



## INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

TO: **Transportation & Infrastructure Services Committee**  
FROM: **Hari Ponnekanti, Public Works Director/ City Engineer**  
BY: **Stephanie Gardner, Parks & Recreation Analyst**  
CC: **Mayor Allan Ekberg**  
DATE: **June 11, 2021**  
SUBJECT: **Clean Tukwila Project**

### **ISSUE**

Working to keep Tukwila clean is one of the city’s core responsibilities. A variety of programs and volunteer opportunities are offered to residents and businesses that improve City streets, parks and trails, and provide beautification through art. The City is developing new messaging to inspire people to pick-up litter and become involved in the effort to help keep “Tukwila Clean.”

### **BACKGROUND**

Parks Maintenance and Public Works staff empty well over 100 waste bins throughout the city twice each week. Staff remove waste and litter along sidewalks, streets, and throughout parks and trails. Staff estimated a 25-30% increase in litter in 2020, and the trend continues in 2021. In addition to litter, illegal dumping has dramatically increased and taken staff time away from other important tasks, like graffiti removal – which has also been on the rise.

### **DISCUSSION**

A cross-department work group, made up of staff from Communications, Parks, Police, and Public Works has been meeting to discuss various ways to address litter, dumping, and graffiti issues. Communication efforts to connect residents and businesses to volunteer opportunities and raise awareness of beautification efforts have been underway for the past year, primarily focusing on digital communication efforts via social media and e-mail newsletters. Throughout the summer of 2021, communication strategies will be launched to create additional awareness and connect residents to resources and opportunities to help support the city’s efforts in keeping Tukwila clean. The following are a blend of current and upcoming initiatives:

#### **Beautification:**

- **Arts in the Parks, Community Mural Program:** A new mural program will begin this summer to help beautify Tukwila Parks, support local artists, and foster connections between people and special places. Local artists will be painting eight murals within five different parks. A painted banner program will be circulated throughout various parks as well.
- **Utility Box Program:** A new Utility Box Art Program has started to take shape. Two utility boxes have been wrapped, and local artists were recently selected to wrap up to ten more utility boxes throughout the City of Tukwila this year.
- **Seasonal Staff:** Park Maintenance and Public Works staff have started onboarding seasonal staff again. The return of part-time and seasonal staff is essential to the removal of litter, dumping, and graffiti remediation.

**Community Involvement:** Residents, businesses, and those that like to play in Tukwila can become involved by volunteering, including participation in two volunteer programs that improve City parks and trails:

- **Adopt-a-Spot:** Volunteers support litter free and overgrown parks by removing invasive plants, picking up litter, and/or removing weeds from flower beds, all while making new friends, meeting neighbors, and supporting local parks. Volunteers also work closely with Parks staff to report dumping, graffiti, and other concerns they may see in parks and along trails.
- **Green Tukwila:** Volunteers help restore local parks and green spaces by participating in small restoration work parties. Work parties consist of clearing invasive plants, shrubs, and trees and help plant native flora and fauna.

**Reporting:** Beginning in late June, staff will launch a new web page and social media campaign providing ways for the public to connect with staff to report illegal dumping, graffiti, and excessive litter. Additionally, messaging is being developed to help inspire people to pick-up litter and become involved in the effort to help keep “Tukwila Clean.”

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There are no financial impacts, staff are focusing on utilizing in-house communication methods and resources.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Information only.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Beautification and Community Involvement Overview

# Beautification



## THROUGH ART



### Utility Box Art Program

Up to 10 utility boxes will be wrapped throughout Tukwila in 2021

### Arts in the Parks

Eight murals will be installed in five different parks, and a rotating artist designed banner program will circulate through the parks system during the summer of 2021.

### Ground Graphics

Ground graphics have been placed throughout Tukwila parks. Graphics include images that promote movement and activity as well as fun images that add to each park's uniqueness.





**CODIGA PARK**



**CRESTVIEW PARK**



**DUWAMISH GARDENS**



**DUWAMISH PARK**

**2020 STATS**

**8 Sites Adopted**  
**67 Bags of Litter**  
**97 Volunteer Hours**  
**Garden Maintenance**  
**Invasive Plant Removal**  
**All in 6 Months**



**HAZELNUT PARK**



**RIVERTON PARK**



**TUKWILA COMMUNITY CENTER**



**TUKWILA PARK**



**ADOPT-A-SPOT**  
 Keep Tukwila Beautiful

**ADOPT-A-SPOT** is a year around program that fosters partnerships between Tukwila Parks and Recreation and those that live, work, and play in Tukwila. Together, we care for Tukwila's parks and trails while keeping a watchful eye on park needs. In 2020, eight parks were adopted and cared for by 13 stewards and a preschool. Stewards and staff focused on litter removal, weeding, invasive plant removal, and reporting park concerns to parks staff.

[www.TukwilaWA.gov/Adopt-A-Spot](http://www.TukwilaWA.gov/Adopt-A-Spot)





**GREEN  
TUKWILA**



# 2020

## ANNUAL REPORT

319,538 sq ft cleared of invasive plants

120 Tree Survival Rings Cut

4,384 Shrubs Planted

1,983 Trees Planted



Green Tukwila had a strong year in spite of the global challenges presented by COVID-19. Environmental organizations, forest & park stewards, volunteers, and city staff worked together to repair and build sustainable urban forests, salmon habitat and natural spaces for a healthier Tukwila.

[www.TukwilaWA.gov/GreenTukwila](http://www.TukwilaWA.gov/GreenTukwila)

