


Kestrel chicks in the Davis Meeker oak video

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To: Alyssa Jones Wood <AJonesWood@ci.tumwater.wa.us>

 1 attachments (5 MB)

Video.mov;

Alyssa,

I don't know whether you've seen this video of the fledging baby kestrels at the Davis Meeker oak. It is so cool! I just wish I could see what the parent kestrel fed the chick. It looks pretty large. There must be good prey for the kestrels at the airport since the chicks all look really healthy. They've got to be pretty tough to survive the heat that we've been having. Maybe it's cooler inside the tree.

I've been thinking more about heat islands as I've been listening to the paving taking place on Kingswood Drive. Asphalt and cement make everything soooo hot and whenever the earth is paved, the land's ability to participate in the earth's cooling carbon cycle is destroyed. The effects from these intense heat islands generate outward, putting a lot more stress on vegetation growing in nearby natural areas, especially during extended heat events like we're having now. You're new to this area, but week after week of 80 and 90 degree summer temperatures are not normal here, at least when I was growing up. Back then when we would have a summer heat event, more often than not, there would be a thunderstorm with a heavy dose of rain afterward. Now the earth gets so desiccated there's not enough moisture in the atmosphere to create a thunderstorm.

I know that policy is not your bailiwick, but I can't help but remember all the times that I've heard developers say a project wouldn't "pencil out" because of environmental constraints put on them. I hope your group's work on the climate section of the comprehensive plan includes a new "climate budget" for the city, where true climate costs are figured into the cost benefit analysis of how land is zoned and development occurs. For example, does the little bit of tax revenue the city will receive from the new fast food places on Kingswood Drive come anywhere near to offsetting the climate costs it will incur to the city and nearby neighborhoods?

Could you please forward the kestrel video to the Tree Board members?

Thank you!

Nancy