



City of Tacoma  
Planning and Development Services

Agenda Item  
E-1

**To:** Planning Commission  
**From:** Elliott Barnett, Planning Services Division  
**Subject:** **Application #2014-08 – Open Space Element Update**  
**Meeting Date:** January 22, 2014  
**Memo Date:** January 16, 2014

At the January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting, the Planning Commission authorized the proposed draft Open Space Element and staff report to be released for public review. Subsequently, staff have identified one additional item which we feel merits inclusion in the public review draft. The draft update adds an open space projects list to the Open Space Element, intended to facilitate implementation and project prioritization. Pursuant to that objective, staff are now proposing the addition of a High Priority Projects List to the Element.

A High Priority Projects List will increase the Element's effectiveness by providing a more meaningful forum to discuss and evaluate priorities, and will support the City's efforts to pursue grant and other funding. A similar approach is used in the Transportation Element for "short-term projects". Staff have developed the following list in a straightforward manner—by compiling the projects on which the City is currently working, which are partly or fully funded, which have been prioritized by the City Council, and/or which are identified as top priorities in other policy documents. The list includes those projects on which the City is the lead, and would include a reference to Metro Parks Tacoma and other agencies' plans.

Staff are proposing the following High Priority Projects List (listed in alphabetical order):

- Chinese Reconciliation Park
- Community Gardens Program
- Dome To Defiance (including Foss Esplanade, Schuster Parkway Promenade, Ruston Way promenade)
- First Creek corridor
- Garfield Gulch
- Julia's Gulch
- Pipeline Trail
- Point Defiance Park
- Prairie Line Trail
- Schuster Slope
- Wapato Hills
- Water Ditch Trail

At the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, staff will seek the Commission's concurrence on including this list in the public review draft, which will allow it to be vetted publicly. If you have any questions please contact me at 591-5389 or [elliott.barnett@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:elliott.barnett@cityoftacoma.org).

c: Peter Huffman, Director