



Map 1. Locations of CHA monitoring plots SUN has installed to date throughout the city of Seattle.

## Next Steps

Currently, the data from the 1999-2000 Seattle Public Lands Habitat Survey are available on SUN's On-line Interactive Habitat Map at [www.seattleurbannature.org](http://www.seattleurbannature.org). As the Seattle CHA data become available, they will be added as a layer to the on-line map and will be easily accessible to the public.

## Support the CHA

Support for the Seattle Citywide Habitat Assessment (CHA) has come from individual contributions, the Bullitt Foundation, and Washington State's Department of Natural Resources.

As a non-profit organization, SUN relies on your support to fund the CHA. Consider making a contribution to SUN via our website at [www.seattleurbannature.org](http://www.seattleurbannature.org).



## Seattle Urban Nature (SUN)

The mission of Seattle Urban Nature (SUN) is to create tools to empower stewards for healthy urban ecosystems.

Today, SUN assists community groups, local governments, non-profit organizations and private citizens in their efforts to survey, map, restore and maintain urban forests in the Puget Sound region.

For more information about SUN or the CHA, visit [www.seattleurbannature.org](http://www.seattleurbannature.org).

## Seattle Urban Nature

5218 University Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98105

Phone: 206.522.0334  
Fax: 206.522.0076  
E-mail: [info@seattleurbannature.org](mailto:info@seattleurbannature.org)  
[www.seattleurbannature.org](http://www.seattleurbannature.org)

July 2008

# Seattle Citywide Habitat Assessment



## Seattle Public Lands Habitat Survey

For over 100 years, Seattle's forests have been in decline due to impacts from activities such as logging and urbanization. In an effort to reverse this decline, Seattle Urban Nature (SUN) was founded in 1998 to survey and map the vegetation and wildlife habitat on 8,000 acres of Seattle's public lands. Data from the 1999-2000 Seattle Public Lands Habitat Survey provide land managers and citizens with quantitative information about the city's natural resources. This information is the basis for the Green Seattle Partnership (GSP), an effort to restore all parks throughout the city.



## Citywide Habitat Assessment (CHA)

In order to build on the data collected in the 1999-2000 survey, SUN launched the Seattle Citywide Habitat Assessment (CHA) in 2005. **The CHA is a long-term effort to monitor the health of Seattle's urban forests.**

SUN is installing permanent monitoring plots in the eight forest types found throughout the city (see Table 1). When the assessment is complete, the data will serve as a **report card evaluating the current state of Seattle's urban forests.**

Forest Types in Seattle	# of Acres in Seattle	% of Total Forested Acres in Seattle
<b>Broadleaf Evergreen Forest</b>	24	<1
<b>Conifer Broadleaf Evergreen Mixed Forest</b>	22	<1
<b>Conifer Deciduous Mixed Forest</b>	366	13
Conifer Forest	320	12
<b>Deciduous Broadleaf Evergreen Mixed Forest</b>	50	2
Deciduous Forest	1866	70
Palustrine Forested Wetland	69	2
Riparian Forest	21	<1

**Table 1.** Forest types to be monitored during the Seattle CHA (those in bold have already been sampled), number of acres of each forest type in Seattle, and percentage of forested acres in the city.

## Goals of the CHA

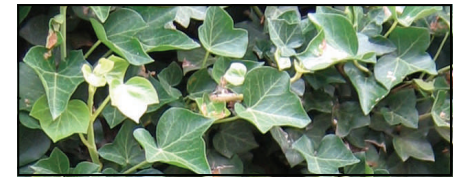
- 1) Provide an understanding of the **structure and function** of each of the eight forest types present in Seattle.
- 2) Understand the **threats to the health** of these forests and monitor conditions throughout time.
- 3) **Disseminate information** gathered in an easy to understand form to managers, stewards and the public.



## Preliminary Findings\*

- **More invasive than native tree species** are regenerating in sampled plots, posing a threat to the future ecological integrity of Seattle's urban forests
- **English holly** (*Ilex aquifolium*), a non-native evergreen tree, is the most abundant invasive tree species regenerating in sampled forest types
- **English ivy** (*Hedera helix*), a non-native vine that suppresses native plants, reduces tree regeneration, and poses a significant threat to existing trees, is present in nearly every plot sampled

\*Based on data collected to date in four forest types



## Timeline

SUN has installed permanent monitoring plots in four of the eight forest types (see Table 1). During 2008 and 2009, SUN will install plots in Seattle's **conifer forests, forested wetlands and riparian forests.** SUN is currently seeking funding to sample **deciduous forests**, which make up 70% of Seattle's urban forests.

After the initial installation, monitoring plots will be resampled **every five to ten years.** This will provide the ability to **monitor declines or improvements in the state of Seattle's urban forests.**