan: \$135,000
- Objective 2: Community Engagement and Community Liaison Program: \$65,000
- Objective 3: Implementation: \$250,000

**TOTAL: \$450,000**

# Next Steps

- Green Cities Partnership implementation
- Launch event on June 20
- Bi-annual progress report to Commission

Questions?