**Sustainable Soil Practices: Managing Soil Health on Your Site**
August 28, 2019, 9am-4pm
University of Washington Botanic Gardens, Center for Urban Horticulture
3501 NE 41st St., Seattle, WA 98105

**AGENDA**

9:00-9:15  Welcome and Introduction  
*Jessica Farmer, Adult Education Supervisor, UW Botanic Gardens*

9:15-10:45  How to Read Your Soil  
*David McDonald, Resource Conservation Planner, Seattle Public Utilities*

This session will cover topics including soil texture, structure, and biology. Attendees will work in groups to analyze soil texture by feel and to conduct a simple jar test that can be performed on your work site.

10:45-11:00  BREAK

11:00-12:15  Demystifying Soil Chemistry  
*Roy Farrow, Grounds Supervisor, UW Botanic Gardens*

This session will help you understand soil chemistry and how it interacts with soil biology. We will include a discussion of how to read a soil test and participants will review lab test results for soil samples available at their tables.

12:15-1:00  LUNCH

1:00-2:15  Stormwater Requirements and Protecting & Restoring Construction-impacted Soils  
*David McDonald, Resource Conservation Planner, Seattle Public Utilities*

This talk will cover what you need to know about Washington state stormwater requirements for managing soil and how to address soils impacted by recent (or historical) construction. Groups will get practice by developing a soil management plan for an example site.

2:15-2:30  BREAK

2:30-3:45  Mulch Matters  
*Christina Pfeiffer, Horticulture Consultant*

Mulch plays a vital role in moisture infiltration and retention, soil and plant nutrition, providing habitat for beneficial organisms, and influencing soil structure. It can also suppress weeds. Recent research has quantified just how beneficial mulch applications can be for existing landscapes and for restoring damaged soil. But not all mulch materials are created equal! We will review what makes good mulch for different situations and best application practices, as well as problems that can result from certain materials.

3:45-4:00  Wrap-up discussion & closing remarks  
*David McDonald, Resource Conservation Planner, Seattle Public Utilities, and Jessica Farmer, Adult Education Supervisor, UW Botanic Gardens*