FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Improving tree health and preserving Shelton history

Throughout the month of March, a Puget SoundCorps team is working with City staff to remove invasive plants and prune trees in various locations around the city, including the future SR-3 park and ride and historic pear orchard site. These invasive non-native plants hinder the growth of healthy forests by competing for water and nutrients, and in some cases even killing trees. Many undesirable plants that grow in dense thickets also harbor rats and other vermin, creating a public safety hazard as well. Once the unwelcome plants are gone, native vegetation will be planted in its place.

The historic pear orchard includes pear trees planted in the 1880’s by city founder David Shelton. The Puget SoundCorps team, along with our local master gardeners, have assisted city staff by grafting cuttings from these pear trees to help preserve the heritage of the pear orchard.

The Urban Forestry Restoration Project, administered by the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) Urban and Community Forestry Program, is an exciting opportunity to enhance the capacity of urban forests to manage stormwater and improve air and water quality by improving the health and function of trees and forested sites in urban settings.

For more information about the Urban Forestry Restoration Project, visit the Project online or contact Micki McNaughton at (360) 902-1637 or micki.mcnaughton@dnr.wa.gov. DNR’s Urban and Community Forestry Program is made possible through a partnership with the USDA Forest Service. Puget SoundCorps is part of the broader Washington Conservation Corps program administered by Washington Dept. of Ecology. Puget SoundCorps crews work on projects that help restore and protect water quality in Puget Sound. The Washington Conservation Corps is supported through grant funding and Education Awards provided by AmeriCorps.

For information about the SR-3 park and ride and historic pear orchard improvement project, the City of Shelton contact is Steve Goins, phone 432-5136 or email sgoins@ci.shelton.wa.us.