

**From:** [Mark Hoppen](#)  
**To:** [Commission-Public-Records](#)  
**Cc:** [Kaplan, Dave](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Inclusive Changes to the ACE Program  
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Dear Port of Seattle Commissioners,

The City of Normandy Park supports inclusive changes being considered for the ACE program that propose to include Normandy Park, Tukwila and Federal Way, and appreciates the Port of Seattle Commissioners for its deliberation.

The City of Normandy Park has a community programmed system of open spaces, trails, active recreation parks, and natural amenities that preserve the City's natural beauty and ecology, while engaging residents in a variety of healthy active and passive recreation opportunities. The City maintains longitudinal commitment to ecological restoration of its 78 acres of forested woodland parks, all of which are downstream of Sea-Tac International Airport operations, as are similar or identical riverine systems in the cities of Burien and Des Moines.

For the past 10 years, consistent with its *City of Normandy Park Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan*, the city has sponsored forest restoration projects in Nature Trails, Walker Preserve and Marine View parks with the assistance of Washington Conservation Corps, Earthcorps, WRIA 9, and Restoration Analytics & Design. The Community Foresters *First Saturdays* program at Marine View Park focuses on community volunteer and steward education, engagement, outreach, management and retention. In 2019, work parties and workshops had 486 volunteer service hours. Our volunteers came from Normandy Park, Burien, Des Moines, Seattle, and Issaquah. For years, Normandy Park nonprofits have engaged the very activities that ACE supports. Normandy Park hopes to utilize ACE funding in the future.

For instance, in 2021, the City of Normandy Park would like to partner with the Friends of Normandy Park (501c3) to continue the Community Foresters First

Saturdays Program. The Friends of Normandy Park is a local charitable non-profit that focuses on helping make the City of Normandy Park a healthy ecology through nonprofit activity and donation.

Normandy Park contains riverine, forested, natural features that are directly connected to Sea-Tac International Airport operational by-products. When the safety zone at the airport removes trees and alters vegetation patterns, our city streams and forests are affected as much or more than similar or identical systems in Des Moines and Burien. Normandy Park bears the brunt of these changes in our streams, surrounding forests, beaches, and Puget Sound waters. Considering all King County cities, Normandy Park is the third most densely forested city area per square mile, exceeded in this regard only by Black Diamond and Beaux Arts Village.

Consequently, we support changes to the ACE program that make it appropriately inclusive, and think such changes should be permanent with regard to the City of Normandy Park and its nonprofit efforts.

**Mark E. Hoppen, ICMA-CM | City Manager**  
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