

SEATTLE AUDUBON
FOR BIRDS AND NATURE



December 7, 2017

Seattle City Council
600 Fourth Avenue, Second Floor
P.O. Box 34025
Seattle, WA 98124-4025

Dear Councilmembers:

The Seattle Audubon Society is continuing our legacy of support for Discovery Park and joins Friends of Discovery Park in the resolution recognizing the 45th anniversary of the Master Plan and reconfirming the protection it offers. We hope the Council will reaffirm their commitment ensuring Seattle residents have continued and uninterrupted access to green space, providing wildlife with important habitat connectivity, and protecting and improving Seattle's urban tree canopy. These priorities of Discovery Park address important issues of conservation equity in Seattle, and environmental resilience in our region.

Seattle Audubon Society supported the initial implementation of the Discovery Park Master Plan developed in 1972 because of its focus on providing critical habitat for birds in our region. The park has been a key site in our citizen science Neighborhood Bird Project program since 2003. Data from this research shows that Discovery Park has the highest avian diversity of any of Seattle's nine parks that are monitored (with 207 species recorded), including many migratory species that require habitat connectivity along the Pacific Flyway.

The Seattle Audubon Society advocates for the continued access for people in urban areas to green space. Discovery Park is unique in its size; being a place for city residents to see and hear nature. New scientific research highlights the importance that proximity and access to green space has on human health and Discovery Park is key in helping connect Seattleites to the natural world.

The Discovery Park Master Plan had foresight in understanding the pressures that would be put on an urban park of this size, and stipulated for the on-going protection of this space and efforts to return the area to a natural state. The Seattle Audubon Society has continued to urge for the habitat protection that is provided by Discovery Park throughout the years, and we continue to celebrate the protection the Discovery Park Master Plan provides. We hope that the City Council will also show their support of Discovery Park and reaffirm the Master Plan and its commitment to protect our largest city refuge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Megan Friesen'.

Megan Friesen, PhD
Conservation Manager, Seattle Audubon Society

cc Friends of Discovery Park