



**City of Seattle**  
Edward B. Murray  
Mayor

August 19, 2014

Honorable Tim Burgess  
President  
Seattle City Council  
City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Dear Council President Burgess:

I am pleased to transmit the attached proposed legislation concerning a land exchange in the West Duwamish Greenbelt. The legislation authorizes the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation to execute a quit claim deed for approximately three-quarters of an acre of park property and accept a deed for the same square-footage of comparable, adjacent private property. Because an existing driveway providing access to private property crosses the park property, the land exchange will have the effect of eliminating a significant private non-park use of park land.

Passage of the legislation includes a finding that the proposed land exchange meets the requirements of Ordinance 118477, also known as Initiative 42, establishing that the exchange is necessary because there is no reasonable and practical alternative and that the land received is equivalent or better in size, value, location and usefulness, in the same vicinity, serving the same community and the same park purposes. All conditions are met by the proposed replacement property.

The existing driveway was constructed prior to the City-owned land being placed under the jurisdiction of Seattle Parks and Recreation. The private property accessed by the driveway is now being redeveloped, and the owners seek to obtain ownership and control over the land the driveway crosses. Allowing the existing driveway to continue to serve the private property avoids the need to improve unopened rights-of-way in this Environmentally Critical Area, thereby preserving more of the desirable characteristics of the greenbelt including tree canopy, bird habitat, and wildlife corridor.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. Should you have questions, please contact Donald Harris at 684-8018.

Sincerely,

Edward B. Murray  
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Honorable Members of the Seattle City Council