



2021 Healthy Environment Impacts

Parks and green spaces, and the public programming and services provided by Seattle Parks and Recreation, became notably more important in 2021 as the COVID-19 pandemic continued. People sought respite and recreation in open spaces and soaked in the physical, mental, and emotional benefits of connecting to nature in our urban setting. SPR continued to maintain these park lands sustainably. Natural areas were restored, meadows expanded, and trails improved. We continued with energy efficiency projects and reduced our use of fossil fuels in our buildings. We improved our data around equitable access to parks, becoming 9th in the nation according to the Trust for Public Land. Our environmental education programs restarted outdoors, ensuring more people could learn about nature in the city. And the City signed the C40 Urban Nature Declaration, committing to supporting the benefits of nature in our city. We are back on track, and ready to continue to provide a Healthy Environment in 2022.



97%
of households
live within a 10-minute
walk to a public park



53,694
native plants
added in urban forests
including 10,573 trees



59 new acres
of urban forest
in restoration



28% less water
than estimated
on 579 irrigated acres



3,992 storm
drains inspected
and 1,229 cleaned



2 properties
acquired
for future parks in
underserved areas



8,444 pounds
of food collected & distributed
from gardens & orchards
and 12,726 pounds of fruit
composted at orchards



92 trail projects
completed in natural
areas, improving
9,487 feet of trail



5 buildings
improved
reducing energy
use by 31%



7,846 participants
in Environmental
Education Programs

Helping Healthy Trees

SPR estimates we manage around 500,000 trees in our parks and natural areas. Our Tree Crew conducts assessments and maintains these trees all year long, ensuring a healthy urban forest. In 2021 they maintained 4,241 trees! This includes inspections, pruning, removal, snag creation, cabling, fungicidal treatment, and planting. The goal in this work is to support healthy trees and safe parks—no small task in an urban area like Seattle.

Climate Resilience

Seattle's climate is changing, and SPR is adapting. We are seeing hotter drier summers, intense winter storm events, and rising seas that are continuing to impact our parks. The new strategy *Climate Resilience in Seattle's Parks and Recreation System*, released after extensive internal collaboration, describes the impacts of climate change on our system, the current actions to adapt to them, and the future recommendations to be a resilient park and recreation system.

Urban Nature & Climate

Seattle has joined cities from across the world to commit to enhancing nature in the city to support climate resilience by signing the C40 Urban Nature Declaration. This commitment aligns with our continuing work to expand parks and green spaces equitably, and to restore the natural areas under our management. As part of an international cohort, we share ideas and solutions to bring the benefits of nature to the residents and visitors of Seattle.