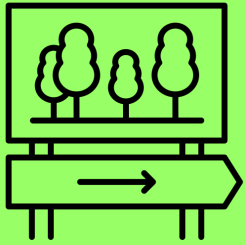


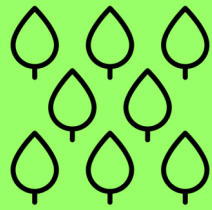


# 2019 Healthy Environment Impacts

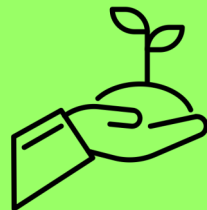
Parks are places of community and connection, public spaces dedicated to improving environmental and public health for all. As stewards of over 485 parks and natural areas, our employees work every day to support a healthy environment. Here's how!



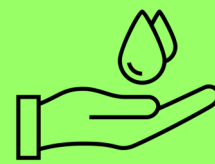
**94%**  
of households  
live within a 10-minute  
walk to a public park



**90,233**  
native plants  
planted in our  
urban forests



**20,000**  
people connected  
to nature through  
education  
programs



**575 acres**  
irrigated  
with 37% less water  
than estimated



**180 bins**  
placed in all our  
buildings to  
increase recycling  
and composting



**2 new parks**  
opened  
and 14 new parks or  
expansions in development



**28 new acres**  
of urban forest  
in restoration



**225**  
trail projects  
completed in our  
natural areas



**21 buildings**  
improved  
reducing energy  
use by 58%



**5**  
electric bikes  
added to our  
fleet of vehicles

## What is a Healthy Environment?

A healthy environment is a thriving ecosystem where everyone has equitable use of, and responsibility for, public spaces.

## Parks and Climate Change

Parks play a critical role in adapting to and mitigating the changes in our climate. Trees, green spaces, and coastlines all play a role in preparing for our new climatic future. Here are some things we're doing.

### Reducing Our Emissions

As the owner of many buildings and vehicles, SPR is committed to reducing our emissions. We are transitioning our buildings off fossil fuel heat and constantly making them more energy efficient. We are also shifting to electric vehicles when possible as part of the Green Fleet Action Plan.

### Storing Carbon and Cleaning the Air

Parks play a huge role in absorbing and storing carbon. At SPR we are restoring our urban forests, leaving leaves and adding mulch to build soil, and letting our grass grow higher. All these practices take the carbon from the air and store it in the plants and soil where it benefits our parks.

### Adapting to Climate Change Impacts

As we experience the impacts of climate change—hotter drier summers, wetter winters, sea-level rise—SPR is working to become resilient. We are updating our plant list, increasing watering periods, mapping our coastal areas, and updating all our best management practices.

## The Equity Connection

People of color are disproportionately impacted by environmental injustices such as pollution, access to open space, and the effects of climate change. We prioritize resources to change this imbalance through creating new parks where they are needed most, restoring green spaces for the health benefits they provide, and reducing our carbon footprint in our operations.

Learn more at:

[seattle.gov/parks/environment](http://seattle.gov/parks/environment)