

## **GREENBELT POLICY (REVISED October 2018)**

**This policy is based on PSCC's agreement with the Tulalip Tribes, who govern our use of their land and, therefore, control Greenbelt area use. The Tribes maintain a full-time Tribal Forester who oversees all activities affecting the Greenbelt and who may assist us with interpretations of the Greenbelt Policy. The following policy is based on what we CAN and CANNOT do according to mandates laid down by the Tribal Forester:**

Trees, shrubs, herbs and vegetation native to the Pacific Northwest may be planted or transplanted. Local evergreen trees, e.g. Douglas Fir, Western Red Cedar and Western Hemlock are preferred; native understory medicinal plants are encouraged, which include Oregon grape, salal, knickkinick, etc. A list of plants native to Snohomish County is available at the Administration Office as a reference.

Weeds, grass or blackberry vines may be removed within a two-foot radius of trees, propane tanks, sheds and RV's. The same vegetation may be removed from the Greenbelt if *immediately* replanted with Native Plants. Understory shrubs such as rhododendrons, huckleberry and salal may be trimmed back to one-third of their height.

Blackberry vines and salmonberry branches may be trimmed to within two (2) feet of the ground. Salmonberries are an important food source for animals and they have extensive root systems that help prevent erosion. Himalayan blackberries are non-native and may be totally removed, provided the area involved is adequately replanted with Native Plants within 30 days. The Member is responsible for obtaining inspection approval before and after replanting by a Greenbelt Committee Member.

Ivy growing on the trunk of a tree should be cut at the base of the tree. All ivy should be removed from the lower two (2) feet of the tree. Ivy can grow nine (9) feet vertically per vine, per year, and six (6) feet horizontally per vine. Ivy growing on the ground should be removed and replaced with native vegetation.

Tree limbs in a Member's Greenbelt or overhanging the pad may be trimmed up to a height of 18 feet, or a maximum of two (2) feet above existing, approved structures, or to such a height that limbs do not interfere with passage of vehicles on the campsite or beat on structures due to wind. **HOWEVER, NO TREE SHALL BE TRIMMED HIGHER THAN 1/3 OF ITS HEIGHT WITHOUT A TREE LIMBING PERMIT.**

\*\*\*The Tribal Forester has agreed to allow limbs to be removed above the 18 ft. maximum for the following reasons, as long as the health of the tree is not endangered:

1. Tree limbs over pad or RV/structures on site
2. Satellite reception
3. Dense limbs blocking sun from site

All limbing mentioned above must be done by a certified tree arborist approved by Port Susan Administration. Members may obtain a Tree Limbing Permit from Administration to accomplish this. (Per Board Motion #090212)

Evergreen trees are **NOT TO BE REMOVED** FROM THE Greenbelt without the Tribal Forester's permission regardless of tree size. At various times the Tribal Forester may have small evergreens planted in the Greenbelt areas for erosion control on hills or in areas that trees have been removed, or any areas they want replanted. These trees are generally one to two feet tall and may appear in the Greenbelt at their order and must not be removed.

Non-evergreen/deciduous trees (trees that drop leaves, such as maple, alder, etc.) four (4) inches or less in diameter at adult chest height may be removed without permits. All other tree removal must be done by permit according to the Tree-Cutting Policies and Procedures.

Chipping of vegetation and limbs from own site is permitted in Greenbelt. Chippings turn into rich humus soil. However, the chips must be evenly dispersed throughout the Greenbelt and not placed in a single pile. Dead limbs may be removed from the Greenbelt. Dead fronds may be removed from ferns, but need not be.

**BEAUTY BARK MAY NOT BE PLACED ON CAMPSITES OR IN GREENBELT.** Beauty bark does not decompose rapidly nor provide the wide range of nutrients plants and trees require. It often leeches acids, which are detrimental and can cause stress or death to sensitive plants. **EXCEPTIONS** for the No-Beauty-Bark Policy may occur in PSCC common areas.

Non-native plants are not allowed in the Greenbelt but are allowed on site pads, in pots, so long as the roots are not growing into the ground. Hanging plants or pots are not allowed in the Greenbelt.

Members are allowed a birdbath (kept clean) and a nontoxic pole birdfeeder with hooks to feed wildlife. No treated wood is allowed in the Greenbelt (toxic arsenic, copper, creosote, etc., kill native vegetation).

Ashes from fire-pits are **NOT** to be placed in the Greenbelt or trash compactor (ashes clog the compactor), but are to be taken to the burn pit.

NO SEPTIC DRAIN FIELDS ARE ALLOWED IN THE GREENBELT PER THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.

No use of Round-Up or any defoliant or moss killer is allowed in the Greenbelt or on site pads by Members. Weed-whackers and blowers are not allowed in the Greenbelt. No fertilizer, topsoil, planting soil or manure is allowed in the Greenbelt (they may have parasites or disease, or kill native vegetation by being alkaline or acidic). \*\*\*Vinegar in a spray bottle may be used on the site pad. (per Board Motion #090813)

\*\*\*Zinc strip are allowed to be used on structure roofs to combat moss. (per Board Motion #090813)

Crushed rock and river rock are both allowed on Member's site, not to exceed original boundaries of site. Gravel may not be placed in the Greenbelt except when there is an approved permit for a pathway between two adjoining sites owned by the same Member. After the initial pathway permit, new gravel permits for the site may include the pathway. All gravel must remain at least 12 inches away from tree trunks.

**MEMBER SITE NUMBERS ARE THE ONLY ITEM ALLOWED ON TREES. NO OTHER ITEMS MAY BE ATTACHED OR HUNG FROM A TREE. (LIGHTS, SATELLITE DISHES, BIRD HOUSES, DOG CABLES, ETC.)**

\*\*\*Following are exceptions to the above rule –

1. **Holiday Decorations and Lighting, which may be hung in the trees from October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup> (for Halloween) and from the day after Thanksgiving to January 15<sup>th</sup> (for Christmas). You may not nail or staple any decorations/items to tree, stumps or vegetation. (per Board Motion #090312)**
2. **Bat nesting boxes may be attached to tree using nails which MUST be obtained from PSCC Maintenance at no charge. Specifications for size and materials are available in Administration. (per Board Motion #010213)**

No more than one cord of firewood may be stacked in the Greenbelt. One cord equals 4x4x8 feet.

Structures must be built with a two (2) foot minimum distance from any tree (edge of roof to tree trunks).

Propane tanks may be placed on the edge of a Member's site pad or no more than three (3) feet maximum into the Greenbelt and may not be within two (2) feet of any tree.

### **EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT**

Living trees and vegetation ABSORB COMPOUNDS FROM THE DRAIN FIELDS and are essential to the health of the environment. Using a system of "transpiration", they process the compounds, making them harmless and releasing them into the atmosphere, through leaves and foliage, in the form of oxygen.

Fallen and dead vegetation on the ground (e.g., leaves, twigs, stumps and needles) decay and provide needed nutrients for plant, tree and animal health. Living and decaying ground material prevents soil erosion and compaction, holds slopes, stabilizes soil temperatures and retains moisture. Bare ground may stress trees and vegetation by causing rapid evaporation, depletion of nutrients, soil erosion and excess soil temperatures. We encourage Member to mulch Greenbelts with vegetation removed from the site pad.

### **COMPLIANCE/ENFORCEMENT COMPONENT**

PSCC Park Manager, Rangers and Greenbelt Secretary will be provided with copies of the current Greenbelt Policy. The Rangers or Greenbelt Secretary will issue a "Notice of Non-Compliance" for apparent non-compliance of the Greenbelt Maintenance Guidelines. After this, the Greenbelt Committee will review the Notice, inspect the site and recommend any actions, e.g., restoration and/or issuance of an infraction.

Submitted/Approved by:

Russell Moses, Tribal Forester, and Tulalip Tribes of Washington (Signed copy on file in Administration) Date: 10/6/11

PSCC Board Approval per Motion #110311 Date: November 2011

\*\*\* ADDENDUM PSCC Board and Tribal Forester approval per Motions #090212, #090312, #010213 and #090813  
Dates: September 2012, January 2013 and September 2013 October 2018