

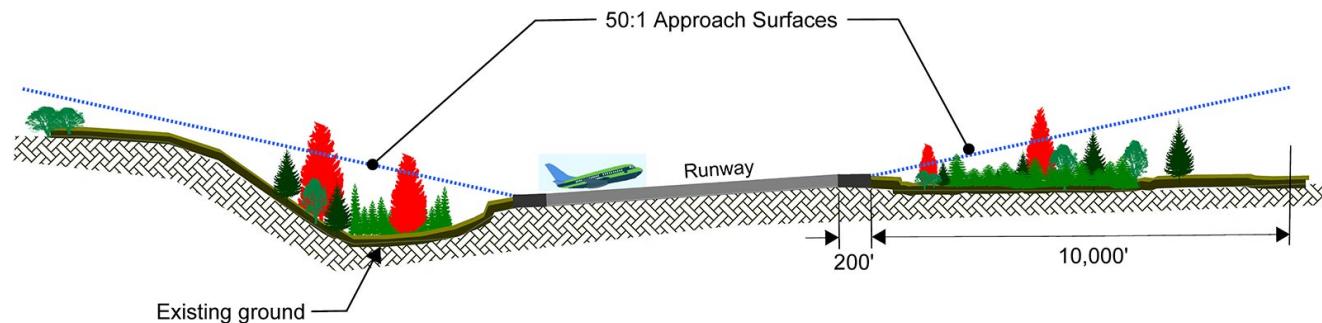
Item No.	11a_supp
Date of Meeting	January 13, 2026

# 2024 Flight Corridor Management Program - Briefing

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA)



# Flight Corridor Safety Program - Purpose



The FAA requires the Port of Seattle to ensure there are no obstructions on or around SEA that could affect flight safety.

Washington State law declares that the creation or establishment of airport hazards is a “public nuisance”.

# Flight Corridor Management Program - Overview

- An ongoing program to remove obstructions (generally, trees) around SEA to maintain safety during takeoffs and landings and replant in their place, native, lower height trees.
- The Port has already replanted in excess of 12,000 trees as part of the overall program.
- Obstructions either are penetrating SEA's airspace or are expected, within approximately the next five years.
- 2024 Project identified 197 Obstructions.
- Program is updated every five years, and the next analysis will be conducted in 2029.



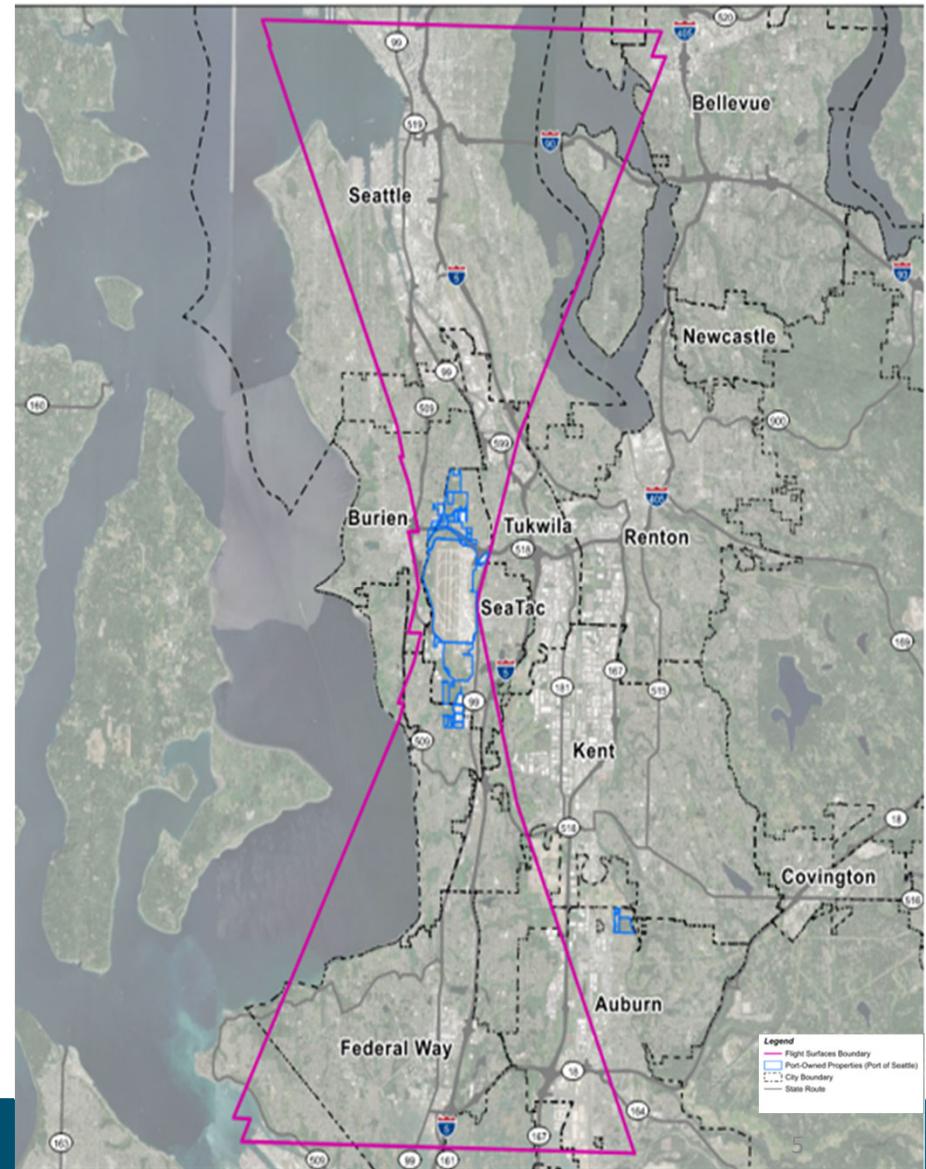
# Environmental Commitment

- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) is complete.
- Port jurisdiction, apply SEA tree replacement policy directive (4:1 functional replacement) for Port jurisdiction.
- For City jurisdictions, apply City replacement standards, including Port property in city jurisdiction.
- City standards typically require on-site replacement and/or in-lieu fee. Replacement ratios vary.
- Utilize best management practices to minimize environmental impacts.



# FCMP Survey Boundaries

Boundaries are determined by taking FAA safety of flight surfaces to determine the outer limits and elevation limits.



# Obstruction Identification Process

Step 1. Identify FAA defined flight surfaces



Step 2. Create a model of identified surfaces



## Step 3. Data Collection & Evaluation

- Aerial photogrammetry used to overlay images with flight surfaces to create a 3D model.
- Pinpoints current and future obstructions (within the next 5 years).
- Field evaluation performed to confirm obstructions.
- Confirm obstruction height, ground elevation, tree size, tree species, location, property owner.

# 2024 Flight Corridor Management Program

## Tree Removal and Estimated Replacement

Property Ownership/Jurisdiction	Obstruction Trees Removed	Trees Removed Incidental to Construction	Total Trees Removed	Tree Replacement Standard	Estimated Replacement quantities	
					Replacement	In-Lieu
Port Property / <b>Port jurisdiction</b>	153	0	153	Port's Tree Replacement Policy Directive* <b>4:1 functional replacement</b>	612 replacement credits (334 tree plantings)	Not applicable
Burien Property/ <b>Burien Jurisdiction</b>	5	1	6	Per City of Burien's requirements <b>3:1 replacement</b>	9 tree plantings	<b>AND</b> 9 trees In-lieu fee
SeaTac Parks Property/ <b>SeaTac jurisdiction</b>	34	10 to 15	44 to 49	Per City of SeaTac standards for Parks, ~6:1 replacement	204 tree plantings	<b>OR</b> 204 trees In-lieu fee
Port Property / <b>SeaTac jurisdiction</b>	5	0	5	Per City of SeaTac Development Standards, No replacement	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Totals</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>10 to 16</b>	<b>208 to 213</b>			

\* Applies to Airport Activity Area generally used for airport operations; or physically connected to the airfield, including navigational infrastructure and designated safety areas.

# Obstructions on Port Property

- 158 obstructions.
- 334 replacement trees to be planted.
- Additional invasive species control and high value tree protection per Port Tree Replacement Standards.

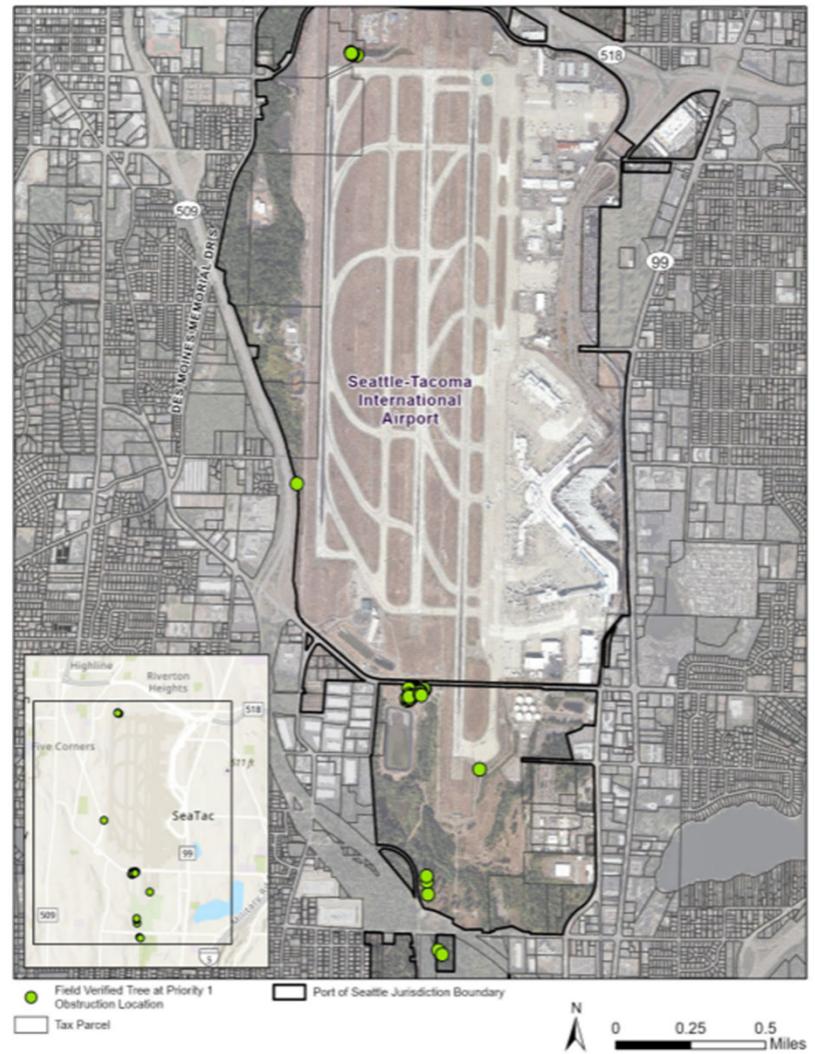


Figure 4. Location of Trees within Port of Seattle Property

# Obstructions within City of Burien

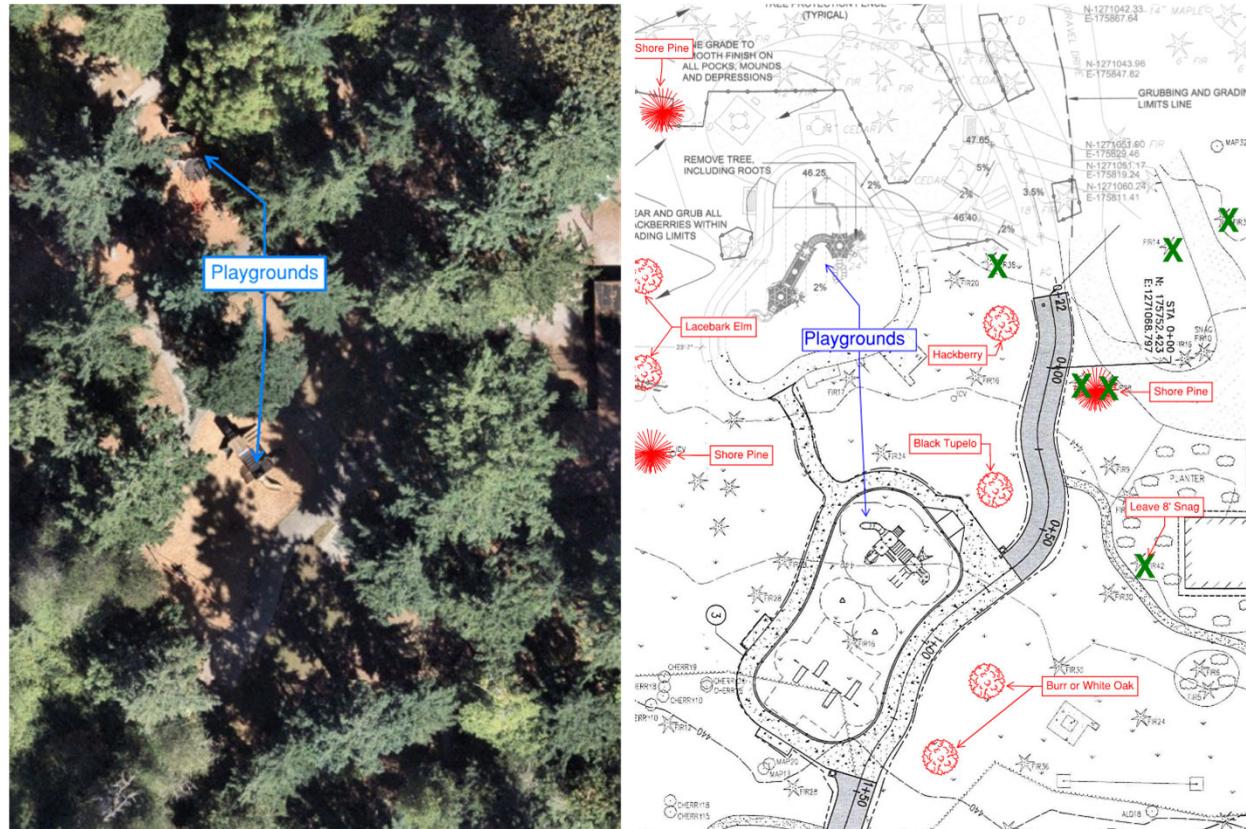
- 5 obstructions and 1 additional.
- 9 replacement trees to be planted and in-lieu fee equivalent to 9 trees.
- Per City of Burien's replacement ratio of 3:1.



Figure 7. Location of Trees within City of Burien

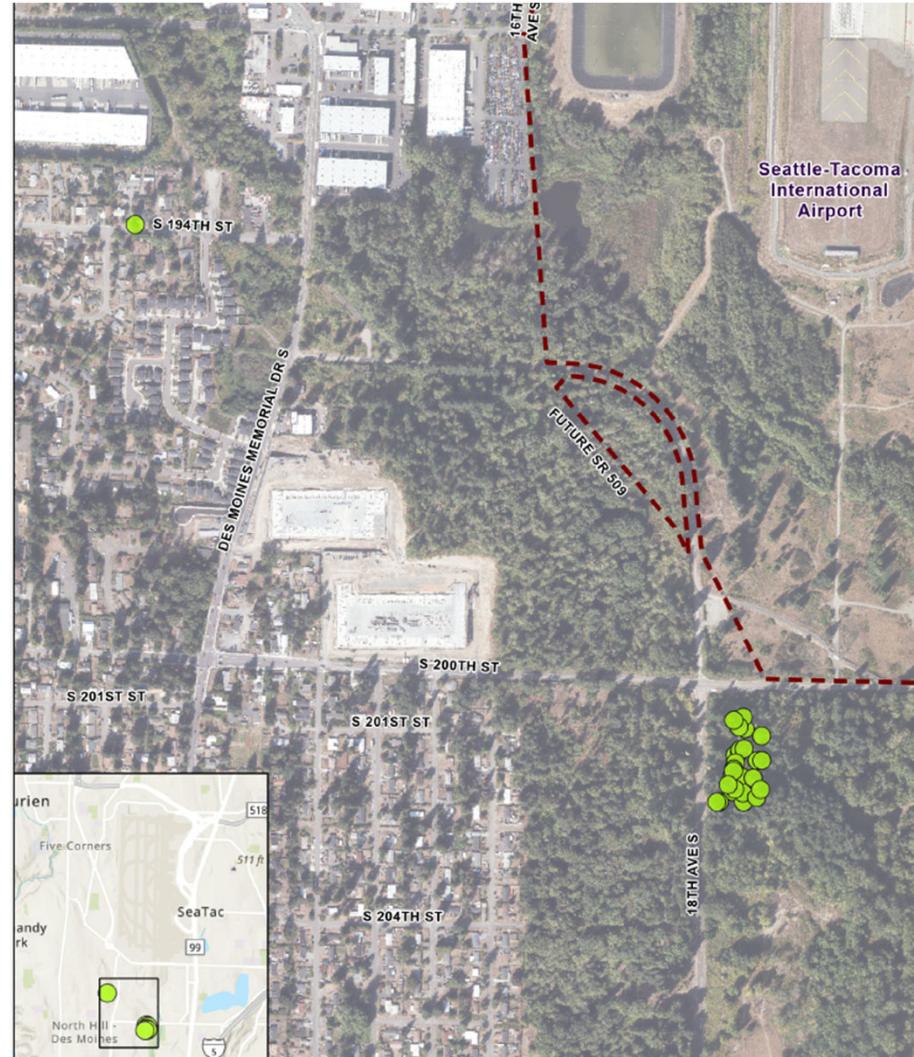
# Mathison Park, Burien

- Port staff has been working with City staff since March 2025.
- Green “X”s represent trees to be removed.
- Red trees identified by type are to be planted.
- Replanted trees will be maintained by the Port for two-years.



# Obstructions within City of SeaTac

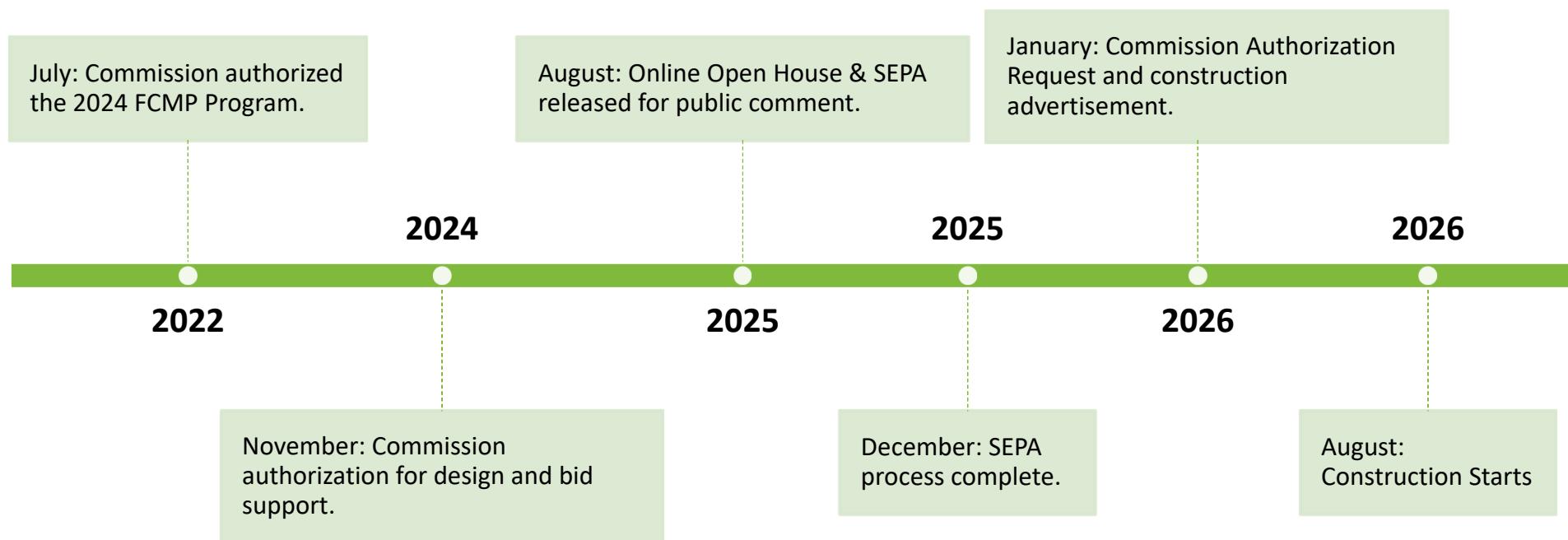
- 44 to 49 (including incidentals). All but one are in Des Moines Creek Park.
- Based on city code, we expect to plant 204 replacement trees or pay an in-lieu fee.



# Options Considered

- **Topping**, or cutting the main trunk and large branches, stresses the tree, making it susceptible to disease and decay. It also creates ideal nesting conditions for birds that are a known safety risk to aircraft.
- **Crowning**, while better for a deciduous tree's health versus topping, it encourages continued growth and potential future flight surface penetration. Crowning is not viable on conifer trees which are the majority of the FCMP obstructions.
- **Lighting**, a tree only serves as a warning; it does not remove the physical obstacle. In an emergency or low-visibility situation, pilots need a clear and unobstructed flight surface. The tree will also grow up around the light, requiring on-going maintenance.

# Flight Corridor Management Program Schedule



# 2025 Outreach, Engagement & Communications

03/26 Kickoff meeting with City of Burien staff

04/03 Kickoff meeting with City of SeaTac staff

08/07 Email to local councilmembers/city managers

08/08 Launch of new Flight Corridor website

8/20, 9/5, 9/19, 10/29 E-communications sent to the community

08/27 POS SEPA notification email sent

09/22 Presented at Burien City Council

12/05 Mathison Park Commissioner Site Tour

# Thank You!



**SEA**

Seattle-Tacoma  
International  
Airport

Operated by the  
Port of Seattle

[FlySEA.org](http://FlySEA.org)

