



THE SUSTAINABILITY IN PRISONS PROJECT (SPP)

Our mission is to bring science and nature into prisons. We conduct ecological research and conserve biodiversity by forging collaborations with scientists, inmates, prison staff, students, and community partners. Equally important, we help reduce the environmental, economic, and human costs of prisons by inspiring sustainable and compassionate practices.

SUSTAINABILITY IN PRISONS PROJECT PROGRAMS

The Sustainability in Prisons Project has grown rapidly and now facilitates programming in all twelve Washington State prisons. SPP has also grown beyond Washington—with help from the National Science Foundation, we have launched eight other SPP teams across the country, and we have heard additional interest from around the world. In the midst of our evolution, the founding partnership between Washington Department of Corrections and The Evergreen State College remains the center of our work, and we continue to innovate and collaborate within prison walls.

Sustainable Operations

Among prison facilities statewide, from 2005 to 2012 the DOC has:

- Recycled 2,000 tons of waste
- Composted 1,800 tons of food and landscaping waste
- Reduced all solid waste to landfills by 47%
- Decreased potable water use by over 100 million gallons annually
- Decreased facility heating and energy consumption by 13%
- Reduced all transportation fuel consumption by 35%
- Reduced total carbon emissions by an estimated 41% from 2009 to 2012

Education and Training

From 2004-2013, SPP has facilitated:

- More than 125 lectures in five prisons, with more than 2500 inmates and 35 DOC staff attendees. (Due to participation in multiple activities, individuals may be counted more than once.)
- Presentations and lectures from more than 100 scientists and practitioners from more than 40 organizations, agencies, and universities.
- Nearly 30 workshops on sustainability-related topics, e.g. gardening, composting, soil science, wildlife biology, beekeeping, and arboriculture.
- Roots of Success environmental literacy instruction at four WDOC facilities. In the first offering, the program engaged approximately 70 inmates as students and 14 as instructors.



Research and Conservation

Oregon Spotted Frogs:

From 2009-2013, inmates at CCCC successfully raised more than 550 frogs.

Native Prairie Plants:

From 2009-June 2012, inmates have raised more than 600,000 native plants for South Sound habitat restoration.

Taylor's Checkerspot Butterflies:

In 2012 and 2013, inmate technicians, students, and corrections staff at MCCCW raised more than 7,000 butterflies for release.

Honey Bees:

Inmates and corrections staff maintain active beekeeping programs at CCCC, SCCC, and WCCW.

Community Contributions

Every WDOC prison hosts a pet program. Four prisons have partnered with organizations that provide service animals to people with disabilities, and all partner with non-profit shelters to train dogs or cats for adoption. Many facilities rehabilitate bicycles and/or medical equipment for community donations. The most productive gardening programs contribute thousands of pounds of produce to local foodbanks.

PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

American Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Department of Defense; Joint Base Lewis-McChord

Northwest Trek

Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium

Prison Pet Partnership

The Center for Natural Lands Management

The Oregon Zoo

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Washington Department of Natural Resources

Woodland Park Zoo

and many more!

SPP LEADERSHIP

Carri LeRoy and Dan Pacholke, Co-Directors

Nalini Nadkarni, Senior Advisor

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Photos: Benj Drummond (front & middle), Cyril Ruoso (top & 2nd from bottom), Rod Gilbert (2nd from top), and Shauna Bittle (bottom).

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