



Thriving Environment Report

Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) works every day to support a thriving environment in our nearly 500 parks. Stewarding 12% of Seattle's land is a responsibility not just for today, but for future generations and our urban ecosystem, which we take seriously. Collaborations in 2022 helped us divert more waste from the landfill, reduce water use, restore our urban forest, and reduce carbon emissions in our buildings. Nearly every resident in Seattle has access to a public open space within half a mile, providing benefits to their health and well being. And we are managing these parks sustainably with both people and planet in mind. We hope you'll get out and explore YOUR parks this year and let us know how we can continue to help them thrive.



99%

of households live within a 10-minute walk to a public park

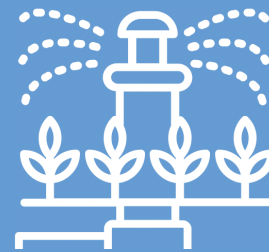


70,013

native plants added in urban forests including 8,595 trees



31 new acres of urban forest in restoration



40% less water used than estimated on 579 irrigated acres



3,944 storm drains inspected and 1,353 cleaned



1 new park opened (Lake City)



60% of waste diverted through recycling and composting



92 trail projects completed in natural areas, improving 43,846 feet of trail



11 buildings improved reducing 50 tons of CO2 emissions annually



13,836 participants in Environmental Education Programs

Winds of Change

SPR is making the transition to cleaner and quieter equipment. Starting in 2019 we introduced battery-powered leaf blowers and are now prioritizing using them in our downtown parks. We are assessing our buildings' charging capacity and upgrading facilities. Our goal is to use all carbon-free small equipment within a few years, starting with only purchasing battery-powered blowers going forward. We hope you'll like the change!

Compost Your Lunch

SPR has introduced composting to our parks for the first time! In 2022, new bins with recycling, waste, and compost were placed in downtown parks that host food trucks. The new durable bins are designed to direct your waste into the proper bin in order to divert as much garbage as possible from the landfill. Decals, specifically for public park settings, were developed with Seattle Public Utilities to help users know what to put where. Look for the new blue, green, and black bins downtown!

Biodiversity Blitz

Curious what plants, animals, and fungi live in our city parks? We are too! So in 2022 SPR again mobilized to support the City Nature Challenge, a community science event in the spring that uses the iNaturalist app to gather biodiversity data from people just like you. Over 2,650 observations were made in Seattle during the three-day event. Look for another opportunity to gather biodiversity information this spring.