

2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

## SUSTAINABILITY IN PRISONS PROJECT

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the  
evergreen  
state college

# SPP 2023 Annual Report: Executive Summary



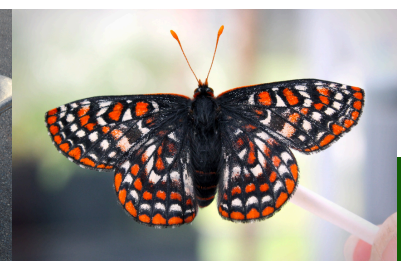
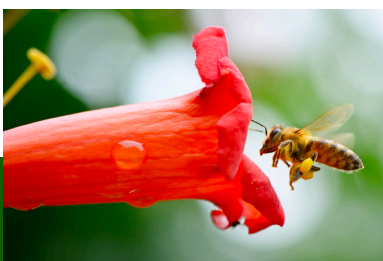
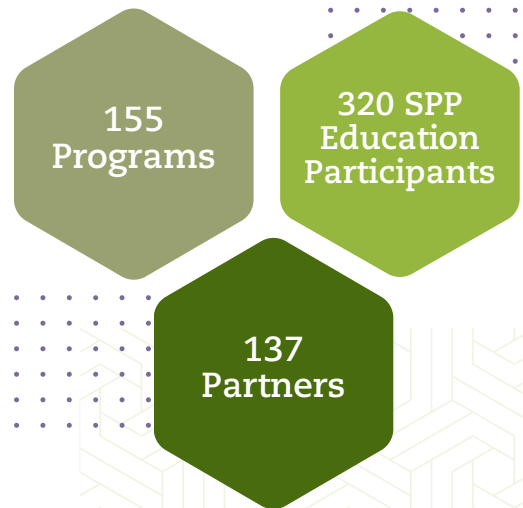
In the fall of 2023, we celebrated 20 years of the Sustainability in Prisons Project (SPP) partnership. SPP's mission is to empower sustainable change by bringing nature, science, and environmental education into prisons. Co-founded by Washington Department of Corrections (WA Corrections or DOC) and The Evergreen State College (Evergreen), SPP includes many contributors. We are grateful and humbled by the work we get to do with incarcerated and legally liberated people, scientists, corrections staff, academics, government agencies, and environmental and community organizations. Together we learn, grow, and cultivate partnerships for people and the environment.

The SPP annual report aims to describe all science, environmental education, and sustainability programs occurring in Washington prisons and to acknowledge all contributing organizations and partners. With the information we were able to gather, we can report on 155 programs in Washington prisons and 137 SPP partner and ally organizations statewide. Given partner capacity constraints, we suspect some programs and partnerships are not recognized in this report.

Throughout 2023, SPP partners were able to plan, expand, and operate impactful programs. We continued to develop and implement credit-bearing science and sustainability education courses. In addition, several SPP staff from The Evergreen State College invested in development of the Evergreen Prison Education Project (EPEP) Network. Our EPEP efforts include planning a new bachelor's degree program and working with partners to develop an education and reintegration network at Evergreen.

While SPP's collaborative work presents many challenges, the year also included significant successes. We are grateful for the patience, problem-solving, and adaptability of partners. Posted below are highlights on select programs and partnerships in 2023, plus goals for the 2024 calendar year.

Our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributes to SPP. Through this human- and ecosystem-centered work, we are continually learning and growing. We work and learn across differences. This approach gives us hope for meaningful change. We remain committed to learning, adapting, and continuing to improve while fostering a culture of mutual respect and consistent compassion for all people. Thank you for the many ways you support SPP.



# 2023 Highlights



20 years  
celebrated!

## SPP 20th Anniversary Event

In September 2023, SPP held our 20th Anniversary event in Olympia, WA. The gathering included former program participants, SPP founders, advisors, partner organization staff and leaders, and current and former SPP staff. Our gratitude to everyone who joined us at the celebration and to everyone who has contributed to SPP.



Over 11,000 lbs.  
of produce used  
in kitchens

## Garden to Kitchen Pilot at SCCC

Stafford Creek Corrections Center is piloting a Garden to Kitchen program. This includes working closely with the kitchen to develop a gardening plan, modeling practices for providing access to fresh produce, investing in tools and supplies to address program needs, and continuing to work with SPP to provide resources for the gardeners.



58,881 sagebrush  
plant plugs grown

## Sagebrush Nursery

SPP partnered with DOC staff in the Sustainable Practices Lab program to launch a new a sagebrush program at Washington State Penitentiary. SPP added a staff position, based in Eastern Washington, to support conservation nursery education and training. Participants learn about ecological horticulture and shrub-steppe ecosystem restoration while cultivating plants and caring for a sagebrush seed orchard.



11,748 larvae  
produced

## Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Program

Butterfly technicians and partners produced a record number 11,748 federally endangered larvae from wild and captive-bred butterflies at Mission Creek Corrections Center. Technicians also presented at the range-wide Butterfly Recovery Working Group meeting and participated in an education and training course eligible for 30 credits.



418 college  
credits awarded

## SPP Education Portfolios

In 2023, 81 students earned a total of 418 college credits from The Evergreen State College using SPP's education portfolio model. There were 6 established credit-eligible program with several offered in multiple prisons. SPP also developed two new credit-bearing education portfolios.



29 students  
completed new  
course

## Piloting the Foundations in Composting Course

This new course was piloted at two facilities: Washington Corrections Center and a youth prison in Nevada. More facilities are interested in the course and SPP plans to continue partnering with incarcerated people and others to develop additional components.



67,255 plants,  
20 species  
grown

## Salish Lowland Conservation Nurseries

Participants in conservation nursery programs receive education and training eligible for college credit. In 2023, SPP restarted the native seed program at WCC and nursery sites at WCCW and SCCC doubled plant production from the two previous years.

# Anticipated Highlights for 2024

Program/Project	Partners and facility	Planned outcomes
Modify conservation nursery education portfolio to develop ecological horticulture short course	WCC, SCCC, & WCCW	Modification to reduce time to completion for conservation nursery education & training
Complete development of educational content on positive impacts of nature & climate change	Multiple facilities, contractor, Evergreen Center for Climate Action & Sustainability	Education module & workshop
Planning expansion of Shrub-Steppe Conservation Nursery Program	AHCC, WDFW, other state & non-profit agencies	Plan for implementation in 2025
Developing additional education facilitator training resources for incarcerated people	Multiple facilities	New education & training content for peer-facilitated programs
Plan to expand composting education resources	Select WA prisons, state & non-profit agencies	Vocational composting manual, practicum, & education portfolio
Plan to expand gardening education resources	Select WA prisons, state & non-profit agencies	Education on preparing produce for market/produce safety, gardening practicum, & education portfolio
Garden to Kitchen pilot	SCCC & donors	Piloting & modeling garden to kitchen collaboration
Develop model(s) for enhanced educational workshop series	Multiple facilities, Evergreen Prison Education Project & partners	1-2 new workshop models + planning for credit-eligible education portfolio
Exploring SPP partnership with Dept. of Children Youth and Families	Evergreen Prison Education Project Network + DCYF facilities	Consider potential for SPP programs in youth facilities to include separate funding & staffing
Increased access to Foundations in Composting and Foundations in Gardening Courses	Multiple facilities	Course expansion to WSP, MCC-TRU, MCCCW
Improve resource conservation through waste reduction	DOC-led; multiple facilities	Food waste reduction, improved purchasing practices, recycling

Please see Appendix 3 in the Annual Report for a list of common abbreviations used in this summary.



# Contents

Background Information .....	1
Acknowledgements.....	1
SPP Mission .....	3
SPP Vision.....	3
SPP Staff and Organization.....	4
SPP-Evergreen Advisors .....	6
SPP-Evergreen Staff Development: training, safety, and security.....	6
Partnerships .....	9
Developing Partnerships:.....	9
SPP Alignment with WA Corrections’ Mission & Vision.....	4
Budget.....	13
Education Programs.....	16
SPP’s Prior Learning Experience Program – Portfolios .....	16
Peer-Led Education .....	18
Beekeeping.....	20
Evergreen Prisons Education Program (EPEP) .....	22
Conservation Programs.....	24
Conservation Nursery Programs .....	25
Western Pond Turtle Rehabilitation Program .....	27
Avian Acoustic Monitoring.....	28
Taylor’s Checkerspot Butterfly.....	29
Sustainable Living & Training .....	31
Garden to Kitchen .....	31
Garden to Kitchen Pilot and Models.....	32
Composting .....	33
Restorative Nature.....	35
Community Contribution Programs.....	38
Dog and Cat Programs .....	38
Reclaim, Repurpose or Restore, and Donate Programs .....	40
Community Work Crews .....	45
Sustainable Operations.....	47
Capital Planning and Development.....	47
DOC Resource Conservation .....	48
Washington Way.....	48
Other 2024 Goals .....	49
Sustainable Job Programs .....	50
Research and Evaluation.....	52

Research with External Partners.....	52
University of Washington.....	52
Student Theses.....	53
SPP Network.....	55
SPP in Washington State .....	55
SPP Nationally and Internationally.....	56
Dissemination .....	59
Presentations .....	59
SPP Tours.....	60
Media Coverage .....	61
Outreach .....	62
Appendix 1. SPP Programs.....	64
Appendix 2. SPP Partners.....	67
Appendix 3. Abbreviations.....	69

# Background Information

The primary objective of this report is to update all collaborators on [Sustainability in Prisons Project](#) (SPP) programs and activities occurring throughout Washington State prisons from January – December 2023. [Washington Department of Corrections](#) (WA Corrections) considers all science, sustainability, and nature initiatives in Washington (WA) prisons to be part of the SPP partnership, regardless of which partner(s) leads and operates the program. SPP staff at [The Evergreen State College](#) (Evergreen) lead the reporting effort for the partnership. This report represents the most complete and current information available to the SPP-Evergreen team.

Scientists, incarcerated people, students, prison staff, and community partners in all 11 Washington prisons work together to make positive contributions to people and the environment. During this reporting period, partners reported **155 programs and 137 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 used in this report.

## Acknowledgements

This year SPP celebrated 20 years of programs and partnerships. We are grateful for everyone who has contributed to the organization over these past two decades. At the center of all SPP programs are the incarcerated people whose day-to-day input, work, leadership, planning, teamwork, and dedication are critical to successful learning exchanges. SPP programs aim to support positive benefits including education, academic credit, professional development, job training, and therapeutic values through contact with nature and access to science education. Incarcerated and previously incarcerated people advise SPP and provide their input in program planning, development, and operation whenever possible.

They are also invited to author educational content, help identify program priorities, and share their experiences in programs for conferences, tours, and media. To hear more from current and former program participants, see links to interviews included in media pieces in [Section 12 Dissemination](#).

Corrections staff provide key contributions to the SPP partnership. In many cases corrections staff initiate and operate sustainability programs with incarcerated people without support from other partners. For programs that include external partners, corrections staff provide crucial support for planning, security, communication, corrections expertise, and program supervision. Often corrections staff make these contributions in addition to their other primary duties.



*SPP Butterfly Coordinator Ray Dunning takes a selfie with the MCCCW Butterfly Technician Crew. Photo by Ray Dunning.*



*CPM Terre Cohn and SPP Co-Director Kelli Bush share a laugh during a WCC Composting Tour.  
Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

Many programs also include other state and federal agencies, community organizations, and volunteers. These external partners typically provide education, training, certifications, program/topic expertise, supplies, and materials. Through these partnerships, we build networks which focus on positive social and environmental outcomes.



*SPP Volunteer Katie Manchisi poses next to rolling carts repurposed into growing bins at SCCC. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*



## SPP Mission

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



*Boots used for growing plants at SCCC. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

## 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 people, 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's Mariana Cervantes, Jen Bass, and Sarah Larson smile for a photo during a tour of SCCC. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

## 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. Programs and partnerships can create a safer and more humane correctional environment, provide opportunities for incarcerated people to achieve academic and vocational goals, and contribute to successful reintegration to communities.

## 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 based on 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 Education Manager Sarah Larson speaks with a SCCC gardener. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

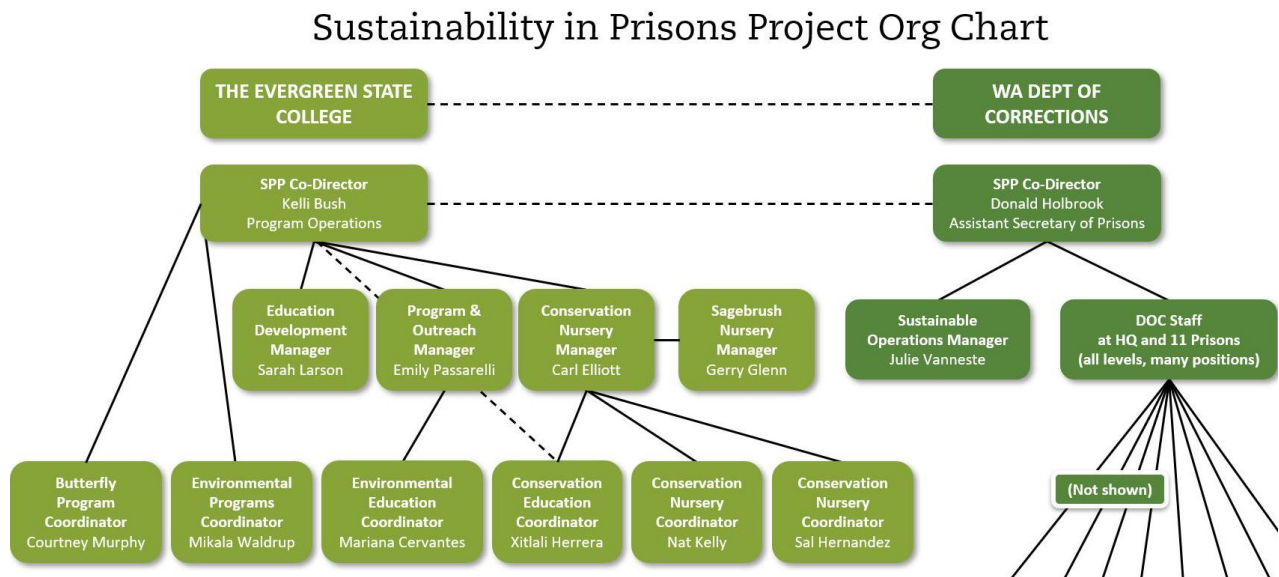
SPP engages incarcerated scholars and technicians, enrolled Evergreen students and faculty, corrections staff, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations in collaborative, interdisciplinary learning

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 over 70 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. An increasing number of former SPP program participants are contributing to SPP or attending Evergreen post-release—sharing their valuable experiences, assets, and skills directly to our campus learning communities. Any work with previously incarcerated people is compensated, acknowledging their time and lived experience.

### SPP Staff and Organization

The organization chart below in Figure 1 includes staff as of January 2024. This chart is limited to core staff at WA Corrections and Evergreen (SPP-Evergreen), only hinting at the many corrections staff involved; there are also many more academic, conservation, and community organization staff contributing to program success.



**Figure 1.** SPP Staff organization chart.

During this reporting period, the Evergreen side of the SPP partnership continued to be co-directed by Kelli Bush. In 2023, Gerry Glenn was hired as the Sagebrush Conservation Nursery Manager based at WSP in Walla Walla, WA. Carl Elliott, Emily Passarelli, and Sarah Larson continued their roles as SPP managers. Former SPP Co-Director and Evergreen faculty member, Carri LeRoy continues to play a critical role in overseeing SPP education portfolios. Numerous additional Evergreen personnel contributed to SPP, including but not limited to Kristina Ackley, Tina Pearson, Michelle Bartlett, Claire Kehn, Eirik Steinhoff, James Jackson, David McAvity, Katherine Sackmann, John McLain, Abby Kelso, Lori Klatt, Jamie Pittman, Bentse Shrestha, John Carmichael, Dexter Gordon, KeWee Roselle, and Evergreen Prison Education Project (EPEP) members.

Assistant Secretary Donald Holbrook continues to serve as SPP’s Co-Director for WA Corrections. SPP-Evergreen leadership met with Don and other DOC leaders several times throughout 2023. Regular attendees at SPP Leadership meetings included Jeanne Darnielle, Jo Wofford, Eric Jackson, Jeff Uttecht, Julie Vanneste, Chris Idso, and Sarah Sytsma. Deputy Secretary, Sean Murphy and Secretary, Cheryl

Strange also provided input on several key issues throughout the year. DOC Education Administrator Kristen Morgan advised both SPP and Evergreen Prison Education Project initiatives.



*The SPP Team poses for a picture at the 20th Anniversary Celebration. Photo by Ricky Osborne.*

SPP 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](#) graduate program, and work for two-year terms. Each summer, several students complete their work with SPP and train new students to carry on program coordination. During the reporting period, 10 Program Coordinators worked for SPP with 4 transitioning out their roles as they completed their graduate degrees: Jennifer Bass, Derek Thedell, Marissa Scoville, Ray Dunning, Courtney Murphy, Mikala Waldrup, Mariana Cervantes, Nat Kelly, Xitlali Herrera, and Sal Hernandez. As of January 2024, SPP staffed 6 student coordinator positions with one vacancy.

### **SPP-Evergreen Advisors**

SPP continues to regularly consult a range of individuals to advise and guide our work. In 2023, we consulted previously incarcerated people, SPP co-founders, Evergreen faculty, and leadership of multiple organizations. The guidance provided was very valuable as we work to continually create positive change. SPP will continue to gather input to establish future goals and visions.

### **SPP-Evergreen Staff Development: training, safety, and security**

Programs are operated in compliance with all partnering agencies, state, and federal regulations. Protocols include WA Corrections safety and security rules, SPP-Evergreen protocols for working in the prison environment, partner protocols for working with plants and animals, and state and federal rules in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.



*SPP and EPEP Network partners pose with Grady Mitchell after a training session. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

All SPP-Evergreen staff are required to complete WA Corrections training. Safety and security check-ins are included on every SPP-Evergreen staff meeting agenda, held every two weeks. SPP-Evergreen staff maintain our commitment to be adaptable to changing circumstances while still fulfilling our mission. Posted below are trainings SPP-Evergreen staff completed during this reporting period.

**Table 1.** SPP-Evergreen staff training for 2023.

Name of Training	Trainer	Description	Hrs/Staff Person
<b>WA Corrections: Security Training</b>	WA Corrections Online	Proper Use of PPE, Initial Safety Orientation, Policy & General Info, WA State Sexual Harassment Prevention, Mandatory Reporting, Confidentiality, WA State Ethics, Infectious Disease Prevention, Office of Ombuds, ADA Reasonable Accommodations, Slips, Trips & Falls I & II, Outdoor Heat Exposure, Fire Extinguisher, Asbestos Awareness I & II, Public Disclosure, WA State IT Security Awareness, Naloxone	20
<b>WA Corrections: Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Training</b>	Online, Annual requirement	Federally required Prison Rape Elimination Act Training	2
<b>SPP-Evergreen: Working in Prisons</b>	Carl Elliot w/other SPP staff; online	Extensive training utilizing common scenarios encountered by SPP staff working in prisons	8
<b>New Employee Orientation</b>	Emily Passarelli w/other SPP-Evergreen staff	Welcome to SPP, Program Operation/Admin., Taking Care of Yourself at SPP, Communication, and Time Management	4
<b>Lived Experience of Incarceration and Education in Prison</b>	Grady Mitchell	Hearing the experience of a legally liberated SPP program participant, question and answer session to support effective SPP programs.	3

<b>Supporting Healthy Learning Communities</b>	Grady Mitchell and Cyril Walrond	A discussion-based training focused on the benefits of programs, tips for supporting healthy learning communities, and experience with peer led education in prisons.	3
<b>Social Resilience Model Training</b>	Laurie Leitch and Franz Michael	Social Resilience Model: neuroscience foundation, non-clinical skills, core concepts, skills card, and practice sessions	12
<b>Anti Oppression Mass Incarceration Education</b>	Black Rose Collective	Recognizing systemic racism and oppression and impacts of mass incarceration, building community	8
<b>Conflict Resolution</b>	Thurston Dispute Resolution Center	Communication skills for conflict resolution	2.5

# Partnerships

# 2

Partnerships and collaboration are essential components of SPP. We continually work to identify new partners and mutually beneficial programs. A working list of SPP partnerships, allies, and contributors is included as [Appendix 2](#). During this reporting period, more than 137 different organizations contributed or connected to SPP programs in WA.

At the program level, SPP founding partners are often joined by one or more additional organizations or individuals who bring vital expertise, resources, and/or skills to the program. We aim to recognize each contributor for their role. Figure 2 offers an illustration.



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

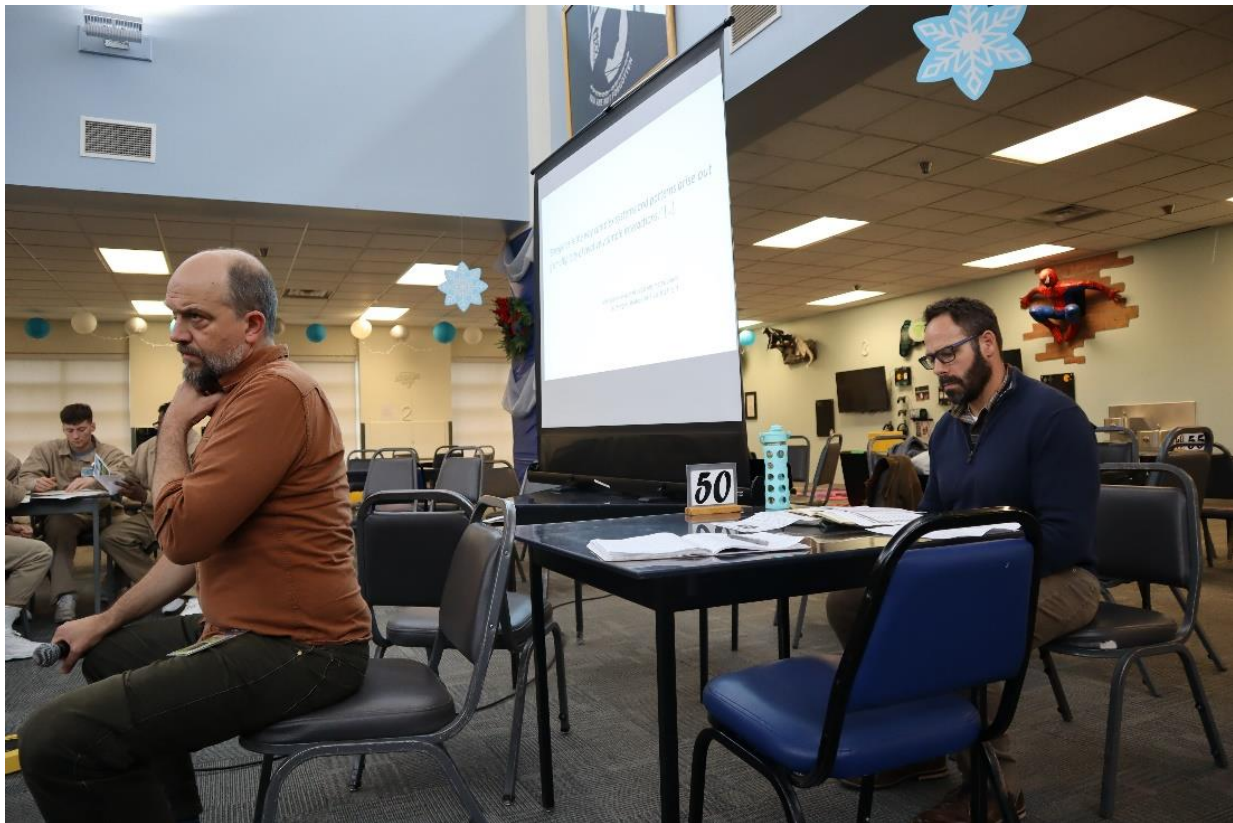
Partners play varying roles to fit the needs of different types of programs. SPP includes five general program types including environmental education, ecological conservation, sustainable operations, restorative nature, and community contributions. Many programs fit more than one program type. In general, WA Corrections and partner organizations provide primary leadership for sustainable operations and community contribution programs, and the SPP-Evergreen team leads environmental education and ecological conservation programs. Both founding partners support various restorative nature programs. Despite these general leadership areas, input and expertise from all participants, including incarcerated people, is critical to program success—**the partnership is the program!**

### Developing Partnerships:

We aim to learn from, grow with, celebrate, and share our experience with collaborators to better serve currently and previously incarcerated people. Working collectively, we are much more likely to create

positive change. Much of the work we do with partners and allies is highlighted in various sections throughout this report. A few notable collaborations we cultivated during this reporting period are briefly described below.

### **Evergreen Prison Education Project (EPEP)**



*Evergreen Faculty Dr. Eirik Steinhoff, left, and Dr. Anthony Zaragoza, right, conduct a workshop and offer information about the EPEP BA program offering at SCCC. Photo by Sarah Larson.*

In July 2022, Evergreen received legislative funding to expand access to education in prisons and support reintegration. This work builds on years of effort including Evergreen faculty-led teaching and learning, SPP, Gateways for Incarcerated Youth, Liberation Scholars (previously Reentry Scholars), the Justice Involved Student Group, and the Evergreen Education Coalition for Justice Involved Students. Throughout 2023, the new Evergreen Prison Education Project Network was developed. EPEP's mission is to expand access to an Evergreen education for currently incarcerated and legally liberated people and to provide holistic support services for the scholars EPEP serves. EPEP has continued developing partnerships and organization structure, participated in trainings, and moved through the necessary steps for accreditation, and state and federal approval of a new bachelor's degree program in prison.

SPP Evergreen staff are core members of the EPEP Network team with significant investment from the SPP Education Development Manager and SPP's Co-Director. SPP Evergreen will continue to support EPEP Network development. We are grateful to work with and learn from a team of talented and experienced colleagues to support education and student success for incarcerated and legally liberated people.



## Composting Operations



*WCC composting experts show the bokashi bins to DOC's Darin Klein and CI's Desmond McGahern. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

SPP collaborated with WCC staff and crews to develop a plan to revive and strengthen composting education and training programs in all Washington prisons. The incarcerated crew at WCC developed a proposal offering training, education, and composting materials to other prisons and community organizations. They presented it to various groups, fostering partnerships with DOC HQ, WCC leadership, WCC's maintenance department, Department of Ecology, University of Washington professors, and more. Together, we reviewed the proposal, identified resources, and exchanged ideas. For details, refer to [Section 6, Sustainable Living and Training](#).

### **Foundation in Composting Course**

SPP offered the new Foundations in Composting curriculum at two WA Corrections facilities (WCC, MCCCW) and one youth facility in Nevada. The next phase of development includes plans to create a hands-on practicum and vocational education manual in partnership with incarcerated composting experts and experts in the community. These new components will be available to pair with the Foundations in Composting course. For more information, look to [Section 4, Education](#).

### **Garden to Kitchen**

During this reporting period, the SPP team continued to coordinate a special project aimed at increasing access to fresh produce and improving the connections between prison gardens and kitchens. SPP partnered with Department of Health (DOH) to purchase supplies and equipment for gardeners and kitchen managers. For more information on this partnership please see [Section 6, Sustainable Living and Training](#).



*Beautiful cabbages growing at SCCC. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

### **Partnership Development**

During this reporting period, SPP invested in multiple, additional partnerships. We collaborated with Olympia Community Solar on a proposal for a solar energy education and training course, continued discussions with two Evergreen public service centers to develop new education resources, and conducted outreach to new partners for food waste reduction and composting programs.

This section addresses budget resources specifically available to the SPP-Evergreen team. WA Corrections, state and federal agencies, and other partners also dedicate substantial resources to SPP. We receive support through personnel time, equipment, expertise, and materials for SPP programs. Those critical contributions are not detailed here.



*Composters donated to SCCC by SPP in 2023. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

The SPP team at Evergreen is primarily funded by grants, contracts, and donations. In 2023, Evergreen began contributing some college funding to SPP to support education and organization development as part of the Evergreen Prison Education Program Network. During this reporting period, SPP had approximately \$830,000 in funds available from 18 sources. Available funding included one contract per fiscal year with WA Corrections provided through an interagency agreement. SPP-Evergreen spent WA Corrections funds on science and sustainability education and training programs in Washington prisons in accordance with contract requirements. Other funding sources include state and federal contracts, grants, legislative funding, and foundation and private donations.

We are pleased to report that once again, an anonymous donor provided a generous gift through the [Seattle Foundation](#). These funds were awarded for general use and have served as critical resources for SPP education and training programs including supporting the education fee for scholars completing credit-bearing courses.

SPP-Evergreen also received substantial gifts from the Lorna Jordan Foundation and the Andrews Family. The Andrews Family gift was used to support development of a second, credit-bearing education portfolio for the Taylor’s Checkerspot Butterfly program. The new 14-credit education portfolio includes experiential learning, academic education, and training that are part of this impactful job program. The Lorna Jordan Foundation gift was awarded in December 2023 and will be used to develop facilitator training for incarcerated educators and to advance development of SPP’s Garden to Kitchen Project, the Foundations in Gardening, and Foundations in Composting courses.

Other individual donations were used to purchase supplies for the butterfly, gardening, and beekeeping programs, support portions of the on-going garden to kitchen project to improve access to fresh produce, fund previously incarcerated advisors, trainers, and guest speakers, develop and print education resources, and purchase books for prison libraries and program areas. We appreciate and make positive use of every dollar from every contribution!



*Plantain (Plantago lanceolata) plants grown at the conservation nursery. Photo by SPP Staff.*

Available funding resources vary from month to month as sources become available or close throughout the year. SPP-Evergreen staff continuously pursue funding to develop new programs and partnerships and to sustain on-going work. During this reporting period, SPP-Evergreen staff were responsible for stewarding funds from the sources described below (see Table 3).

**Table 3.** SPP-Evergreen Grants and Contract Funding.

SPP-Evergreen 2023 Funding Resources		
Source	Program Area	Funding Period
<b>Grants, Contracts, &amp; Legislative Proviso</b>		
DOC SPP General Operating	Program Operation (Bees, Gardening, Turtles, etc.), Training, Org Planning, etc.	07/01/22–06/30/23
DOC SPP General Operating	Program Operation (Bees, Gardening, Turtles, etc.), Training, Org Planning, etc.	07/01/23–06/30/24
JBLM	Conservation Nursery Education & Training	10/01/21–03/31/23
JBLM Task 3	Conservation Nursery Education & Training	10/01/22–03/31/24
JBLM Task 4	Conservation Nursery Education & Training	10/01/23–03/31/25

WDFW – Butterfly	Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Recovery Education & Training	01/01/23–12/01/23
WDFW – Sagebrush	Shrub-Steppe Conservation Nursery Education & Training	11/01/21–06/30/23
WDFW – Sagebrush	Shrub-Steppe Conservation Nursery Education & Training	07/01/23–06/30/24
WDFW – Turtle	Western Pond Turtle Education & Training	09/01/21–06/23/23
WDFW Plantain & Butterfly	Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly & Conservation Nursery Programs	02/01/23–12/31/24
Evergreen Prison Education Project (EPEP)	SPP Education Development & Prison Education Program Planning	07/01/22–06/30/23
<b>Small Service Contracts</b>		
US Forest Service: Olympic National Forest	Conservation Nursery Education & Training	01/01/23–06/30/23
WA Dept. Natural Resources		
WA State Parks		
<b>Donations</b>		
Individual Donors	Gardening, Beekeeping, Education Materials, Planning, Training, Program Supplies, etc.	01/01/22–12/31/22
Seattle Foundation	Student Fees for Academic Credit, Education Development & Materials, Program Supplies, Peer-Led Education Resources, & SPP Advisor Support	01/01/22–12/31/22
Andrews Family Donation	Butterfly Curriculum Development, Supplies & Materials	07/07/23–06/30/24
Lorna Jordan Foundation	Gardening, Composting, Peer-Led Education, & Wellness	12/20/23–TBD

# Education Programs

Education and connections with nature are the primary focus areas of the Evergreen side of the partnership. SPP aims to include education and training in all programs. In 2022, SPP staff worked with The Evergreen State College to develop a new mechanism for granting credit during incarceration. Since the creation of the SPP Prior Learning Experience (PLE) model, 96 scholars from 6 SPP programs have earned 580 credits. Except beekeeping, which is a certificate program, all SPP-Evergreen led programs are now credit bearing. In the sections below, we report on education progress made in 2023.

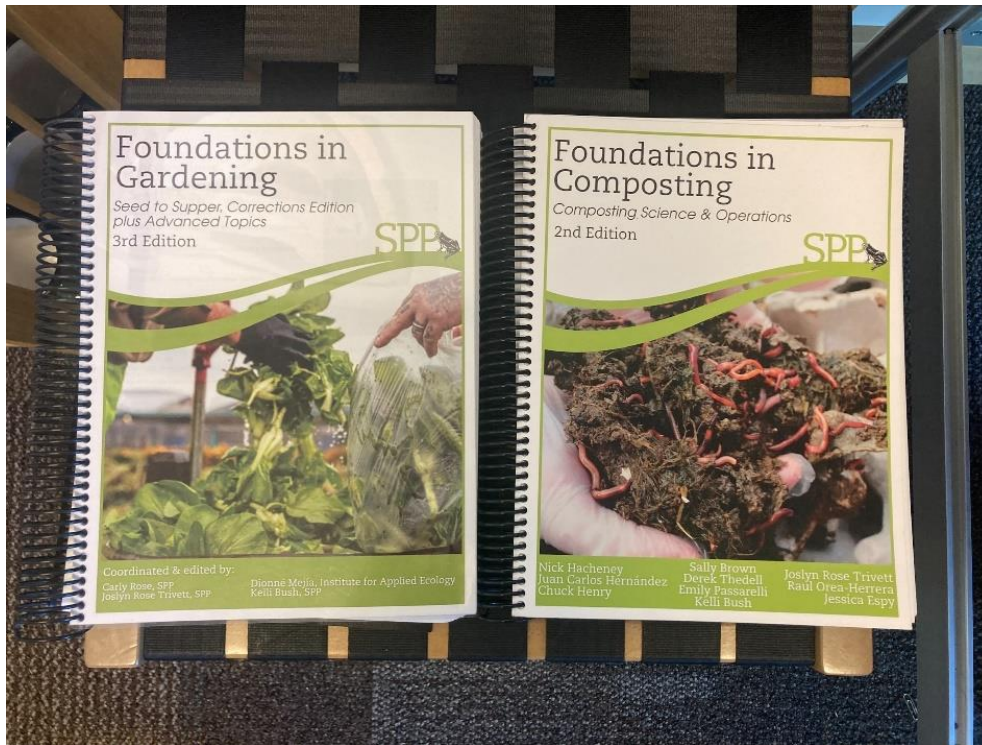


*A Foundations in Gardening student examines the soil. Photo by SPP Staff.*

## **SPP's Prior Learning Experience (PLE) Program – Portfolios**

The SPP PLE program is an education model developed by SPP and Evergreen. The program is designed to allow scholars to earn college credit during incarceration by completing coursework that culminates in an education portfolio. SPP education portfolios are standardized education courses that include a course syllabus, portfolio checklist, and templated course evaluation. Student learning includes both academic and experiential learning and a final reflective writing assignment. Each summer SPP gathers completed portfolios for review, submits key elements to The Evergreen State College for processing, and SPP-Evergreen pays the College a \$350 administrative fee per portfolio to award academic credit. Scholars receive a course evaluation and document of completion which represents their course achievements and college credit.

In 2023, SPP created 4 new portfolios including the Foundations in Composting course, Western Pond Turtle Specialist Program, Salish Lowland Conservation Nursery Technician Program, and the Sagebrush-Steppe Conservation Nursery Technician. SPP also offers portfolios for the Foundations in Gardening course and the Butterfly Captive Rearing Specialist Program. The table below highlights scholars who earned credit through the SPP PLE program in 2023.



*SPP's Foundations in Gardening and Foundations in Composting course books. Photo by Emily Passarelli*

**Table 4.** Number of scholars awarded college credit in 2023 through the SPP PLE Program.

Program	Credits	Scholars Awarded Credit	Total Credits Awarded
Foundations in Gardening	Introduction to Gardening and Ecological Horticulture – 4 credits	60	240
Foundations in Composting	Introduction to Composting and Soil Science – 2 credits	11	22
Salish Lowland Conservation Nursery Technician	Introductory Botany – 4 credits Introduction to Native Plant Ecology – 4 credits Ecological Horticulture Practicum – 10 credits	1	18
Western Pond Turtle Rehabilitation Specialist	Introduction to Wetland Ecology & Turtle Biology – 4 credits Introduction to Animal Husbandry with laboratory – 6 credits	2	20
Sagebrush-Steppe Conservation Nursery Technician	Introduction to Botany – 4 credits Wildlife Conservation on the Sagebrush-Steppe – 4 credits Ecological Horticulture Practicum – 10 credits	3	54
Butterfly Captive Rearing Specialist	Introduction to Butterfly Biology – 4 credits Introduction to Conservation Biology – 4 credits Introduction to Restoration Ecology – 4 credits Introduction to Endangered Species Biology – 4 credits Introduction to Animal Husbandry with Laboratory – 5 credits	4	64
<b>Total for 2023</b>		<b>81 Scholars</b>	<b>418 Total Credits</b>

## Further Portfolio Development

SPP-Evergreen continues to build new education portfolios for most of our environmental education and ecological conservation programs. Evergreen faculty of record, Dr. Carri LeRoy, provides guidance on education development, credit recommendations, and portfolio components. The table below describes the new SPP portfolios developed in 2023 and potential course equivalencies. Development includes creation of education modules, seminar, and workshop resources, course syllabi, portfolio checklists, templated course evaluations, Documents of Completion, and in some cases an education work plan. SPP intends to have these portfolios reviewed for credit equivalency in 2024.

**Table 5.** Education Portfolios in development from January – December 2023.

Program	Anticipated Course Equivalencies (Pending Final Review)
Conservation Nursery Technician (short course)	Introductory Botany Introduction to Native Plant Ecology Ecological Horticulture Practicum
Butterfly Conservation Technician	Practice in Butterfly Husbandry Practice in Endangered Species Biology Introduction to Plant Horticulture Introduction to Ecological Concepts

## Module Development

SPP also focused on developing education modules, or free-standing lessons, on topics that do not require technology or large group gatherings. Modules are typically 8-20 pages of print materials and include learning activities, visual aids, discussion questions, and interdisciplinary art, cultural, or historical context information. Some modules are offered in more than one program or education portfolio. Below is a table of modules created by SPP in 2023.

**Table 6.** Education modules developed in 2023.

Main Program	Module Title
Butterfly	Plant-Pollinator Interactions
	Introduction to Evolution
	Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Overview Part 2
Western Pond Turtles	Western Pond Turtles Part 2

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*"The certification credits we receive that are applicable toward a degree is the motivation for wanting to further my education. I plan on seeing how I can apply all these credits towards my bachelor's degree. I'm no longer intimidated to learn - I'm excited to further my education today, where I was once afraid of academia."*

*– Tiffany Doll, Butterfly Technician*

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## Peer-Led Education

In 2023, SPP supported the [Foundations in Gardening Curriculum](#) and the new [Foundations in Composting Curriculum](#) as peer-led education programs. This year, SPP ended our role in the collaboration to offer the [Roots of Success](#) curriculum. We focused on identifying improvements to both Foundations courses with plans to add a practicum component for each course and additional facilitation training resources for instructors in 2024.



## Foundations in Gardening Curriculum

The Foundations in Gardening course is a 4-credit peer-led course that provides academic fundamentals of small-scale food production, as well as the planning, critical thinking, and observation skills necessary to grow food and beneficial flowering plants. The course was developed and continues to improve through collaboration with incarcerated people, corrections staff, SPP, and community experts.

Facilitators and scholars continue to request additional education and training on gardening and hands-on portion for this course. SPP will work to develop a credit-bearing practicum for the program in 2024.



*Foundations in Gardening graduates at Stafford Creek Corrections Center holding their documents of completion from Evergreen. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

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*"Another thing I enjoyed from this program was it didn't feel like it was a class or job and I felt like I was a part of something bigger, which was a great escape from the prison lifestyle."*

*– Robert Asagai*

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## Foundations in Composting Curriculum

The Foundations in Composting is a 2-credit peer-led course that provides foundational knowledge of composting science, techniques, and applications. The course was developed in collaboration with incarcerated people, SPP, corrections staff, and community partners with composting expertise. The curriculum includes a culminating project where scholars develop a proposal for a composting project. In 2023, this course was piloted by scholars at a facility for incarcerated youth in Nevada and by scholars at WCC. MCCCW also started their first Foundations in Composting course in December of 2023. The table below provides 2023 calendar year updates on the two peer-led programs.



*Composting technician, Juan Hernandez, shows visitors the worm bins at the WCC composting program area. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

**Table 7.** Key updates on peer-led curricula for January – December 2023.

Program and Description	Key Highlights	Facilities	Total Scholars Completed
<a href="#">Foundations in Gardening</a>	Began curriculum updates to accommodate scholar feedback and formatting changes.	CCCC, CRCC, LCC, MCCCW, SCCC	81 Scholars
<a href="#">Foundations in Composting</a>	Curriculum piloted at 2 facilities and started at MCCCW	MCCCW, WCC, and Northern Nevada Correctional Facility	29 Scholars

**Beekeeping**

During this reporting period, we supported 10 active beekeeping programs in partnership with the [Washington State Beekeepers Association](#) (WASBA). For several facilities, the 2022/2023 winter season was very successful for bee survival. Beginning, apprentice, and journeyman level beekeeping certification courses were offered to many facilities. These programs typically partner with an outside beekeeping expert to deliver the course and lead hive care.

In 2023, WASBA established a new “Facility of the Year” award for a correctional facility going above and beyond to support beekeeping programs and activities. Stafford Creek beekeepers were the recipients of the 2023 Facility of the Year Beekeeping Award. The facility will be gifted an insulated hive, a package of bees, and a plaque. More details for this reporting period are shared in the following tables and highlights.



*Beekeepers suited up at MCC. Photo by Susan Collins.*

**Table 8.** Key updates for beekeeping programs for January – December 2023.

Beekeeping				
Facility	Key Highlights	Partners	WSDA Registered Hives	Certificates Earned
AHCC	Monthly education packets were distributed with beekeeping related articles and optional worksheets. Materials were sent to 10 facilities and students from MCCCW, WCCW, SCCC, and WCC-IMU earned recognition certificates.  SPP supplied several hives of bees, beekeeping tools, and sugar to MCCCW, LCC, and WCCW.  WASBA hosted monthly question and answer sessions with beekeeping staff liaisons. Liaisons from CCCC, CRCC, LCC, SCCC, WCCW, WCC, MCCCW, WSP, and AHCC attended.	West Plains Beekeepers	3	0
CBCC		North Olympic Peninsula Beekeepers Association	0	0
CCCC		Olympia Beekeepers Association	0*	10 beginning; 9 apprentice, including 1 DOC staff member
CRCC		N/A	2	20 beginning
LCC		Clark County Beekeepers	2, hives relocated to MCCCW after closure	0
McNeil Island		Olympia Beekeepers Association, CCCC	2	0, In collaboration with CCCC
MCCCW		West Sound Beekeepers	2	12 beginning; 7 apprentice, including 4 DOC staff members; and 1 journeyman
MCC-TRU		Northwest District Beekeepers	2	7 beginning; 6 apprentice
SCCC		Olympia Beekeepers Association	4	63 beginning; 42 apprentice

WCC		N/A	4	0
WCCW		West Sound Beekeepers	4	13 beginning, including 1 DOC staff member; and 6 apprentice, including 2 DOC staff members
WSP			8	0

\*CCCC collaborates with the beekeeping program on McNeil Island.

### Evergreen Prisons Education Program (EPEP)

This year, several SPP-Evergreen staff continued to invest in the development of The Evergreen Prison Education Project (EPEP) Network. SPP’s work with EPEP was funded by Evergreen, via a legislative appropriation. EPEP is a liberation education and reintegration network. Our mission is to expand access to an Evergreen education for currently incarcerated and legally liberated people and to provide holistic support services for the scholars we serve. The network is dedicated to communication, coordination, and collaboration with both internal and external partners. EPEP Network organizations include Gateways for Incarcerated Youth, Liberation Scholars, SPP, and Evergreen’s new, prison-based bachelor’s degree program.

Faculty and staff at Evergreen have decades of experience supporting education and reentry for currently and previously incarcerated scholars. With recent changes in legislation, incarcerated scholars are now eligible for federal Pell Grants and Washington College Grants and will have improved access to post-secondary education. Evergreen will begin offering bachelor’s degree courses in 2024.



*Evergreen faculty Dr. Anthony Zaragoza, left, and Dr. Eirik Steinhoff, right, deliver a workshop to potential BA program scholars at SCCC. Photo by Sarah Larson.*

### Community College Collaboration

SPP appreciates the dedication, experience, and significant education work led by community colleges and other education organizations. We have a long history of innovative collaborations resulting in

educational benefits for incarcerated scholars. Community college staff and faculty continue to go above and beyond to offer meaningful educational opportunities.

**Environmental Engagement Workshop Series**

SPP's previous workshop series operated at four prisons with special events at additional facilities. The workshops continue to be suspended. During this reporting period, only small group workshops were offered in specific conservation and environmental education programs. We remain hopeful that we can restart workshop series programs at some point in the future.

# Conservation Programs

In 2023, SPP offered seven separate conservation programs including four [conservation nursery programs](#), the [Western Pond Turtle Rehabilitation](#) program, the [Avian Acoustic Monitoring](#) program, and the [Taylors Checkerspot Butterfly](#) program. SPP's conservation programs encompass a broad range of goals, activities, and topics. All share four things in common:

1. Focus on conservation-related education and training coupled with experiential learning and work that helps preserve and protect species, ecosystems, and/or other natural resources.
2. Dependence on strong collaborations between incarcerated people, corrections staff, scholars, SPP staff, scientists, and community experts who share their knowledge, resources, and enthusiasm.
3. Incarcerated participants are partners, scholars, and technicians; they contribute their knowledge, improve program operation, and receive education, training, and hands-on experience. Participants are eligible for academic credit at no expense to the scholar as they complete education portfolio requirements.
4. Success of the conservation programs is dependent on each partner contributing their expertise and time. Programs are designed to maximize benefits to each collaborator.



*Tending to sagebrush plants. Photo by SPP Staff.*

## Conservation Program Education and Training

Participants in SPP's Conservation Programs (programs are described in Table 8) receive education and training as a key component of each work/experiential learning program. Scholars completing education requirements are eligible to receive credit through The Evergreen State College. As we continue to build credit-eligible education opportunities, we expect an increased number of program participants will

receive college credit in the coming years. For more information on credit-bearing education and conservation program scholars completing portfolio requirements, please see [Section 4 Education](#).

## Conservation Nursery Programs

SPP Conservation Nursery programs continued and expanded partnerships to deliver education and training to cultivate plants and seeds at WCCW, SCCC, WCC, and WSP. A significant number of plants were grown to support Taylor's checkerspot butterfly habitat restoration on [Joint Base Lewis-McChord \(JBLM\)](#) and other Salish lowland prairie sites. Butterfly habitat restoration efforts were supported with funding from the [Army Corps of Engineers](#) and [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#). Conservation nursery crews and staff also continued to grow plants for the [United States Forest Service \(USFS\)](#) [Olympic National Forest](#), [Department of Natural Resources](#), and [Washington State Parks](#). Plants grown for these partners were used for ecological restoration sites or vegetation restoration on de-commissioned roads and trails.

After a production lull during 2020-2022, nursery program infrastructure at WCCW and SCCC required significant improvements. WCCW replaced all weed control and nursery bed infrastructure. SCCC conducted infrastructure maintenance and shifted cultivation to provide a more consistent supply of *Plantago lanceolata* for butterfly habitat improvement and captive rearing at MCCCW. Because of these improvements, conservation nurseries at WCCW and SCCC doubled their production from the previous year.



*Raised beds at WCCW's conservation nursery program area. Photo by Sal Hernandez.*

SPP transitioned the seed production at WCC to grow fewer annual plants and more perennial plants not produced on a commercial scale. *Danthonia californica* and *Castilleja hispida* collected from Salish lowland prairies were cultivated in the nursery, and then planted out into beds at the prison in 2023. Some seed beds will continue to produce annual species including *Collinsia grandiflora*, *Valeriana (Plectritis) congesta*, and *Collinsia parviflora* as nectar resources for Taylor's checkerspot butterflies. The perennial plant species will be in the ground over 5-10 years, providing an excellent opportunity to develop education and training on seed cultivation and cleaning protocols.



*Plantain grown for the Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly program. Photo by Nat Kelly.*

The Sagebrush Steppe Conservation Nursery program at WSP operates at the Sustainable Practices Lab (SPL). The SPL is an exemplary employment and training program with day-to-day supervision provided by DOC staff. In 2023, SPP-Evergreen hired a new full time staff position, to work with program participants and DOC staff in the Sustainable Practices Lab to support education, training, and plant and seed cultivation. This hire significantly improves program capacity. Over 13 incarcerated scholars participated in sagebrush program in 2023, with 9 completing requirements to receive academic credit.

Sagebrush plants were produced for habitat restoration on [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (WDFW) lands, primarily for shrub-steppe ecosystems impacted by wildfire. In the fall of 2023, participants and partners grew containerized sagebrush and planted a one-acre seed orchard within the secure perimeter at WSP. This will be a long-term project with seed produced over a 15- 20-year period. The cultivation of a diverse mix of plant species is projected for other facilities in future years through the Sagebrush Steppe Conservation Nursery education and training program.



**Table 8.** Summary of key outcomes for SPP conservation nursery programs, January – December 2023 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations).

Conservation Nursery Programs					
Program	Facility	Key Ecological Results	# of Techs	Partners	Key Highlights
Conservation Nursery	WCCW	Plant plugs produced 39,276 Species grown: 20	3	Nursery Technicians, DOC, SPP-Evergreen, <a href="#">JBLM</a> , <a href="#">USFS</a> – Olympic Mountains	Plants produced for Salish lowland prairie & forest habitats
Conservation Nursery	SCCC	Plant plugs produced 60,979 Species grown: 5	4	Nursery Technicians, DOC, SPP-Evergreen, WDFW	Transition to butterfly larvae and nectar plant production
Sagebrush Steppe Conservation Nursery	WSP	Plant plugs produced 24,626	9	Nursery Technicians, DOC, SPP-Evergreen, WDFW – Sagebrush Steppe	10,000 <i>Artemisia tridentata</i> planted out to an acre seed orchard
Seed Nursery	WCC	Transition to seed production of perennial species: <i>Danthonia californica</i> and <i>Castilleja hispida</i>	4	Nursery Technicians, DOC, SPP-Evergreen, JBLM	Establishment of perennial beds in the field

### Western Pond Turtle Rehabilitation Program

The Western Pond Turtle Rehabilitation program at Cedar Creek Corrections Center (CCCC) is part of a larger effort led by WDFW, other state and federal agencies, zoos, and veterinary care facilities. The western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*) is a state listed endangered species and one of only two native turtles in Washington State.

Turtles suffering from shell disease are captured in the wild and brought to veterinary partners for treatment. After treatment, they are transferred to CCCC where incarcerated technicians care for them while they heal from their treatment. In the spring of 2023, we cared for and released 22 turtles. Prior to their treatment in the fall of 2023, we cared for 12 turtles. We anticipate caring for 11 turtles during the 2024 season.

In 2023, two participants earned college credit through the Western Pond Turtle Rehabilitation program portfolio. Each participant received 10 college credits through Evergreen State College. We anticipate an increased



A turtle wearing a "turtle burrito" smiles before its medical scan.  
Photo by Mikala Waldrup.

number of participants will earn credit in 2024.

**Table 9.** Summary of key outcomes for the SPP Western Pond Turtle Rehabilitation program, January – December 2023.

<u>Western Pond Turtle Rehabilitation Program</u>			
Key Ecological Results	# of Techs	Partners	Key Highlights
Turtles Received: 34	10	Turtle Technicians, DOC, SPP-Evergreen, WDFW, <a href="#">PAWS Wildlife Rehabilitation Center</a> , <a href="#">Woodland Park Zoo (WPZ)</a> , & <a href="#">Oregon Zoo</a>	Revised & enhanced all program procedures; delivered new Turtle Rehabilitation Specialist education portfolio including new workshop & education module content; <b>awarded 2 technicians' credit through the Evergreen State College</b> ; introduced new Avian Acoustic Monitoring Program in tandem with the turtle program.
Turtles Released: 22			

### Avian Acoustic Monitoring

In the beginning of 2023, SPP, CCCC staff, and environmental scientist Lauren Kuehne, rolled out the new Avian Acoustic Monitoring Program. This new education and training program is offered to technicians in the Western Pond Turtle Rehabilitation program. Participants learn how to identify 10 species of birds based on their audio calls and spectrograms (visual representations of sound). Through this citizen science program, participants are contributing to important forestry research. Technicians learn to use acoustic monitoring software, how to effectively complete data entry and tracking, and information about birds and forest ecology.



*CCCC Turtle Technicians being trained in acoustic monitoring by Wildlife Biologist Lauren Kuehne. Photo by Mikala Waldrup.*

## Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly

Since 2011, the Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Captive Rearing program has reared over 57,300 butterfly larvae for release onto Salish lowland prairie sites. Program technicians demonstrate exemplary teamwork and skill in caring for these federally endangered butterflies. In 2023, we restarted the captive breeding component of the butterfly program in response to significant population decline of this species in the wild. Technicians had great success following breeding procedures and produced a record number of larvae (detailed in Table 10). In 2023, WDFW released larvae in several ways that were new to the program, including releasing them as pupae.



*SPP Coordinator Xitlali Herrera smiles with a butterfly larva. Picture 2: A larva enjoying a plantain. Picture 3: the butterfly release event where almost 8,000 larvae were released. Photos by SPP Staff.*

In 2023, 4 technicians received 16 academic credits by completing requirements of the Butterfly Captive Rearing Specialist education portfolio offered January-June 2023. SPP-Evergreen staff finished developing a second education course offered July-December 2023. This year, 7 technicians completed the new course and will receive 14 credits in summer 2024.

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*"The Butterfly Program over the last 2 years has taught me so many things I didn't know about myself. Being a part of this program has lit a fire within me to further my education. Not only have I learned to care for and nurture an endangered species, but it's taught me to show the same care, love, and compassion for myself."*

*– Tiffany Doll, Program Participant*

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**Table 10.** Summary of key outcomes for the SPP Taylor’s Checkerspot Butterfly program at MCCCW, January – December 2023

<u>Taylor’s Checkerspot Butterfly</u>						
Key Ecological Results	Raven Greenhouse	Turtle Greenhouse	Totals	# of Butterfly Techs	Partners	Key Highlights
# Larvae at Wake up	1,605	2,551	4,156	10	Butterfly Technicians, DOC, SPP-Evergreen WDFW, USFWS, Ronda Naseth (butterfly husbandry expert), JBLM	4 Butterfly Techs awarded 16 credits; re-started captive breeding program; tested new methods for TCB release; developed second educational portfolio
# Post-Diapause Larvae Released	1,029	1,649	2,678			
# Pupae Released	204	229	433			
# Wild Females Brought to Lab	14	16	30			
# Resulting Larvae	2,170	1,040	3,210			
# Captive Females Bred	18	20	38			
# Resulting Larvae	5,937	2,601	8,538			
# Larvae Released Pre-Diapause	1,711	1,899	3,610			

## Sustainable Living & Training

This section reports on training and education programs that include sustainable practices, such as composting and gardening. These programs reduce environmental impacts while also providing opportunities for practical training and skills can benefit people and communities.



*Gardens at SCCC used to grow produce for the Garden to Kitchen project. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

### Garden to Kitchen

The Garden to Kitchen Project represents an initiative that combines therapeutic benefits, sustainability, and nutrition. By growing and harvesting fresh produce, participants develop valuable skills in sustainable agriculture, soil science, and horticulture while also contributing to a healthier and more sustainable food system. Many facilities are already successfully using prison grown produce in their kitchens while other facilities need additional resources to overcome barriers and restart efforts that may have been impacted by the pandemic. Table 11 describes produce used within facilities in 2023.

**Table 11.** Produce grown at facilities for kitchen use, January – December 2023 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations).

Facility	Highlights
CCCC	Grew and used: basil, zucchini, tomatoes, bell peppers, cucumbers, broccoli and more. Saved an estimated \$6,000 using produce grown on site.
MCCCW	Grew and used: 618.11 lbs. of produce.
MCC-TRU	Grew and used: cilantro, green beans, squash, zucchini, garlic, cucumber, kale, lettuce, and more. Focused garden efforts on growing more than 7,000 lbs. of produce that was requested by kitchen.
MCC-SOU	Gardens managed by living unit staff and produce was used by kitchen or donated.

SCCC	Used around 300 lbs. of zucchini in the kitchen in 2023. Plans to focus more efforts on using produce in the kitchen in 2024.
WCCW	Produced 3,700 lbs. of produce, much was used in the kitchens.
WSP	Used and shared melons with CRCC and AHCC.



*Tomatoes grown at CCCC. Photo by SPP Staff.*

In 2023, SPP worked with the [Department of Health \(DOH\)](#) to secure funding to overcome some of the small barriers identified by facilities in 2022. In 2023, DOH purchased seeds, gardening tools, and collapsible crates for transporting produce. These items were supplied to WSP, WCCW, CRCC, and WCC. While DOH supported this project in 2023, we were unable to secure DOH funding for future purchases. SPP is committed to the Garden to Kitchen Project and plans to set aside a small amount of funding to assist with these programs to improve access to fresh produce in prisons.

### **Garden to Kitchen Pilot and Models**

In addition to pursuing funding, SPP researched several models that provide produce to the incarcerated population, including giving produce directly to the kitchen, a farmer's market model developed at CBCC, a pantry model developed at WSP, and more. With the support of facility leadership and staff, SCCC volunteered to pilot a Garden to Kitchen Project in 2024. In 2023, SCCC gathered all facility gardeners, including unit gardeners, lifers' gardeners, and hub gardeners, to discuss and plan for 2024. This group of gardeners meet monthly to discuss challenges and plans for overcoming them. SCCC plans to offer a farmer's market model and send produce to the kitchen. Through collaboration with the kitchen, they have identified specific crops that can be used in meals available to incarcerated people. In support of this pilot, SPP provided washing tables, composting bins, and books to SCCC. SPP will continue to support and document the pilot process as this project expands to other facilities.



*A beautiful head of broccoli grown at CCCC. Photo by SPP Staff.*

## Composting

Prior to the pandemic, all Washington state prisons had some form of large- or small-scale composting program. Most of these programs were paused during the COVID-19 pandemic, but in 2023, facilities and leadership showed a renewed enthusiasm to restart composting programs. Table 12 highlights composting efforts in some correctional facilities.

**Table 12.** Composting highlights, January – December 2023 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations).

Facility	Composting Highlights
AHCC	Composted 280 lbs. of food waste. Produced 580 gallons of worm tea used in the gardens.
CBCC	Composted 58,000 lbs. of food waste, diverted to OCC.
CCCC	Composted: 150,100 lbs. of food waste, 94,500 lbs. of woodchips, and 7.3 tons of biosolids.
CRCC	Produced 1,500 lbs. of compost.
MCCCW	Produced about 3,000 lbs. of compost.
OCC	Composted 118,000 lbs. of food waste; produced 37 tons of compost.
SCCC	Composted 89,323 lbs. of food waste; produced 30,562 lbs. of compost.
WCC	Composted over 233,000 lbs. of food waste through vermiculture, black soldier fly, and bokashi composting.
WSP	Composted 695,216 lbs. of food waste.

In 2023, SPP began to offer the Foundations in Composting course. The course was piloted at WCC, and a Nevada youth prison. Both groups of scholars provided constructive feedback on the course. Then, the composting course was offered at MCCCW. The course is expected to launch at more Washington prisons in 2024. For more information on this new course see [Section 4, Education Programs](#).

Corrections staff and SPP note that composting programs were established and operated during 2023 at the following facilities: AHCC, CBCC, CCCC, MCCCW, OCC, SCCC, and WCC. The SPL crew and staff at Washington Corrections Center (WCC) have been working with partners to develop a sustainable model for a robust composting education and training program. In 2023, they reached their goal of composting 100% of facility food waste. Through collaborations with partners, they hope to provide other facilities with the education and training resources to run their own programs. To transform waste into valuable resources, incarcerated technicians at WCC work with three systems, including:

1. **Worms:** Worms also known as red wigglers are 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) that can consume many kinds of food waste; the adult form of the black soldier fly produces more larvae that are prized as sustainable and high-quality animal feed.



*Sarah Larson, SPP Education Development Manager, with composting tumblers at SCCC.  
Photo by Emily Passarelli.*



## Restorative Nature

SPP aims to bring nature inside prisons for numerous benefits, including stress relief and enhancing the well-being of both human and non-human organisms. Research shows that incorporating nature into institutional and urban environments positively impacts individuals' mental and emotional health. Specifically, Nalini Nadkarni's [Nature Imagery in Prisons Project](#) revealed that even indirect exposure to nature through videos has a therapeutic effect on incarcerated people and staff. Additionally, SPP's programs have been widely and consistently recognized by both incarcerated and staff partners for their therapeutic value, promoting a sense of well-being, and connection to nature within the prison environment.

While all SPP programs are intended to offer positive contact with nature, the initiatives detailed on the following page include enjoying nature and/or providing wildlife habitat as their *primary* functions. Most nature imagery programs were suspended during COVID-19 and have not restarted. The following table aims to represent the status of various initiatives reported to us by WA Corrections.



*A variety of plants throughout Washington prisons. Photo by SPP and DOC staff.*



*SPP technician Tomas Keen cares for the chickens at WCC. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

**Table 13.** Restorative nature and wildlife habitat efforts, January 2023 – December 2023 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

Facility	Programs	Status & Highlights
AHCC	Pollinator plantings	All gardens within Main and MSU have been converted to flower gardens to support bee pollination. This initiative includes jobs for incarcerated people to develop gardening skills.
	Nature imagery	Nature Imagery Rooms are available for use in the SMU Unit.
CBCC	Flower gardens	Weeding and upkeep of flower beds.
CCCC	Pollinator-friendly flowers	Flower gardens were maintained as the crew was available.
CRCC	Heritage and flower gardens	Heritage garden is thriving.
	Land restoration	Land restoration area is thriving.
	Pollinator garden	Gardens are thriving.
MCCCW	Chickens	Key achievements include egg production for composting, garden bed tilling, participant education, and positive impacts on cognitive behavior, prompting plans for program expansion through the addition of more chickens and a larger yard.
	House plants	All plants from each unit were transferred into new aesthetically pleasing pots filled with fresh soil, with some exhibiting such robust growth that cuttings were propagated and distributed to other sections of the facility.

	Planting for Pollinators	During the beautification project finalized in summer 2023, numerous plants were procured with a particular emphasis on attracting pollinators, although the exact quantity is unspecified. These plants were strategically placed both indoors and outdoors throughout the facility.
<b>MCC-SOU</b>	Nature Imagery	Nature Imagery Rooms are available for use in the SOU Core Units.
<b>MCC-WSRU</b>	Flower gardens	Gardens at MSU were planted at Minimum during 2023. Rabbits continue to be an issue.
<b>OCC</b>	Water features	1 living unit has a fishpond; the other has a fountain and basin.
<b>SCCC</b>	Pollinator plantings	A new pollinator garden was added in front of E building. SPP has been working on growing more flowering plants in the hub to help with pollinators.
	Lifer garden	The Lifer Garden crew has been working on propagating flowers to provide support for pollinators.
<b>WCC</b>	Chickens	Currently, WCC has 42 chickens, that are fed un-processed food waste and processed food waste (Bokashi). Most feeding happens in thermal compost bins that the chickens have access to, this also introduces nitrogen to the compost.
	House plants	368 house plants were distributed or donated.
	Flower gardens	This is an annual undertaking to plant all the flower beds inside the facilities, Cedar Hall, Evergreen, and Pine Hall. Any excess seedlings were donated to the Food Banks.

# Community Contribution Programs

# 8

Community contribution programs provide services and/or goods directly to local communities. They involve programs like training pets for adoption or as service animals, donating crafts and products (firewood, quilts, etc.) derived from reclaimed materials, and providing ecological services, like habitat restoration.



*Pumpkins grown at AHCC were donated to the local children's hospital. Photo by AHCC Staff.*

Typically, these programs are partnerships between prisons and community organizations that help organizations increase capacity and provide incarcerated people with opportunities to contribute to communities outside the fence. Most of these programs predate the formal SPP partnership and operate without support from SPP-Evergreen. SPP-Evergreen's role is limited to acknowledging and supporting these partnerships and providing a comprehensive overview of statewide activities.

## **Dog and Cat Programs**

Dog and cat programs continue to be popular in Washington prisons. Nearly all of Washington's prisons have one or more partnerships with community nonprofits for pet programs. Incarcerated people receive education and support from partner organizations to provide excellent animal care and obedience training, grooming, and boarding, and—in a few cases—service or therapy animal training. We have heard from participants and staff that pet programs benefit all involved including incarcerated people and outside communities. Participants of these programs often describe working with dogs or cats as transformational. Table 14, below, summarizes the pet program highlights shared by DOC for 2023.



(Top) Happy and newly trained dogs from SCCC off to find a new home. Photos by PAWS.  
 (Bottom) Cats from WCCW's cat program relaxing. Photos by WCCW Staff.

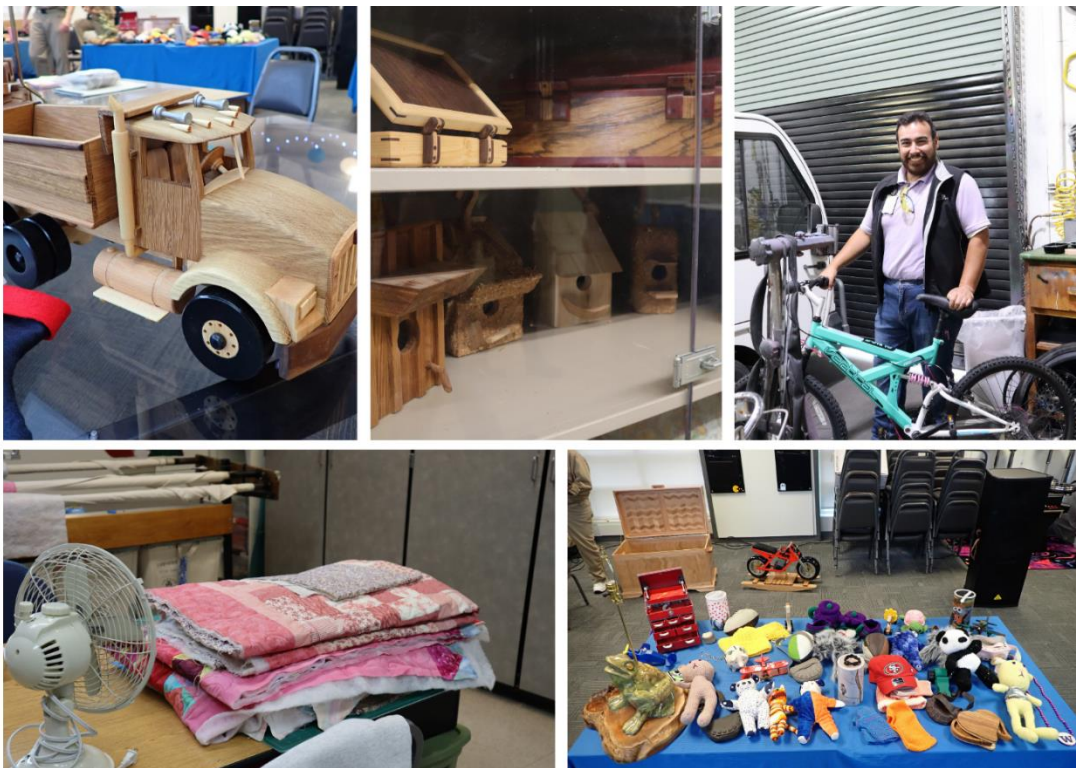
**Table 14.** Dog and cat programs, January – December 2023 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations). Please note: All dog and cat programs include incarcerated people and DOC staff working in collaboration with non-profit partners.

Facility	Program	Program Partners	Highlights
AHCC	Pawsitive dog training	Diamonds in the Ruff, SpokAnimal, Spokane Humane Society	Contract with Spokane Humane Society in process. Program will return spring of 2024.
CBCC	Dog training and adoption	Welfare for Animals Guild (WAG!)	Program plans to restart in March 2024.
CBCC	Cat program	Welfare for Animals Guild (WAG!)	Cat program continues to thrive. However, it has scaled down as far as handlers to 4 and 5 cats.
CCCC	Training dogs for veterans	Brigadoon Service Dogs	2 primary dog handlers, 2 secondary handlers, 1 handler as an alternate in training. 2 dogs most of the year, for approximately 3 months had just 1 dog.
CRCC	Ridge Dogs	Adams County Pet Rescue, The Pitbull Pen	136 dogs graduated from the program.
CRCC	Service dogs for veterans	Brigadoon Service Dogs	3 dogs onsite.

MCC – TRU	Dog training and adoption	Summit Assistance Dogs	Dogs live 24/7 with pairs of incarcerated people who care for and train them. 4 program classes and graduations. 8 dogs in training, 9 dedicated two-person handler teams, and 16 dedicated dog walkers.
MCC-SOU	Cat Program	Purrfect Pals	Purrfect Pals Cat Program has expanded to include both units in the Expansion E and F.
MCCCW	Pawsitive Prison Project	Kitsap Humane Society	Fostered 24 cats, most of which returned to their owners after fostering.
MCCCW	Pawsitive Prison Project	Humane Society of Mason County	Over 200 cats and over 30 dogs were adopted.
SCCC	Service dogs for veterans	Brigadoon Service Dogs	14 dogs: 5 graduated, 6 in training, and 3 were trained but did not make it as service dogs or had medical problems that disqualified them from the program.
SCCC	Freedom Tails	GH Paws	16 dogs went through the program in 2023.
WCC	Training dogs for veterans	Brigadoon Service Dogs	8 dogs went through the program in 2023.
WCCW	Prison Pet Partnership	Prison Pet Partnership (PPP), Feisty Felines	Continued education and training for incarcerated people in basic pet care, obedience training, and grooming and boarding. PPP partnered with Feisty Felines cat rescue to house foster kittens. In 2023, 11 kittens were adopted.

### Reclaim, Repurpose or Restore, and Donate Programs

Consistent with the earliest days of SPP programs, WA prisons strive to “throw nothing away,” by transforming potentially discarded materials into something of value. In some cases, the creations from these programs help to meet an organization’s need: donating quilts to a housing shelter, refurbished



*Items made for community donations at SCCC, WCC, and WCCW. Photos by DOC Staff.*

computers for schools, and growing produce for food banks. In other cases, programs donate handmade or restored creations for organizations’ fundraising events. These programs are best illustrated by statewide numbers (below).

**Table 15.** Community contribution programs statewide, January 2023-December 2023 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations).

	Reported Statewide Totals (approximations)	Highest Impact Facility
Produce grown	130,840 lbs. grown, 64,157 donated to food banks & used in prison kitchens	WSP: 90,864 lbs.
Crafts & furnishings from reclaimed materials	16,457 items donated	WSP: 8,590 items
Refurbished bicycles and wheelchairs	2,974 chairs, 100 bikes	WSP: 2,388 chairs
Refurbished computers	23,970 processed, 2,703 donated	AHCC: 23,970 processed, 2,703 donated
Firewood	562 cords prepared for donation	AHCC: 370 cords



*Vegetables grown by Eastern Washington Facilities. Photos by DOC Staff.*

**Table 16.** Community contribution programs to reclaim, repurpose, restore, or donate, January 2023 – December 2023 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations).

Facility	Programs	Program Partners	Highlights
AHCC	Computers 4 Kids	Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, WA Department of Enterprise Services	13 incarcerated people participated in a project to rebuild computers. 23,970 computers were processed and 25,378 were surplus. In addition, 2,703 computers were donated to local schools.
	Firewood donation	Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners (SNAP)	In 2023, the wood program was a huge success as they brought in around 300 cords of firewood and delivered about 370 cords of processed firewood to the community through SNAP's heating assistance programs and fundraisers. Like the DNR crew, they also do silviculture work to remove excess wood from lands that have become a fire hazard. The Incarcerated Individual Community Crew Sawyers worked 4,940 hours to achieve these tasks.
	Gardens, main and minimum	Master Gardeners, Ronald McDonald House, Shriners Children's Hospital	More than 2,433 pounds of produce was grown. All the produce was given to the Women's and Children's Pantry, located in downtown Spokane. The estimated worth of the donated produce is \$2,987.13.
	Pumpkin Program	Shriners Children's Hospital	Over 500 pumpkins were grown, over 6,000 lbs. total. Pumpkin donations were delivered to the hospital in October 2023, along with costumes from Spirit Halloween. Families were able to choose a free pumpkin and costume for their children.
CBCC CBCC	Vegetable gardens	Clallam Bay Food Bank	Grew 2,319 lbs. of produce, 331 lbs. were grown hydroponically. Approximately 2,200 lbs. were donated to the food bank who gives any extra to the local Senior Citizen Center.
	Ozette potato program	Local tribes	Grew 88.5 lbs. of Ozette potatoes.
CCCC	Gardens	Centralia College, Littlerock School District	Despite facing several challenges during the year, the gardeners produced over 4,500 lbs. of produce. These vegetables were consumed by the facility population and donated to food banks in the local area.
	Construction	Centralia Community College	2 custom bus stops were donated to the Littlerock Elementary School, several dog houses were made for the Cedar Creek Dog Training program, as well as a doghouse and custom chicken coop donated to a fundraiser auction for the Seattle Children's Hospital. Sheds and other structures were also built for use within the facility.
CRCC	Gardens, Minimum & Main	Harvest Now, food pantries	CRCC donated 2,500 lbs. of produce.
MCC-SOU	Gardens		This program continues to be managed by staff from each unit. Gardens continued to produce flowers and vegetables used around SOU by the kitchens and donated to the local food bank.



MCCCW	GRACE (Gardening for Restoration & Conservation Education) Project	Kitsap Conservation District, Central Kitsap Foodbank	Initiated one crew in June 2023, but encountered delays in commencing the GRACE project in partnership with Kitsap Conservation District. The objective for 2024 is to establish a second crew with the primary aim of reestablishing collaboration with the GRACE project.
OCC	Firewood for Native American Programs	Olycap, Quillayute Valley Scholarship Auction, Lake Quinault Fire Department, OCC DNR Crew	Religious Firewood Program – supplied firewood to SCCC, CBCC, OCC, MCC, and WCCW for about 73 cords to support their Religious Programs. Community Involvement Firewood – supplied 80 cords to the local senior citizens, 20 cords to the town of Clearwater, 15 cords to the Quillayute Valley Scholarship Auction, 3 cords to Cherish the Children auction, and 1 cord to the Jefferson County Sheriff’s officer in the town of Clearwater.
	Vegetable gardens	Peninsula College, Sunshine and Rainbows Child Development Center, Quileute Tribe	Delivered 3,500 lbs. of produce to the Forks Food Bank. The facility also grew pumpkins for Family Friendly events.
SCCC	Gardens and greenhouses	Coastal Harvest Food Bank, Harvest Now	Harvested 18,140.4 lbs. this year. 528 pounds of pumpkins were used for a family fun night event. The total weight donated to Coastal Harvest was 17,312 lbs. About 300 lbs. of zucchini were given to the kitchen for the garden to kitchen project.
	Bicycle Repair	Lions Club	100 bikes were restored and delivered.
	Wheelchair Repair	Wheels for the World	Program was placed on hold in October 2023, prior to that 586 completed chairs were sent out to Ghana and Mexico.
	SBU Looming Class	Men of Compassion	Knitted items donated to Providence Cancer Clinic: 136 hats, 1 scarf, and 3 blankets.
	SBU Art Class	SCCC	20 origami boxes were donated to the Significant Other event.
	Correctional Industries, Christmas for Kids	Toy Time, Connections of Grays Harbor	Toy time had 50 people that donated 1,900 items in total to Connections of Grays Harbor and other partners.
	Violence Prevention	Daybreak Stars	Food drive collected 5,996 items weighing 1,051 lbs. in total.
	Unit Fundraiser	Seattle Children’s Hospital	1,076 incarcerated people participated in the fundraiser and raised \$3,694.58. The donation was accompanied by a letter, drafted by an incarcerated Tier Representative. Seattle Children’s was 1 of 4 nonprofit organizations selected by vote by the population.
	Family Promise of Grays Harbor	Program assists homeless families with children	70 hats and 2 blankets completed.

	Bears Program	Make A Difference in Grays Harbor; Aberdeen Fire Station; Hoquiam Fire Dept., Community Involvement, Thurston County Sheriff, Toy Time	Bears were made by two incarcerated people and donated to the following organizations: 300 bears went to Make a Difference Grays Harbor 55 bears went to a local church 25 bears went to Aberdeen Fire Dept. 30 bears went to Hoquiam Fire Dept. 50 bears went to families of the incarcerated 68 bears went to Thurston County Sheriff 390 bears went with Toy Time and community organizations.
WCC	Plant starts	Hoodsport Kiwanis	7,293 vegetable seedlings were provided to Thurston County Food Banks, WCC living units, and MCCCW.
	Houseplants	SCCC Staff and Custody	368 house plants were distributed or donated.
	Gardens and Greenhouses	Thurston County Food Bank, The Hoodsport Canal Food Bank, Matlock Community Church, Harvest Now	Most produce was donated to the local Food Banks, helping more than 450 unique households and children in Thurston County and the surrounding counties.
WCCW	Gardens and greenhouses	WSU Extension, Pierce County	Produced and donated 3,700 lbs. of produce.
	Sisters of Charity: quilts, fabric crafts, wildlife rescue	Community members donate supplies; West Sound Wildlife receives nests and beds	Over 4,000 items (quilts, holiday stockings, animal beds, reusable grocery sacks) were donated to charities around Puget Sound and internationally.
WSP	Gardens and greenhouses: Institutional Sustainability Garden	Donated to Blue Mountain Action Council and Christian Aid Center	The garden grew 90,864 pounds of produce. Of that produce, they donated 11,400 Lbs. of squash, 5,100 Lbs. of melons and 1,500 Lbs. of cucumbers to a local food bank. The garden also produced and donated 8,500 pumpkins to elementary schools and staff at WSP.
WSP-SPL	Overview of numerous SPL programs	Receive materials donations from partners; donated to 550 charities since start of SPL in 2012	8,590 items donated to nonprofits and charities. State work orders items completed by SPL – 11,761. 365 people participated.
	SPL: Wood Shop & Wood Carving		Reclaimed approximately 10,500 lbs. of wood from pallets and used lumber. 213 wine barrels tuned into furniture. 2,717 items created for nonprofits and charities.
	SPL: Furniture Repair		2,388 work orders for repair of chairs and institutional furniture.
	SPL: Art Program	Various non-profits partners	Participated in 3 public art shows with all the profits going to charities. Art pieces were not accounted for this year.
	SPL: Quilting		New long arm sewing machine was acquired thanks to Walla Walla sew and vac. Production of quilts increased to 1,117.
	SPL: Green Zone	Farm to School, Lettuce Grow, Master Gardening	Foundations in Gardening class donated 15,645 lbs. to local food banks.

## Community Work Crews

Many incarcerated residents of minimum-security prisons (OCC and CCCC) and units (Minimum Security Unit: “MSU”) work on offsite crews providing services on public lands and community organization sites. In all, it is estimated that 1004 individuals were employed by these crews during this reporting period. With so many programs statewide, SPP still has much to learn about if and how these programs fit the SPP model. Reported details are shown in Table 17.



*Crew members working outside at CCCC. Photo by CCCC Staff.*

**Table 17.** Community work crew special projects, January – December 2023 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations).

Facility	Programs	Program Partners	Highlights
AHCC	Forestry	DNR	DNR crews operate across diverse timberland domains, encompassing State Trust lands, Parks, and restoring post-agricultural lands. Crucially, the program extends its mission to incorporate educational and training opportunities for its participants, notably incarcerated people engaged in firefighting and chainsaw operations through certifications like Ff2 (Firefighter type 2) and Fal2 (basic faller).
AHCC	Community work	Sawyer Crews, SNAP	In collaboration with the SNAP program, the Sawyer Crews provide firewood to lower-income citizens in the Spokane County community. Like the DNR crews, they also do silviculture work. They worked 4,940 hours.
CCCC	Forestry	DNR	During this reporting period, DNR crews were dispatched to many fire projects and local fires.

<b>CCCC</b>	Community work	Multiple agencies	Maintaining soccer, baseball, and football fields; cleaning multiple different areas along roads of trash and debris; litter control and maintain grounds at cemeteries. Community crews averaged 1,350 hrs./mo. or 16,200 hrs./yr. Additional crews worked over 720 hrs./mo. for a total of 8,640 hours helping DOC and other state agencies with grounds maintenance.
<b>MCCCW</b>	Conservation Crews	Multiple agencies	MCCCW was able to start with 2 crews at the end of June 2023. The program partners are as follows: St. Andrews House, Harmony Hill, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group, the HUB-Faith in Action.
<b>MCC-WSRU</b>	Community Crew: MSU	Vincent DePaul, Washington State Parks	Community crews with 10 people each, supported 15 contracts with several cities in Snohomish County, with services such as landscaping, litter picking, clearing areas, etc. Currently working on two additional contracts, one with Vincent De Paul and the other with Washington State Parks in Burlington.
<b>OCC</b>	Community Crew	Multiple agencies	Assisted with the set up for the Festival of Trees. Washed and painted the exterior of the Forks Food Bank, stripped the floors on the inside of the building, added gravel to repair holes and cement work. Bear Creek Campground clean-up. Brush removal on Reed Hill trail and Cotton Wood campground. Grounds work for Sunshine and Rainbows Daycare. Blow down tree removal for ONRC and grounds work around compound and trails. Maintain Forks Visitor Center grounds and painted inside the buildings. Maintain Sarge's Place grounds, rebuilt chicken coop, delivered commercial kitchen equipment for them that was donated from local restaurant that closed. Brush removal in La Push in front of Ocean Side Resort and maintain tsunami evacuation trail. Moved furniture and boxes out of the vacated schoolhouse in La Push. Maintain grounds at West End Youth Little League ballfields and Beaver Baseball fields. Brush removal, grounds work and painting for Quillayute Valley School district. Maintain outer perimeter facility grounds at OCC and CBCC and inner perimeter of the warm closed Clearwater Unit. Work on community garden raised beds. Prepare Bogachiel rearing ponds for annual Kids Fishing Derby by completing grounds work, set up and firewood cutting. Maintain Sekiu Community Center grounds.
<b>OCC</b>	Forestry	DNR	DNR's crews continue to assist with wildfire, forest health (pre-commercial thinning and planting), silviculture, roadside clean up, and culvert replacement. They assisted with several local wildfires in 2023, one being as close as the town of Forks, WA. Project Fire Wise, in 2023, supplied the fire kitchen for wildland firefighters throughout the state.

# Sustainable Operations

Sustainable Operations programs statewide are managed by a dedicated WA Corrections' Sustainable Operations Manager (also main author of this section); this position was created by WA Corrections to monitor and reduce the environmental, economic, and human costs of prisons. Sustainable operations initiatives include greenhouse gas emissions, energy, waste, and potable water use reductions. The following section provides updates on recent sustainable operations initiatives.

## Capital Planning and Development

The Capital Planning and Development leadership team led the agency's dedicated facility managers in several efforts to strengthen the foundations and outcomes of proactive facility maintenance, preservation, and resource conservation efforts. In 2023, the Department's Capital Planning and Development division worked on the Solitary Confinement Transformation Project, designing outdoor spaces for those in solitary confinement, expanding the electrical vehicle fleet, working towards compliance with the Clean Building Standards, and a water conservation project at WSP. With the closure of Larch Correctional Center and the reduction in capacity that comes along with its closure, Capital Planning and Development has adjusted strategies and plans.

## Electric Vehicles

In compliance with Executive Order 21-04, DOC is working towards 100% electrical vehicle usage by 2035. DOC continues to focus on increasing the number of BEVs (Battery Electric Vehicles, also referred to as EVs or Electric Vehicles). In 2023, DOC hit 30% BEV obtainment. 41 of the 108 DES (Department of Enterprise Services) leased vehicles were BEV. In 2023, 11 of the 62 DOC owned vehicles were BEV. DOC also installed a new DC Faster Charging station at AHCC. This station allows DOC employees to travel from Eastern Washington to Western Washington without detours for charging.



*A DOC electric vehicle. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

DOC plans to continue to increase the BEVs rented and owned while continuing to invest in infrastructure to support BEVs. Next year, DOC plans to install new EV charging stations at WSP, MCCCW, CCCC, and re-entry facilities. DOC will also work with vendors to identify DOC's first heavy duty rig with two full battery garbage trucks.

## **DOC Resource Conservation**

### **Water Conservation Project at WSP**

In 2023, DOC completed a larger water conservation project at WSP. This project included upgrades to the domestic water fixtures/piping and added a control system to the fixtures. This targeted renewal project will significantly reduce energy consumption for the facility, cutting water usage by over 3,100 kgal/yr.

### **Clean Building Standard (CBS) and District Heating Decarbonization (HB1390)**

Recent Clean Buildings Standard legislation and House Bill 1390 supported opportunities for DOC to decarbonize our facilities and campuses with District heating systems. The DOC started to work on decarbonization plans at five of our largest campuses; AHCC, CBCC, MCC, WCC and WSP. Below are the goals of this project:

- Target district energy decarbonization projects that will deliver needed energy and infrastructure upgrades.
- Identify mechanisms to replace fossil fuels in the heating plants, including a schedule for replacement.
- Evaluate possible options to partner with nearby sources and uses of waste heat and cooling.
- Examine opportunities to add buildings or other facilities to the system once it is decarbonized, a strategy to incentivize growth of a decarbonized system, and requirements for facilities joining the system.
- Evaluate and prioritize reducing energy use through conservation efforts both at the central plant and in the buildings connected to the district energy systems.

The audit and planning phase of this effort over the past year started a multi-year and multi-phase project on these campuses with the end goal of significantly reducing resource consumption as well as decarbonizing these campuses as funding and cost effectiveness criteria allow.

The master planning approach afforded by HB 1390 allows buildings owners to assess what the best long-term solution is for the campus. In this way, immediate maintenance needs can be assessed to ensure public funds are spent in the most efficient manner possible. Without neglecting the need to keep critical systems operational, funding for infrastructure that will become obsolete in the near future can be minimized and directed toward solutions that fit the longer-term plans for the campus.

HB1390 also requires reaching low or no carbon emissions by the time the master plan is complete. While this is a significant challenge, it furthers the state's progress toward environmental stewardship by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from state owned and operated buildings.

## **Washington Way**

The [Washington Way](#) program is a partnership between the Washington State Department of Corrections and [Amend](#) at the [University of California San Francisco](#) to bring a health-focused approach to transforming correctional culture within Washington's prison facilities and reentry centers. While not all of Washington Way's goals and achievements fit into SPP's Annual Report, there are several that stand out. The project that directly align with SPP include:

- Working with a UW professor in landscape design to design a healing garden space for staff at WCCW.
- Giving each person in solitary confinement a house plant to care for.
- 10 scholars in SCCC's solitary confinement are taking SPP's Foundations in Gardening course.
- Improving the solitary confinement units to include more access to nature and the outdoors.



*Plants given to the IMU. Photo by DOC Staff.*

In 2024, Washington Way will continue to work on culture changes in the facilities and reentry centers for the health and well-being of incarcerated people and staff. They plan to achieve this by developing resource teams and contact officers (officers who are considered mentors) and expanding them into MCC, CRCC, and CCCC.

### **Solitary Confinement Transformation Project**

In 2023, DOC worked toward improving the standards and conditions for those who live in the intense management unit (IMU, also known as solitary confinement). According to the DOC, the IMU can cause long-lasting harm to incarcerated people’s mental and physical well-being. This also creates a high-stress, intense, and challenging work environment for staff. Over the next five years, DOC is planning to reduce the IMU population by 90%, offer outdoor recreation spaces, programming, and more out-of-cell time for people living in the IMU.

In 2024, DOC plans to start construction of outdoor recreational space for those in IMU confinement. This will involve building a new space outside where incarcerated people will be able to see the full sky and have a full view of the outside. In compliance with Secretary Strange’s goals to reduce IMU confinements, DOC plans to increase the amount of outside time and provide opportunities for people in the IMU to interact during their yard time. A longer-term plan will be to also redo or create programming space for this population.

### **Other 2024 Goals**

#### **LEDs**

In anticipation of legislation that will ban mercury light bulbs, DOC has already been replacing light bulbs with LED or non-mercury bulbs. In 2024, DOC will continue swapping mercury lightbulbs with LED bulbs.

#### **Waste Reduction**

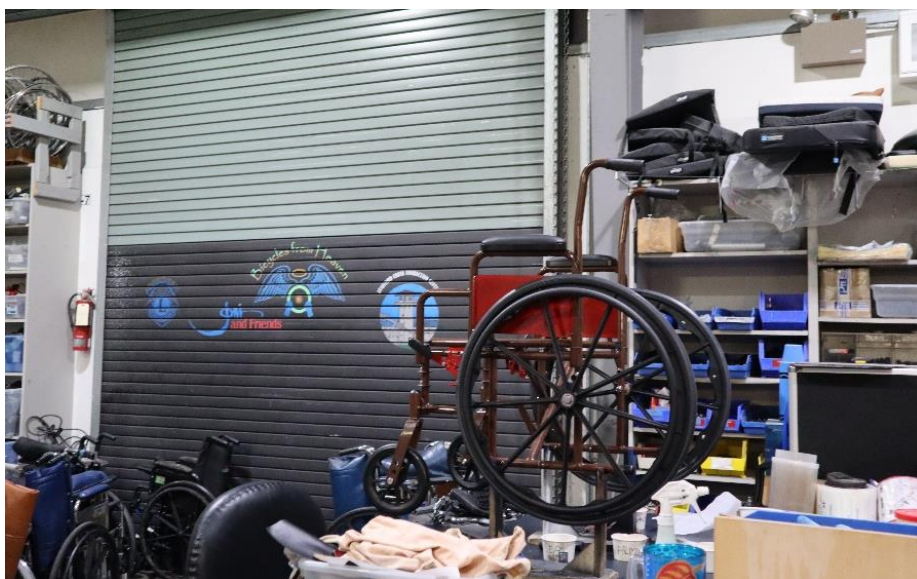
In 2024, DOC will focus on waste reduction especially recycling, composting, and sustainable purchasing. Many facilities shut down recycling and composting during the pandemic. For more information on composting, see Section 6, [Sustainable Living and Training](#).



*A composting technician explains his job. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

Table 18 lists WA Corrections sustainability job programs that operated during this reporting period, as per data from the DOC database. These job programs include work related to sustainability, science, and interaction with non-human nature. Many of these job programs have minimal input from SPP-Evergreen partners. Additionally, the table does not include sustainability jobs that have been categorized under non-sustainability labels, such as technicians working on composting or energy-efficient installations.

According to DOC's database, approximately 2,117 incarcerated people held sustainability-related jobs during this reporting period, which is approximately 16% of the 13,554 people incarcerated in WA prisons as of December 2023.



*A wheelchair getting tuned up at the SCCCC wheelchair and bicycle shop. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*



**Table 18.** Sustainability Job Programs in WA Prisons, January 1, 2023 – December 2023  
 Note: Does *not* include volunteers (see above) or scholars (see [Education](#)).

Sustainability Job Program	# of Positions
Bee Conservation Technician / Class Facilitator	36
Bike & Wheelchair Repair	14
Butterfly Rearing Technician	10
Cat Handler	9
Community Work Crews (includes Clerks)	520
Compost Worker / Food Waste Recycler	4
Computer Refurbishing	13
Dog Handler (includes service trainers)	110
Dog Walker	49
Forestry I Worker	456
Forestry II Worker	15
Gardening, Organic	44
Horticulture Worker I	91
Prairie Plant Conservation	44
Re-Use Fabric-Sustainable / Quilting	2
Recycling Worker / Recycling & Reclamation	329
Sustainability Worker / Clerk	8
Turtle Technician	10
Waste Treatment Operator I	11
Waste Treatment Operator II	13
Worm Farm Worker / Vermiculture	4

## Research & Evaluation

Program evaluation and research involving incarcerated people requires extensive review and resources for research design and implementation. Incarcerated people are designated as a “vulnerable population” to reduce the risk of harm to them. As a result, any inquiries involving incarcerated people or related data require extensive review and approval processes. SPP-Evergreen and our partners haven’t had sufficient resources to research program impacts to the extent we would like. Despite limited capacity, SPP-Evergreen does our best to learn about outcomes and ways to improve. This section provides updates on research and projects with external partners and SPP involvement in graduate student theses.



*SPP Coordinators Nat Kelly and Sal Hernandez inspect a compost pile at SCCC. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

### Research with External Partners

#### University of Washington

Back in 2021, SPP was approached by UW Professor of Landscape Architecture, [Daniel Winterbottom](#), to advise on potential research. The research project explores human-nature interactions in prison and how prison spaces can be changed to effectively use the therapeutic benefits nature provides. SPP assisted Dr. Winterbottom in connecting him with the [WA Corrections Research and Data Analytics \(RDA\)](#) department, recommending research sites, and will introduce him to former staff and program participants in the community.

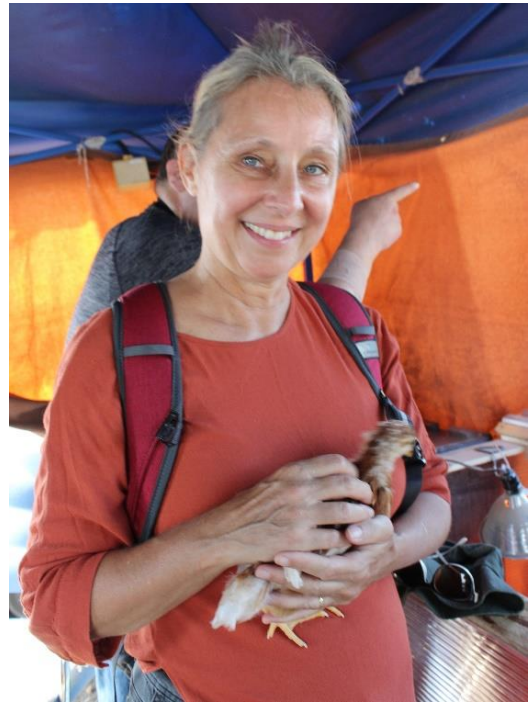
#### Churchill Fellows

In 2023, Clytie Binder, a [Churchill Fellow](#) from Australia, embarked on a research journey to explore community composting initiatives in US, Mexican, Cuban, and Canadian cities. During her research, she discovered the impressive worm, black soldier fly, and bokashi composting program at Washington

Corrections Center (formerly at Monroe Correctional Complex). Clytie joined SPP for a tour of WCC's composting facilities, where she witnessed the innovative approaches firsthand. The tour encompassed the kitchen's insinkerator, hoop houses housing worm bins and bokashi, the black soldier fly house, and chicken coops. The visit culminated in a discussion with composting experts, exploring future visions and goals. Clytie's extensive report, documenting her findings from this program and others she visited during her Fellowship, serves as a valuable resource for composting programs.

To read her report, visit:

<https://www.churchilltrust.com.au/project/to-explore-education-methods-and-partnership-models-to-support-community-composting/>



*Churchill Fellow Clytie Binder holds a baby chicken at WCC. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

## Student Theses

In 2023, two Master of Environmental Studies graduate students completed their Master's theses on SPP-related topics. Environmental Education Coordinator Jennifer Bass worked to understand the SPP student coordinator experience and Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Coordinator Ray Dunning explored the effects that temperatures and humidity can have on Taylors Checkerspot butterflies.



*SPP Coordinator Jennifer Bass consults with SPP Liaison Kelly Peterson. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

Master of Environmental Studies student Jennifer Bass conducted thesis research to examine if SPP student coordinators undergo changes in their perspectives due to their experience working at SPP. Through interviews with former SPP coordinators and an optional survey, Jen discovered that coordinators often experience significant shifts in their career paths, views on incarceration, and environmentalism. Notably, the most pronounced shift was in their perspective on incarceration, highlighting the profound impact of SPP on their understanding of the criminal justice system.

To learn more about Jen's research, visit: <https://collections.evergreen.edu/s/repository/item/11643>



*SPP Coordinator Ray Dunning poses with a Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly. Photo by Ray Dunning.*

Master of Environmental Studies Student Rachel "Ray" Dunning conducted thesis research investigating the impact of temperature and humidity on the life stage length and development of Taylor's checkerspot butterflies. Ray aimed to compare the effects of controlled temperatures and humidity on butterflies in captive settings versus those in the wild, where they experience varying weather and climate conditions. Through an analysis of average temperature and humidity data from MCCCW in 2021 and 2022, Ray found that increased temperature significantly reduced the time spent in each life stage, while humidity showed a weak positive correlation, prolonging the time spent in an instar developmental stage. This research contributes valuable insights into the environmental influences on butterfly development.

To learn more about Ray's research, visit: <https://collections.evergreen.edu/s/repository/item/11649>

## SPP Network

SPP maintains a high value for networking to improve programs and increase access to education. In 2023, we worked to rebuild connections that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



*Grady Mitchell chats with SPP Coordinators Xitlali Herrera (left) and Sal Hernandez (right) at the SPP 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event. Photo by Ricky Osborne.*

### SPP in Washington State

Staff at SPP-Evergreen maintained contact with Washington state prisons during the January – December 2023 reporting period. With the exception of OCC, every prison in WA hosts one or more programs coordinated or supported by SPP-Evergreen including beekeeping, Foundations in Gardening and/or Composting, and ecological conservation programs. Table 19 is a summary of SPP-Evergreen’s new and project-specific contacts within Washington state.

**Table 19.** SPP-Evergreen's significant new or renewed contacts in Washington State, January – December 2023.

Organization	Interest in SPP
Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group	Interest in collaborating on a willow tree project.
UW Tacoma School of Urban Studies/UW Seattle	Interest in collaborating with a STEM project at Echo Glen.
Graduate Student of Society and Justice at UW	Interest in volunteering
Olympia Solar	Interested in collaborating on a grant that could fund a solar power training program.

WA Department of Ecology	Interested in learning more about DOC's composting programs.
Natural Resource Conservation Service	Interested in learning about composting programs.
King County Natural Resources and Parks	Interested in collaborating on composting programs.
WA Department of Transportation	Continued interest in collaborating on green infrastructure training and employment program.



*SPP Founders Dan Pacholke and Dr. Nalini Nadkarni pose with DOC Secretary Cheryl Strange at the SPP 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event. Photo by Ricky Osborne.*

### **SPP Nationally and Internationally**

SPP is recognized by other countries, states, and counties for leadership in environmental education and nature programs in prisons. New interest and involvement in SPP-modeled programs continues, and ongoing relationships and learning exchanges are flourishing. While the “SPP Network” is less formal than in years past, the total number and significance of contacts continues to expand. The table below provides a summary, and national interest in SPP-model programming is also summarized in [Figure 2](#).



*Master of Environmental Studies, Assistant Director Averi Azar speaks with guests from Germany at the SPP 20th Anniversary Event. Photo by Ricky Osborne.*

**Table 20.** SPP-Evergreen's national and international contacts, January – December 2023 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations).

New and ongoing contacts: Title/profession, organization	Topics Discussed with SPP	State/ Country
Sarah Brotman, Duke University	Interested in learning about our programs and re-entry	Washington D.C.
Clytie Binder, Churchill Fellowship	Visited community compost programs in the US, Mexico, and Cuba. Visited WCC's composting program	Australia
Douglas Snell, CA DOC Captain	Interested in SPP Programs for CA DOC	California
Weihhenstephan-Triesdorf University	Attended SPP 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event	Germany
Debre Markos University	Attended SPP 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event	Ethiopia
Clemence Bouchart, Prison Insider	Interested in how SPP works, challenges, and successes	France
Denver University Institute for Human Animal Connection	Advising for pilot mini-horse program, exploring options for continued collaboration and program evaluation research	
Ecologies of Justice Network	Collaborating on book chapter, exploring options to support continued networking	
Institute for Applied Ecology	Collaboration through sagebrush butterfly, and composting programs, part of Ecologies of Justice Network	
Insight Garden Project	Exploring learning exchanges, potential consulting as part of grant proposal, part of Ecologies of Justice Network	

# SPP-style programs in the United States

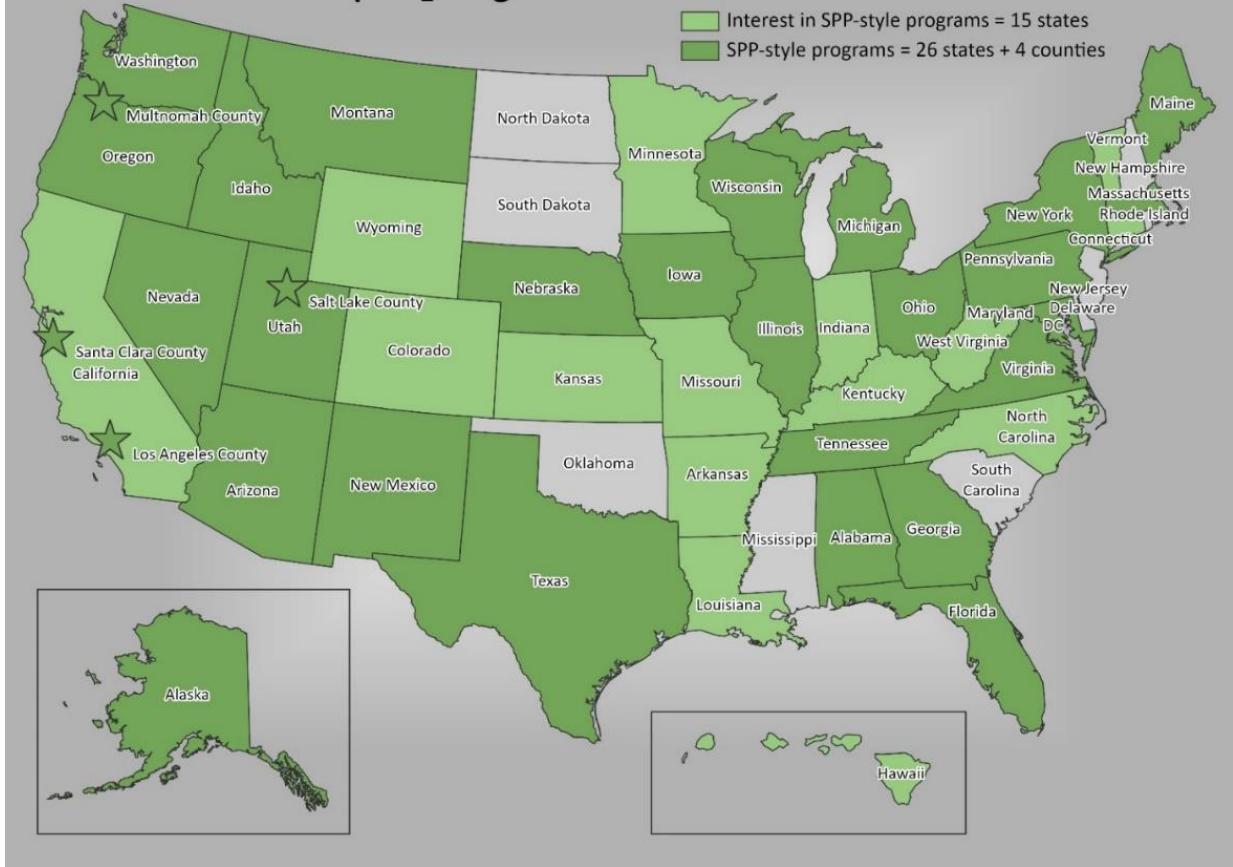


Figure 3. Prevalence of SPP-style programs nationwide.



## Dissemination



*DOC Communications videographer interviews a WCCW beekeeper on her experience in the program. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

### Presentations

In this reporting period, SPP staff presented at a variety of venues to highlight specific programs and represent SPP. A summary of our presentations is represented in Table 21; this table excludes presentations within established programs.

**Table 21.** SPP-Evergreen Presentations, January – December 2023 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations).

Date	Presenter(s)	Title	Venue
01/13/2023	Kelli Bush	Evergreen Prison Education Program	Evergreen, Board of Trustees
04/21/2023	Emily Passarelli, Sarah Larson, Jennifer Bass	SPP Overview and graduate student position openings	Evergreen, MES New Student Admission Day
04/22/2023	Carl Elliott, Sarah Larson	SPP Overview and graduate student position openings	MES Rachel Carson Forum
04/24/2023	Kelli Bush	EPEP Network	Board of Trustees Budget and Finance Committee
05/9/2023	Kelli Bush	EPEP Network	Board of Trustees Student Success Committee
10/8/2023	Emily Passarelli	SPP Beekeeping in Prisons	WASBA Conference
11/08/2023	Courtney Murphy, Xitlali Herrera, and 6 MCCCW Butterfly Techs	Overview of TCB captive rearing program at MCCCW and 2022-2023 season outcomes	Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Annual Working Group – hosted at The Evergreen State College

11/20/2023	Kelli Bush	SPP Overview and Conservation Programs	UW Restoration Ecology Class
11/21/2023	Kelli Bush, Nichole Alexander	SPP Programs in WA State	Insight Garden Project
12/09/2023	Nat Kelly, Sal Hernandez, Mariana Cervantes, and Courtney Murphy	SPP Tabling	Olympia Turn of the Tides

## SPP Tours



*WCCW leadership team poses with visitors. Photo by DOC Staff.*

In 2023, SPP was able to bring more visitors into facilities to tour programs as impacts of COVID-19 improved. A summary of tours of SPP programs is included in the table below.

**Table 22.** SPP-Evergreen Tours, January – December 2023 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations).

Date	Visitors	Tour Area	Facility
03/06/2023	DOC Communications Staff Tour	All program areas including MSC/SPP hoop houses	WCCW
04/25/2023	Utah DOC Delegates	All program areas including MSC/SPP hoop houses	WCCW
05/01/2023	SPP staff: Kelli Bush and Sarah Larson; and The Evergreen State College leadership and staff, including: President John Carmichael, Vice President Dexter Gordon, Provost David McAvity, Dean Kristina Ackley, BoT Chair Frasier, Faculty Anthony Zaragoza, and staff Jadon Barry, James Jackson, KeWee Roselle, Kelly VonHoltz, and Jason Biehner	MCCCW Butterfly Program Area	MCCCW
05/10/2023	University of Washington Students	All program areas including MSC/SPP hoop houses	WCCW
05/16/2023	Emily Passarelli, Jennifer Bass, Clytie Binder	WCC Composting and SPL Tour	WCC
05/22/2023	Charlotte West, Reporter for High Education	All program areas including MSC/SPP hoop houses	WCCW

05/24/2023	University of Washington Students	All program areas including MSC/SPP hoop houses	WCCW
06/26/2023	Commission of African American Affairs	All program areas including MSC/SPP hoop houses	WCCW
07/19/2023	First Lade Trudy Inslee	All program areas including MSC/SPP hoop houses	WCCW
08/16/2023	Public Records Staff	All program areas including MSC/SPP hoop houses	WCCW
08/30/2023	Darin Kline, Emily Passarelli, Kelli Bush	WCC Composting and SPL Tour	WCC
09/19/2023	Legislative Staff Tour	All program areas including MSC/SPP hoop houses	WCCW
09/19/2023	Senator Claire Wilson	All program areas including MSC/SPP hoop houses	WCCW
09/20/2023	Representative Michelle Caldier	All program areas including MSC/SPP hoop houses	WCCW
09/21/2023	WCCW Local Family Council	All program areas including MSC/SPP hoop houses	WCCW
09/27/2023	DOC Gender Responsive Team	All program areas including MSC/SPP hoop houses	WCCW
09/28/2023	Governor's Office Staff	All program areas including MSC/SPP hoop houses	WCCW
10/11/2023	University of Washington Garden Tour	All program areas including MSC/SPP hoop houses	WCCW
10/26/2023	Bureau of Justice	All program areas including MSC/SPP hoop houses	WCCW
12/20/2023	Sally Brown, Chuck Henry, Max Ogryzko, Emily Passarelli, Kelli Bush, Mikala Waldrup	WCC Composting and SPL Tour	WCC

## Media Coverage

The table below includes all the media pieces that SPP-Evergreen staff tracked during the reporting period.

**Table 23.** SPP Media, January – December 2023

Date	Source	Author	Title
06/21/2023	Bird Note/Bring Birds Back	Jazzi Johnson, Mark Bramhill, Tenijah Hamilton	<a href="#">Reimagining Prison Part 1</a>
06/28/2023	Bird Note/Bring Birds Back	Jazzi Johnson, Mark Bramhill, Tenijah Hamilton	<a href="#">Reimagining Prison Part 2</a>
07/31/2023	Atmos	Nick Hacheney, Tomas Keen	<a href="#">Environmental Conviction</a>
08/3/2023	Ambrook Research	Sara Ventiera	<a href="#">Prisoners are Saving Western Rangelands</a>
08/17/2023	DOC Beekeeping Video	WA DOC Communications	<a href="#">Beekeeping: The Sustainability in Prisons Project</a>
09/21/2023	DOC SPP 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Video	WA DOC Communications	<a href="#">SPP 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Video</a>



*DOC Communications staff pose for a photo while recording WCCW beekeepers. Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

## **Outreach**

SPP's main outlets for social media include Facebook ([facebook.com/sustainabilityinprisons/](https://facebook.com/sustainabilityinprisons/)) and Instagram ([instagram.com/sustainabilityinprisons/](https://instagram.com/sustainabilityinprisons/)). This year, SPP focused on sharing good news from partners and highlighting some of the partners and volunteers that help make SPP programs possible.



*SPP's Kelli Bush, Mariana Cervantes, and Sarah Larson touring WCC's composting program. Photo by Emily Passarelli*

The SPP Facebook page gained 47 page likes in this reporting period and the SPP Instagram page gained 24 new followers. During this reporting period, we made 49 posts on Facebook. Most of SPP’s posts were acknowledging and celebrating partner organizations and the staff and volunteers who support SPP. The most popular posts are summarized in the following table.

**Table 24.** Most popular Facebook posts, January – December 2023.

Subject	# People Reached	# Likes	Date
Today, we spotlight Jeff Sanders!	1.6K	10	08/10/2023
Today, we spotlight Jerrod Beaulieu!	809	18	08/24/2023
Today, we spotlight Kelly Peterson!	730	28	07/20/2023
Meet Sarah Larson, the new SPP Education Development Manager	682	41	01/20/2023
Today, we spotlight Ed Baldwin!	653	27	08/03/2023
SCCC restarts dog program	438	31	04/14/2023
Giving Tuesday Post	414	6	11/28/2023
Today, we spotlight Shawn Piliponis!	361	16	08/17/2023
Today, we spotlight Katie Manchisi!	340	7	08/31/2023
Beekeeping update from Patricia Meierdiercks	330	15	01/19/2023
SPP turns 20 years old	326	13	12/21/2023

# Appendix 1. SPP Programs

## SPP Programs in Washington State Prisons – 2023

# 1

This year, we reported on **173** SPP programs in Washington State’s 11 prisons; see Table 25, below. Some additional programs were in development during the reporting period and are not indicated here. For links to programs, partner organizations, and highlights for each program, see <http://sustainabilityinprisons.org/spp-programs-in-wa/>.

**Table 25.** SPP Programs reported by all 11 WA prisons (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations).

\*Suspended due to COVID-19; \*\*Based of 2022 Reported Programs

### [Airway Heights Corrections Center \(AHCC\)](#)

Waste sorting & recycling	Community work
Worm farm: Main	Reclaimed Water System
Computers 4 Kids	Beekeeping
Pawsitive dog training	Gardens: Main
Firewood donation	Gardens: Minimum
Nature imagery	Flower gardens
Large-scale composting	Pollinators
Forestry	Pumpkin Program

### [Clallam Bay Corrections Center \(CBCC\)](#)

Beekeeping	Vegetable gardens
Ozette Potato Program	Flower gardens, boxes, baskets
Waste sorting & recycling	Dog training and adoption*
Cat program	Farmers Market*
Water catchment	

### [Cedar Creek Corrections Center \(CCCC\)](#)

Waste sorting & recycling	Aquaponics
Large-scale composting	Vegetable gardens
Training dogs for veterans	Flower gardens
SPP Foundations in Gardening	Acoustic Monitoring
Construction	Beekeeping – CCCC*
Water use reduction and catchment	Beekeeping – McNeil Island Stewardship
Waste Treatment	Western pond turtle rehabilitation
Forestry	Avian Acoustic Monitoring
Community work	

### [Coyote Ridge Corrections Center \(CRCC\)](#)

Land restoration	Gardens: Minimum
Heritage and bee gardens	Bee Garden
Garden: Main	SPP Foundations in Gardening
Waste sorting & recycling	CRCC Sustainability Lecture*
Ridge Dogs	Toys for Tots*
Service dogs for veterans	Teddy bears from reclaimed materials*
Composting: Minimum	Beekeeping

## Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women (MCCCW)

Small-scale composting	GRACE (Gardening for Restoration and Conservation Education) Projects
Waste sorting & recycling	SPP Foundations in Gardening
Pawsitive Prison Project	SPP Foundations in Composting
House Plants	Garden Club
Cat program	Paint and Sip Workshop
Gardens	Financial Literacy Workshop
Vegetable gardens	Writing Workshop
Flower gardens	Book Club
Wildflower Planting for Pollinators	Civil Survival
Chicken Tenders (Chicken Care & Education)	Financial Empowerment
Conservation crews	Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Program
Plant and animal habitat	Beekeeping

## Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC)

### **WSR**

Waste sorting & recycling: MSU*	Vegetable gardens*
Wastewater Treatment Certification: MSU*	Gardening curriculum development*

Community Crew: MSU

Flower gardens

### **SOU\*\***

Gardens

Nature Imagery

### **TRU**

Community Aide Coalition: quilting, crochet, textile arts\*

Dog training and adoption

Cat program

Gardens

Beekeeping

## Olympic Corrections Center (OCC)

Houseplants

Waste sorting & recycling

Large-scale composting

Wastewater Treatment

Wastewater catchment

Solar power

Firewood for Native American programs

Community Crew

Forestry

Gardens

Flower gardens, boxes, baskets

## Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC)

Sustainability channel

Large-scale Composting

Waste sorting & recycling

Water catchment

SPL: Bicycle Repair

SPL: Wheelchair Repair

Freedom Tails

Service dogs for veterans

Family Promise of Grays Harbor

Birdhouses

Pollinator plantings

Flower gardens, boxes, baskets

Toy Time

Houseplants

Skill Builder Unit (SBU) Art Class

Gardens and greenhouses

Lifer Garden

Violence Prevention

Sustainability Fundraiser

Flagging Class Certification

SBU Looming Class

Electric Cars and Charge Stations

Unit Fundraiser

Bears Program

Garden to Kitchen

Beekeeping

Prairie Conservation Nursery

Gardening curriculum development

### Washington Corrections Center (WCC)

Flower gardens, boxes, baskets  
Plant starts  
Construction: bus stops, tiny homes, Neighborhood  
Pantries, bird houses  
Houseplants  
Large-scale composting  
Waste sorting & recycling  
Training dogs for veterans

Vermiculture/ Soldier Fly and Bokashi composting  
Chicken Program  
Gardens and greenhouses  
SPP Foundations in Composting  
Prairie Conservation Nursery  
Beekeeping, "Intensive Bee Management Unit"  
Gardening in Intensive Management Unit (IMU)

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

Prairie Conservation Nursery  
Gardens and greenhouses  
Beekeeping  
Pollinator plantings  
Community College Horticulture

Prison Pet Partnership  
Sisters of Charity: quilts, fabric crafts, wildlife rescue  
Waste sorting & recycling  
Large-scale composting\*

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

Institutional Sustainability Garden  
Waste sorting & recycling  
Composting, main

#### **BAR Units**

Kitten program\*

#### **MSU**

Beekeeping

#### **Sustainable Practices Lab**

SPL: Learning Center  
SPL: Wood shop & carving  
SPL: Furniture Repair  
SPL: Sign shop  
SPL: Aquaculture and Aquaponics  
SPL: Worm Farm

Electrical upgrades  
Water conservation

Crochet Program\*

SPL: Art program  
SPL: Creative Projects  
SPL: Quilting  
SPL: Creative projects  
SPL: Green Zone  
SPL: Bicycle Refurbish

**Total Programs= 173 active programs reported by 11 prisons**



# Appendix 2. SPP Partners

## SPP Partners in Washington State Prisons – 2023

# 2

Complementing the efforts of founding partners, federal, state, education, conservation and community organizations contributed to almost every SPP program. Most programs would not be possible without their input, enthusiasm, and resources. In this reporting period, we have **181** known (reported) partners, allies, or contributors. 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 26.** SPP Partners and Allies (Partnering with WA Corrections, Evergreen, or both), January 2023 – December 2023.

<a href="#">Aberdeen Fire Station</a>	<a href="#">Adams County Pet Rescue</a>
<a href="#">Beyond Survival for Victims of Sexual Assault</a>	<a href="#">Blue Mountain Action Council</a>
<a href="#">Blue Mountain Humane Society</a>	<a href="#">Bogachiel Fish Hatchery</a>
<a href="#">Brigadoon Service Dogs</a>	<a href="#">Centralia College</a>
<a href="#">Central Kitsap Food Bank</a>	<a href="#">Christian Aid Center</a>
Christmas for Kids	<a href="#">City of Clallam Bay</a>
<a href="#">City of Forks</a>	<a href="#">City of Hoquiam</a>
<a href="#">City of Oakville</a>	<a href="#">City of Sekiu</a>
<a href="#">City of Spokane</a>	Clallam Bay Food Bank
<a href="#">Coastal Harvest Food Bank</a>	<a href="#">Daybreak Stars</a>
<a href="#">Department of Ecology (DOE)</a>	<a href="#">Department of Enterprise Services (DES)</a>
<a href="#">Department of Health (DOH)</a>	<a href="#">Department of Natural Resources (DNR)</a>
<a href="#">Department of Transportation (DOT)</a>	<a href="#">Diamonds in the Ruff</a>
<a href="#">Forks Community Hospital</a>	Forks Food Bank
Forks Visitor Center	<a href="#">Grays Harbor College</a>
<a href="#">Great Peninsula Conservancy</a>	<a href="#">GRuB</a>
<a href="#">Harmony Hill</a>	<a href="#">Harvest Now</a>
<a href="#">Hood Canal School District</a>	<a href="#">Hoodsport Canal Food Bank</a>
<a href="#">Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group</a>	Hoodsport Kiwanis
<a href="#">Hoquiam Fire Department</a>	HUB-Faith in Action
<a href="#">Humane Society of Mason County</a>	ICON Systems Inc.
<a href="#">Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE)</a>	<a href="#">Jefferson Land Trust</a>
<a href="#">Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM)</a>	<a href="#">Kalaloch Lodge</a>
<a href="#">Kitsap Conservation District</a>	<a href="#">Kitsap Humane Society</a>
<a href="#">K&amp;S Recycling</a>	<a href="#">Lake Quinalt Fire Department</a>
<a href="#">Lamb Weston</a>	<a href="#">La Push Reservation (Quileute Tribe)</a>
<a href="#">Lettuce Grow</a>	<a href="#">Lions Club</a>
Little Earth Farm	<a href="#">Littlerock Elementary School</a>
<a href="#">Longview Girl Scout Camp</a>	<a href="#">Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI)</a>
Make a Difference in Grays Harbor	<a href="#">Master Gardeners</a>
<a href="#">Matlock Community Church</a>	Men of Compassion
<a href="#">Mother Earth Farm</a>	<a href="#">North Olympic Peninsula Beekeeping Association</a>
<a href="#">North Mason Food Bank</a>	<a href="#">Northwest District Beekeepers Association</a>
<a href="#">Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction</a>	<a href="#">OlyCAP</a>
<a href="#">Olympic Natural Resource Center (ONRC)</a>	<a href="#">Oregon Food Bank</a>
<a href="#">Oregon Zoo</a>	<a href="#">Orting VA Soldiers Home</a>
<a href="#">PAWS of Grays Harbor</a>	<a href="#">Peninsula College</a>
<a href="#">Pierce County</a>	<a href="#">The Pitbull Pen</a>
<a href="#">PPL Electric</a>	<a href="#">Purrfect Pals</a>
<a href="#">Quileute Tribe</a>	<a href="#">Quillayute Valley Scholarship Auction</a>

<a href="#">Quillayute Valley School District (QVSD)</a>	<a href="#">Sarge's Place</a>
<a href="#">Sawyer Crews</a>	<a href="#">Seattle Children's Hospital</a>
<a href="#">Shriner's Childrens Hospital</a>	<a href="#">South Puget Sound Community College</a>
<a href="#">Spokane Humane Society</a>	<a href="#">Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners (SNAP)</a>
<a href="#">St. Andrew's House</a>	<a href="#">Summit Assistance Dogs</a>
<a href="#">Sunshine &amp; Rainbow Daycare</a>	<a href="#">Tacoma Community College (TCC)</a>
<a href="#">Thurston County Food Bank</a>	<a href="#">Thurston County Litter Control</a>
<a href="#">Thurston County Sheriff</a>	<a href="#">Tilth Alliance</a>
Town of Clearwater	<a href="#">WAG</a>
<a href="#">Walla Walla County Sheriff's Department</a>	<a href="#">Walla Walla Police Department</a>
<a href="#">Washington Department of Fish &amp; Wildlife</a>	<a href="#">Washington State Beekeepers Association</a>
West End Youth League (WEYL)	<a href="#">West Plains Beekeepers</a>
<a href="#">West Sound Wildlife</a>	<a href="#">Wheels for the World</a>
<a href="#">WSU Extension</a>	
181 reported organizations + 100s more charities receiving donations	

## Appendix 3. Abbreviations

**Table 27.** Common abbreviations found in current report.

<b>Prison Facilities</b>	
AHCC	Airway Heights Corrections Center, Airway Heights, WA (near Spokane)
CBCC	Clallam Bay Corrections Center, Clallam Bay, WA (northwest Olympic Peninsula)
CCCC	Cedar Creek Corrections Center, Littlerock, WA
CRCC	Coyote Ridge Corrections Center, Connell, WA (south, central Washington)
LCC	Larch Corrections Center, Yaocolt, WA (northeast of Vancouver)
MCC	Monroe Correctional Complex, Monroe, WA (northeast of Seattle)
MCC-SOU	Monroe Correctional Complex, Special 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, WA (Kitsap Peninsula)
OCC	Olympic Corrections Center, Forks, WA
SCCC	Stafford Creek Corrections Center, Aberdeen, WA
WCC	Washington Corrections Center, Shelton, WA
WCCW	Washington Corrections Center for Women, Gig Harbor, WA
WSP	Washington State Penitentiary, Walla Walla, WA
WSP-MSU	Washington State Penitentiary, Minimum Security Unit
WSP-BAR	Washington State Penitentiary, Baker Adams Rainier Unit
<b>Agencies &amp; 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, Olympia, WA; a public, four-year institution
HSSW	Humane Society for Southwest Washington
IAE	Institute for Applied Ecology
JBLM	Joint Base Lewis-McChord
NSF	National Science Foundation
OR Zoo	Oregon Zoo
PAWS	Progressive Animal Welfare Society
RDA	Research & Data Analytics (WA Corrections)
SBU	Skills Building Unit
SPL	Sustainable Practices Lab
SPP	Sustainability in Prisons Project
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WASBA	Washington State Beekeepers Association
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 &amp; General Abbreviations</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 3 prisons (CCCC, OCC, and MCCCW) that are wholly MIN and house incarcerated individuals with six years or less remaining on their sentences.
OMNI	Offender Management Network Information *DOC's data system includes "offender" in name, this stigmatizing language is being phased out.