

# Sustainability in Prisons Project Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report



Toward the end of the most productive rearing season yet, partners of the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly program visited one of the butterfly's release sites and saw native Salish lowlands prairie first-hand. Butterfly technicians and Evergreen and WA Corrections staff learned more about the prairie from the Washington State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife biologist who supports the program. Just as wonderful, they got to see adult checkerspots in flight in their native habitat! Photo by Keegan Curry.



the  
**evergreen**  
state college





# Sustainability in Prisons Project

## Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report



*The Sustainable Practices Lab at Washington State Penitentiary houses dozens of shops that reclaim materials and turn them into items of value. Photo by Bethany Shepler.*

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*Partners in the prairie plant seed nursery at Washington Corrections Center pose for a photo following a presentation. Photo by Erin Lynam.*



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## Executive Summary: Sustainability in Prisons Project, FY19

Fiscal year 2019 (FY19, July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019) was another successful year for the [Sustainability in Prisons Project](#) (SPP). The SPP partnership was founded by [Washington Department of Corrections](#) (WA Corrections) and [The Evergreen State College](#) (Evergreen) in 2003, and has grown to include many collaborators. The full SPP annual report aims to acknowledge all contributing partners and describe all science, environmental education, and sustainability programs in WA prisons. This year, SPP partners reported **212 programs and 198 partner organizations** statewide. Our executive summary highlights select FY19 programs, partnerships, and developments plus goals for FY20 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020).

**[Gardening curriculum](#):** In partnership with three community organizations, corrections staff and incarcerated individuals at MCC and SCCC developed a new, peer-led gardening course. A new graduate student position, funded entirely by foundation donors, coordinated the highly collaborative endeavor.

**[Butterfly program expansion](#):** With funding from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, partners constructed a second, 12' x 28' greenhouse at MCCCW. The custom-designed structure doubles capacity to breed and raise federally-endangered Taylor's checkerspot butterflies for release onto Salish lowland prairies.

**[New science and sustainability education materials](#):** To increase science education in existing programs, SPP-Evergreen staff designed and developed new learning guides to be accessible, informative, and empowering. Guides include topics such as butterfly husbandry and scientific illustration. Staff also organized all existing SPP-Evergreen education materials to maximize access and use.

**[Water Conservation Pilot](#):** WA Corrections piloted new domestic water valves and controllers at the Washington State Penitentiary. The result was an overall water savings of 81.5%. Projected project return on investment is only 1.52 years.

**[WSDOT workshop series](#):** WSDOT and SPP partners presented on education and employment pathways at multiple conferences and piloted a workshop series at MCCCW and CCCC. Workshop topics included wetland ecology, restoration, stormwater careers, and competing for state employment.

**[Reentry pathways](#):** SPP-Evergreen staff advocated for resources and helped secure an Education Navigator position at The Evergreen State College. WA Corrections and the [State Board of Community and Technical Colleges](#) fund the position, the first to be hosted by a four-year college.

**[Partnership with Pacific National Laboratory and Department of Commerce](#):** WA Corrections met with legislators and stakeholders across the agency to develop WA Corrections Facilities Energy and Water Strategy.

**[Call for writing in prison](#):** SPP partners stewarded a “call for writing” at eight WA prisons—requesting writings from incarcerated people on science in prisons—and 44 writers responded. SPP-Evergreen combined excerpts and submitted for the volume *STEM Education in US Prisons*, to be in print fall 2020.

**[Increased seed production](#):** Partners in prairie conservation programs at WCCW and WCC are making sizable contributions to regional restoration ecology. Incarcerated technicians received education and training to support their efforts to raise seeds for rare flowering plants.

**[Empowering incarcerated expertise and leadership](#):** Numerous incarcerated partners provided expertise, guidance, and leadership; they contributed to research projects, events, presentations, and

planning meetings. For example: co-MCing SCCC/SPP [Reentry event](#), presenting MCC's compost program at an [international conference](#), and co-authoring chapters for the [new gardening course](#).

**Energy Efficiency and Solar Grants:** WA Corrections was awarded grant funds to assist with an energy conservation project at the Coyote Ridge Corrections Center.

**Evergreen Coalition Building:** SPP-Evergreen staff continued to support development of the Evergreen Education Coalition for Justice Involved Students, which includes faculty, students, and staff from Tacoma and Olympia campuses. SPP supported several events over the past year: first annual Coalition meeting, numerous planning meetings, the SCCC/SPP Reentry event, and conference presentations.

**Beekeeping educational materials:** SPP-Evergreen and Washington State Beekeepers Association (WASBA) formalized our partnership this year, creating a strong foundation for SPP bee programs. WASBA published upgraded educational curricula for three levels of beekeepers, which Evergreen distributes. Both partners are committed to high quality bee education and certifications statewide.

## Anticipated Programs Highlights, FY20

Program/Project	Partners and facility	Planned outcomes
Short film project	Formerly incarcerated SPP participants	Phase 1 of short film describing experiences in SPP programs; more interview subjects included in next phase of project
Enhanced curricula	All facilities, incarcerated students, staff sponsors and experts	Piloted <a href="#">gardening curriculum</a> ; drafted statewide compost curriculum; published more learning guides
Book and Article Publications	NASA, U of UT, AZ State U and incarcerated authors	Contributed to peer-reviewed <a href="#">journal article on astrobiology lectures</a> ; published chapter in STEM education in prisons volume
Increased operations alignment	All facilities	Shared agreements, plans, and processes adopted by WA Corrections, SPP-Evergreen, and program partners, increasing efficiency
WSDOT education, training & employment	WSDOT; all facilities	Broadened <a href="#">partner</a> participation; increased outreach to incarcerated individuals; added education and training
Increased connection to programs in other states	Network contacts (mostly national)	Presentations at Higher Ed in Prisons Conference, Ecological Prison Programs Conference; potential collaboration on national program inventory
Certifications and academic credit	All facilities and academic partners	<a href="#">Award academic credit</a> to currently incarcerated SPP certificated internship students

## Conclusion

We are grateful to the many people who have contributed to the collective accomplishments described throughout this report. Our partnerships among incarcerated people, corrections staff, scientists, students, and program partners are impactful, innovative, challenging, and successful. We are dedicated to continuous improvement. We remain committed to addressing all stakeholders' needs, fostering a culture of mutual respect, combining resources to increase capacity, and prioritizing initiatives best aligned with SPP goals. Together we are increasing access to science and sustainability education and opportunities to participate in the environmental movement.

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## 1. Background Information

*When you bring in education, dogs, gardening, and other sustainable programs you get involved in those, instead of prison life.*

~ incarcerated partner Kieth Parkins

This report provides information on [Sustainability in Prisons Project](#) (SPP) activities during Washington State fiscal year 2019 (FY19) which includes the period from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. [Washington Department of Corrections](#) (WA Corrections) considers all sustainability initiatives in Washington (WA) prisons to be part of the SPP partnership regardless of which partner(s) leads and operates the program. The primary objective of this document is to update all collaborators and stakeholders on SPP programs and activities. This report represents the most complete information available with current reporting mechanisms.

Scientists, incarcerated people, students, prison staff, and community partners in all 12 Washington prisons work together to change lives and make positive contributions to people and the environment. For FY19, partners reported **212 programs and 198 partner organizations**. Working lists of all SPP-WA programs ([Appendix 1](#)) and partners ([Appendix 2](#)) are included to recognize the impressive diversity and number of opportunities offered. [Appendix 3](#) lists common abbreviations.

### SPP Mission

The Sustainability in Prisons Project (SPP) is a partnership founded by WA Corrections and [The Evergreen State College](#) (Evergreen). Our mission is to empower sustainable change by bringing nature, science, and environmental education into prisons.

### SPP Vision

In response to the dual crises of ecological degradation and mass incarceration, we aim to reduce recidivism while improving human well-being and ecosystem health. SPP brings together incarcerated individuals, scientists, corrections staff, students, and program partners to promote education, conserve biodiversity, practice sustainability, and help build healthy communities. Together, we reduce the environmental, economic, and human costs of prisons.

### SPP Staff and Organization Chart

The organization chart in Figure 1 includes staff as of July 2019. This chart is limited to core staff at WA Corrections and Evergreen (SPP-Evergreen), only hinting at the many corrections staff involved; there are many more corrections, academic, conservation, and community organization staff contributing to program success. During this reporting period, SPP continued to be co-directed by [Kelli Bush](#) from Evergreen and [Steve Sinclair](#) from WA Corrections. Rob Herzog, Assistant Secretary for the Prisons Division, serves as an advisor to Evergreen on corrections operations. SPP leadership meets quarterly.

Program Coordinator positions are staffed by Evergreen graduate students working 20 hours per week. Student-staff are typically recruited from the Evergreen [Master of Environmental Studies](#) and [Master of Sustainability in Prisons Project](#) (SPP): Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report

[Public Administration](#) graduate programs, and work for two-year terms. Each summer several students complete their work with SPP and train new students to take over their positions. During the reporting period, 13 Program Coordinators worked for SPP: Alexandra James, Bethany Shepler, Keegan Curry, Jacob Meyers, Amanda Mintz, Erin Lynam, Jessica Brown, Marisa Pushee, Graham Klag, Anna Duron, Erica Benoit, Carly Rose and Allison Campbell.

Sustainability in Prisons Project Org Chart

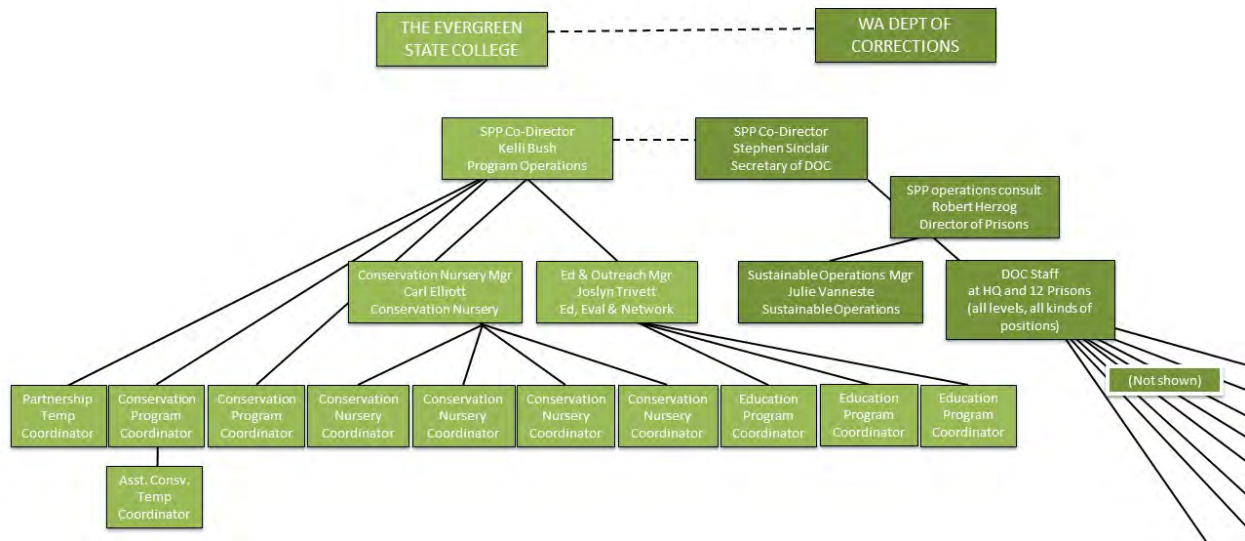


Figure 1. SPP Organizational Chart

## Advisory Panel

In FY19, SPP's Advisory Panel was comprised of fourteen participants including SPP's two co-directors. Panel members represent formerly incarcerated partners, corrections staff, conservation specialists, and education professionals. The [Advisory Panel](#) provides expertise, creative thinking, advice, and assistance with SPP initiatives and program development. Members of the Advisory Panel in FY19 were:

- Steve Sinclair, SPP-DOC Co-Director, Secretary Washington State DOC
- Kelli Bush, SPP-Evergreen Co-Director, The Evergreen State College
- Carri LeRoy, Member of the Faculty at Evergreen, Senior Science Advisor
- Kevin Francis, Master of Environmental Studies (MES) Program Director, Member of the Faculty at The Evergreen State College (Evergreen)
- Carolina Landa, Master of Public Administration at Evergreen, Assistant to the Director for the Reentry Council, former SPP Butterfly Technician
- Jim Lynch, Biologist, Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) Fish and Wildlife
- Sadie Gilliom, MES alum, former Turtle Conservation Program Coordinator
- Fawn Harris, MES alum, former Prairie Conservation Nursery Program Coordinator



- David McAvity, Academic Dean, Evergreen
- Bill Anglemeyer, Evergreen Student and former SPP Turtle Technician
- Mike Obenland, Superintendent, Monroe Correctional Complex, Washington State DOC
- Robert Herzog, Director of Prisons, Washington State DOC
- Reed Schuler, Senior Policy Advisor for Climate and Sustainability, Governor’s Office
- Liz Louie, Culinary Program Manager, Fare Start, former SPP Butterfly Technician

### **Staff Development: training, safety and security**

Programs are operated in compliance with WA Corrections safety and security rules, SPP-Evergreen protocols for working in the prison environment, and partner protocols for work with plants and animals. All SPP-Evergreen staff complete required WA Corrections training. Security is a topic included on every SPP-Evergreen staff meeting agenda, which are held every two weeks. SPP-Evergreen staff have maintained our commitment to be adaptable to changing security needs including information technology, research, and facility operations.



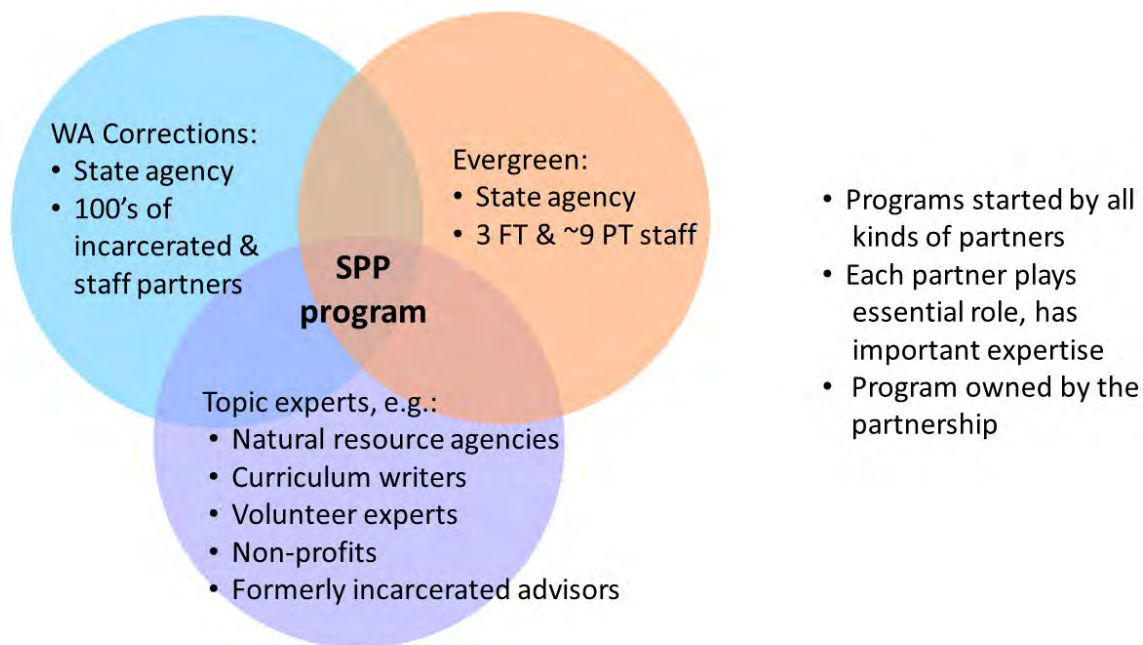
*A prairie nursery technician collects seeds from the violet beds at WCCW. Photo by Jacob Meyers.*

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## 2. Partnerships

Partnerships and collaboration are an essential component of SPP efforts and nearly every SPP program. We continually work to identify new partners and mutually beneficial programs. A working list of SPP partnerships is included as [Appendix 2](#); during FY19 more than 192 different organizations contributed to SPP programs in WA.

At the program level, the founding partners are often joined by one or more additional partners who bring vital expertise, resources, and/or skills to the program. We aim to recognize each partner for their role and the program is co-owned by all. Figure 2 offers an illustration.



**Figure 2.** SPP generalized program structure.

Roles played by each partner vary to fit the program focus and needs. In general, WA Corrections and partner organizations provide primary leadership for Sustainable Operations and Community Contribution programs, and Evergreen takes the lead on Environmental Education and Ecological Conservation programs. However, input and expertise from all stakeholders is critical to program success, and those communications are ever-present and ongoing.

### Emerging Partnerships

In the past few years, SPP has invested in two new partnerships. Already they have delivered important programmatic impacts, and stand to be increasingly productive going forward.

#### Washington State Department of Transportation:

Over the past two years, representatives from WA State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and SPP have identified education, training, and outreach opportunities to support post-release employment



for formerly incarcerated people. This partnership is aligned with [Governor's Executive Order 16-05: Building Safe and Strong Communities through Successful Reentry](#), WSDOT workforce development and equity and inclusion goals, and the missions of both SPP and WA Corrections as a stand-alone agency.

Options for education and employment pathway development include a broad variety of disciplines. Based on available expertise, a sub-committee of partner organization representatives narrowed their focus on development of *environmental career pathways*. Pathways for other disciplines will be developed as resources, expertise, and capacity are identified.



*WSDOT wetland biologist and former SPP staff, Amanda Mintz, provides a workshop on environmental careers at MCCCW. Photo by Allison Campbell.*

To build capacity and raise awareness of environmental career opportunities, partners engaged in multiple meetings, tours, and presentations. In winter 2019, the group prioritized development and delivery of an environmental career workshop series for two minimum security prisons. The results are detailed in [WSDOT Workshop Series](#); in general, the workshops were well-received and environmental sub-committee members are defining next steps to advance the partnership in the new fiscal year.

### **Evergreen Education Coalition for Justice Involved Students (EECJIS) and Justice Involved Student Group (JISG)**

During the reporting period, SPP-Evergreen continued to strengthen connections with Evergreen faculty, students and staff. We helped build the Evergreen Education Coalition for Justice Involved Students (EECJIS), a group of partners representing Evergreen's Olympia and Tacoma campuses. With SPP foundation donations, we funded the first day-long gathering of EECJIS partners. Coalition members also held several planning meetings and jointly presented at a



*The Evergreen Education Coalition for Justice Involved Students heard from a panel of formerly incarcerated students at its first meeting. Photo by Keegan Curry.*



conference this year. We're continuing to build the coalition to better support justice involved students, both on our campuses and in our extended campus communities.

SPP-Evergreen staff regularly attend and participate in [Justice Involved Student Group](#) (JISG) meetings. Our staff contribute time and resources to support currently and previously incarcerated students. Over the past year we have provided funding support for justice involved students to share their experience and expertise at various events with audiences inside and outside of prisons. For instance, JISG co-organized and led the [Pathways to Reentry](#) event with SPP at SCCC this past spring.

SPP-Evergreen advocated for and provided support for the newly established Evergreen Education Navigator position. This staff position provides comprehensive support for currently and previously incarcerated students pursuing education in Thurston County.

### Legislative proposal

Over the past year SPP-Evergreen staff worked with stakeholders and allies to identify and remove barriers to granting credit during incarceration for certificated internships (more detail under [Education](#)). This is SPP's top priority. To advance efforts, SPP-Evergreen's staff have developed briefing materials, sought consultation from experts, confirmed support from stakeholders, identified relevant legal language, and coordinated and participated in numerous meetings.



*Rudy Madrigal receives his Composting Specialist certificate from SPP Co-Director Kelli Bush. Photo by Erica Benoit.*

Current [Revised Code of Washington \(RCW\)](#) appears to prohibit four-year, public academic institutions from granting credit for education programs without also collecting tuition for each student. Educational expenses for SPP programs are satisfied by multiple grants, contracts, donations, and associated indirect funds secured by SPP-Evergreen. In addition, incarcerated students served by these programs do not incur typical faculty or physical plant expenses associated with tuition. Given the financial support already provided to Evergreen through these non-tuition resources and the lack of typical education expenses for these students, charging full tuition for these credits is largely redundant. SPP-Evergreen is prepared to fully fund the minor administrative expenses associated with granting credit for certifications which have pre-determined credit value.

SPP aims to remove barriers to granting credit by pursuing policy or legislative changes. In the past year, we have secured support for developing a legislative proposal from leaders in the following

[Sustainability in Prisons Project](#) (SPP): Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report

organizations:

- WA Corrections
- Evergreen
- Statewide Reentry Council
- University Beyond Bars
- Evergreen Justice Involved Student Group
- State Board of Community and Technical Colleges

## SPP Alignment with WA Corrections' Mission & Vision

From WA Corrections' [website](#):

**Mission:** To improve public safety by positively changing lives

**Vision:** Working together for safer communities

The Department of Corrections is committed to operating a safe and humane corrections system and partnering with others to transform lives for a better Washington. A key value of WA Corrections is supporting people's success: understanding individuals, instilling hope, embracing change, and providing opportunities. Through the SPP partnership, WA Corrections brings science, nature, and environmental education into the state's correctional facilities. These programs create a safer and more humane correctional environment, provide opportunities for incarcerated individuals to achieve academic and vocational goals, and contribute to their successful reentry to our communities.



*WA Corrections staff members Susan Biller, Sergeant La Munyon, and Officer Swan are champions of MCC's world-class composting program. Photo by Kelli Bush.*

## SPP Alignment with Evergreen's Five Foci

Evergreen's approach to education is best illustrated by [The Five Foci of Learning](#):

1. **Interdisciplinary Study:** Students learn to pull together ideas and concepts from many subject areas, which enables them to tackle real-world issues in all their complexity.
2. **Collaborative Learning:** Students develop knowledge and skills through shared learning, rather than learning in isolation and in competition with others.

3. **Learning Across Significant Differences:** Students learn to recognize, respect, and bridge differences—critical skills in an increasingly diverse world.
4. **Personal Engagement:** Students develop their capacities to judge, speak, and act on the basis of their own reasoned beliefs.
5. **Linking Theory with Practical Applications:** Students understand abstract theories by applying them to projects and activities and by putting them into practice in real-world situations.

SPP engages incarcerated students and technicians, enrolled Evergreen students, faculty, corrections staff, and non-profit organizations in collaborative, interdisciplinary learning across differences. Our science and sustainability education programs are aligned with the social justice, diversity, environmental stewardship, and public service elements of Evergreen’s mission.

SPP’s [Environmental Education](#) and [Conservation](#) programs are coordinated by Evergreen graduate students whose experiences encompass and exemplify all five foci. Since 2009, SPP-Evergreen has employed 50 Evergreen students in long-term positions and provided honoraria or internship stipends to dozens more. Through SPP, the incarcerated participants of education and conservation programs also gain access to the Evergreen learning model, thus sharing in the benefits of this innovative interdisciplinary approach. An increasing number of former SPP program participants are attending Evergreen post-release—contributing their valuable experiences, assets, and skills directly to the campus’ learning community.



*At the Pathways to Reentry event at SCCC, a student considers Evergreen's campus map; many event participants asked about attending Evergreen post-release. Photo by Ricky Osborne.*



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### 3. Budget

This section of the report addresses budget resources available via the SPP team at [The Evergreen State College](#) (SPP-Evergreen). The [Washington Department of Corrections](#) (WA Corrections) dedicates additional, substantial personnel time, funding, and materials support for SPP programs—those critical contributions are not detailed here. While Evergreen does not provide direct funding for SPP, they make important contributions by providing office space, payroll processing, access to students and faculty, human resource services, and budget management support.

In FY19, SPP had more than \$550,000 in funds available from 17 sources. Available funding included two contracts with WA Corrections that were spent on WA prison programs in accordance with contract requirements. Other funding sources include state and federal contracts, grants, foundation and private donations. Following a pattern of annual giving, SPP-Evergreen received another generous contribution from an anonymous donor at the [Seattle Foundation](#) in FY19. The donated funds have been awarded for SPP's general use initiatives and they make a significant difference in the programming, outreach, and education available. In addition, SPP received and applied donations from [The Herb Alpert Foundation](#) to develop a peer-led gardening course and other education materials, and from [Lamb Weston](#) to establish pollinator resources and native plants at [Coyote Ridge Corrections Center](#) (CRCC).

The percentage of funding provided by individual sources varies from month to month as sources become available or close throughout the year. SPP staff continuously seek new funding and close out existing grants and contracts. In FY19, SPP-Evergreen staff were responsible for stewarding funds from the sources described below (see Table 1).

**Table 1.** SPP FY19 Grant and Contract Funding Requests (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

Source	Program Area	Funding Type
JBLM Plant Production 2017/2018	Conservation Nursery	contract
JBLM Wetland Production 2017/2018	Conservation Nursery	contract
JBLM Wetland & Prairie Plant Production 2018/2019	Conservation nursery	contract
Samish Nation	Emergent Veg. Mats	contract
Center for Natural Lands Management	Conservation nursery	contract
WA Dept. Fish & Wildlife	Conservation nursery	contract
DOC General Operating 2018/2019	SPP General	contract
DOC Green Track 2018/2019	Roots & Beekeeping	contract
WA Dept. of Transportation	Ed./Reentry	contract
Blue Marble Space Grant	Astrobiology Ed.	grant
WA Dept. Fish & Wildlife Taylor's Checkerspot 2018	Butterfly Operation	contract
WA Dept. Fish & Wildlife Taylor's Checkerspot 2019	Butterfly Operation	contract
USFWS Taylor's Checkerspot	Butterfly Expansion	grant
Seattle Foundation	SPP General	donation
Herb Alpert Foundation	Gardening ed.	donation
Foundation Donations	SPP General	donation

The majority of SPP-WA's budget is dedicated to personnel expenses. A smaller but significant portion goes to program materials such as education supplies, small infrastructure projects, scientific equipment, printed outreach, and prison libraries.



*SPP Co-Director Steve Sinclair offers a Taylor's checkerspot butterfly to Evergreen President George Bridges. Photo by Joslyn Rose Trivett.*

## 4. Environmental Education Programs

Education is an integral part of SPP's programs. SPP-Evergreen works to make the most of both formal and informal education opportunities and to offer new knowledge and new practice to incarcerated students, staff, and partners. While our goal is to provide education in every program, education and training in [conservation](#) and environmental education programs (described in this section) are SPP-Evergreen's *central* focus. This section also describes science and sustainability programs led and delivered by other academic organizations, such as community colleges.

### Academic Credit & Certifications

This past year, pursuing the ability to grant academic credit to incarcerated participants continued to be a primary objective for SPP-Evergreen. We have a reliable mechanism for awarding up to 15 transfer credits to certificate holders who enroll at Evergreen, and in FY19, Evergreen Academic Deans reviewed SPP certifications and pre-determined their credit value—a modest but very welcome improvement.

The larger issue is that this benefit is accessible to relatively few and doesn't recognize the full potential of developing educational pathways. Certificate recipients have emphasized that credits awarded *during* incarceration would provide important benefits, including encouragement and support for pursuing additional education post-release. This shift would recognize existing, well-developed programming, require no funding from Evergreen, and would result in increased student enrollment at Evergreen and other academic institutions. SPP remains committed to working with all partners to identify a mechanism for awarding credit for these valuable education programs during incarceration (see [Legislative proposal](#) for more).



*A butterfly technician shows off her certificate award to leadership from Evergreen and WA Corrections. Photo by Ricky Osborne.*

In FY19, we awarded 82 SPP certificates that warrant consideration for college credit at Evergreen. Additional “recognition” awards—not eligible for credit evaluation—are not included in this summary.

**Table 2.** SPP Certificate Awards, all facilities, FY19

Program	Certificate	Awarded FY19	Academic hours	Vocational hours
Environmental Workshop Series	30 hours of class time	31	30	0
Conservation Nurseries	Conservation Nursery Technician	8	30	270
	Conservation Nursery Specialist	17	60	740
Western Pond Turtle Care	Rehabilitation & Research Specialist	4	200	800
Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly	Rearing & Research Specialist	3	540	960
Composting with “Bugs”	Vermiculture and Composting Specialist	10	200	800



Roots of Success (Instructors)	Teaching Practicum	9	150	0
Total Certificates Awarded FY19		82		
Total Certificates 2016 - 2019		308		

SPP facilitates certificate awards from outside organizations in two additional programs:

- Beekeepers are certified by [Washington State Beekeepers Association](#)
- Roots of Success students are certified by the organization [Roots of Success](#).

## Community College Courses

[Recent legislation](#) changes afforded Washington State community colleges more flexibility in providing two-year Associate degrees to incarcerated students. Their top priorities are adult basic education and vocational education.

In FY19, CCCC, OCC, WCC, and WCCW offered vocational horticultural classes. Those students gained access to classroom instruction and hands-on work in extensive gardens. At CCCC, students receive instruction from [Centralia College](#). Horticulture graduates from that program may be hired as Teaching Assistants who largely oversee the greenhouses, aquaponics program, and vegetable and fruit production areas. At WCC, students with cognitive challenges received horticulture and literacy education provided by a Centralia College instructor. They also participated in SPP's [prairie conservation nursery](#), producing seeds of a prairie violet essential to rare and endangered butterflies in the region. This program has been discontinued. WCCW's students are provided education and training by [Tacoma Community College](#). These students have access to diverse specialties such as flower arranging, cultivating house plants, and farming. OCC's students receive education from [Peninsula College](#) to gain skills and knowledge working through a variety of stations such as aquaponics, container gardens, and grafting.



*OCC's gardens and greenhouses thrive with attention from Peninsula College's instructor and students. Photos by Bethany Shepler.*

OCC's Green Building and Carpentry program, also a partnership with Peninsula College, came to an end this past year.

## Environmental Engagement Workshop Series

Since 2009, we have offered at least 312 lectures and workshops in nine prisons from at least 250 scientists and practitioners representing 140 agencies, businesses, and schools. We have recorded attendance from 3,107 individual incarcerated students from the three main sites: 1,484 from SCCC, 1,393 from WCCW, and 230 from WCC. Adding known students from other facilities and years, we estimate at least 4,000 incarcerated students have attended the workshop series in the past decade. Most of those students have attended multiple presentations.

Fiscal Year 2019 highlights include:

- **Pathways to Reentry:** SCCC hosted a day-long event including *sixteen* education and workforce development organizations and open to the general population (most reentry events limit attendance to individuals close to release). The program was both inspiring and practical. Currently and formerly incarcerated individuals played key roles in presenting and informing the event. Evergreen's [Justice Involved Student Group](#) and SPP staff co-organized the symposium with SCCC's Kelly Peterson.



*Emerico Garcia was a Master of Ceremonies at the day-long Pathways to Reentry event at SCCC. Photo by Ricky Osborne.*

- **Seminars at SCCC:** In January 2019, SCCC's workshop series expanded by adding follow-up seminars on select workshop topics. Four times in the past year, students signed up to attend a seminar to further discuss and engage in the chosen topic. About half of the workshop students opted in and appeared to appreciate and enjoy the deeper discussions with their peers. Workshop Series Coordinator Erica Benoit led the first 3 sessions, introducing students to Evergreen's seminar model and supporting formulation of a working agreement (ground rules) for seminar conduct. Incarcerated students have led the seminars since. We count seminar hours toward program certifications.

- **Era of Megafires**

**Screenings:** The workshop series partnered with North 40 Productions LLC to offer screenings of the film *Era of Megafires*, a multi-media presentation to educate the public on megafires and research from Dr. Paul Hessburg of Pacific Northwest Research Station, U.S. Forest Service. We offered film screenings at four prisons: SCCC, WCC, MCCCW, and CCCC. Attendance of both incarcerated individuals and staff members totaled 168 people.



*WCC had the largest attendance of all the film screenings, with 30 students and 23 staff members enjoying the film together. Photo by Erica Benoit.*

FY19 attendance of the Workshop/Lecture Series steadily grew at WCC, remained strong at SCCC, and increased greatly at WCCW since last year. Specific attendance and topics are detailed in Table 3.

**Table 3.** Workshop series attendance statewide FY19 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

<b>Workshop Series at Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC)</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Presenter(s)</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
7/19/2018	Joslyn Rose Trivett and Erin Lynam	Feedback Session	54
8/16/2018	Erin Lynam	Dogs: Predator to Companion	58
9/20/2018	Amanda Mintz, Graham Klag, and incarcerated technicians	Intro to Aquaponics	67
10/18/2018	Bethany Shepler	Importance of Education	54
11/15/2018	Chris Montero and Cindy Irwin	Wolves of Washington	69
12/20/2018	Kathayoon Khalil and Darcie Larson	Fostering Empathy for Animals	62
1/17/2019	Marley Jarvis	Early Childhood Brain Development	77
2/21/2019	Liliana Caughman	Building Climate Resilient Cities	69
4/18/2019	Forest Shomer and Howard Sprouse	Native Plant Foraging	49
5/16/2019	Joslyn Rose Trivett and Rory Brown	MCC's Composting Program	57
6/20/2019	Bethany Shepler	Loggers' Environmental Attitudes	55
Total			671
<b>Workshop Series - Seminars at Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC)</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Presenter(s)</b>	<b>Title/topic</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
1/8/2019	Seminar: facilitated group discussion	Empathy	32



2/28/2019	Seminar: facilitated group discussion	Resilience	34
4/29/2019	Seminar: facilitated group discussion	Wildfires/Native plants	25
6/25/2019	Seminar: facilitated group discussion	Composting/Logging	26
Total			117
<b>Workshop Series at Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW)</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Presenter(s)</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
7/3/2018	Leann Andrews	Green Infrastructure	42
8/14/2018	Bonnie Becker	Shellfish Larvae	26
9/4/2018	Joslyn Rose Trivett and Erin Lynam	Feedback Session	22
10/2/2018	Chris Montero, Wolf Haven International	Wolves of Washington	45
11/6/2018	Jeanne Dodds	Illustrating Birds	22
12/4/2018	Kiirsten Flynn	Marine Mammals	23
2/5/2019	Barb Toews	Valuing Nature	18
3/5/2019	Rachel Easton and Stena Troyer	Beach Biology	38
4/2/2019	Daniel Winterbottom and UW grad students	Landscape Design at WCCW	73
5/7/2019	Emily Grason	Marine Snails	57
6/4/2019	Renee Curtiss, WCCW Roots Instructor	Sample Roots of Success Lesson	78
Total			444
<b>Workshop Series at Washington Corrections Center (WCC)</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
7/25/2018	Alexandra James and WCC technicians	WCC Prairie Conservation	24
9/26/2018	Scott Morgan	Tiny Homes	41
10/24/2018	Bethany Shepler	Elwha Dam Removal	20
11/28/2018	Kiirsten Flynn	Marine Mammals	44
12/26/2019	Nick Bond	Climate Change and Salmon	39
1/23/2019	Erica Benoit	Film Screening of <i>Chasing Ice</i>	45
2/27/2019	Keegan Curry	Butterfly Conservation	46
3/27/2019	Matthew Tuller	Goats	46
5/22/2019	Ben Alexander	Restoring Puget Sound Shoreline	29
6/26/2019	Julianne Gale	Peer Support in Climate Crisis	37
Total			371
<b>Special Events</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
3/21/2019	Film Screenings of Era of Megafires	SCCC	74
3/28/2019	Film Screenings of Era of Megafires	WCC	53
4/16/2019	Pathways to Re-Entry	SCCC	81
4/24/2019	Film Screenings of Era of Megafires	CCCC	24
5/29/2019	Film Screenings of Era of Megafires	MCCCCW	17
Total			168
<b>Total Attendance Statewide FY19</b>			<b>1771 !</b>

The series offers three levels of certification. Students are awarded recognitions for completing 7 and 15 hours of workshops—these are called Level 1 and Level 2. Thirty hours of class time garners a Level 3 certificate that is recognized as transfer credit for admitted students at Evergreen (30 hours of college-level study is equivalent to one college credit). Recognitions and certificates awarded since 2014 and in FY19 are detailed below.



*Students at WCCW talk with University of Washington graduate students about their landscape design proposals for the WCCW campus. Photo by Erica Benoit.*

**Table 4.** Students Eligible for Lecture Series Certification FY19 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

Facility	Certificate	Awarded since 2014	Awarded FY19
SCCC	Level 1 – 7 hours	378	54
	Level 2 – 15 hours	184	32
	Level 3 – 30 hours	80	*26
WCCW	Level 1 – 7 hours	180	24
	Level 2 – 15 hours	36	1
	Level 3 – 30 hours	12	3
WCC	Level 1 – 7 hours	33	33
	Level 2 – 15 hours	13	13
	Level 3 – 30 hours	2	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>918</b>	<b>188</b>

\*includes 2 DOC staff members

## WSDOT Workshop Series

Building on their nascent partnership and identified needs, SPP-Evergreen, WA Corrections, and WA Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT) environmental sub-committee members developed and delivered a three-part workshop series on environmental careers at two prisons. Workshops were designed to inform participants of WSDOT as a second chance employer, provide tips for applying and competing for state employment, and describe state environmental careers and their respective education and employment pathways. Workshops were delivered at CCCC and MCCCW. Each facility houses incarcerated people serving four years or less of their remaining sentence and already hosts complementary science, sustainability, and trades education programs; they are great sites to offer workshops on [career pathway topics](#).

**Table 5.** WSDOT Workshops offered at CCCC and MCCCW FY19 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

Workshop title	Description	Presenters	Dates	Number of Attendees
		Alvina Mao Robyn Lovely	5/10, 5/20	CCCC: 35

Competing for State Agency Employment	Tips for writing resumes and cover letters, interviewing, and pursuing career opportunities within state agencies			MCCCW: 50
Wetland and Restoration Ecology	Introduction to Washington wetland and restoration ecology; three presenters/workshop; WSDOT wetland and restoration work and related training and career opportunities	Tony Bush Erika Redzinak Amanda Mintz Kristen Andrews Jamie Butler	6/7, 6/10	CCCC: 20
				MCCCW: 45
Stormwater Management and Impacts	Introduction to stormwater management, including causes, impacts, and prevention strategies. Overview of stormwater careers and training opportunities	Jeannie McCully Mindi English	6/17, 6/21	CCCC: 35
				MCCCW: 20

## Roots of Success

Roots of Success is an environmental curriculum developed by Dr. Raquel Pinderhughes, Professor of Urban Studies & Planning at San Francisco State University (more at [rootsofsuccess.org](http://rootsofsuccess.org)). WA Corrections began offering the program in July 2013 and content has been well-received.

Certified incarcerated instructors deliver the program, a model we have found effective and satisfying among students, instructors, and staff sponsors. We have five incarcerated Roots of Success Master Trainer instructors certified by Dr. Pinderhughes to train and award certification to other program instructors. Highlights and challenges from the previous year:

**Instructor trainings:** The year-long drought ended with three instructor trainings this year. SPP-Evergreen staff will continue to promote further trainings sufficient to meet program needs.

**Multimedia content quality:** This year we heard multiple concerns from programs about visual and audio video quality. In response, Roots of Success has updated videos. However, receiving the new content will require purchase of new instructor and student workbooks. As a result, some programs will not receive improved content until they are able to invest in updated curriculum workbooks.

**Partner agreement:** While Roots has been offered in WA Corrections facilities since 2013, we have not had a clear agreement among WA Corrections, SPP-Evergreen and Roots of Success partners for operating the program. With the aim of adding clarity, SPP-Evergreen drafted a three-party Memorandum of Understanding. Agreement review is in process.

During the reporting period, we coordinated 8 full-curriculum Roots of Success programs: AHCC, CBCC, CRCC, LCC, MCC-WSRU, SCCC, WCC, WCCW, and WSP. Currently there are no active condensed curriculum program for incarcerated individuals involved with CI. **Since the start of the program in 2013, 1411 students have received certification for all ten modules of the curriculum**, and 176 CI students have been certified for the condensed curriculum. Details for FY19 are shown in the following tables and highlights.



**Table 6.** Summary of Roots of Success Graduates of full curriculum FY19. (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

Prison	Number of cohorts	Graduates	Status at end of FY19	Highlights
AHCC	1	12	Active	Liaison described current class as “best class yet.”
CBCC	0	0	Active	Class in session and interest in the program continues
CRCC	1	6	Active	Trained new instructors in December 2018 and planning on training 3-4 more
LCC	3	13	Active	Trained 3 instructors in August 2018 and graduated 2 classes this quarter.
MCC-WSRU	2	9	Active	Graduated fifth class on April 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2019 with 5 students
MCCCW	1	9	Inactive	Graduated second Roots class in January 2019 and have continued interest; need new instructors
SCCC	3	36	Active	Graduated 23 <sup>rd</sup> class on May 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2019; hosted Dr. Pinderhughes for a visit June 12-14; held instructor training in November 2018; working on training minimum security level eligible graduates as instructors; working on offering curriculum in IMU.
WCC	1	8	Active	Graduated 3 <sup>rd</sup> class on April 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 and hosted Dr. Pinderhughes in June.
WCCW	0	0	Active	After several years working to re-start Roots program, classes started in April, then cancelled; working on new plan
WSP-BAR	1	12	Inactive?	Graduated first class on October 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 with 12 students
WSP-SPL	1	23	Program stalled; determining how to purchase new workbooks	Graduated 23 <sup>rd</sup> class on August 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2018

## New Educational Programming

With the increased focus on SPP certification, SPP partners have invested in enhancing existing curricula and creating new ones. This past year, SPP-Evergreen made this work an even greater priority. New funding from foundation donors was pivotal; the increased resources supported a new graduate student position whose sole focus is developing and publishing educational materials.

## Gardening Curriculum

For as long as SPP-Evergreen has visited gardens in Washington State prisons, we have heard incarcerated gardeners ask for more gardening education and a gardening certification. A few WA facilities boast excellent horticulture instruction from [Centralia, Peninsula](#), or [Tacoma Community](#)

[College](#), and/or volunteers from [Master Gardeners](#) or other non-profit organizations. Still, the demand far exceeds the supply, and we have long wanted to address this need.

Throughout the reporting period SPP-Evergreen worked closely with an array of partners to develop a gardening curriculum titled *Foundations in Gardening*. This effort was catalyzed by an agreement with Oregon Food Bank that allows SPP-Evergreen to adapt their [Seed to Supper curricula](#) for learning and application within corrections environments. Additional interest and inputs came from [Institute for Applied Ecology](#), many WA Corrections staff, expert gardeners from [Stafford Creek Corrections Center](#) and [Monroe Correctional Complex](#) – Washington State Reformatory Unit, and [University Beyond Bars](#).



*Gardening course writers and reviewers take a group photo at SCCC. Photo by Kelly Peterson.*

Authors have created or contributed to modules on “Advanced Topics”, which covers concepts beyond Seed to Supper content. Some of these additional chapters include Naming and Classifying Plants, Mathematics for Horticulture, Vermicomposting & Bokashi Composting, Soil Science, the Soil Food Web, Planting and Harvesting Vegetables in Prison, Seed Saving, Aquaponics, and more. Many of the authors are incarcerated gardeners with specialty knowledge about their topic. Some authors have helped review and adapt Seed to Supper to better fit a corrections environment.

The gardening curriculum will be a classroom-based, peer-led, certificated program. Students will have the opportunity to earn academic recognition and credit hours applicable to a degree at [The Evergreen State College](#). The first draft of this curricula will be finished by December 2019. SPP plans to partner with at least two Washington State facilities to pilot this program. Longer term, SPP intends for the curricula to be made applicable and available to all U.S. correctional facilities.


### **Educational Library and New Materials**

To increase science education in existing programs, SPP-Evergreen staff developed several new learning guides. The guides are designed to be highly accessible and informative, empowering incarcerated technicians’ and students’ knowledge on a range of topics such as the Endangered Species Act, butterfly husbandry, and scientific illustration. Primary distribution has been to ecological conservation programs, where we have requested review and improvements by program technicians. Many more guides are in development and will be similarly wide ranging; examples include climate change, presentation preparation and delivery, collecting and analyzing data, and developing program ground rules.

At the same time, we have organized and indexed the team's existing library of education materials. Some of the best resources have been made available in an online folder for DOC staff to peruse and download for program use. These more formal and handy libraries will be an enormous asset to current and future program coordinators and liaisons as they deliver and empower education.

## Conservation Nursery Program: Salish Lowland Prairies

### Learning Guide



*Blooming prairie & Mt. Rainer. Photo by Joel Mann.*

#### History of Salish lowland prairies

- Salish lowland prairies historically stretched from B.C. to the Willamette Valley.
- Unique soils were created by retreating glaciers 15,000 years ago.
- Prairies were sustained by indigenous tribes for the harvest of wildflowers and bulbs. "Salish" in Salish lowland refers to the common language of Pacific Northwest tribes that traditionally live in the lowland prairie area.
- Today, only 3% of the native prairies remain.
- Impacts affecting prairie habitats include: altered fire regimes; invasive species; land use conversion; management conflicts; fragmentation; loss of habitat structure; human disturbance; climate change; loss of wildlife.

***Sustainability in Prisons Project (SPP)  
empowers sustainable change by  
bringing nature, science, and  
environmental education into prisons.***

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#### Prairie Ecosystems

Salish lowland prairies are characterized as Prairie-Oak habitat and are made up of three different components: grasslands, oak savanna, and oak woodlands. These habitats support many rare and declining species, including several species that are U.S. candidates for endangered species listing: Taylor's checkerspot butterfly; Mardon skipper; Mazama pocket gopher; Western pond turtle; and Oregon spotted frog.

#### Protected South Sound Prairies

Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, WA  
Mima Mounds Natural Area Preserve, WA  
Wolf Haven, WA  
Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA  
Cascade Head, OR



*Glacial landforms of the Puget Lowland. This image was constructed using lidar-based mapping to show glacial landforms in the Puget Sound region.  
Source: WA Department of Natural Resources*

*A sample SPP Learning Guide (additional content on backside).*



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## 5. Conservation Programs

SPP's conservation programs encompass a huge range of activities and topics but share three things in common.

1. The program focus is conservation and associated education and training: preserving and protecting something valuable, such as a species, landscape, and/or other natural resources.
2. These programs depend on strong collaborations with expert partners; incarcerated people, corrections staff, students, SPP staff, scientists, and community partners sharing their knowledge, resources, and enthusiasms.
3. Incarcerated program partners are both students and technicians; they receive formal education and training plus hands-on experience. **These are college-level internships**, and technicians are awarded [SPP certificates](#) as they complete certification requirements.

Conservation program success is dependent on each partner contributing their expertise and time. Programs are designed to maximize benefits to each collaborator.

### Biological Science Programs at LCC and CCCC: Western Pond Turtles, Woodpecker Nest Monitoring, and Aquaponics

During the past year, SPP-Evergreen focused on expanding educational opportunities for incarcerated students at LCC and CCCC. SPP piloted a workshop series at LCC, bolstering educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals. This workshop series included five site visits and was delivered by current and former SPP-Evergreen Program Coordinators on a range of topics from “Amazing Amphibians” to scientific illustration. Unfortunately the workshops were not successful and as a result they have been discontinued. Additionally, SPP expanded educational programming at CCCC through assigned readings, writing workshops, and seminars. These efforts have been well-received and are continuing in the new fiscal year.

Education and training for each program are described below. Participants completing program requirements are eligible for a certificate worth college credit at Evergreen post-release. Since the program started, 17 certificates have been awarded to technicians (Table 9), seven graduate students have provided program coordination, and eight corrections staff have served as liaisons.



*Turtle technician Taylour Eldridge was recognized by SPP as a Western Pond Turtle Rehabilitation and Research Specialist. Photo by Jessica Brown.*

## Western Pond Turtle Program

The western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*) is a state-listed endangered species and federal species of concern. Led by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), partners have been working toward species recovery since the late 1990s. At the start of recovery efforts, approximately 150 turtles remained in the wild in Washington.

In 2013, SPP joined the effort specifically to assist with the rehabilitation of turtles afflicted with a “shell disease.” Partners for these programs include WDFW, PAWS Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Woodland Park Zoo (WPZ), and Oregon Zoo (OR Zoo). Affected turtles require a period of acute care provided by veterinarians. After receiving veterinary care, some turtles from the Salish lowland population are moved to Cedar Creek Corrections Center (CCCC, 2013) and some turtles from the Columbia Gorge population are moved to Larch Corrections Center (LCC, 2015). Turtles at CCCC and LCC receive extended care provided by trained incarcerated technicians. As each turtle heals, they can be released back into the wild (Tables 7 & 8) where they are monitored by WDFW. Turtles at LCC unexpectedly laid eggs last season which were incubated at the Oregon Zoo. Some of those eggs hatched and will help contribute to the head start program at the zoo.



*An Oregon Zoo vet technician holds an adult western pond turtle, providing a turtle checkup before release. Photo by Marisa Pushee*

**Table 7.** Western Pond Turtle Rehabilitation at CCCC, August 2013 - September 2019

Year	Turtles Received	Turtles Released
2013	8	2
2014 <sup>i</sup>	28	28
2015	8 <sup>ii</sup>	6
2016	9 <sup>iii</sup>	5
2017	4 <sup>iv</sup>	10
2018	9	9
2019	10	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>70<sup>v</sup></b>
Notes	i Differs from reported 2016 totals due to the addition of previously missing data ii 7 of 8 turtles were being re-treated iii One of these was humanely euthanized due to a neurological abnormality iv 3 of 4 turtles were being re-treated v 4 turtles were sent back to PAWs for exams and 1 was euthanized	

**Table 8.** Western Pond Turtle Rehabilitation at LCC, December 2015- September 2019

Year	Turtles Received	Turtles Released
2015	5	0
2016	11	9
2017	5	12
2018	11	11
2019	10	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>

### Woodpecker Nest Monitoring Project

In 2017, SPP began a woodpecker nest monitoring project with biologists from the U.S. Forest Service at CCCC. Other participants in this project include enrolled college students at several academic institutions. The primary goal of the research program is to learn more about a keystone species of woodpecker nesting in the western U.S. The program involves monitoring video footage of activity at 85 woodpecker nesting sites. Since 2014, biologists have collected about 32,000 hours of video footage that requires review through human observation to document woodpecker nesting ecology, behavior, and potential predator activity. Information will help state and federal landowners along with researchers in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California to identify actions that may increase woodpecker nesting opportunities and contribute to forest health.

Biologists with the U.S. Forest Service train program technicians on video monitoring, bird and mammal identification, and forest health issues. Technicians incorporate a few hours of woodpecker nest video review into their daily routine. Their observational data has been an integral part of the woodpecker research study and provides valuable education and training.

### Aquaponics Program

The aquaponics program at CCCC offers a small-scale demonstration of “closed-loop” systems by recycling water and converting nutrients from fish waste and bacterial respiration into a rich growing environment. The system was developed through partnership with [Symbiotic Cycles](#), SPP-Evergreen, and WA Corrections. The goal of the aquaponics project is to teach technicians the value of sustainable food systems as well as provide nutrient-rich leafy greens to the CCCC kitchen. Students in the program learn about sustainable



*SPP Biological Technician Lorenzo Stewart tests the aquaponics system's water nitrate levels. Photo by Marisa Pushee.*



food systems, soil chemistry, the decline of vital nutrients in most industrial crops, and wasteful overuse of freshwater resources. During this reporting period SPP-Evergreen coordinated and funded several site visits for Symbiotic Cycles to deliver training for current and new technicians.

**Table 9.** Program Education FY19 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

Session (30-90 minutes)	Number of Sessions	Incarcerated Attendees	WA Corrections Staff Attendees	SPP Staff Attendees
<b>CCCC</b>				
Woodpecker Nest Monitoring Training	1	4	1	1
Science Journal Readings	24	4	1	1
Academic Writing Guide Readings	3	4	1	1
Science Article Discussions	12	4	1	1
Aquaponics Training	10	2	1	1
Western Pond Turtle Care Training	1	4	1	1
Turtle Field Work Field Trip	1	3	1	1
Academic Books Assigned	2	5	1	1
<b>LCC</b>				
Workshop	5	3-13	1-4	1-2
Science Journal Readings	5	3	1	1
Science Article Discussions	3	3	1	1
Turtle Field Work Field Trip	1	2	1	1
Total education sessions	68			
<b>Certificates Awarded</b>	<b>Number of Recipients</b>			
Rehabilitation and Research Specialist, over 1,000 hours	4			

## Sheep Conservation Program

Historically, bighorn sheep were widespread in western North America. By the turn of the 20th century populations had dwindled to near extinction, and recovery efforts were needed to return them from the brink. Today, the biggest threat to bighorn sheep is pneumonia triggered by a bacteria called *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, or *M. ovi* for short. The bacteria are commonly carried by domestic sheep and goats. Raising *M. ovi*-free domestic sheep can protect wild bighorn sheep from the devastating pathogen. Currently, there are no private domestic sheep breeders that specialize in raising *M. ovi*-free animals.



*A sheep technician poses with two lambs in the spring of 2019.  
Photo by Jarod Sumerlin.*

In 2015, WDFW introduced to SPP leadership the idea of a pilot program to breed *M. ovi*-free domestic sheep. Spring 2018 was the program's inaugural season. Program partners include WDFW, local sheep husbandry experts, and SPP partners at WA Corrections and Evergreen. All animals in the flock were tested for pathogen prior to arrival and multiple times throughout each season. [Washington State University](#) provides pathogen testing and other program guidance. Program findings and protocols will be shared broadly as they are developed, including with privately-operated breeders who may join the effort.

In spring 2018, the Suffolk ewes in the program gave birth to 28 lambs; 9 females and 19 males. Spring 2019, 9 Suffolk ewes produced 18 lambs; 10 female and 8 male. Two ewes did not produce lambs. One male lamb died shortly after birth. One male and one female lamb were determined to be "bummer" lambs requiring human intervention for care and feeding which was provided by program technicians.

Throughout the year, technicians provided general care and feeding for the entire sheep flock, treated the animals with vaccines, installed ear tags, assisted ewe mothers in the birthing process and cared for lambs. Each care task has been recorded in order to document education, experience, and skills gained by program participants. In addition to hands-on learning, program participants received a "lambling basics" workshop and observed the wool shearing process.

We are still developing protocols, educational materials, program certificates, and refining practices to develop a viable source of *M. ovi*-free animals available to domestic small flock managers. All partners are playing key roles in making this collaboration a success.

## Prairie Conservation Nursery Programs

Primary funding support for the Prairie Conservation Nurseries comes from [Joint Base Lewis-McChord](#) (JBLM), WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), [Center for Natural Lands Management](#) (CNLM), and WA Corrections. Plant materials produced by SPP's prairie conservation nurseries are used by state and federal agencies and conservation organizations including the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) (USFW), JBLM, WDFW, [WA Dept. of Natural Resources](#) (DNR), and CNLM. Our nurseries curate and supply plant material from Oregon to southern British Columbia.



*Plug production at WCCW includes growing native strawberries for prairie restoration; in this photo, technician Ashley McElhenie shows off the strawberries' impressive runners. Photo by Jacob Meyers.*

## Prairie Plant-Plug Production

The SPP nursery sites have an annual combined sowing capacity of 400,000 plugs, and can produce up to 200,000 viable plant-plugs annually. Fall 2018, the nursery delivered 145,583 plant plugs of 47 species for Taylor’s checkerspot butterfly recovery and lowland prairie restoration. Plug production focuses on species that do not establish well from seed when planted in Taylor’s checkerspot recovery sites. The technicians have excelled at producing both Puget balsamroot and Virginia strawberry in quantities necessary to enhance the butterfly’s habitat; see Table 10 for a summary of production in the past year. **Cumulatively, the nurseries have delivered more than 2.7 million plant-plugs since 2009.**

Plant-plug production remains a vital component of the regional recovery plan for Taylor’s checkerspot butterflies. However, direct seeding has become the *primary* method of habitat restoration. Starting in 2016, the majority of SPP plant-plug production was to supply seed nurseries. Because of reduced plug production, production was concentrated at the facilities with greatest educational opportunities for incarcerated technicians, WCC, SCCC and WCCW.

**Table 10.** Conservation Nursery Regional Plug Summary, delivered FY19 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

	# of species	Plants
<b>Total SCCC</b>	34	63,822
<b>Total WCCW</b>	13	81,671
<b>Total Delivered</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>145,583</b>
<b>Total Requested</b>	51	127,694
<b>Percent Delivered of Requested</b>		114%

## Prairie Seed Gardens

SPP cultivated plants for seed at WCC and WCCW. Corrections based nurseries have been successful at producing seeds for species not easily harvested via mechanical agriculture equipment. The seed production gardens at WCC produced over 8 lbs. of early blue violet (*Viola adunca*) seed and 2 lbs. of *Viola howellii* from 1,664 sq. ft. of cultivated area; their hand-collected harvest rate remains superior to other methods. WCC technicians sowed and planted out new species from wild collections. These include



*The Viola praemorsa beds at WCCW in full bloom are gorgeous! Photo by Jacob Meyers.*



*Hieracium scouleri*, *Silene douglasii*, *Silene scouleri*, *Agoseris grandiflora* var. *leptophylla*, *Viola praemorsa*, and the state-listed threatened Puget groundsel, *Packera macounii*.

In 2018, SPP began serving a restoration efforts in new geographically region, the Oregon Coast. The nursery technicians planted 8 garden beds in 2017 and 2018 with early blue violet (*Viola adunca*) seed stock from Oregon coast. We followed improved planting protocols for an early spring plant-out, resulting in more vigorous plant establishment. WCCW had its first harvest of *Viola adunca* seed for silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria zerene hippolyta*) recovery on the Oregon coast in 2018. Harvest from this first year production topped 4 lbs. from 1,000 square feet of bed space.

The continued success of the seed gardens presents an excellent opportunity for WA Corrections to contribute to conservation. Education programming for prairie nursery technicians is detailed in the EVM description below.

### Emergent Pre-Vegetated Mat (EVM) Production

The EVM program is a collaboration among CNLM, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, WDFW, and JBLM that began with the primary objective to restore habitat for the Oregon spotted frog. Key funding support was provided by JBLM, WA Corrections, and SPP-Evergreen's Foundation donations. The program is an ambitious pilot to cultivate pre-vegetated mats (blankets of coconut fiber) of wetland plant species for habitat restoration



Technician Joseph Oddo works with SPP program coordinators Graham Klag and Anna Duron. Photo by Shauna Bittle.

benefiting the Oregon spotted frog (subject of a past rearing program) and salmon species. The mats are intended to suppress weeds and enhance establishment of native vegetation.

In FY19, we delivered 36 mats to JBLM and 10,000 plugs. The pre-vegetated mats were installed alongside mats planted with plugs in the field. Monitoring for plant establishment and weed suppression will occur over a 4-year period to compare the effectiveness of the two methods. Results of the first two years of trials suggest two improvements to planning and site preparations: 1) optimizing mat placement, informed by multi-year data on water levels; 2) investing more time/resources in reducing reed canarygrass coverage prior to mat installation.

At SCCC, the EVM team includes incarcerated technicians, Stafford Creek Corrections Center maintenance staff, SPP-Evergreen program coordinators and managers. Supporting partners periodically visit the facility. All have done an amazing job meeting the challenges of the innovative program's technical demands. Education programming for the technicians is detailed below.

## All Conservation Nurseries, Training and Education

SPP's Conservation Nursery Program Coordinators provide regular guidance and education to incarcerated technicians. They serve as the primary point of contact for all partners, including the WA Corrections staff that supervise and counsel the technicians. In FY19, the students focused on providing unique and relevant education for the programs and their efforts had superb results. Lectures and workshops offered within the conservation nursery programs are detailed in Table 11.

**Table 11.** Prairie Conservation Nursery Education and Certification FY19 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

Sessions (30-90 minutes)	Number of Sessions	Attendees
<b>SCCC Conservation Nursery</b>		
Workshop: Wetland Graminoids	1	9
Intro to Prairies	1	12
Viola and Silverspot	1	12
PNW Prairie Plants	1	12
Aquaponics	1	12
Water quality tests for Aquaponics	1	12
Sowing	1	12
Viola mat research	1	12
Soil Science	1	12
Germination counts	1	11
Cold Stratification	1	11
Soul of soil	1	11
Plant Evolution	1	11
Soil Sampling	1	14
Island biogeography	1	14
Soil Science	1	15
Camas and traditional foods	1	15
SPP Programs Overview	1	14
Plant propagation and germination counts	1	13
Plant evolution and biogeography	1	12
<b>SCCC Prairie sub-total</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>SCCC EVM</b>		
PNW prairie plants	1	2
Aquaponics for food production	1	2
Water quality tests for aquaponics	1	2
Sowing	1	2

Viola mat research	1	2
Whale evolution	1	2
Germination counts	1	2
Issues with salmon aquaculture	1	2
IPM overview	1	2
Fire ecology papers	1	2
PNW geology	1	2
Island biogeography	1	2
Wetland soils and ecology	1	2
Wetland plants, traditional foods	1	2
SPP programs overview	1	2
Oregon spotted frog ecology	1	2
Plant evolution	1	2
<b>SCCC EVM sub-total</b>	<b>17</b>	
<b>WCCW Conservation Nursery</b>		
Silverspot butterfly and habitat lecture	1	3
Reentry Planning workshop	1	2
Soil workshops	5	13
Nematode lecture	1	2
Writing workshop	1	2
The power of <i>r</i> (regression) to convey data workshop	1	2
Plant I.D. and ecology workshops	3	8
Botany and ecology workshops	9	28
Drip Irrigation workshop	1	4
Prairie plant sowing and care	4	11
Oak woodlands seminar, workshop, and lecture	5	17
New Forestry paper and seminar	1	3
Harvesting seed workshops	3	11
Fungi and mycorrhizal application workshop and lecture	2	8
<b>WCCW CvN sub-total</b>	<b>38</b>	
<b>WCC Prairie Seed Garden</b>		
Weed control workshop	1	3
Soil Management Series part 4	1	8
Soil Management Series part 3	1	11
Cold-stratification hands-on	1	3
Scientific Illustrations Part 3	1	10
Soil Management Series part 2	1	10
Scientific Illustrations Part 2	1	9
Soil Management Series part 1	1	11
Scientific Illustrations Part 1	1	8
How To Give a Presentation	1	11
Library Access & Resources	1	9



Recording Keeping Skills	1	7
Sowing VIOPRA with C. Elliott	1	5
Nursery Bed Repair	1	11
Nursery Protocol Review	1	11
Plant Workshop VIOPRA	1	8
Plant Workshop PACMAC	1	7
Plant Workshop VIOADU	1	9
Prairie Plant ID	1	10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19</b>	
<b>Total education sessions</b>	<b>94</b>	
<b>Certificates Awarded</b>	<b>Technician 400 hrs</b>	<b>Specialist 800 hrs</b>
SCCC Prairie Conservation Nursery	1	7
SCCC Emergent Vegetated Mats	0	3
WCCW Prairie Conservation Nursery	0	4
WCC Prairie Seed Garden	7	3
<b>Certificate Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>



*The prairie conservation nursery crew checks on the early blue violet (*Viola adunca*) rooting, in an experimental trial led by program coordinator Graham Klag. Photo by Shauna Bittle.*

## Animal Feed Programs

Several prisons raise high quality feed for animals in the care of zoos and SPP programs. The most prominent of these are the Plantain Programs. Narrow leaf plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) beds at MCCCW and at LCC provided larval food for [Taylor's checkerspot butterfly rearing programs](#) at OR Zoo and MCCCW. Technicians cultivate and harvest plantain leaves during the growing season. LCC shipped a total of 37,000 leaves of plantain to the OR Zoo for Taylor's checkerspot rearing in 2019. Plantain harvested at MCCCW was used for the butterfly program on site.

A summary of animal feed programs is provided below.

**Table 12.** SPP programs providing food for captive animals FY19 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

Food source	Facilities	Recipients
Mealworms	CCCC	Western pond turtles and koi in prison facilities
Plantain	LCC	OR Zoo's Taylor's checkerspot rearing program
Plantain & Nectar Plants	MCCCW	Taylor's checkerspot rearing program at MCCCW

## CRCC Native and Pollinator Plants

Sustainability in Prisons Project was granted funding from Lamb Weston's Pasco facility. The Lamb Weston staff earned a sustainability award for their work and as a result won the chance to fund the project of their choice. Lucky for us, they opted to provide support for a SPP project in central or eastern Washington. In response to the offer, Coyote Ridge swiftly developed a plan to make good use of the support. With the funding they are planting nectar plants for native pollinators and honeybees and growing



*Plants beneficial to pollinating insects glow in a garden at CRCC. Photo by Joslyn Rose Trivett.*

drought tolerant plants for a heritage garden at the prison and for planting along the City of Connell art walk path. Funding was used to purchase seeds, soil, rock, and some container plants. To support the program, staff have provided incarcerated participants with education on topics such as seed germination. Incarcerated individuals are contributing to garden design, sowing seeds, and caring for plants.



## Pacific Northwest Monarch Butterfly Program

The BAR (Baker, Adams, Rainier) Unit Monarch Butterfly Program at [Washington State Penitentiary](#) (WSP) is a joint research project with [Washington State University](#) (WSU). Program technicians are in a social skills group in which mental health and protective custody incarcerated individuals work together to raise and care for Monarch butterflies.

Summer 2018 was the seventh season for the program. Technicians raised 580 butterflies from egg to adult. They tagged each individual with a sticker that allows scientific tracking and reporting. WSU receives report sightings from the field, usually from California overwintering sites. Offspring of these butterflies begin the migration back north in the spring.



Monarch Butterflies in the Pacific Northwest

June 26 · 🌐

As I said in the last post, southern Oregon appears to be the 'hotspot' for Monarchs in the PNW this summer. More reports have come in including this one from Linda Kappen who caught this Monarch alongside the Rogue River a few days ago! Lets hope this small population is very fecund and produces a lot of caterpillars for the next generation!



Post from

[www.facebook.com/MonarchButterfliesInThePacificNorthwest/](https://www.facebook.com/MonarchButterfliesInThePacificNorthwest/)

## Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Program

Our flagship pollinator program is rearing and releasing Taylor's checkerspot butterflies (*Euphydryas editha taylori*), a federally-endangered species that once flourished from southern British Columbia to central Oregon. Only a few small, isolated populations of the butterfly remain. The SPP rearing facility at MCCCW adds to the scope and resilience of recovery efforts and bolsters the original rearing program at the Oregon Zoo. The end of FY19 marks the completion of the program's eighth rearing season. Program partners include WDFW, USFWS, JBLM/DoD, Oregon Zoo, and CNLM.

**Since 2011, program participants have reared more than 24,500 caterpillars and adult butterflies for release onto south Salish lowland prairies.** More than 32 incarcerated technicians have received training, five graduate students have coordinated the program, and seven WA Corrections staff have served as liaisons. Since 2013, SPP has issued 18 certificates for incarcerated technicians completing training in the program. Rearing and breeding outcomes for this reporting period are summarized in Table 13. Percent survival by life stage is presented in Table 14.

**Table 13.** Taylor's Checkerspot Rearing and Adult Breeding at MCCCW, FY19

	Caterpillars Into Diapause July 2018	Caterpillars Released Post-Diapause March 2019	Caterpillars Retained for Breeding March 2019	Egg-Laying Butterflies May/June 2019	Est. # of Eggs Produced May/June 2019	Caterpillars Released Pre-Diapause June 2019
Wild	2,893	2,218	644	20	3,541	0
Captive- Reared	1,716	1,650	0	40	7,697	2,556



Multi-Diapause	105	15	24	2	232	0
Unknown Origin (QC)	85	82	0	N/A	N/A	20
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,799</b>	<b>3,965</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>1,1236</b>	<b>2,576</b>

**Table 14.** Number of individuals and percent survival by life stage for wild and captive-reared Taylor’s checkerspot butterflies at MCCCW FY19

Life Stage	Rearing & Breeding Totals	
	#	% Survival
Diapause to wake-up	4727	0.985
Wake-up to release	4638	0.981
Breeding colony	668	---
Returned to diapause	168	---
Caterpillar to pupae	405	0.810
Pupae to adults	364	0.899
Est. # eggs	11236	---
Eggs to hatch	8387	0.746
Caterpillars released pre-diapause	2576	---
Hatch to diapause	5811	0.999

### Program expansion

In FY19, partners designed, planned and constructed a second butterfly rearing greenhouse at MCCCW with grant funding from the USFWS. WA Corrections staff from SCCC, MCCCW, and Capital Planning & Development (CPD) led construction of the new custom structure. With the completion of this project, MCCCW now has double the butterfly rearing capacity. Testing and adapting to work in the new greenhouse required substantial problem solving by WA Corrections and Evergreen partners; both the typical off-season and the breeding season were unusually busy as a result. By all measures, our efforts seem to have paid off: technicians successfully reared 364 adult butterflies for breeding—a 62% increase over FY18 and double the program average. They retained 5,811 caterpillars for the summer, the highest number the program has ever reared into diapause. The number of technician positions also increased.



*For a few months the original butterfly rearing greenhouse at MCCCW sat next to a construction site as a new, second facility was built. Now fully operational, the new structure doubles both the number of caterpillars the program can raise and the number of technicians able to participate in this highly successful education and training program.. Expansion was funded by USFWS and built by WA Corrections staff.*

**Additional FY19 program highlights include:**

- 3 butterfly technicians delivered a 15-minute presentation for over 30 conservation professionals at the annual Taylor's checkerspot working group meeting in Olympia.
- MCCCW hosted a program tour for Evergreen and WA Corrections leadership including President George Bridges and Secretary Steven Sinclair.
- WDFW hosted 6 technicians and 2 WA Corrections staff at a Taylor's checkerspot release site in Thurston County; technicians were able to see adult butterflies in the field.
- Program Coordinator Keegan Curry completed [his MES Thesis](#) on Taylor's checkerspot using 10-years of egg laying data collected by technicians in the MCCCW and Oregon Zoo butterfly labs.
- MCCCW sent roughly 6,500 total caterpillars (spring + summer releases) to WDFW in 2019, an all-time annual record for the program



*During a tour in May 2019, Butterfly Technicians talk with visitors about the program. Photo by Ricky Osborne.*

**Table 15.** Education and Certification, Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Program FY19

Education Sessions (30-90 minutes)	Sessions	Attendees
<b>MCCCW</b>		
Edith's checkerspot novel host plant adaptation	1	6
Introduction to conservation	1	6
Conservation of Prairie-Oak butterflies in Oregon and Washington	1	6
Recent policy changes and their effect on conservation	1	6
Monarch butterfly conservation and ecology	1	6
The science of metamorphosis	1	6
<i>Total education sessions</i>	6	6
<b>Certificates Awarded</b>	<b>Recipients</b>	
Butterfly Rearing and Research Specialist, 1500 hours	3	

## Wildlife Habitat Programs

Several facilities have installed structures or plantings to benefit wildlife. A summary follows.

**Table 16.** New and ongoing efforts to provide wildlife habitat and forage FY19 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

Prison	Programs	Program Partners	Highlights
AHCC	Pollinator forage & habitat	Miller Homestead LLC	Pollinator-friendly plantings throughout the main & minimum areas: flowers, herbs, pussy willow. Large woody debris and shrubby habitat in pond area.
CCCC	Pollinator forage		~15,000 Pollinator Friendly Annual flowers planted around grounds each year; need to add more to support honeybees on site
CRCC	Heritage and bee gardens		Several pockets of native and pollinator-specific plants. Two Heritage Gardens, incarcerated designers honored the cultural and natural heritage of our local area, native plants and chunks of columnar basalt.
CRCC	Plant and Animal Habitat		Bird boxes, owl box, and pollinator box in garden; built 8 bee boxes in past year
CRCC	Land Restoration	Lamb Weston	Restoring native vegetation outside the fence; planted ~200 sagebrush plants and ~3 lbs of blanket flower seeds
CRCC Minimum	Pollinator garden	Lamb Weston	4 acre garden for bees and other pollinators!
LCC	Bird feeders		Feeders throughout the facility; rehome baby birds that fall from nests
MCC-TRU	Gardens		~4000 ft2 of gardens; lots of flower and pollinator plantings
MCC-WSRU	Bird habitat		Multiple bird houses and hummingbird feeders around Education and Gate 7
MCC	Flower gardens, boxes, baskets		Flower gardens to attract bees to pollinate the vegetables
MCCCW	Bird boxes		20 bird boxes, 2 bird feeders
OCC	Pollinator-friendly plantings		All greenhouse plants selected to benefit pollinators, in past year increased plantings for pollinators, including natives
SCCC	Pollinator plantings		Pollinator plants in every garden and next to greenhouses; new garden adjacent to bee hives
SCCC	Bird houses		More than 40 houses
WCC	Bird boxes		
WCCW	Pollinator plantings		Hanging baskets, perennial and annual flowers throughout the grounds, selected to be beneficial to pollinators; other wildlife also attracted, such as frogs, rabbits, and birds of prey
WSP Green Zone	Gardens		2019, planted 4,000 seeds of more than 100 varieties of flowers for pollinators



*Flowering plants in prisons can be a rare source of pesticide-free forage for pollinators. This sunflower is WCCW. Photo by Joslyn Rose Trivett.*



## Honeybee Programs

Honeybee programs are an ongoing priority for SPP. These programs provide meaningful education and therapeutic activities for incarcerated and WA Corrections staff beekeepers, contribute to honeybee conservation and restoration, and have the potential to create and contribute related goods (hives, honey, beeswax products) to nearby communities.



*Program Coordinator Bethany Shepler took this photo of LCC's hives in the fall of 2018.*

We currently support 12 active beekeeping programs: AHCC, CCCC-McNeil Island, CBCC, CRCC, LCC, MCC-SOU, MCC-TRU, MCCCW, SCCC, WCC, WCCW, WSP. These programs partner with 8 local bee clubs. With the exception of WCCW's program, certification is overseen by Washington State Beekeepers Association (WASBA). **Since CCCC's pilot in 2015, 11 prison programs have used the WASBA curriculum to certify 86 Beginner Beekeepers, 329 Apprentice Beekeepers, and 17 Journeyman Beekeepers.** A subset of certified beekeepers serve as beekeeping technicians or instructors, and some of those are represented in [Sustainability Job Programs](#). Highlights for the past year include:

- WASBA program support and planning are *vastly* improved. Vice President and other new board members have updated all materials and processes. The new curricula and associated materials are very high quality.
- SPP-Evergreen and WASBA signed a Memorandum of Understanding that serves well to describe each organization's roles and responsibilities.
- All program partners contributed to "How-to" documents describing administrative expectations and practices for three roles: host facilities, expert beekeepers, and program liaison (DOC staff sponsor). Prisons Division Assistant Secretary reviewed and approved the set.
- Program participants continued to show a high level of engagement. A few programs are working on their education and certification plans, but all are understandably proud and enthusiastic about their bee programs.

Details for FY19 are shown in the following tables and highlights.

**Table 17.** Beekeeping Program Overview by Institution FY19 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

Prison	Hives	Partners	Status/Highlights
AHCC	8	Millers Homestead, West Plains Beekeepers Association,	17 incarcerated beekeepers passed Journeyman-level testing and co-authored WASBA's Journeyman curriculum; AHCC incarcerated beekeepers club plans new initiatives with great staff support, for

		Washington State Beekeepers Association (WASBA)	example: breeding queens, participating in USDA pest survey, building beekeeping equipment; certified 83 Beginner, Apprentice, and Journeyman beekeepers overall, including 11 staff members
CCCC-McNeil Island	2	Correctional Industries, Department of Natural Resources, community beekeepers	Team started program in May 2018; in 2019, CCCC beekeepers visit island program 2x month; program and partnership thriving.
CCCC-on site	0	Olympia Beekeepers Association, WASBA	Discontinued on-site program. Graduated two Beginner Beekeeping Classes to support the McNeil Bee Project.
CBCC	3	North Olympic Peninsula Beekeepers Association, WASBA	29 certified beekeepers so far; adding scientific education, dissecting and examining dead bees; one beekeeper wrote supplemental curriculum
CRCC	3	Mid- Columbia Beekeepers, WASBA	No bee classes in 2019; graduated 19 Beginners previously; 2 hives; former SPP program manager donated to the program
LCC	4	Clark County Beekeepers, WASBA	3 classes, 24 Beginner beekeepers so far
MCC-SOU	2	Northwest District Beekeepers Association, WASBA	Graduated 9 incarcerated beekeepers so far; great staff support
MCC-TRU	4	Northwest District Beekeepers Association, WASBA	Graduated 2nd Beginner course July 2019 and immediately started next class; captured two wild swarms; entered their honey at the Evergreen State Fair and won first place
MCCCW	2	West Sound Beekeepers, WASBA	No classes 2019; graduated 20 incarcerated Beginners previously; this year, harvested 39 pounds of honey; carpentry program built the covers for the hives.
SCCC	5	Expert community beekeeper, WASBA	Graduated two Beginner Beekeeper classes this quarter; 93 Beginner/Apprentice beekeepers so far!!
WCC	6	Olympia Beekeepers Association, WASBA	Graduated 6 incarcerated and 3 staff beekeepers in last year
WCCW	3	Mother Earth Farm	Education program on hold
WSP	9	West Plains Beekeepers Association, CI, WASBA	44 Beginner certified beekeepers so far; two classes are in session now – a Beginner course with 7 incarcerated students and 2 staff members and a Journeyman course with 7 incarcerated students! Tried a new mite treatment this Spring that has worked well for their bees.
Total	51		

*The queen bee is marked by beekeepers, both so she can be found more easily, and to signify her age--different years are marked with different colors. Photo by Rachel Friederich.*





*Beekeepers at MCC-SOU show off their certificates.  
Photo by Bethany Shepler.*

**Table 18.** Incarcerated Beekeeper certification issued in FY19 and total certifications awarded since 2015 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

Prison	Curricula	Incarcerated Beginners certified FY19	Incarcerated Apprentices certified FY19	Incarcerated Journeyman certified FY19	Incarcerated Beginners certified since 2015	Incarcerated Apprentices * certified since 2015	Incarcerated Journeyman certified since 2015
AHCC	WASBA	20		17	20	29	17
CCCC	WASBA	18			18	57	
CBCC	WASBA					29	
CRCC	WASBA		16			32	
LCC	WASBA	12			12	12	
MCC-WSR	WASBA						
MCC-SOU	WASBA		4			4	
MCC-TRU	WASBA	8	8		8	8	
MCCCW	WASBA					21	
OCC	WASBA						
SCCC	WASBA	26	27		26	58	
WCC	WASBA		6			14	
WCCW	WMB					8	
WSP	WASBA		13			37	
<b>Total</b>		<b>84</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>301*</b>	<b>17</b>

\*Previous to 2019, Apprentice Certification was awarded for the class that has been renamed Beginner.

## Composting with “Bugs”

The composting program housed by the Washington State Reformatory Unit (WSRU) at [Monroe Correctional Complex](#) is like none other. The program was founded in 2010 by two incarcerated men. Nine years later, the program has grown enormously and partners with multiple non-profits and schools. The program is internationally recognized as a model and is still led and operated by incarcerated technicians and teaching assistants.



The program currently processes 20,000 lbs of food waste every month. To transform waste into valuable resources, technicians work with three kinds of “bugs”:

1. **Worms** (also known as red wigglers and the “vermi” in *vermicomposting*): Worms consume discarded grains, vegetables, and fruits. Their droppings are called *castings*, and worm castings are highly prized as fertilizer and soil amendment.
2. **Bokashi**: Specialist bacteria can ferment/pre-process citrus, dairy, and meats that the worms cannot.
3. **Black soldier flies**: Larvae of a stingless wasp (looks like a fly) can consume all kinds of food waste; they turn it into more larvae that are prized as high-quality animal feed

These approaches to composting represent relatively new technologies. Building on earlier studies, the WSRU program has developed, tested, and improved their methods. Their current focus is multiple small-batch trials with black soldier flies – cutting edge research that stands to change how we deal with human food waste and feed domestic and ocean food stocks.

From the beginning, members of WSRU’s staff have supported and championed the program. The program has provided starter kits for other residential facilities, including the sizable worm farm in Washington State Penitentiary’s Sustainable Practices Lab (SPL). The program worked with incarcerated technicians and instructors,



*Sergeant La Munyon and compost technicians work together at the table where they extract red wigglers from finished worm castings. Photo by Kelli Bush.*

Seattle’s [Tilth Alliance](#) and SPP-Evergreen to create a program certification. [University Beyond Bars](#), has provided the vital support for peer-led course instruction and two classes have graduated so far.

Scientists, corrections specialists, professors, students, and entrepreneurs have visited and toured the facility. Technicians created a [virtual tour](#), presented at the [International Conference on Sustainability](#) in 2019. In 2018 and '19, graduate students from [University of Washington](#) (UW) visited the program to conduct research on soil amendments’ effects on vegetable growing; compost technicians advised on and supported those studies. For more information see section 10 [Research and Evaluation](#).

## 6. Restorative Nature Programs

SPP brings nature inside prisons with the motivation to relieve the stress of prison environments. Scientific literature shows that when nature is available within institutional and urban environments, inhabitants experience many positive, therapeutic benefits. The [Nature Imagery in Prisons](#) (NIPP) team, led by SPP co-founder Nalini Nadkarni, has conducted research on “vicarious” nature exposure, (in the form of nature videos) in a maximum security prison they found beneficial results for incarcerated individuals and staff in the area.



*Garden boxes are available for rent at WSP. Photo by Bethany Shepler.*

Less formally, the therapeutic values of SPP’s programs have been recognized widely and consistently by both incarcerated and staff partners. While all SPP programs are intended to offer positive contact with nature, the programs detailed below include enjoying nature as their *primary* function. Since SPP-Evergreen had reduced influence on nature imagery programs during the reporting period, we represent them as an informal offering here.

**Table 19.** Informal Restorative Nature Programs, new and ongoing, FY19 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

Prison	Programs	Program Partners	Highlights
AHCC	Flower gardens		Flowers throughout the prison for human & wildlife well-being
AHCC	Diversity Garden		Cultural groups grow food and flowers for their special events, e.g., 4 rows for native American programs: lavender, sage and sweet grass
AHCC	Nature imagery		Individuals in maximum security area have access to nature videos
CBCC	Flower gardens		Planted 500 perennials this year; ornamental gardens in courtyard, access breezeway, MSC light yards
CCCC	Flower gardens		Flower gardens throughout the grounds
CRCC	Heritage and flower gardens		Incarcerated individuals designed garden, which honors cultural and natural heritage of area, native plants minimize water needs

<b>LCC</b>	House plants		Only known prison that allows houseplants in residents' dorm rooms; last year were nearly 300 plants for 480 residents!
<b>MCC-WSRU</b>	House plants		New houseplants propagated and potted, three large carts full, for 4th floor/hospital area; decorative wood planters for some.
<b>MCC-WSRU</b>	Flower gardens		Flowers gardens to benefit human and wildlife well-being
<b>MCC-SOU</b>	Flower gardens		Flowers planted by SOU staff and incarcerated residents
<b>MCC-TRU</b>	Flower gardens		In 4,000 ft2 of gardens, lots of flowers
<b>MCCCW</b>	House plants		All living units have houseplants and numerous staff have plants in their officers
<b>MCCCW</b>	Flower gardens		New flower gardens for every living unit
<b>OCC</b>	Water features		2 living units have fish ponds; the other has a fountain and basin
<b>OCC</b>	Flower gardens, boxes, baskets		Each living unit has several garden beds planted and maintained by residents; hanging baskets and flowering beds throughout the facility for both staff and incarcerated people
<b>SCCC</b>	Flower gardens		Flowers throughout the grounds for human & wildlife well-being; 2 more gardens outside the fence
<b>SCCC</b>	Lifer garden		Large garden space dedicated incarcerated men not eligible for parole
<b>WCC</b>	Nature Imagery		2 Nature Imagery rooms in Cedar Hall; hosted documentary film makers and 2 information nights focused on program
<b>WCC</b>	House plants		Plants in all shared and staff areas, provided and maintained by Grounds Maintenance crew
<b>WCC</b>	Flower gardens		Flower plantings throughout the campus
<b>WCCW</b>	Flower gardens		Flower plantings throughout the campus
<b>WSP-SPL</b>	House plants		Propagate and care for plants for indoor spaces; also grew 100+ lavender plants for outdoor beautification and good smells
<b>WSP-South Complex + MSU</b>	Rental garden boxes		48+38 raised bed garden boxes available to individual renters for personal use; all rented
<b>WSP-MHU</b>	Horticulture		Five flower plots dedicated to members of mental health programming
<b>WSP-MSU</b>	Flower gardens		Two flowers gardens, 10 flower boxes and 26 hanging flower baskets



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## 7. Community Contribution Programs

Community contribution programs directly provide services and/or goods to nearby communities. They train pets for adoption or service and donate crafts and products (firewood, quilts) derived from reclaimed materials. Other community contribution programs provide services such as habitat restoration and thinning trees.

Typically, these programs are partnerships between prisons and community organizations that help organizations increase capacity and provide incarcerated individuals with opportunities to contribute to the world outside the fence. Most of these programs predate the formal SPP partnership; SPP-Evergreen's role is to acknowledge and support these productive partnerships and provide a comprehensive overview of activities taking place statewide.

SPP's conservation and sustainable operations programs also make community contributions; for example, the [Conservation Nurseries](#) provide hundreds of thousands of plants to regional restoration, and [Sustainable Operations](#) programs contribute by reducing prisons' environmental footprint and saving taxpayer dollars. See those sections for details.

### Dog and Cat Programs

Dog and cat programs are common in prisons across Washington State. Nearly all of Washington's prisons have one or more partnerships with community nonprofits for pet programs. Incarcerated individuals receive education and support from those partner organizations to provide excellent animal care and obedience training, and—in a few cases—service or therapy training. We have heard from incarcerated participants and staff that pet programs are a benefit to all directly involved, and to the larger prison community as well. Sometimes, participants of these programs say that working with dogs or cats was transformational.

In FY19, more than 770 dogs and cats were cared for and trained in WA prison programs. In the past year, CRCC added a small service dog program, while WCC suspended theirs. SCCC's Freedom Tails ended early in 2019, and the prison is seeking a new partner. Further details are shown in the following table.



*A social media post from the Pawsitive dog training program hosted by AHCC.*

**Table 20.** New and ongoing Dog and Cat Programs FY19 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

Prison	Program	Program Partners	Highlights
AHCC	Pawsitive dog training	Diamonds in the Ruff, SpokAnimal, Spokane Humane Society	More staff and incarcerated participation this past year; ended 24th session in June with cumulative total of 175 dog graduates; dog re-union event brings together dog, new owners, and former handlers; program is 100% self-sustainable by community donations and fundraising with art and crafts projects donated to Spokane Humane Society.
CBCC	Dog training and adoption	Welfare for Animals Guild (WAG!)	Since beginning of program trained more than 200 dogs and puppies, 35 in past year; 99% adoption rate! Continue to host reunions for adoptive families and incarcerated trainers
CBCC	Cat program	Welfare for Animals Guild (WAG!)	Hosted by two units in close custody; 23 cats in the program so far, 4 in past year
CCCC	Training dogs for veterans	Brigadoon Service Dogs	4 dogs trained and 1 graduation ceremony in past year
CRCC	Ridge Dogs	Benton Franklin Humane, Adam County Pet Rescue	131 dogs graduated from the program in past year!
CRCC	Service dogs for veterans	Brigadoon Service Dogs	New: Set up video conferencing with Brigadoon; currently training 2 dogs
LCC	Dog Adoption Program	Humane Society for Southwest Washington	Weekly classes and one-on-one training with handlers; 42 dogs and puppies in the program in past year
LCC	Cat Adoption Program	West Columbia Gorge Humane Society, Humane Society for Southwest WA	Education and training every 2nd week; 42 kittens and cats adopted in past year
MCC-SOU	Cat program	Purrfect Pals	900 cats adopted since 2006
MCC-TRU	Dog training and adoption	Summit Assistance Dogs	9 dogs this year with 3 graduations
MCCCW	Pawsitive Prison Project	Kitsap Humane Society	22 cats in the 4th year of the program
OCC	OCC Dog Program	Olympia Peninsula Humane Society	Adopted out 35-40 dogs this past year; adoption rate is 92%; 207 dogs since start of program in 2010
SCCC	Freedom Tails	Harbor Assn of Volunteers for Animals (HAVA)	7 dogs graduated, 1 graduation ceremony; this program ended early in 2019, planning restart with new partner
SCCC	Service dogs for veterans	Brigadoon Service Dogs	8 dogs trained to the needs of individual veterans in past year

<b>WCCW</b>	Prison Pet Partnership	Self-supporting	First in-prison pet program in the country! In past year, 35 dogs in training, 17 adopted as pets, 6 as service animals, 25 incarcerated employees; 2 found pet care industry employment post-release
<b>WSP</b>	BAR Units kitten program	Blue Mountain Humane Society	125 kittens and cats (mostly kittens) in the past year, socialized and raised for adoption
<b>WSP-MSU</b>	Dog Program	Walla Walla Humane Society	20 incarcerated individuals served 2,632 hours as handlers and walkers



*A dog handler and Koa, a "very loving St Bernard," in CRCC's Ridge Dog program. Photo from <https://www.facebook.com/Ridge-Dogs-219301358080610/>*

## Reclaim, Repurpose or Restore, and Donate Programs

Consistent with the earliest days of SPP programs, WA prisons strive to “throw nothing away,” to transform potential refuse into something of value. In some cases, these programs’ creations directly meet an organization’s need: donating quilts to a homeless shelter, refurbished computers for schools, and growing produce for food banks. In other cases, programs donate handmade or restored creations for organizations’ fundraising events. The productivity and generosity of these programs are best illustrated by statewide numbers (below).

**Table 21.** Reported total for 12 prisons statewide, new and ongoing Community Contribution Programs FY19 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

Item	Statewide totals reported (approximations)	Highest Impact Facility
Garden area	22.0 acres cultivated	WSP institutional garden: 10.5 acres
Produce grown	246,700+ lbs. to food banks & prison kitchens	WSP institutional garden: 110,000 lbs.
Crafts & furnishings from reclaimed materials	Nearly 24,000 items donated	WSP’s Sustainable Practices Lab (SPL): 19,000
Refurbished bicycles and wheelchairs	1,144 donated	MCC-WSRU: 820 items
Refurbished computers	3,984 at-cost for School District	AHCC: All
Firewood	929 cords donated	AHCC: 739 cords



Institutional/agency contributions	\$637,877.00 cost savings	WSP Institutional garden: \$272,677
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*Custom fairgrounds furniture created by WSP's Sustainable Practices Lab WA Corrections photo.*



*Loading refurbished wheelchairs for international shipment; this program is at MCC-WSRU, coordinated by Joni and Friends' Wheels for the World. WA Corrections photo*

**Table 22.** New and Ongoing Community Contribution Programs to Reclaim, Repurpose, Restore, or Donate FY19 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

Prison	Programs	Program Partners	Highlights
AHCC	SPL: Quilting	22 cats in the 4th year of the program	Repurposing fabric to create donation quilts; 95 quilts this year! 3 quilts went to terminally ill incarcerated individuals at AHCC. Remaining 92 quilts were split between Hope House Women's Shelter, Crosswalk (teen shelter) and Catholic Charities (homeless outreach and shelter services)
AHCC	Computers 4 Kids	Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, WA Department of Enterprise Services	Past year, refurbished 3,984 for schools plus 11,252 to surplus; incarcerated technicians learn basic diagnostics and can test for certification, plus learn office skills (excel, access) and shipping skills (e.g., forklift experience)
AHCC	Firewood donation	SNAP Spokane	739 cords donated July 2018 - July 2019!; DNR provides wildland fire trainings and prison staff provide firewood and chipper trainings
CBCC	Vegetable gardens	Donations to Peninsula College culinary program	~1,200 lbs. of produce grown: ~43 lbs. to culinary program, 1,075 to the kitchen, 84 lbs. to area food banks.
CBCC	Ozette potato program		Growing Ozette and Peruvian Purple seed potatoes for donation to local tribe to help replenish cultural staples
CCCC	Gardens	Centralia Community College, Littlerock School District	40,000 sq. ft. of gardens, grew ~8,500 lbs. of produce for prison kitchen in 2018; grew pumpkins for prison family events

<b>CCCC</b>	Construction: tiny homes,	Centralia CC	Built 6 tiny homes for homeless community last year; this year working on larger "tiny cottages" to house families
<b>CRCC-MSU</b>	Gardens, Minimum		3,000 sq. ft. of gardens produced more than 5,000 lbs. in 2017
<b>CRCC-Main</b>	Gardens, Main		Half vegetables harvested to food bank and half to kitchen
<b>CRCC</b>	Toys for Tots	Tri-Cities Toys for Tots, Shriners Hospital for Children	Donated 150 toys and crafts in the in past year.
<b>CRCC</b>	Teddy bears from reclaimed materials	Hospitals, API events held at CRCC, ARC of Tri-Cities, Franklin County Sheriff's Office	Donated 600 teddy bears to partners and benefit events
<b>LCC</b>	Wood craft donations	Non-profits	Created and donated 75 picture frames, 16 jewelry boxes, 4 signs, 1 display cabinet, 1 plaque
<b>MCC-SOU</b>	Gardens		Grew 213 lbs. of vegetables and herbs
<b>MCC-TRU</b>	Gardens		Grew ~2700 lbs. for prison kitchen
<b>MCC-TRU</b>	Community Aide Coalition: quilting, crochet, textile arts	Over the Rainbow Fabrics, Dolly Haakenson, clothing and textile advisors of Snohomish County donate materials; crafts donated to Interfaith Family Shelter, Westlake Shelter, Hope Crew, Swedish, Evergreen, Seattle Children's and Providence Hospitals, Rainbow Center, Evergreen Hospice, Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center, Summit Assistance Dogs, Holy Rosary Church, Rotary First Harvest, East Count and Monroe Senior Center, +many, many more.	Created 140 quilts and over 400 knitted hats and scarves this year;
<b>MCC-WSRU</b>	City of Monroe public flowers	City of Monroe donates seeds and soil	Grew 1,392 begonias for City flower beds
<b>MCC-WSRU</b>	Vegetable gardens	CI Food Services donated seeds	Grew 2,913 lbs. for prison kitchen, vegetables and herbs
<b>MCC-WSRU</b>	SPL Bicycles from Heaven	Bikes donated by Snohomish County Sheriff, Monroe PD, Marysville PD, Everett PD; donated to Snohomish County Boys & Girls Club and the City of Sultan for National Night Out	In 2018, restored 202, donated 162, recycled/scrapped 36
<b>MCC-WSRU</b>	SPL Wheelchair program	Wheels for the World	In 2018, restored 454 wheelchairs, donated 658 (including some walkers and sets of crutches), recycled/scrapped 54
<b>MCC-WSRU</b>	SPL Wood Craft 4 Charity	Scrap wood donated by Canyon Creek Cabinet Company; donate to Childrens Hospital, YWCA, Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County, Women's Shelter of Monroe	In 2018, created and donated 300 wooden toys and crafts

<b>MCCCW</b>	GRACE (Gardening for Restoration and Conservation Education) Project	Kitsap Conservation District, Central Kitsap Foodbank	Kitsap Conservation District 1/4-acre garden tended by MCCCW crew, produced more than ~11,000 lbs. in first season! 10,800 donated to 4 food banks; 200 lbs. fresh produce to the prison kitchen; mid-October, food bank patrons can bring their kids to pumpkin patch (pie and jack-o-lantern varieties)
<b>MCCCW</b>	Vegetable gardens	North Mason Food Bank	2018, grew 1,300 lbs. of produce for prison kitchen and food bank
<b>OCC</b>	Wood shop	Quileute High School scholarships, Cherish our Children, Forks Lions Club, CASA, Quillayute Valley School District, Relay for Life, Forks Chamber of Commerce, Timber Museum, Olympic Anglers, Calm Waters and Forks Soroptimists; wood from Westport Shipyard and OCC Community Crews (DNR)	Every year OCC donates outdoor furniture, wood toys and games, and other crafts to Quillayute Valley School District Scholarship auction; 2019 donated 78 items raising \$16,970 for scholarships
<b>OCC</b>	Firewood	Olycap, Quillayute Valley Scholarship Auction, Lake Quinalt Fire Department, OCC Community Crews (Department of Natural Resources)	Cut and donated 190 cords of firewood in past year; donation to Quillayute Valley Scholarship Auction raised nearly \$6,000
<b>OCC</b>	Vegetable gardens	Peninsula College	2018, donated 850 lbs. of vegetables, edible flowers, and herbs to daycare's summer meal program (students voted to choose recipient)
<b>SCCC</b>	Gardens and greenhouses	Coastal Harvest Food Bank, Harvest Now	To food bank in 2018: 36,036 lbs.; Harvest Now informed them they reported the most donated produce out of the 85 partner prisons nationwide.
<b>SCCC</b>	Food bank fundraisers	Giving Tree, Coastal Community Action Senior Center, Community Youth Services, Set Free Christian Fellowship, Coastal Harvest Food Bank, Unidos Por Puerto Rico	Incarcerated individuals and staff raised and donated ~\$9,730 to non-profits listed
<b>SCCC</b>	Bicycle Repair	Lions Club	193 bikes repaired and donated in past year.
<b>SCCC</b>	Wheelchair Repair	Wheels for the World	147 wheelchairs repaired and donated in past year.
<b>SCCC</b>	Toy Time	Christmas for Kids, Correctional Industries	Started by 2 incarcerated individuals 15 years ago and has grown to 21 people last year; materials come from furniture shop scraps and community donations; crafts donated for holiday season
<b>WCC</b>	Plant starts	Hoodsport Kiwanis	Grew 2,782 starts for 2019 Hood Canal Kiwanis Spring Plant Sale; donated 800 plants to Saints Pantry Food Bank; gave away 1,503 to staff and incarcerated individuals' families at various events
<b>WCC</b>	Vegetable gardens	Thurston County Food Bank, The Saint's Pantry Food Bank, The City Reach Food Bank, The Shelton Community Kitchen, Harvest Now	2018, grew 41,840 lbs.; Harvest Now donated vegetable seeds worth \$250; donated 23,000 to 5 community org's to increase production for food banks; 2,942 plants for WCC special events (e.g. Mother's Day baskets)
<b>WCC</b>	Construction: bus stops, and Neighborhood Pantries	Centralia College, Hoodsport Kiwanis, Hoodsport School District	Built and donated 3 bus stops in past year, built 9 pantry boxes for Kitsap neighborhood food sharing



<b>WCC</b>	Shoe and clothing repurposing	CI	DOC facilities send used clothes to WCC for reuse and recycling; processed 22,760 lbs. of t-shirt, boxer shorts, and socks in past year, with cost savings of ~\$165,200
<b>WCCW</b>	Gardens and greenhouses	Tacoma CC, WSU Extension, Pierce County	Summer of 2018 grew 11,620 lbs. of produce for prison kitchen — herbs, vegetables, and strawberries
<b>WCCW</b>	Mother Earth Farm	Mother Earth Farm, Real Food Network, Tacoma CC	Offsite crew of 9 organic farm students grow vegetables for donation to 16 food pantries (quantities not available for 2019)
<b>WCCW</b>	Sisters of Charity: quilts, fabric crafts, wildlife rescue	Community members donate supplies; LIHI and multiple non-profits/charities receive donations	In past year, created and donated 3,111 items! Hats, pillowcases, quilts, stockings, pottery, dog beds (for PPP), and curtains for tiny houses
<b>WSP</b>	Gardens and greenhouses: Institutional Sustainability Garden	Donate to Blue Mountain Action Council and Christian Aid Center	2018 grew ~110,000 lbs. of produce, donated 2,471 lbs.; remainder to prison kitchen, saving \$175,937
<b>WSP-SPL</b>	Overview; since SPL holds 27 <i>programs</i> , only some detailed below	Receive materials donations from partners; donated to 550 charities since start of SPL 2012	27 programs in past year donated 19,000+ items to non-profits; provided 8,500+ items for State use; estimate \$200,000 savings for DOC annually; 250 tours provided; all technicians receive education and training programs
<b>WSP-SPL</b>	SPL: Wood Shop	Lumber Products, WSP Employees Veterans' Committee, Hard Headz, Walla Walla Foundry, Habitat for Humanity, Humane Society, Fallen Outdoors, Salmon for Soldiers, other non-profit groups	More than 250 projects in past year; built custom wood signs, special furniture items, and carvings for donations; also create and repair institutional furniture resulting in DOC cost savings
<b>WSP-SPL</b>	SPL: Wood Carving		Hand-carved 96 items for auctions this past year; four individuals received one-on-one training
<b>WSP-SPL</b>	SPL: Furniture Repair	Simpli-Home Furniture LLC.; donations to Habitat for Humanity, The Humane Society, Veterans Housing Project, Women and Children Rescue Mission, Christian Charities Mission, and Teen Aid	Sort and salvage donated materials; create "custom furniture solutions" for 40+ charities; instruction on safety and tool use.
<b>WSP-SPL</b>	SPL: Sign shop		Recycle materials, produce 2,000+ signs and banners, provide vocational training to 6 sign makers; this shop focuses on cost savings for taxpayers (discontinued work for outside charities)
<b>WSP-SPL</b>	SPL: Aquaculture and Aquaponics		800lbs. of lettuce for prison kitchen; new outdoor tilapia pond and improved inside program structures; technicians train and practice in fish breeding
<b>WSP-SPL</b>	SPL: Parole-A-Bear		SPL's most productive shop by # of items, annually creating ~more than 15,000 stuffed bears and other items for charities; also repair for institutional clothing and created 300 holiday stockings for donation
<b>WSP-SPL</b>	SPL: Quilting		Using donated or cast-off fabric and thread, constructed 350+ lap quilts, quilts and blankets for charity

<b>WSP-SPL</b>	SPL: Special Projects		Made 3,000+ products for DOC institutional use, such as staff duty belt items (such as OC dispenser holsters (MK4 & MK9), cuff cases, radio cases, bags for special needs, PREA shower curtains, incarcerated individuals' property bags, and more
<b>WSP-SPL</b>	SPL: Water treatment systems	<a href="#">Project 41</a>	Constructed water-filtrations systems as ordered by Project 41; optimized assembly methods
<b>WSP-BAR</b>	Crochet Program		Partnership with SPL, creating donation items

## Community Work Crews

Many incarcerated residents of minimum security prisons (LCC, OCC, MCCCW, and CCCC) and units (Minimum Security Unit = “MSU”) may join offsite crews working on public lands and community organization sites. The work can allow positive reconnection with outside communities, providing exposure to, and experience with the world outside the fence.

These crews employed 1,709 incarcerated individuals this fiscal year. With so many participants at hundreds of sites

statewide, we still have much to learn about these programs, including how well each does and does not fit the SPP model. Reported details are shown in the table below.



*A member of MCCCW's community crew works at a Kitsap Conservation District revegetation site. Photo by Rachel Friedrich.*

**Table 23.** Community Work Crews, Special Projects FY19 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

Prison	Programs	Program Partners	Highlights
AHCC	Forestry	Department of Natural Resources	Forest thinning produces logs for firewood program
CCCC	Forestry	Department of Natural Resources	Off-site crews trained in and practice reforestation, wood-cutting, land clearing, and forest firefighting and fire prevention
CCCC	Community work	Multiple agencies	Cedar Creek provides community service crews that perform thousands of hours of work each year for local, county, non-profit and state agencies
LCC	Forestry	Department of Natural Resources, other agencies	Off-site crews trained in and practice reforestation, wood-cutting, land clearing, and forest firefighting and fire prevention; 120 crew members have been certified as Firefighter 2

LCC	Community work	Multiple agencies	Services include farming, reforestation, wood-cutting, brush and debris clearing, general landscaping, processing vegetables at food pantry, salmon habitat restoration, watershed improvement, development of parks and recreational areas, and other work to conserve natural resources
MCCCW	Conservation crews	Kitsap Conservation District, Great Peninsula Conservancy, Jefferson Land Trust, WSDOT, WDFW, Suquamish Tribe Fisheries	Planting projects, invasive weed removal, creek and estuary flood control
MCCCW	GRACE Project	Kitsap Conservation District, Central Kitsap Foodbank	Rotating crew growing vegetables for foodbank donation
OCC	Community Crew	Department of Natural Resources, other agencies	Lawn and grounds care, trail improvements, brush cutting, fire-wood cutting, weed removal, storm debris clean up, stream restoration, fence construction, green house construction, snow removal; also some painting and construction
OCC	Forestry	Department of Natural Resources, other agencies	Off-site crews trained in and practice reforestation, wood-cutting, land clearing, and forest firefighting and fire prevention; more than 100 hours of wildland fire training
WCCW	Mother Earth Farm	Mother Earth Farm, Real Food Network, Tacoma CC	Offsite crew of 9 organic farm student-workers
WSP-MSU	Community crew	City/County of Walla Walla, Veterans Administration, Port of Walla Walla, Walla Walla Fairgrounds, Walla Walla Landfill, Walla Walla County Private Properties, and local Cities and/or Counties such as Waitsburg, Dayton, College Place, Prescott	Landscaping, mowing, trimming, brush removal, cleaning out creeks, tree and shrub planting for fish and wildlife habitat, and pumpkin harvest



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## 8. Sustainable Operations

Sustainable Operations programs are led by the [Washington State Department of Corrections](#) (WA Corrections). This section of the annual report is authored by WA Corrections' Sustainable Operations Manager. While other programs included in this report are also led by WA Corrections or other outside partners, Sustainable Operations programs statewide are unique as they are managed by a dedicated WA Corrections staff position; this position was created by WA Corrections to monitor and reduce the environmental, economic, and human costs of prisons. Major sustainable operations initiatives include greenhouse gas emissions, energy, waste, and potable water use reductions.

[Executive order 18-01, State Efficiency and Environmental Performance \(SEEP\)](#) was signed by Governor Inslee on January 16, 2018. This order further solidified the Governor's commitment to reducing greenhouse gasses and toxics in the state's products, processes and business. This demonstration of the Governors commitment and expectations further enables the Department to achieve its goals related to reduction in the use of toxics and energy and the production of waste and greenhouse gases. As an agency committed to the SEEP Executive order, the Department meets regularly with other state agencies to establish processes to identify the most cost-effective opportunities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, sequestering carbon, and reducing exposure to toxics.

12 prison facilities are responsible for the vast majority of WA Corrections' greenhouse gas emissions, resource consumption, and waste generation. In June of 2019, these facilities occupied over 7 million square feet of conditioned space and housed a population of 16,781 incarcerated individuals. Prison age and design range from the 130-year-old first territorial prison in Walla Walla, the first US Green Building Council Leadership of Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold prison campus in the world, and the Coyote Ridge Corrections Center in Connell, WA. Facilities provide health and dental care, treatment programs, educational and employment training, laundry, and food services.

### Energy

Energy costs associated with the operations of correctional facilities are significant. Reducing energy consumption is an ongoing priority for WA Corrections. The facilities with the support of the Capital Planning & Development (CPD) division are constantly engaged in evaluating and facilitating energy reduction measures such as:

- Facility and systems maintenance
- Energy Audits and resulting upgrades
- High performance construction
- Alternative energy investments
- Promoting conservation behaviors

WA Corrections has been aggressive in reducing energy use in its prison facilities succeeding in reducing energy use by 24% since 2009. Contributing strategies include the completion of 20 energy savings performance contracts, the certification of the first LEED Gold prison campus in the world, and management of more LEED-certified square footage than any other prison facility in the United States.

[Sustainability in Prisons Project](#) (SPP): Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report

Energy use/incarcerated person/day showed a slight decrease of from FY18, as illustrated in the table below.

**Table 24.** Energy data, 12 active prison facilities, FY16 to FY19

Fiscal Year	Kwh per incarcerated resident per day
FY16	47.36
FY17	49.19
FY18	48.67
FY19	47.97

This data represents power demands needed to operate facility conditioned spaces, perimeter lighting, food service, laundry, health care and industrial operations. Power sources include: electricity, natural gas, propane and fuel oil. Consumption records for each facility for each power source are converted to equivalent kWh hours and divided by the number of incarcerated people.

#### Activities and initiatives

- **Lighting retrofits** – Prison facilities continue to use operational funds and utility incentives made available for LED lighting projects, resulting in significant energy savings.
- **Training for staff** – Facility managers engaged in energy conservation and building management training
- **Energy project funding** – WA Corrections received special funding through the Department of Commerce for the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to conduct detailed energy use studies, develop an Energy Master Plan for the department and recommend best energy conservation strategies and projects.
- **Renewable power contracting:** WA Corrections contracted to purchase 1.2 million kilowatt hours of green power annually through [Avista's Solar Select](#) program.

#### Waste

The primary focus of WA Corrections' waste reduction strategies includes appropriate management of waste streams and environmentally preferable purchasing. Managing waste streams includes separating and shuttling waste to its next, most appropriate destination such as a recycle center, compost facility, waste to energy plant, reuse/redistribution operation, or if no better option exists, to a landfill.

WA Corrections is successfully decreasing the amount of waste generated and sent to the landfills: since 2011, landfill waste had been reduced by 20%. Much of this progress is due to the diversion of food waste to composting operations. Sorting and diverting recyclable items is the second largest contributor to landfill waste reduction.

Attention to environmentally preferable purchase choices also plays a large part in waste reduction. Replacing disposable items with durable, reusable alternatives has been a consistent strategy. Durable medical equipment repair programs refurbish equipment to make it functional for use at the facility or to be donated through community partnerships. The program is an example of saving items from the landfill and sparing facilities replacement costs. Challenges over the past year in reaching further landfill reductions include the loss of cost-effective recycling opportunities for footwear, textiles, mattresses, and plastics.



*Thanks to the composting program's ongoing innovations and expansions, MCC-WSRU was able to cancel their contract with an external composter in the fall of 2019. Photo by Erica Benoit.*

Waste sent to the landfill has remained fairly consistent over the last four years, as illustrated in the table below.

**Table 25.** Waste data, 12 active prison facilities, FY16 to FY19

Fiscal Year (FY)	Lbs. of landfilled waste per incarcerated resident per day
FY16	1.2
FY17	1.3
FY18	1.2
FY19	1.2

Data represents the amount of landfill or incinerator waste generated by facilities that was not diverted to better solutions. These rates do not include wastes diverted to composting, recycling, and hazardous and universal wastes, such as electronics and light tubes, which are captured and managed specially.

### Activities and initiatives

- **Medication waste diversion** – Random waste stream reviews over the past year revealed the absence of any pharmaceutical or over-the-counter medications in the waste stream indicating that the diversion process for any unused or expired medications is effective.
- **Food waste composting and recycling** – All facilities are expected to have recycle and food waste diversion programs.
- **Sustainable Purchasing** – The Department is a member of and working closely with the SEEP Toxics Reduction and Preferable Purchasing working group to identify and implement waste reductions strategies and improve sustainable purchasing.
- **Education and training for incarcerated residents:** Educational signage, training in sustainability work programs, and resource conservation education in SPP programs (e.g., Roots of Success and Environmental Workshop Series)



**Table 26.** Waste diversion, state-wide totals reported by 12 prisons, FY19

Target of Diversion	State-wide total	Lead facility
Commodities (e.g., metals, cardboard, plastics)*	2.359 million pounds (1,179 tons)*	SCCC: 560,000 lbs. (280 tons) to recycling in FY19.
Organics (e.g., food waste, yard waste, shredded paper)	2.132 million pounds (1,066 tons)	WSP: 403,195 lbs. (201 tons) composted in FY19.
Finished compost produced	4.347 million tons (217 tons)	OCC: 108,000 lbs. (54 tons) finished compost in FY19
Total waste diversion	4.49 million pounds (2,245 tons)	SCCC: 842,900 lbs. (422 tons) to recycling and composting combined.

\*From Results WA database—more complete data— 1,177.47 tons of Recycled material diverted from landfilled waste in calendar year 2018

## Water

Prison facility managers know that conserving water can save money and be good for the environment. Reducing water use at facilities also extends beyond resource protection and potable water cost savings to savings in wastewater and energy costs.

- Potable water use has decreased from last year's consumption rate of 147 gallons/incarcerated person/day in FY18 to a rate of 133 gallons /incarcerated person/day in FY19.
- Target goal is 120 gallons/incarcerated person/day.



*Grounds/Nursery Services Specialist Benri Deanon describes food production and water use at WCC; since installing inline drippers throughout the gardens, they use 58% less water. Photo by Ricky Osborne.*

**Table 27.** Water data, 12 active prison facilities, FY16 to FY19

Fiscal Year (FY)	Gallons per incarcerated resident per day
FY16	146.12
FY17	138.01
FY18	146.83
FY19	132.99

Data represents the amount of potable water consumed by all prison facilities. It does not include consumption of water from rainwater catchment systems, reclaimed water, or agricultural well-water sources, which some of the facilities use to reduce their demand on potable water.

In the past few years, gardening in Washington correctional facilities has increased exponentially, transforming lawns and gravel yards into beautiful, productive spaces. Programs include emphasis on

vegetable production for food banks and facility food service operations. Water reduction goals will not diminish support for garden programs, but rather will bring new opportunities for water conservation innovations.

#### Activities and initiatives underway

- **Plumbing retrofits** – A pilot program in one housing unit at the Washington State Penitentiary installed efficient valves and controllers for showers, sinks and toilets. A full year after installation the water savings has proved substantial with an 81 % decrease in potable water use and a total project cost payback in 1.52 years.
- **Metering and facility water use assessments** – Five facilities have completed metering of their entire campuses. The meters will be used to monitor and reconcile water use to reduce consumption and detect and repair leaks. Cost benefit analysis of the project may support further metering of other campuses.
- **Water conservation landscaping** – While garden programs depend on sufficient water use to thrive, several facilities across the state are employing water conservation strategies including drought tolerant landscaping/gardens and improved irrigation practices.

**Table 28.** Water catchment summary reported by 12 prisons FY19

<b>CBCC</b>	<b>CCCC</b>	<b>MCCCW</b>	<b>OCC</b>	<b>SCCC</b>	<b>State-wide total</b>
250 gal	45,000 gal	30,000 gal	200 gal	3,210 gal	78,660 gal

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## 9. Sustainability Job Programs

SPP job programs offer incarcerated participants job training, education, and sustainable living skills and ways to contribute to communities and ecosystems. The list included in Table 29 shows all sustainability job program placements in FY19 (data provided by WA Corrections staff's OMNI system; where job programs are known to be very similar, SPP-Evergreen combined those programs).

We include all jobs documented and reported by WA Corrections staff involving sustainability, science, and contact with non-human nature. This table leaves out some sustainability jobs that have been coded in a non-sustainability category; for example, technicians working on composting and aquaponics at SCCC, and electricians who install energy efficient fixtures. These job programs represent an enormous variety of activities, most of which were initiated and run with little-to-no input from SPP-Evergreen partners. SPP-Evergreen aims to promote and support the educational enrichment of every program, and will continue to build partnerships and capacity toward this goal.

Approximately 4,214 incarcerated individuals held sustainability-related jobs during FY19 which is approximately 25% of the 16,781 men and women incarcerated in WA prisons on June 30, 2019 (excludes work release and non-prison beds). Additional individuals “volunteer” in sustainability programs, and their work is not captured here; known reasons for declining the job status relate to having another work or program assignment, short duration of program duties, or limits on monthly pay.

**Table 29.** FY19 Sustainability Job Programs in WA Prisons: all job programs determined to involve science, sustainability, and/or contact with living things are tracked in “sustainability” category. Note: Does *not* include “volunteers” (see above) and students (see [Education](#)).

Sustainability Job Program	Number of sites	Number of participants, FY19
American Boarding Kennel Assc (ABKA) programs	2	33
Aquaponics	2	7
Bee Conservation Tech / Class Facilitator	8	60
Bicycle Repair	2	14
Bike & Wheelchair Repair	2	52
Biowaste Custodian	1	34
Butterfly Rearing Tech	2	30
Cat Handler	4	158
Chicken Handler	1	11
Community Work Crews; includes 14 Clerks	10	965
Compost Worker / Food Waste Recycler	3	28
Computer Refurbishing	1	13
Cultural Crafts Program	1	13
Dog Handler	9	220
Dog Handler 2 (service training)	8	73



Dog Walker	3	30
Fire Wood Stacker	1	8
Forestry I Worker	4	676
Forestry II Worker	1	15
Gardening, Organic	1	60
Groundskeeper I	19	493
Groundskeeper II	4	87
Horticulture I Worker	9	186
Horticulture Worker II	2	37
Inside Groundskeeper	2	55
Plantain (grown for Oregon Zoo)	1	2
Prairie Plant Conservation	4	70
Re-Use Fabric-Sustainable / Quilting	4	86
Recycling Worker / Recycling & Reclamation	14	485
Root Of Success Trainer	9	35
Sawyer	2	49
Sheep Farming	1	13
Sustainability Clerk / Analyst	4	13
Turtle Technician	2	14
Waste Treatment Helper	1	6
Waste Treatment Operator I	3	25
Waste Treatment Operator II	1	15
Wood Working	1	2
Worm Farm Worker/Vermiculture	5	41
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4,214</b>



*Gardeners at WCC harvest bok choy with visitors from France. Photo by Ricky Osborne.*

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## 10. Research and Evaluation

In FY19, changes in [Washington Department of Corrections](#)' (WA Corrections') requirements for program evaluation and research continued to evolve. SPP-Evergreen and the Research and Data Analytics (RDA) staff met four times during the reporting period to discuss possible and planned projects. Overall, options and opportunities for program evaluation and research involving people in prisons (staff and incarcerated) are greatly reduced.

### Quality Assessment Surveys for Conservation Technicians and Workshop students

With RDA's support and participation, SPP-Evergreen gained Washington State Institutional Review Board (WSIRB)'s confirmation that two existing survey programs may continue with no additional review. Surveys for SPP's Environmental Workshop Series students and for Ecological Conservation technicians are approved by their 2011 determination. The activities were determined "exempt". They are *not* considered research; they are assessments of program quality that are used to create improvements.

### Demographics and Recidivism for Incarcerated Participants

With RDA support, SPP-Evergreen submitted the biennial data request to add results for FY18 and 19. WA Corrections research staff provided data on three sets of SPP participants: [Roots of Success](#) instructors, Roots of Success graduates (students), and Ecological Conservation technicians (for programs such as [Taylor's checkerspot butterfly rearing](#), [beekeeping](#), and [prairie plant nurseries](#)).

We requested data on these three groups for these reasons:

1. SPP-Evergreen has excellent records of participation: for each individual, we maintain identifiers and program start and end dates.
2. From our observations and experiences, these programs represent a meaningful or significant experience for a typical participant. Note that we did not include people who joined a program for less time than the average participant (e.g., less than four months in a conservation nursery).



*For the purpose of describing SPP incarcerated participants who had a meaningful experience in one or more SPP programs, we included all conservation technicians, including these beekeepers at AHCC. Photo provided by Kay Heinrich.*

3. Pleasingly, the three groups also represent some of the variety in program participation: instructors, students, and technician/interns

All three data sets ended June 30, 2019, and started with earliest records: spring 2013 for Roots of Success, and ~2010 for first full records from a conservation program. Results help us describe incarcerated participants in SPP programs, especially as compared to WA prison residents overall (see [Agency Fact Card](#); we relied on June 30, 2019 data for our comparisons). **We cannot claim that any of key findings were caused by participation in our program; however, we find value in better knowing the attributes and outcomes of SPP instructors, students, and technicians.**

### Combined Results

RDA's report summarized characteristics for 1,754 incarcerated participants.

Looking at demographics, there were more individuals classified as [low and moderate level risk](#) as compared to the general population: 41% "low" and 14% "moderate" compared to 30% and 5% respectively. One "high" risk category was over represented compared to the general population: 26% classified as "high violent" compared to 13%.

In these SPP programs, 8% of incarcerated participants were Hispanic compared to 14% in the overall population. Diversity of races looked fairly similar to the general population distribution, varying by only a few points above or below those averages. The split between female and male facility's participants exactly matched the general population averages: 8% and 92% respectively.

Of the 1,754 participants in the data set, only 206 could be included in the measure of [recidivism as defined](#) by WA Corrections; for those who have been released, it is a measure of criminal acts that result in a return to a WA prison within three years of the release. For these 206, 26% recidivated and 74% did not. This contrasts to 34% and 66% for the general population. To emphasize this finding: **the recidivism (return to prison) rate for individuals who participated in SPP in a meaningful way was 26%.**

Considering infractions and grievances of the combined groups, we could see no clear patterns for records before, during and after program participation—fluctuations over time are not large enough to exceed the margin of error.



*At WCC, Roots of Success Master Trainer Grady Mitchell and newly certified Instructors Jayson Smith, Matthew Edens, and John Morimoto. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*



For our next data ask, planned for 2021, we will ask for two sets of results for each group: continuing the cumulative report (e.g., all technicians since the start), and adding a report that only describes results for the two years previous. This should allow contrasting the most recent participants with those of previous years, and perhaps better indicate change over time.

### Roots of Success Instructors

From data on 57 Roots of Success instructors, we saw the lowest participation by Hispanics: 5%. We found higher racial diversity than the general population: 54% White compared to 70% White statewide. Most non-Whites are Black, comprising 39% of this group. Only 5 of the 57 have been released for more than three years—far too few numbers to characterize a recidivism rate (the threshold for a preliminary finding is ~30).

### Roots of Success Student Graduates

We received data for 1,364 Roots of Success graduates of the full curriculum. Again, we see higher racial diversity than the general population: 65% White compared to 70% White statewide. The difference appeared due to increased participation by Black students: 24% of Roots graduates are Black, compared to 18% statewide. For the 140 Roots graduates released three or more years ago, 30% recidivated.

### Ecological Conservation Technicians

From data on 204 conservation technicians, we found lower racial diversity than the general population: 75% White compared to 70% White statewide; that is a slight improvement compared to the 78% white found in 2017. Asian/Pacific Islanders showed a relatively high rate of participation, 8% compared to 4% statewide, and Black technicians were lower, with 11% participating compared to 18% statewide.

Since the first SPP conservation program in 2009, 61 technicians

released from prison three or more years ago. Of the 61, only 18% have recidivated.



*Current turtle technicians Donald McLain, William Rathgaber, and Jeramie Inge were joined by former SPP technician and current Evergreen student Bill Anglemeyer at this spring's turtle release for the CCCC program. Photo by Marisa Pushee.*

### Quality Assessment Surveys for Nature Imagery and Roots of Success Programs

In consultation with RDA and WSIRB, we established that exit survey programs for Nature Imagery and Roots of Success are out of compliance. While these programs were originally vetted and approved by RDA, they accepted the external researchers' IRB approval in error; all WA Corrections research and quality assessment involving human subjects must have WSIRB approval—out of state IRB's are not



sufficient. If requested, RDA has committed staff time to supporting a WSIRB submission for these programs. In developing the submission, we would determine if data from past surveys may be salvaged or must be discarded.

## Future Graduate Student Thesis Projects Involving Human Subjects

RDA conveyed that they will no longer be able to consider or support graduate student investigations or thesis publications involving people in prisons (staff and incarcerated). With limited resources, RDA is primarily prioritizing large internal program research—studying impacts of programs such as *Swift and Certain* and *Thinking for a Change*.

At this time RDA is not allowing data obtained through approved survey programs to be the subject of a student thesis, as this intended use is not covered by an “exempt” determination.

## Research with External Partners

### Institute for Human-Animal Connection

Building on the project begun in 2017, Dr. Kevin Morris and colleagues with the [Institute for Human-Animal Connection](#) at Denver University (DU) worked with RDA to complete a data share agreement. This agreement will provide WA Corrections with information on two groups: incarcerated individuals who participate in dog programs and a similar group of individuals who haven’t participated. We look forward to study completion. In the future, the partnership plans to develop and publish best-practices for prison dog programs.



*This dog came back to prison for a reunion with its former handler...thanks to the owner for making this happiness possible! Photo by Brian Harmon.*

### Astrobiology for the Incarcerated Program Evaluation

Throughout the year, SPP-Evergreen worked with the Astrobiology for the Incarcerated program team and research professionals working for NASA and University of Utah to synthesize survey results from the [Astrobiology for the Incarcerated](#) (Afi) lectures. Pre- and post-program surveys to assess knowledge and attitudes were administered for lectures in WA, Ohio, and Florida, resulting in a substantial data set. Led by Nalini Nadkarni at University of Utah, the team co-authored a paper on primary findings and submitted to a prestigious academic journal in October, 2019. We have additional submissions and papers planned.

## University of Washington Waste-Based Amendment Research

[MCC-WSRU's composting program](#) is a research site for a soil amendment research project. Scientists from the University of WA and WA State University are investigating the impact of waste-based soil amendments on soil health and yield and nutritional density of vegetables grown on amended soils. As urban agriculture grows in popularity, the quality of urban soils has become a concern. In addition, issues associated with landfilling wastes such as food scraps and municipal biosolids (solids from wastewater treatment) are generating interest in beneficial use options as an alternative to disposal.

For this study, scientists replicated field plots at three sites: the wastewater treatment plant in Tacoma, WA, City Soil Farm at the King

County treatment plant, and MCC. At each site, residuals-based amendments are added to soil alongside plots where soils are amended with commercial fertilizer. A range of garden crops are grown and soil health is measured using changes in physical, chemical, and biological properties. In addition to plant yield, crops are tested for nutrient content and vitamin concentrations. Soil amendments being tested include biosolids-based topsoil, biosolids compost, vermicompost, bokashi, and compost tea. At MCC, incarcerated individuals produced amendments for the trial and have been involved in planting, tending plots, soil sampling, harvesting plant tissue, and yield measures. Data is shared with those involved add knowledge of soil and plant analysis, data analysis, and the value of the amendments they create



*In early spring 2019, compost technicians Rudy Madrigal and Noel Caldellis show visitors the updated UW field plots at MCC-WSRU. Photo by Joslyn Rose Trivett.*

## Student Theses

Master of Environmental Studies student Keegan Curry completed his thesis by analyzing Taylor's checkerspot butterfly data collected over the past 10 years at MCCCW and Oregon Zoo. MCCCW Butterfly Technicians have been harvesting, tracking, and reporting the number of eggs laid by female butterflies since the program began in 2012. Keegan's thesis synthesizes this data and reports trends in Taylor's checkerspot reproduction over time, revealing new patterns of oviposition for this endangered subspecies. Over 25 incarcerated technicians



*Federally endangered Taylor's checkerspot butterfly eggs are counted by incarcerated Technicians at MCCCW as one of the program measures provided to partners. Data collected from MCCW and OR Zoo programs was used in SPP Coordinator, Keegan Curry's thesis.*

at MCCCW provided data for this thesis by counting thousands of butterfly eggs during their time in the program and their efforts represent a significant contribution to research.

In June 2019, Master of Environmental Studies student Bethany Shepler completed her thesis titled *A critique of the New Ecological Paradigm: Stewardship and a case study of the Pacific Northwest logging industry*. Throughout the process she met with the team of thesis advisors at SCCC, four incarcerated environmental educators and SCCC's staff liaison for SPP programs. Advisors helped her choose the study population, research question, and develop and fine tune the research plan and instruments. This summer at SCCC, Bethany delivered a workshop on the thesis process and findings, presented the printed thesis to advisors, and met with advisors to debrief the process—discussing benefits and challenges of their involvement—and award certificates of recognition.



*Bethany Shepler (middle) poses with two of her thesis advisors, Kelly Peterson and David Duhaime; Bethany is holding a printed copy of her thesis that she gave to them. Photo by Erica Benoit.*



## 11. SPP Network

### SPP in Washington State

Staff at SPP-[Evergreen](#) maintained contacts with all Washington state prisons during FY19. With the exception of OCC, every prison in WA hosts one or more program coordinated by SPP-Evergreen—such as [beekeeping](#), [Roots of Success](#), and ecological [conservation](#) programs—and program contacts are essential and routine. This connectivity boosted program recognition and increased capacity for more and better programs. Partners intend to continue aligning goals and honing communications going forward. Here is a summary of SPP-Evergreen’s significant contacts within the state.

**Table 30.** Significant contacts in Washington State, SPP-Evergreen, FY19. (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

New contacts in FY19: Title/profession, organization	Interest in SPP
Earthlab, University of Washington	Artwork for 2019 Northwest Nature and Health Symposium
Education Navigators, 13 colleges statewide	Post-release guidance in navigating higher education
Un-loop	Web development and reentry mentorships
Statewide Reentry Council	Supporting reentry and legislation to improve outcomes post-release
Ongoing contacts in FY19: Title/profession, organization	Interest in SPP
L’Honey	Collaboration between L’Arche Farm and a local parish focused on beekeeping education and inclusion of vulnerable adults
Doris Duke Conservation Scholars	<u>Increasing accessibility and diversity of ecological restoration field’</u> joined their summer symposium
Community volunteer beekeepers	Supported their plans for beekeeping and education at McNeil Island Stewardship program
Detention facility at Joint Base Lewis-McChord	Sharing resources and guidance for their beekeeping education program
Professor of Landscape Architecture, University of WA	Therapeutic Master Plan Studio class studied women’s prison
Restoration Ecology class, University of WA	Presentation to restoration ecology class; potential for partnership development

### SPP Nationally and Internationally

SPP is recognized by other countries, states, and counties for leadership in environmental education and nature programs in prisons. Interest and involvement in SPP-model programs continues to grow. New inquiries from other states and countries come regularly. Ongoing relationships and learning exchanges are flourishing. While the “SPP Network” is less formal than in years past, the number and significance of contacts continues to expand.

In FY19, we provided information and/or shared resources with at least 50



*Kaff Zanjira partners build an eco-constructed toilet; the eco-rehabilitation program provides holistic nature-based skills for incarcerated and released prisoners. Photo from <https://www.facebook.com/kaffzanjira/>*



organizations and individuals. The table below provides a summary, and Figure 3 on the following page illustrates national interest in/prevalence of nature, science, and environmental education programs in corrections facilities. National interest in SPP-model programming is also summarized in Figure 3, following the table.

**Table 31.** National and International contacts, SPP-Evergreen, FY19. (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

<b>New and ongoing contacts in FY19: Title/profession, organization</b>	<b>Interest in SPP</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Country (if not USA)</b>
DOC Environmentalist, Alabama DOC	Learning about Roots of Success	Alabama	
Assistant Director, University Sustainability Practices, Arizona State University	SPP as a reference for a Sustainable Forest Initiative grant, to operate a nursery.	Arizona	
Landscape Architecture Master's students, UC Hastings	Background for a thesis project, juvenile detention center in San Mateo County	California	
Institute of Environment and Sustainability's Corporate Partners Program (CPP)	engages businesses on the topic of sustainability	California	
Undergraduate Student, UC Berkeley	Looking for information on prison gardens and farms to include in their thesis	California	
Defy Ventures	Sharing organizational awareness; invitation to visit their program	California	
Undergraduate Student, Colorado State University in Fort Collins	Provided interview on sustainability within prisons and social impacts	Colorado	
Wildlife biologist and volunteer at the women's prison in Denver	Wants to be involved in more CO programs	Colorado	
Colorado Department of Corrections' Greening of Government Leadership	Unable to create programming at this time; hope to in the future	Colorado	
Associate Research Professor, Institute for Human-Animal Connection, U of Denver	Studying impacts of pet programs in prisons; supplied funding for Phase 2	Colorado	
Florida Department of Corrections	Astrobiology in Prisons Program; environmental and science lectures	Florida	
Reentry Services Division, Georgia Dept of Community Supervision	Improving existing beekeeping programs	Georgia	
Catalyst Consulting	Creating SPP-Hawaii	Hawaii	
Community & Mentor Engagement, Indiana Department of Correction	Interested in sustainability programs in Indiana correctional facilities.	Indiana	
Occupational Therapy student	Studying SPP programs	Indiana	
Student at Earlham College	Case study for senior thesis	Indiana	
SPC in US Army	Trying to start Master gardeners program in Fort Leavenworth at Mid-West Regional Correctional Facility	Kansas	
Green Prisons	Sharing resources and mutual recognition	Kentucky	
Mental Health Therapist and Instructor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette	Looking into starting a beekeeping program in one of their local prisons	Louisiana	
Conference coordinator, Boston College	NSF funded conference at Yale, "Social and ecological infrastructure for recidivism reduction."	Massachusetts	

Prison educator and beekeeper	Developing and implementing bee programs in MA prisons and jails	Massachusetts	
Associate Certified Entomologist, Central Michigan University	Interested in starting a similar program in Michigan	Michigan	
University of Utah, all team members	Nature imagery in prisons	national	
Education and Communications Lead, NASA Astrobiology Program	Program evaluation for astrobiology lectures nationally	national	
Writer and Documentary Filmmaker	Nature imagery nationwide	national	
Plant Conservation Program Specialists, Bureau of Land Management, NM Office	Information about conservation nurseries in prisons	New Mexico	
New Mexico Community Foundation	Start prison garden programs to grow for prison kitchens and save resources.	New Mexico	
Student, St. Lawrence University	Studying SPP programs	New York	
Energy Conservation & Sustainability Administrator, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction	Astrobiology lectures, Roots of Success and sustainability program best practices	Ohio	
Lettuce Grow - Operations Coordinator, Growing Gardens	Wants to start a network of individuals and org's who work with gardens in prisons.	Oregon	
Seed to Supper, Oregon Food Bank	Adapting course for in-prison use	Oregon	
Multiple staff members at Institute for Applied Ecology	SPP program certifications and curriculum development	Oregon	
Sustainability Programs Manager, Oregon Department of Corrections	SPP-Oregon	Oregon	
Local beekeeper from Philadelphia PA	Consult on how to get prison administrators on board with a prison bee program.	Pennsylvania	
Grad student, La Salle University	Capstone interview	Pennsylvania	
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Offering arboriculture education and training to incarcerated students	Pennsylvania	
State jail, Houston	Planning gardening program to support healthy eating	Texas	
Officer, Michael Unit, Texas Dept of Criminal Justice	Reviewing and publicizing aquaponics program and protocols, support for creating national herbs behind bars contest and presenting to national Aquaponics Association; connection to national partners	Texas	
Windham School District	Agricultural programs and education in corrections	Texas	
Alliance for Higher Education in Prison	Shared interests	Utah	
PhD student, Monash University	Interviewing formerly incarcerated SPP partners		Australia
SPP-Tasmania, Churchill Fellowship Award 2018	Awardee completed reporting; expanding programs	Tasmania	Australia
Administrative Assistant, Stony Mountain Institution, Correctional Service of Canada	Interested in started a bee program	Manitoba	Canada

Professor, Environmental Administration Program, Santo Tomas University	Sustainability indicators	Bogota	Columbia
Corrections professional and academic	Self-funded to visit/work in SPP programs for 3 weeks Sept - October	Paris	France
Kaff Zanjira <a href="https://www.facebook.com/kaffzanjira/">https://www.facebook.com/kaffzanjira/</a>	Proposing a GreenPals written correspondence between SPP incarcerated participants and sustainability professionals supporting Kaff Zanjira		India
Freelance journalist & author, consultant at Shimane Asahi Rehabilitation Program Ctr	Developing and improving restorative programs in Japan prison	International	Japan
Prison Officer, MBA Student at University of Cumbria	Research project on Sustainable Prisons involving multiple org's like Dissertations for Good (DFG) and the National Union of Students (NUS)	Cumbria	UK
Ecology Lead for the UK Ministry of Justice Estates Cluster	Sharing contacts, best practices, and success stories	England	UK



Figure 3. Prevalence of SPP-style programs nationwide.

## 12. Dissemination

### Presentations

In FY19, SPP staff at Evergreen (SPP-[Evergreen](#)) presented at a variety of venues to highlight specific programs or represent SPP as a whole. In addition, we attended numerous events at which we made informal or brief presentations representing the organization. Our summary of presentations for the year is in Table 32; this table excludes presentations made within established programs.

**Table 32.** SPP-Evergreen Presentations FY19; does *not* include in-program presentations (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)



*SPP Co-Director speaks to Evergreen leadership and butterfly program partners at MCCCW. Photo by Ricky Osborne.*

Date	Presenter(s)	Title	Venue
7/9/18	Kelli Bush	Developing Career Pathways	Exec Leadership Team WSDOT
8/2/18	Joslyn Rose Trivett and Kelli Bush	SPP Overview and Conservation Programs	Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program
8/7/18	Kelli Bush and Rob Herzog	SPP Brand and Role Clarity	Superintendents Meeting
8/7/18	Jacob Meyers	Butterflies	WCCW Bring Your Kids to Work Day
9/14/18	Erin	Education Initiative	Coalition Building for Justice Involved Students
9/14/18	Kelli Bush	SPP	Coalition Building for Justice Involved Students
9/18/18	Carl Elliott	EVM Location Tours	WDFW, CNLM
9/28/18	Jacob Meyers	Mulching	SCCC, Unit Gardeners
10/9/18	Kelli Bush and Carl Elliott	DOT Landscape Architects	DOT Headquarters
10/12/18	Keegan Curry	Women's Conference	MCCCW
10/17/18	Kelli Bush and former SPP technicians	SPP & WSDOT Partnership	WSDOT Environmental Conference
10/17/18	Alex James	Cultural Awareness Administration Meeting	WCC
11/16/18	Kelli Bush	SPP and Conservation	UW Restoration Ecology
11/29/18	Amanda Mintz	Thesis Presentation	The Evergreen State College
12/3/18	Kelli Bush, Brian B. and Carolina Landa	WSDOT, DOC and SPP Partnership	WSDOT Innovation and Partnership Conference
12/4/18	Keegan Curry and Butterfly Technicians	TCB Working Group Meeting	Natural Resource Conservation Building in Olympia. For the TCB Working Group
12/7/18	Bethany Shepler	SPP Overview	WSP



1/18/19	MCC Compost Program Technicians, Joslyn Rose Trivett and Erica Benoit	A Case Study for Successful, Combined Composting Methods of Post-Consumer Food Waste into Animal Feed and Soil Amendment	International Conference on Environmental, Social, Economic and Cultural Sustainability
2/26/19	Jessica Brown, Phillip Fischer and Teresa Lorenz	Engaging Incarcerated People in Wildlife Research and Recovery	Post. Wildlife Society
3/14/19	Daniel Winterbottom and students	Therapeutic Garden Designs for WCCW	WCCW Senior Leadership and SPP-Evergreen
4/3/19	Kelli Bush, Chuck Henry and Margaret Burke	Sustainability Behind Bars in WA State	BioCycle West Coast 2019
4/4/19	Joslyn Rose Trivett	MES Opportunities with SPP	MES New Student Day
4/11/19	Graham Klag	Soil Structure Influencing Abundance and Density of <i>Viola adunca</i>	International Association of Landscape Ecologists, Ft. Collins, CO
4/16/19	Bethany Shepler	SPP Programs	Pathways to Reentry, SCCC
5/1/19	Bethany Shepler	SPP Programs	WCCW Reentry Fair
5/9/19	Kelli Bush, Carolina Landa, Keegan Curry, Allison Campbell, Marisa Pushee, Steve Sinclair and Beth Rietema	SPP Taylor's Checkerspot Program and SPP Relevance for Evergreen Students	Evergreen Leadership Visit to MCCCW
5/11/19	Jacob Meyers, Carly Rose and Carl Elliott	SPP Prairie and Butterfly Programs	Prairie Appreciation Day Tabling
5/15/19	Joslyn Rose Trivett and Bethany Shepler	Roots of Success Statewide, Impacts of Program on SPP	Roots of Success Graduation, WCC
5/16/19	Carl Elliott, Allison Campbell and Marisa Pushee	Mutual Benefits of Working with Another Community, SPP and Pandas	Rachel Carson Forum Tabling
6/4/19	Steve Sinclair	SPP	Western Board of Governors
6/13/19	Kelli Bush	SPP Overview for BOT	BOT Meeting, Evergreen

## SPP Tours

SPP staff from Evergreen and WA Corrections staff at each facility regularly host visitors interested in SPP programs. A summary of tours reported for FY19 is in Table 33; we believe this greatly underrepresents tours conducted by WA Corrections staff.

**Table 33.** Tours of SPP programs, FY19 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

Date	Location	Visitors	Program areas
7/12/2018	AHCC	Ben Stuckart, Spokane City Council	
7/23/2018	AHCC	Bob Foster-Grahler, Program Chair/Member of the Faculty Criminal Justice / Pierce College	
7/26/2018	MCCCW	Miranda Mellis and Erik Steinhoff	All SPP Programs
7/27/2018	AHCC	Mike Steenhout, DOC HQ Budget Director	

8/14/2018	Bonnie Becker	UW Faculty	PPPP at WCCW
9/18/2018	Field Sites	WDFW, CNLM	EVM
9/20/2018	SCCC	CCBLA & Gateways	Roots
10/17/2018	SCCC	Low Income Housing Institution (LIHI)	HUB / GHC / Correctional Industries
10/26/2018	WCCW	Kelli Bush, Keegan Curry	Butterflies
1/15/2019	SCCC	Oregon Visitors	Roots
2/11/2019	AHCC	WSU Students	
4/19/2019	AHCC	Joanna Carns, Governor Ombuds	Toured kitchen and met with Bonnie Scott regarding growing food in AHCC gardens to feed incarcerated individuals.
5/9/2019	MCCCW	Evergreen Leadership and More	SPP Taylor's Checkerspot Program and SPP Relevance for Evergreen Students
5/17/2019	CCCC	Pierce College	All areas
5/24/2019	CCCC	Thurston County Prosecutors Office	Horticulture, Dogs, Hydroponics, Turtles
6/10/19	MCC	Raquel Pinderhughes	Roots of Success
6/11/2019-6/12/19	SCCC	Raquel and Howard Pinderhughes	Roots, Black Prisoners Caucus
6/14/2019	SCCC	Families of Incarcerated Technicians	Conservation Nursery, Beekeeping, Wheelchairs and Bikes
July 2018-June 2019	WSP-SPL	250 groups	SPL and Green Zone programs

## Academic Publications, Projects, and Internships

### Science in Prisons

Fall 2018, SPP-Evergreen was invited to contribute a chapter to a full-length book to be titled *STEM Education in US Prisons* (STEM stands for Science Technology Engineering and Math; SUNY Press, co-edited by academics from Princeton, and Arizona State University; in print fall, 2020). The editors' particularly requested incorporation of incarcerated "voices"; thus, we took their call for writing and adapted it for distribution in WA prisons, with a focus on "science in prison."

WA Corrections staff were very supportive of the effort and helped Evergreen steward the offer as well as the resulting writing process and submissions. Forty-four incarcerated writers from eight prisons submitted writing describing their experiences learning about and practicing science in prisons. SPP-Evergreen combined short and long excerpts into a narrative. SPP co-directors joined with WDFW program partner Mary Linders to introduce the compilation. The resulting piece is expected in print fall 2020.

### Academic Papers

In FY19, we co-authored a paper describing results of the Astrobiology for the Incarcerated programming in WA, Ohio, and Florida. Additional details provided in the [Evaluation](#) chapter.

### Internships

Kelli Bush supported two internships with an Evergreen Master of Environmental Studies student:

- Allison Campbell; Winter 2019; Butterfly Program Pre-Season Training and Program Expansion Support
- Allison Campbell; Spring 2019; Butterfly Program Professional Development and Communication Resources

### Graduate Student Theses and Capstones

During FY19, SPP-Evergreen supported two Master of Environmental Studies graduate students in academic work to satisfy their degree:

- Keegan Curry's thesis analyzing 10 years of MCCCW and Oregon Zoo Taylor's checkerspot butterfly data.
- Bethany Shepler's thesis on environmental attitudes in the logging industry. Advisors at SCCC played a foundational role in developing the project.

See [Student Theses](#) for further details.

SPP-Evergreen provided informal support to numerous additional students, some of whom are described in the [Network](#) section.



*Keegan Curry demonstrates the amount of butterfly data available for study; his arms show the expanse of binders that hold those data. Photo by Joslyn Rose Trivett.*

### Media Coverage

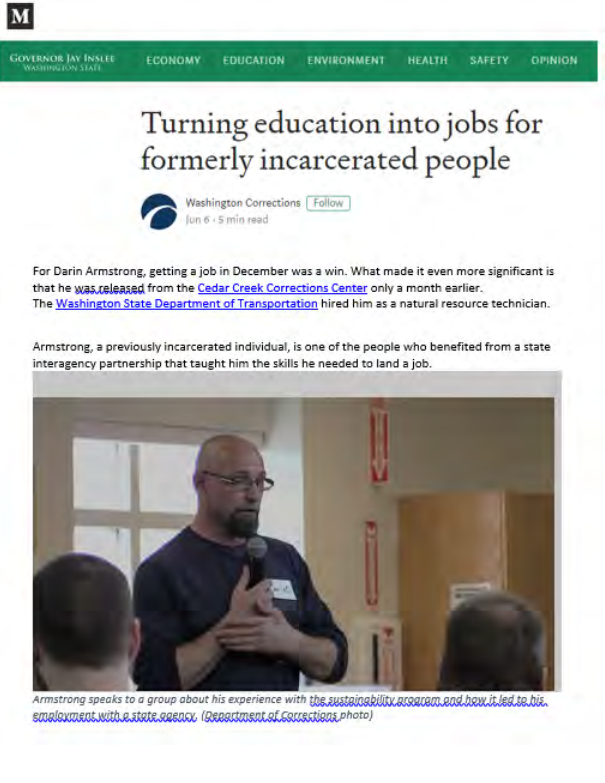
In FY19, SPP was featured in more than 39 stories from local, regional, and international media outlets. The table below includes all of the pieces SPP-Evergreen staff tracked during FY19. Links for each of the pieces are available on SPP's website in our press [archive](#).

**Table 34.** SPP Media FY19

Date	Paper/Source	Author	Title
7/18/2018	<b>KXLY Spokane</b>	Caroline Flynn	Prison program pairs dogs with offenders
8/1/2018	<b>Food Tank</b>	Edward Brunicardi	20 Organizations Planting the Seeds for Food Justice in Prisons
8/4/2018	<b>Spokesman-Review</b>	Jonathan Glover	Inmates are training dogs at Airway Heights prison and helping themselves along the way
8/27/2018	<b>Oregon Zoo</b>		Zoo wraps up another successful butterfly season
8/29/2018	<b>Forks Forum</b>	David Hahn	Inmates and others help create salmon habitat
9/5/2018	<b>Idaho Department of Corrections</b>	LeeAnn Cochems	SBWCC helps restore sage grouse habitat
9/5/2018	<b>Seattle Times</b>	Bethany Jean Clement	GRACE Garden Project gives inmates a chance to grow
9/17/2018	<b>Thurston Talk.com</b>	Kristina Lotz	Mission Non-Profit Spotlight: Olympia Beekeepers Association
10/1/2018	<b>Correctional Industries Newsletter</b>		Honey Bees Thrive on McNeil Island
10/8/2018	<b>corrections.com</b>	Zachary Fletcher	Reducing Waste Behind Bars

10/14/2018	<b>Idaho Press</b>		Inmates help restore habitat through sagebrush planting program
11/9/2018	<b>The Argus Observer</b>	Larry Meyer	Rehab for public lands
11/11/2018	<b>CBS 19</b>	Sasha Wilson	EXCLUSIVE: ETX prison unit changes lives, gains national attention
11/21/2018	<b>King 5 News</b>		Washington prison program gives neglected dogs second chance
11/24/2018	<b>The Tribute India</b>	Upneet Lalli	Let prison walls be permeable to outside world
11/30/2018	<b>DOC News Release</b>	Tim Kelly	Constructing a Solid Foundation
12/1/2018	<b>Ecology e-news</b>	Alex James and Keegan Curry	Restoring Hope and Habitat: Prison-based collaborations for ecological conservation in the USA
1/1/2019	<b>UW Magazine</b>	Catherine Arnold	Forest ecologist Nalini Nadkarni keeps nature in touch
1/2/2019	<b>Medium - Governor Jay Inslee</b>	WA Corrections	Changing the world from behind bars
1/4/2019	<b>DOC News Release</b>	Rachel Freiderich	Incarcerated Men Build Toys for Local Charities
1/10/2019	<b>Belfair Herald</b>	Dana Kampa	Inmates set record with rare butterflies
1/18/2019	<b>Seattle Dog Spot</b>		Prison Pet Partnership in Gig Harbor Expands Service Dog Training Program
2/1/2019	<b>Thurston Talk.com</b>	Holly Reed	Evergreen Students Give Back to their Communities Throughout the Year
3/21/2019	<b>Forks Forum</b>	Christi Baron	An amazing weekend and other news
3/26/2019	<b>Thurston Talk.com</b>	Holly Reed	The Butterfly Effect: Evergreen Grad Student Explains the Ripples of Species Recovery
3/29/2019	<b>Oregon Zoo</b>		With inmates' help, rare NW butterfly is homeward bound
3/29/2019	<b>Fox 12 Oregon</b>		Coffee Creek inmates help raise hundreds of endangered butterflies
4/1/2019	<b>WASBA Newsletter</b>	Joslyn Rose Trivett and Ellen Miller	Beekeeping is Freedom
4/18/2019	<b>KHQ-Q6</b>	Stephanie Stevenson	Program lets inmates train therapy dogs in Spokane
4/19/2019	<b>DOC News Release</b>	Rachel Freiderich	Volunteering Together
4/24/2019	<b>KTVN-2</b>	John Potter	Saving Nevada's Sage-Grouse, with Inmate Volunteers
5/8/2019	<b>Lake County Examiner</b>	S. Garrett Shaw	Warner Creek AICs reap what they 'sow'
5/9/2019	<b>Nisqually Valley News</b>	Daniel Warn	Endangered Butterflies Rebound in South Sound Prairies
5/9/2019	<b>Atlas Obscura</b>	Sabrina Imbler	A Butterfly Conservation Lab Takes Flight in a Women's Prison
5/13/2019	<b>International Network for Seed-Based Restoration</b>	Stacy Moore	Restoring Habitat and Hope
5/24/19	<b>Bitterroot</b>	Jake Bullinger	Conservation programs
6/1/2019	<b>Ecology e-news</b>	Marisa Pushee	Returning Home



6/6/2019	Medium - Governor Jay Inslee	WA Corrections	
6/9/2019	NHK World-Japan News		The Japanese garden behind a wall
6/19/2019	DOC News Release	Rachel Freiderich	The Buzz on McNeil Island

## Outreach

### In-Prison




Most of SPP-Evergreen's printed outreach are intended for in-prison viewing and distribution. In FY19, we produced and provided a wide range of outreach and education materials for several prisons, including:

- Beekeeping posters for CBCC
- Roots of Success flyers for WCCW
- SPP Welcome sign for WCC (not yet installed)
- Nature imagery flyer for MCC-SOU
- SPP highlights slides for SCCC sustainability channel (68 slides of content!)

**What is an *endangered species*?**

A species of animal or plant that is seriously at risk of extinction (dying out completely).


Some of Washington State's endangered species:

Western pond turtle      Taylor's checkerspot butterfly      Oregon spotted frog

**Roots of Success:** Which program has the most students graduate?

Stafford Creek Corrections Center:  
**369 graduates** from July 2013 – Dec 2018!



*A few SPP highlights slides created for SCCC...and any other prison that wants them!*

[Sustainability in Prisons Project](#) (SPP): Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report

## Online

This year, updates and additions to SPP's website (<http://sustainabilityinprisons.org>) included:

- 43 posts <http://sustainabilityinprisons.org/blog-galleries/blog/>
- Individual program pages for all 12 prisons in Washington, each including blog lists, photos, and highlights; see: <http://sustainabilityinprisons.org/spp-programs-in-wa/>
- Improved homepage <http://sustainabilityinprisons.org/>
- Improved curation of content by incarcerated individuals (previously called "inmate voices") <http://sustainabilityinprisons.org/about/incarcerated-partners/>

SPP's main outlets for social media had been Facebook (<facebook.com/sustainabilityinprisons/>) and Twitter ([twitter.com/SPP\\_WA](twitter.com/SPP_WA)). In FY19 SPP posted to Instagram (<instagram.com/sustainabilityinprisons/>) with more frequency well.

On Facebook, our Page Likes jumped over 2,000 going from 1,925 to 2,026. We made 135 posts on Facebook last year; the most popular posts are summarized below.

**Table 35.** Most popular Facebook posts FY19.

Subject	Origin	# of People Reached	# of Likes, Comments, Shares	Date
Honeybees at WCCW	SPP-Evergreen	<b>2,700</b>	82	August 14, 2018
Wolf Haven presents at SPP's Workshop Series	SPP-Evergreen	<b>2,600</b>	128	November 27, 2018
Coffee creek inmates raise hundreds of endangered butterflies	Repost	2,500	<b>187</b>	April 2, 2019
Western pond turtle release by former technician Bill Anglemeyer	SPP-Evergreen	2,000	118	June 28, 2019
Tiny homes being built at CCCC are helping the homelessness community	WA Corrections	1,800	<b>237</b>	December 5, 2018
Gardens at SCCC donate produce to local pantries through Coastal Harvest	SPP-Evergreen	1,500	92	August 30, 2018
Jaci Gadneberger presents on WA DOC dog programs	SPP-Evergreen	1,300	46	April 25, 2019
Undergrad at Duke University writes about SPP and incarceration	SPP-Evergreen	1,000	156	June 10, 2019
Beekeepers at AHCC are an inspiration	SPP-Evergreen	950	58	April 12, 2019
Texas prison growing tons of greens inside	Repost	930	30	November 13, 2018
James Jackson recognized for helping others after incarceration	Repost	920	47	April 26, 2019
New innovative partnership with WA Department of Transportation	SPP-Evergreen	870	118	December 18, 2018
MCCCW graduates first Roots of Success class in 4 years!	SPP-Evergreen	860	80	February 26, 2019
Yes to reducing plastic!	Repost	860	18	December 10, 2018
New Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly greenhouse taking shape at MCCCW	SPP-Evergreen	840	89	November 6, 2018
Two former SPP technicians speak at WSDOT Environmental Services Conference	SPP-Evergreen	820	96	November 2, 2018
PBS documents how incarcerate people remain vulnerable to climate change	Repost	820	<b>32</b>	January 7, 2019

CRCC's Ridge Dogs program	Repost	820	47	November 28, 2018
Learning about gentleness from honeybees	SPP-Evergreen	810	40	April 23, 2019
Susan Christopher reflects on her experience raising butterflies in prison	SPP-Evergreen	710	60	November 13, 2018

On Twitter, we increased our followers by 58 in FY19, and in the last five months of FY19 had 1,275 people visit our page. More highlights:

- SPP tweeted 136 times and made over **171,000 impressions** – almost double the number from FY18 (91,000 impressions)
- We gained an additional 58 followers
- 55 tweets made over 1,000 impressions
- 17 tweets made over 2,000 impression
- 6 tweets made over 5,000 impressions
- 1 tweet (highlighted below) made over 10,000 impressions!
- Our tweets that attracted the most attention:

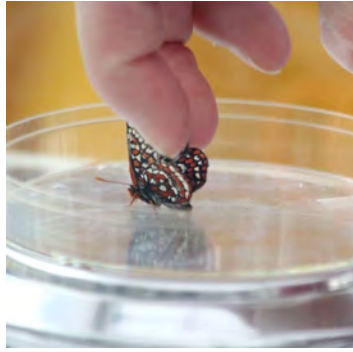
**Table 36.** Most popular Twitter posts FY19.

Subject	# of Impressions	# of Interactions/ Engagements	Date
SPP loves Evergreen MES graduates!	13,100	56	June 18, 2019
Wolf Haven presents at Workshop Series	9,800	44	November 27, 2018
New and innovative partnership with WSDOT	8,400	23	December 18, 2018
Astrobiology for the incarcerated	6,900	18	August 28, 2018
SCCC partners with Coastal Harvest to donate produce	6,200	8	August 30, 2018
So much beekeeping in WA Corrections!	5,800	19	November 5, 2018
SPP presents on the value of education at Workshop Series	4,500	20	December 17, 2018
Kitsap County's GRACE Project helps transform lives	4,400	38	September 17, 2018

On Instagram, after going more than a year without posting, we got our “Insta groove back”! In FY19, we posted 56 times (out of 67 posts on our page). Those 56 posts generated a total of **1,947 likes**.

**Table 37.** Most liked Instagram posts FY19.

Subject	# of Likes	Date
Nature drawing and Sagebrush in Prisons logo by incarcerated technician, Lawrence Jenkins	59	March 5, 2019
A Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly at MCCCW	56	November 15, 2018
Beekeepers at McNeil Island	54	December 6, 2018
Flowers at SCCC	53	August 28, 2018
Sowing prairie plants at SCCC	49	February 7, 2019
Black-backed woodpecker	47	December 18, 2018
MCCCW beekeeping program	47	December 10, 2018



*The three most popular images on Instagram this year.*

## Awards

For FY19, three prisons were recognized for excellence; these awards are shown in the table below.

**Table 38.** Awards FY19.

Date	Awarding body	Recipient: person and/or program	Award Name
August 2018	WA Department of Ecology	CCCC Waste Water Treatment Plant	2018 Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plant Award
August 2018	WA Department of Ecology	OCC Waste Water Treatment Plant	2018 Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plant Award
August 2018	WA Department of Ecology	CBCC Waste Water Treatment Plant	2018 Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plant Award



*OCC's award-winning waste water treatment plant. Photo by Bethany Shepler.*



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## Appendix 1. SPP Programs in Washington State Prisons FY19

We reported on 212 SPP programs in Washington State’s 12 prisons this year; see Table 39, below. Several additional programs were in development during the reporting period, and most of those are not indicated here. For links to programs, partner organizations, and highlights for each program, see <http://sustainabilityinprisons.org/spp-programs-in-wa/>.

**Table 39.** SPP Programs reported by all 12 WA prisons.

### Airway Heights Corrections Center (AHCC)

Roots of Success, environmental course  
Beekeeping  
Gardens: Main  
Gardens: Minimum  
Diversity Garden  
Flower gardens  
Pollinator forage and habitat  
Sustainable Business Solutions  
Large-scale composting  
Waste sorting & recycling  
Worm farm: Minimum  
SPL: Quilting  
Computers 4 Kids  
Pawsitive dog training – prison program  
Firewood donation  
Nature Imagery

### Clallam Bay Corrections Center (CBCC)

Roots of Success, environmental course  
Beekeeping  
Vegetable gardens  
Flower gardens  
Ozette potato program  
Waste sorting & recycling  
Dog training and adoption  
Cat program  
Water catchment  
Waste water treatment

### Cedar Creek Corrections Center (CCCC)

Beekeeping: CCCC  
Beekeeping: McNeil Island  
Western pond turtle care  
Woodpecker nest predation study  
Aquaponics  
Vegetable gardens

Flower gardens  
Waste sorting & recycling  
Large-scale composting  
Training dogs for veterans  
Community College Horticulture  
Construction: tiny homes  
Water use reduction and catchment  
Waste water treatment  
Forestry  
Community work  
Special Events

### **Coyote Ridge Corrections Center (CRCC)**

Roots of Success, environmental course  
Beekeeping  
Plant and Animal Habitat  
Land restoration  
Heritage and bee gardens  
Garden: Main, maintenance area  
Waste sorting & recycling  
Toys for Tots  
Teddy bears from reclaimed materials  
Ridge Dogs  
Service dogs for veterans  
Gardens: Minimum  
Pollinator garden: Minimum  
Composting: Minimum

### **Larch Corrections Center (LCC)**

Roots of Success, environmental course  
Western pond turtles care  
Beekeeping  
Plantain, food source for Taylor's checkerspot butterflies  
House plants  
Bird feeders  
Wood craft donations  
Larch Dog Adoption Program  
Larch Cat Adoption Program  
Waste reduction  
Waste sorting & recycling  
Large-scale composting  
Waste Water Treatment  
Forestry  
Community work

### **Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women (MCCCW)**

Roots of Success

Taylor's checkerspot butterfly program  
Beekeeping  
Environmental careers workshops  
GRACE (Gardening for Restoration and Conservation Education) Project  
Vegetable gardens  
Flower gardens  
Conservation crews  
Small-scale composting  
Waste sorting & recycling  
Water use reduction & catchment  
Pawsitive Prison Project  
Plant and animal habitat  
House plants  
Special Events

### **Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC)**

#### **WSRU**

Composting with Bugs: Worm Farm, Black Soldier Flies, Bokashi  
City of Monroe public flowers  
Gardening curriculum development  
SPL Roots of Success  
SPL Bicycles from Heaven  
SPL Wheelchair program  
SPL Wood Craft 4 Charity  
House plants  
Bird habitat  
Waste sorting & recycling  
Waste Water Treatment Certification  
Flower gardens  
Vegetable gardens

#### **SOU**

Beekeeping  
Vegetable gardens  
Nature Imagery  
Cat program

#### **TRU**

Beekeeping  
Gardens  
Community Aide Coalition: quilting, crochet, textile arts  
Dog training and adoption

### **Olympic Corrections Center (OCC)**

Community College Horticulture  
Gardens  
Pollinator-friendly plantings  
Flower gardens, boxes, baskets

Water features  
Waste sorting & recycling  
Large-scale composting  
Waste Water Treatment  
Water catchment  
Solar power  
Wood shop  
Dog training and adoption  
Green Building  
Firewood  
Community Crew  
Forestry

### **Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC)**

Roots of Success, environmental course  
Environmental Workshop Series  
Special Events  
Beekeeping  
Prairie Conservation Nursery  
Emergent Vegetation Mats  
Gardening curriculum development  
Gardens and greenhouses  
Lifer Garden  
Food Bank fundraisers  
Pollinator plantings  
Flower gardens, boxes, baskets  
Fruit orchard  
Bird houses  
Sustainability channel  
Large-scale composting  
Waste sorting & recycling  
Water catchment  
Bicycle Repair  
Wheelchair Repair  
Freedom Tails  
Service dogs for veterans  
Toy Time

### **Washington Corrections Center (WCC)**

Roots of Success, environmental course  
Environmental Workshop Series  
Special Events  
Prairie Conservation Nursery  
Beekeeping, “Intensive Bee Management Unit”  
Gardens and greenhouses  
Flower gardens  
Horticulture



Potted plants and plant starts  
Construction: bus stops, tiny homes, Neighborhood Pantries, bird houses  
Nature Imagery  
House plants  
Large-scale composting  
Waste sorting & recycling  
Shoe and clothing repurposing

### **Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW)**

Roots of Success, environmental course  
Environmental Workshop Series  
Prairie Conservation Nursery  
Gardens and greenhouses  
Beekeeping  
Community College Horticulture  
Mother Earth Farm, offsite farm crew  
Prison Pet Partnership  
Sisters of Charity: quilts, fabric crafts, wildlife rescue  
Waste sorting & recycling  
Large-scale composting  
Electric vehicles  
Lighting upgrades

### **Washington State Penitentiary (WSP)**

Monarch butterfly program, restoring Pacific Northwest populations  
Institutional Sustainability Garden  
Waste sorting & recycling  
Composting, main  
Electrical upgrades  
Water conservation

#### **BAR Units**

Kitten program  
Roots of Success, environmental course  
Crochet Program

#### **Mental Health Unit**

Horticulture

#### **MSU**

Beekeeping  
Sheep conservation program  
Flower gardens  
Rental garden boxes  
Dog Program  
Community crew  
South Complex  
Rental garden boxes

#### **SPL**

SPL: Learning Center  
SPL: Wood Shop  
SPL: Wood Carving  
SPL: Furniture Repair  
SPL: Sign shop  
SPL: Aquaculture and Aquaponics  
SPL: Worm Farm  
SPL: Art program  
SPL: Parole-a-bear  
SPL: Quilting  
SPL: Creative projects  
SPL: Bottle recycling  
SPL: Water treatment systems  
SPL: Metal ship  
SPL: Special projects  
SPL: SPL sorting and recycling  
SPL: Indoor plants  
SPL: Roots of Success, environmental course  
SPL: Green Zone  
SPL: Green Zone composting

**212 programs reported by 12 prisons**



*Bee program liaison Jonathan Fisher talks about the bee hives housed at WSP. Photo by Bethany Shepler.*

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## Appendix 2. SPP Partners and Allies in Washington State Prisons

Complementing the efforts of founding partners, WA Corrections, and Evergreen, program partners contributed to almost every SPP program. Most programs would not be possible without their input, enthusiasm, and resources. In FY19, we have 198 known (reported) partners. Considering that WSP's Sustainable Practices Lab has donated program creations to more than 400 charitable organizations, we know the actual number is far greater!

**Table 40.** SPP Partners and Allies (Partnering with WA Corrections, Evergreen, or both) FY19

<a href="#">Adam County Pet Rescue</a>
<a href="#">ARC of Tri-Cities</a>
<a href="#">Benton Franklin Humane Society</a>
<a href="#">Black Prisoners Caucus</a>
<a href="#">Blue Mountain Action Council</a>
<a href="#">Blue Mountain Humane Society</a>
<a href="#">Brian Fisher Memorial</a>
<a href="#">Brigadoon Service Dogs</a>
<a href="#">Calbag Metals</a>
<a href="#">Calm Waters</a>
<a href="#">Canyon Creek Cabinet Company</a>
CASA
<a href="#">Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington</a>
<a href="#">Center for Natural Lands Management</a>
<a href="#">Central Kitsap Food Bank</a>
<a href="#">Centralia College</a>
<a href="#">Cherish our Children</a>
<a href="#">Christian Aid Center</a>
Christian Charities Mission
<a href="#">Christmas for Kids</a>
<a href="#">City of College Place</a>
<a href="#">City of Dayton</a>
<a href="#">City of Monroe</a>
<a href="#">City of Prescott</a>
<a href="#">City of Sultan</a>
<a href="#">City of Waitsburg</a>
<a href="#">City of Walla Walla</a>
<a href="#">Clark County Beekeeping Association</a>
<a href="#">Coastal Community Action Senior Center</a>
<a href="#">Coastal Harvest</a>
Community Beekeepers
<a href="#">Community Youth Services</a>
<a href="#">Correctional Industries</a>
<a href="#">Diamonds in the Ruff</a>
Dolly Haakenson
<a href="#">Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County</a>

<a href="#">Doris Duke Conservation Scholars</a>
<a href="#">Emergency Food Network</a>
<a href="#">Everett Police Department</a>
Evergreen Hospice
Evergreen Education Coalition for Justice Involved Students
<a href="#">Fallen Outdoors</a>
<a href="#">Family Promise of Grays Harbor</a>
<a href="#">Farm to School</a>
<a href="#">FareStart</a> , Manager for culinary program
Forks Chamber of Commerce
Forks Gamers Group
<a href="#">Forks Lions Club</a>
<a href="#">Forks Soroptimists</a>
<a href="#">Franklin County Sheriff's Office</a>
<a href="#">Giving Tree</a>
<a href="#">Great Peninsula Conservancy</a>
<a href="#">Green Prisons</a>
<a href="#">GRACE Project</a>
<a href="#">Habitat for Humanity</a>
<a href="#">Harbor Association of Volunteers for Animals (HAVA)</a>
Hard Headz
<a href="#">Harvest Now</a>
Holy Rosary Church
<a href="#">Hood Canal School District</a>
<a href="#">Hope Crew</a>
<a href="#">Humane Society for Southwest Washington</a>
<a href="#">I-CON Systems, Inc.</a>
<a href="#">Institute for Applied Ecology</a>
<a href="#">Institute for Human-Animal Connection</a>
<a href="#">Interfaith Family Shelter</a>
<a href="#">Jefferson Land Trust</a>
<a href="#">Joint Base Lewis-McChord</a>
<a href="#">Justice Involved Students Group, Evergreen</a>
<a href="#">K &amp; S Recycling</a>
<a href="#">Kaff Zanjira</a>
<a href="#">Kalaloch Lodge</a>
<a href="#">Kitsap Conservation District</a>
<a href="#">Kitsap Humane Society</a>
<a href="#">Kiwanis Hoodsport</a>
Lake Quinalt Fire Department
<a href="#">Lamb Weston</a>
<a href="#">Lettuce Grow</a>
<a href="#">Lions Club</a>
<a href="#">Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center</a>
<a href="#">Little Eorthe Farm</a>
Littlerock Elementary School



<a href="#">Low Income Housing Institute</a>
<a href="#">Marysville Police Department</a>
<a href="#">Master Composters</a>
<a href="#">Master Gardeners</a>
<a href="#">Mid Columbia Beekeepers</a>
<a href="#">Millers Homestead</a>
<a href="#">Monroe Community Senior Center</a>
<a href="#">Monroe Police Department</a>
<a href="#">Mother Earth Farm</a>
<a href="#">NASA Astrobiology Program</a>
<a href="#">Nature Imagery in Prisons Project</a>
<a href="#">North Mason Food Bank</a>
<a href="#">North Olympic Peninsula Beekeepers Association</a>
<a href="#">Northwest District Beekeepers Association</a>
<a href="#">Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections</a>
<a href="#">Olycap</a>
<a href="#">Olympia Beekeepers Association</a>
<a href="#">Olympic Anglers</a>
<a href="#">Olympic Peninsula Humane Society</a>
<a href="#">Oregon Food Bank</a>
<a href="#">Oregon Department of Corrections</a>
<a href="#">Oregon State University Extension Service</a>
<a href="#">Oregon Zoo</a>
<a href="#">Over the Rainbow Fabrics</a>
<a href="#">Pacific Rim Institute for Environmental Stewardship</a>
<a href="#">Paper People</a>
<a href="#">PAWS</a>
<a href="#">Peninsula College</a>
<a href="#">Pioneer United Methodist Church</a>
<a href="#">Port of Walla Walla</a>
<a href="#">PPL Electric Utilities</a>
<a href="#">Project 41</a>
<a href="#">Providence Hospital</a>
<a href="#">Purrfect Pals</a>
<a href="#">Quileute High School</a>
<a href="#">Quileute Tribe</a>
<a href="#">Quillayute Valley Scholarship Auction</a>
<a href="#">Quillayute Valley School District</a>
<a href="#">Rainbow Center</a>
<a href="#">Relay for Life</a>
<a href="#">Roots of Success</a>
<a href="#">Rotary First Harvest</a>
<a href="#">Salmon for Soldiers</a>
<a href="#">Sarge's Place for Homeless Vets</a>
<a href="#">School Districts—OSPI and DES</a>
<a href="#">Seattle Children's Hospital</a>

<a href="#">Second Harvest Food Bank</a>
<a href="#">See the Bees</a>
<a href="#">Set Free Christian Fellowship</a>
<a href="#">Shriners Hospital for Children</a>
<a href="#">SimpliHome Furniture LLC</a>
<a href="#">SNAP Spokane</a>
<a href="#">South Sound Prairies</a>
<a href="#">Snohomish County Boys &amp; Girls' Club</a>
<a href="#">Snohomish County CTA</a>
<a href="#">Snohomish County Sheriff's Office</a>
<a href="#">Spokane Humane Society</a>
<a href="#">SpokAnimal</a>
SPP Tasmania
<a href="#">Summit Assistance Dogs</a>
<a href="#">Sunshine and Rainbows Child Development Center</a>
<a href="#">Suquamish Tribe Fisheries.</a>
<a href="#">Swedish Hospital</a>
<a href="#">Symbiotic Cycles</a>
<a href="#">Tacoma Community College</a>
Teen Aid
<a href="#">Texas Department of Criminal Justice</a>
<a href="#">The City Reach Food Bank</a>
<a href="#">The Saint's Pantry Food Bank</a>
<a href="#">The Shelton Community Kitchen</a>
<a href="#">Thurston County Food Bank</a>
<a href="#">Tilth Alliance</a>
<a href="#">Timber Museum</a>
<a href="#">Tri-Cities Toys for Tots</a>
<a href="#">U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</a>
<a href="#">U.S. Forest Service</a>
<a href="#">Unidos por Puerto Rico</a>
<a href="#">Union Gospel Mission</a>
<a href="#">University Beyond Bars</a>
<a href="#">University of Utah</a>
<a href="#">University of Washington Ecosystem Science Division</a>
University of Washington, Composting and Waste Treatment Scientists
University of Washington – Tacoma, Assistant Professor Criminology
<a href="#">Un-loop</a>
Veterans Housing Project
<a href="#">VOA Crosswalk Youth Shelter</a>
<a href="#">VOA Hope House</a>
<a href="#">WA Department of Enterprise Services</a>
<a href="#">Walla Walla County</a>
<a href="#">Walla Walla Fairgrounds</a>
<a href="#">Walla Walla Foundry</a>
<a href="#">Walla Walla Landfill</a>

<a href="#">Walla Walla Police and Sheriff's Department</a>
Walla Walla Veterans Administration
<a href="#">Washington Department of Ecology</a>
<a href="#">Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife</a>
<a href="#">Washington Department of Natural Resources</a>
<a href="#">Washington State Beekeepers Association</a>
<a href="#">Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges</a>
<a href="#">Washington State Department of Transportation</a>
<a href="#">Washington State University Department of Entomology</a>
<a href="#">Waste Connections</a>
<a href="#">Waste Management</a>
<a href="#">Welfare for Animals Guild (WAG)</a>
<a href="#">West Columbia Gorge Humane Society</a>
<a href="#">West Plains Beekeepers Association</a>
<a href="#">West Sound Beekeepers Association</a>
Westlake Shelter
<a href="#">Westport Shipyard</a>
<a href="#">Wheels for the World</a>
<a href="#">Whidbey-Camano Land Trust</a>
<a href="#">Wolf Haven International</a>
Women and Children Rescue Mission
<a href="#">Women's Shelter of Monroe</a>
<a href="#">Woodland Park Zoo</a>
<a href="#">WSU Extension, Pierce County</a>
<a href="#">YWCA</a>
198 reported organizations + 100's more charities receiving donations



*This team, including two previously incarcerated conservation technicians, presented at the WSDOT Environmental Conference in October 2018.*



## Appendix 3. Abbreviations

**Table 41.** Common abbreviations found in FY19 Report

<b>Prisons</b>	
AHCC	Airway Heights Corrections Center, Airway Heights (near Spokane)
CCBC	Clallam Bay Corrections Center, Clallam Bay (northwest Olympic Peninsula)
CCCC	Cedar Creek Corrections Center, Littlerock
CRCC	Coyote Ridge Corrections Center, Connell (south, central Washington)
LCC	Larch Corrections Center, Yacolt (northeast of Vancouver)
MCC	Monroe Correctional Complex, Monroe (northeast of Seattle)
MCC-SOU	Monroe Correctional Complex, Special Offender Unit
MCC-TRU	Monroe Correctional Complex, Twin Rivers Unit
MCC-WSR	Monroe Correctional Complex, Washington State Reformatory
MCCCW	Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women, Belfair (Kitsap Peninsula)
OCC	Olympic Corrections Center, Forks
SCCC	Stafford Creek Corrections Center, Aberdeen
WCC	Washington Corrections Center, Shelton
WCCW	Washington Corrections Center for Women, Gig Harbor
WSP	Washington State Penitentiary, Walla Walla
WSP-MSU	Washington State Penitentiary, Minimum Security Unit
WSP-BAR	Washington State Penitentiary, Baker Adams Rainier Unit
<b>Organizations</b>	
ABKA	American Boarding Kennel Association
CI	Correctional Industries
CPD	Capital Planning & Development (WA Corrections)
CNLM	Center for Natural Lands Management
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
DoD	Department of Defense
Evergreen	The Evergreen State College, a public, four-year institution
IAE	Institute for Applied Ecology
JBLM	Joint Base Lewis-McChord
NSF	National Science Foundation
OR Zoo	Oregon Zoo
RDA	Research & Data Analytics (WA Corrections)
SPL	Sustainable Practices Lab
SPP	Sustainability in Prisons Project
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WA Corrections	Washington State Department of Corrections
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WPZ	Woodland Park Zoo
WSDOT	Washington State Department of Transportation
WSIRB	Washington State Institutional Review Board
<b>Definitions</b>	
MAX	Maximum custody areas are also called IMUs (Intensive Management Unit) and segregation

MED	Medium custody includes close custody, which has less freedom, and general population.
MIN	Minimum custody areas are also called MSUs (Minimum Security Unit). WA has three prisons (CCCC, LCC, and MCCCW) that are wholly MIN and house incarcerated individuals with four years or less remaining on their sentences.

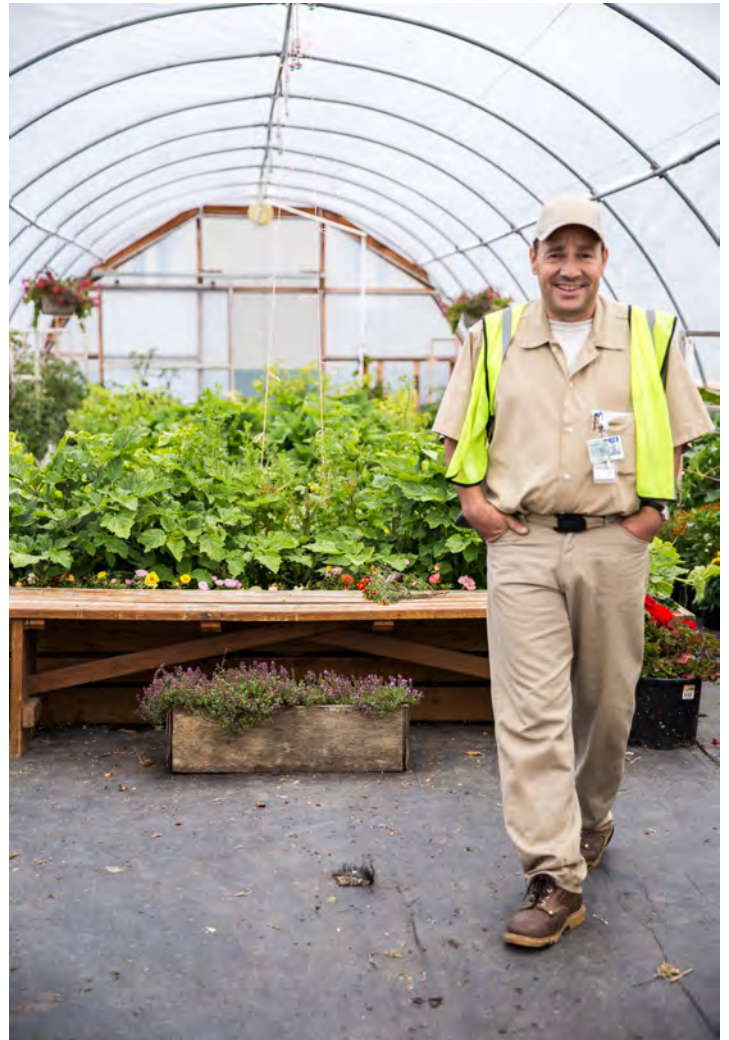


*SPP Program Coordinator Anna Duron and Conservation Technician Josh Hieronymus talk about the aquaponics system for the EVM nursery. Photo by Shauna Bittle.*



# SPP's Year in Photos, 2018-2019

**Gardening curriculum:** In response to years of demand, SPP partners are creating a widely-accessible [gardening course for corrections](#) environments. This is a highly collaborative endeavor, engaging and incorporating the expertise of [Oregon Food Bank](#), [Institute for Applied Ecology](#), [University Beyond Bars](#), and SPP partners from [Washington State Department of Corrections](#) (WA Corrections) and [the Evergreen State College](#) (SPP-Evergreen). Perhaps even more crucial, the course is co-authored and reviewed by incarcerated gardeners at [Stafford Creek Corrections Center](#), [Monroe Correctional Complex](#), and one—pictured to the right—at [Coyote Ridge Corrections Center](#). Both photos on this page by [Ricky Osborne](#).



**Call for writing in prison:** SPP was invited to write a chapter on science in prisons for publication in the first volume on the topic (expected fall 2020 from [SUNY Press](#)). With amazing support from corrections staff, we distributed a call for writing to SPP incarcerated participants and the response was excellent: forty-four incarcerated writers from eight prisons submitted work. They shared moving reflections on experiences and evolution as learners and practitioners of science. Two of the writers to be published are shown in the image to the left: Ashely McElhenie (orange hat) and Ambrosia Riche (blonde hair). An excerpt from Ambrosia:

“I thought nature had nothing to do with me, aside from the fact that I could look at the sunrise or walk through a forest. I didn’t realize that humans are in fact a very large part of nature. I didn’t realize nature and science was something so tangible.”







Meeting the shifting strategies of regional restoration ecology projects, SPP's [prairie conservation nurseries](#) are producing more native seed. Participants in the nurseries at [Washington Corrections Center](#) and [Washington Corrections Center for Women](#) receive education and training to grow several species of native flowering plants; program teams have become exemplary seed collectors. Photo by Alex James.



This year the [Taylor's checkerspot butterfly program](#) hosted by [Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women](#) doubled in size. With funding from [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), partners built a second, 12' x 28' greenhouse. The custom-designed lab has twice the capacity for breeding and raising federally-endangered Taylor's checkerspot butterflies; in spring 2019, the team broke all previous program records for number of checkerspots released onto Salish lowland prairies. Photo by Keegan Curry.





In the [sheep conservation program](#)'s second year, 9 Suffolk ewes birthed 18 lambs at [Washington State Penitentiary](#). Program technicians provided general care and feeding for the entire sheep flock, treated the animals with vaccines, installed ear tags, assisted ewe mothers in the birthing process and cared for lambs. In this photo, an adult sheep eyes sheep husbandry expert (and photographer) Gerry Glenn.



Compost program co-founder Nick Hacheney successfully submitted a proposal to present at 2019's [International Conference on Sustainability](#). SPP partners supported the technicians at [Monroe Correctional Complex](#) filming their virtual tour of the program and technicians describing its impacts; the resulting video and presentation were warmly received at the conference and by regional partners. Screen shot from the video; viewable at <http://sustainabilityinprisons.org/stories/9431/>





[Washington State Beekeepers Association](#) (WASBA) oversees nearly all beekeeping [education and certification](#) curriculum statewide. In 2018 and '19, new leadership revamped their curricula, administration, and website, with impressive results. SPP-Evergreen and WASBA formalized their partnership and commitment to prison beekeeping education. WASBA's educational lead Ellen Miller (pictured above), [West Plains Beekeepers Association](#), and Millers Homestead also helped beekeepers at [Airway Heights Corrections Center](#) write the statewide manual for Journeymen beekeepers! Photo by Kay Heinrich.



In its second year, [McNeil Island Bee Program](#) continued to thrive and served as a model of partnership and collaboration. From April to October, WASBA-certified beekeepers from [Cedar Creek Corrections Center](#) join beekeeping experts and corrections staff to tend the hives and gain hands-on education. The shared enthusiasm and appreciation for this program is infectious! Photo by Rachel Friederich.





[WA State Department of Transportation](#) (WSDOT) and SPP have identified education, training, and outreach opportunities to support post-release employment for formerly incarcerated people. While several employment pathways appear promising, partners agreed to start with a focus on environmental careers. Toward this goal, WSDOT staff presented three workshops at both Cedar Creek and Mission Creek Corrections Centers. Photo of workshop attendees by Allison Campbell.



In September 2018, the new Evergreen Education Coalition for Justice Involved Students (EECJIS) met for the first time. With the shared goal of supporting justice involved students, the day-long summit united Evergreen faculty, staff, and students from [Tacoma](#) and Olympia campuses, along with Education Navigators, and corrections education leaders from WA Corrections, [WA Board of Community and Technical Colleges](#), and more. The event was sponsored by SPP-Evergreen [donation](#) funds. Photo by Keegan Curry.





This year, [Evergreen Justice Involved Student Group](#) and SPP partners co-organized and presented a reentry symposium: the [Pathways to Reentry](#) event was hosted by Stafford Creek Corrections Center and attended by nearly a hundred incarcerated residents. We were joined by sixteen education and workforce development organizations, and the program was both inspiring and practical. Previously incarcerated and other partners shared guidance on how to attain post-secondary degrees and forge successful careers. Group photo by Ricky Osborne.



At the Pathways to Reentry Event and within ongoing SPP programs, increasing numbers of incarcerated students are considering options for higher education, both during incarceration and post-release. At the same time, more incarcerated individuals are pursuing opportunities to engage as students, mentors, and experts. The insight, knowledge, and leadership they offer improves programs and expands education capacity statewide. Photo by Ricky Osborne.