

The Sustainability in Prisons Project

2024

Annual Report



the
evergreen
state college

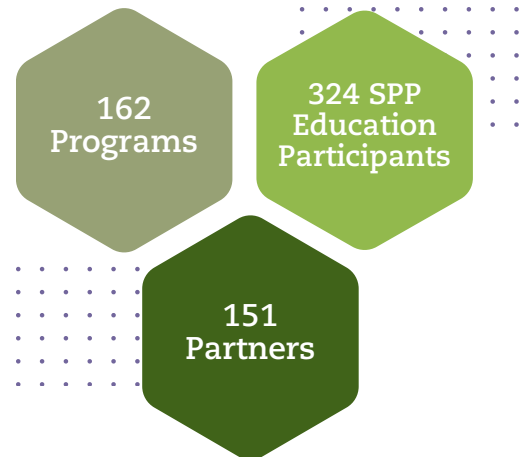
SPP 2024 Annual Report: Executive Summary



Thank you for supporting the Sustainability in Prisons Project (SPP). The SPP partnership has been bringing nature, science, and environmental education into prisons for over 20 years! Founding partners include Washington Department of Corrections (WA Corrections or DOC) and The Evergreen State College (Evergreen). Together, we remain committed to working across differences and supporting collaborations that improve outcomes for people and ecosystems.

Our annual report describes science, environmental education, and sustainability programs occurring in Washington state adult prisons and aims to acknowledge all contributing organizations and partners. With the information available for the 2024 calendar year, we count 162 science, sustainability, and nature programs and 151 SPP partner and ally organizations in Washington prisons statewide. These numbers are impressive reflections of sustained dedication to positive change. We have done our best to be comprehensive and we suspect some efforts are not recognized in this report.

Tending partnerships requires time, care, and patience. Our collective work to support healthy collaborations, results in rewarding learning exchanges with benefits for all. We are grateful for the incarcerated and legally liberated people, foundations, corrections staff, volunteers, students, and environmental, community, and education organizations investing in SPP. We learn and grow together! Posted on the next page are highlights on select programs and partnerships in 2024, plus goals for the 2025 calendar year.



Thank you for the many ways you support SPP!



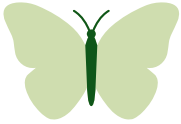
2024 Highlights



746 college
credits awarded

SPP Education Portfolios

In 2024, 82 students earned a total of 746 college credits from The Evergreen State College through the SPP education portfolio model. SPP is able to grant college credit due to the generous support we receive from donors. Education can transform lives, reduce recidivism, and improve opportunities for employment.



60,000+ larvae
produced

Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Program

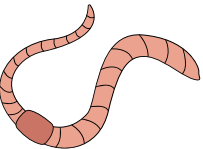
Since 2011, butterfly technicians (incarcerated people) and partners raised over 60,000 federally endangered butterfly larvae at Mission Creek Corrections Center for release onto the Salish lowland prairies. Technicians presented program results to scientists at the Butterfly Recovery Working Group meeting hosted at Evergreen and also visited a butterfly release site with WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to learn about prairie ecosystems.



131,482 lbs. of
produce used in
facility kitchens

Gardening Education and Training

SPP collaborated with gardeners and educators (incarcerated people), community partners, and DOC staff to improve gardening education and access to fresh produce. SPP purchased supplies for programs statewide including books, compost, tools, raised beds and more. Combined, all prisons grew about 284,800 lbs. of produce, with approximately 110,399 lbs. donated to food banks.



100% of food waste
diverted at WCC

Composting Education and Training

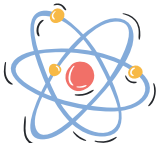
In partnership with composting technicians (incarcerated people) and WCC staff, we advanced development of composting education and training. Efforts include composting workshops with external guests, networking meetings with state agencies, and co-creating new composting vocational education manuals. These manuals will be offered to support education and training in prison composting programs statewide.



Over 100,000
plants grown

Sagebrush & Conservation Nursery

Nursery technicians (incarcerated people) in 4 prisons received education and training on nursery management, prairie and shrub-steppe ecosystems, and ecological horticulture. We expanded plant and seed cultivation for restoration sites, including areas impacted by wildfires, habitat for endangered species, and revegetation projects. SPP is also developing new, credit-eligible education resources in advanced conservation nursery topics.



5 workshops
offered in 2024

Workshops

SPP restarted science and sustainability workshops in multiple prisons in 2024. Some events were open to large audiences while others focused on smaller groups in specific programs. Topics included gardening, climate change, composting, and nature drawing. With donor support, we are rebuilding, improving, and expanding our workshop model.



3 workshops
planned for 2025

Collaborations with Tribal Members

SPP began a new collaboration with the Tribal Sons, a Native American culture group at WCC. Additional partners include Evergreen faculty, WCC staff, and other tribal leaders. Together we offer workshops, education, and support native plant cultivation.

Anticipated Highlights for 2025

Program/Project	Partners and facility	Planned outcomes
Finalize new educational module on the impacts of the natural environment on wellbeing	Multiple facilities, developed w/environmental education contractor	Offer new education module & workshop, receive input for improvements
Complete development of Advanced Topics in Ecological Horticulture course/portfolio	WSP, SCCC, WCCW	Implementation in 2025
Complete development & pilot new peer-facilitator training for incarcerated educators	Multiple facilities, developed w/peer facilitation experts (incarcerated & legally liberated)	New education & training content for peer facilitators; pilot in 2025
Finalize & print vocational manuals to support & expand composting programs	Select WA prisons	Share manuals w/facilities to complement composting education & training resources
Develop gardening program practicum & offer workshops	Select WA prisons, students, & non-profit agencies	Workshops on preparing produce for market/produce safety & pilot gardening practicum
Consider expansion of conservation nursery to grow culturally significant plants & seed	WCC, Tribal Sons, Evergreen faculty & other tribal leaders, conservation partners	Increased education, training, plants, seeds, & cultivation area
Identify opportunities for collaborative learning across programs & organizations	EPEP, Tribal Sons, DOC staff, etc.	Common reads, joint workshops, & seminars
Develop education workshop & event plan; increase workshops & participating facilities	Multiple facilities	Provide nature, art, & culture workshops; offer educational events in at least 4 facilities in 2025
Improve resource conservation through waste reduction	DOC-led; multiple facilities	Food waste reduction, increased composting & recycling efforts
Policy, directive, & process improvements to increase access to education & nature	WA prisons & Evergreen campuses	Updated DOC sustainability policy & SPP-PLE process

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

Our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributes to SPP. We remain committed to learning, adapting, and continuing to improve our work while fostering a culture of mutual respect and consistent compassion for all people. To learn more visit our website or contact us at spp@evergreen.edu.

Scan to donate:



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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 from January – December 2024. SPP is a partnership co-founded by [The Evergreen State College](#) (Evergreen) and [Washington Department of Corrections](#) (WA Corrections). Although SPP staff at Evergreen do not have direct involvement in every program, they are responsible for reporting on all science, sustainability, and nature initiatives in Washington (WA) prisons, regardless of which partner(s) leads and operates the program. This report represents the most complete information available to the SPP-Evergreen team.

Scientists, incarcerated people, students, prison staff, and environmental and community partners in all 11 Washington prisons work together to make positive contributions to people and the environment. During this reporting period, SPP collaborators described **162 programs and 151 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

As we reflect on the accomplishments and progress made in 2024, we are reminded of the power of collaboration. We would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who contributed to our shared vision.



A butterfly technician shows her matching tattoo. Photo by SPP Staff.

At the center of all SPP programs are the incarcerated people whose day-to-day input, labor, 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. 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](#).



A MCC staff member earned his Beginner level beekeeping certificate. Photo by Emily Passarelli.

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 input for planning, security, communication, facility expertise, and program supervision. Often corrections staff make these contributions in addition to their other primary duties.

SPP staff at The Evergreen State College include faculty, staff, graduate students, and college leadership. Together we develop and deliver credit-bearing education, lead environmental education and ecological conservation programs, cultivate and grow partnerships, pursue and sustain a diverse portfolio of funding for programs statewide, and oversee SPP communications.



Butterfly program partner and WDFW Biologist Andy Dechaine supports a visit with technicians to Scatter Creek Wildlife Area. Photo by SPP.

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.

“Being able to go out to the butterfly lab everyday...the routine of being able to be in a work environment, an educational environment, to actually feel like we are giving back to the community, bettering myself and laying the foundation for my future, my kids’ future, was huge to pull me through some of the worst times that I have been through...I was actually able to find a light within myself in a very dark place.”

- Nichole Alexander, former butterfly program technician

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.

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 Staff and Organization

The organization chart in Figure 1 includes staff as of December 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 many more corrections, academic, conservation, and community organization staff contributing to program success.

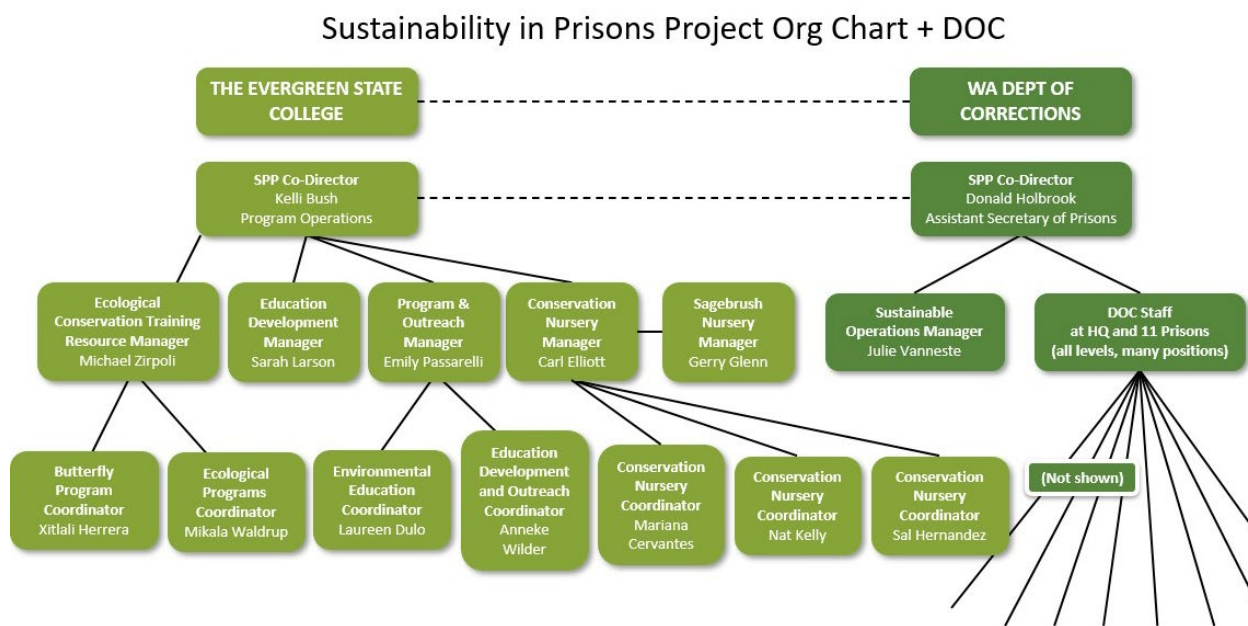


Figure 1. SPP Staff organization chart.

During this reporting period, Kelli Bush continued to direct the Evergreen side of the SPP partnership. In October 2024, Michael Zirpoli was hired as the Ecological Programs and Training Development Manager, supporting the Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly and the Western Pond Turtle Rehabilitation programs. Carl Elliott, Emily Passarelli, Sarah Larson, and Gerry Glenn continued their roles as SPP managers. Evergreen faculty member, MES Director, and former SPP Co-Director, Carri LeRoy continued to play a critical role in overseeing SPP education portfolios. Doreen Swetkis began a new role as the Dean of Prison Education and Graduate Studies programs. Numerous additional Evergreen personnel contributed to SPP including but not limited to Tina Pearson, Michelle Bartlett, Claire Kehn, Bentse Shrestha, Eirik Steinhoff, David McAvity, Trevor Speller, Ashley Williams, Katherine Sackmann, Amanda Mobbs, John McLain, John Carmichael, Dexter Gordon, KeWee Roselle, and Evergreen Liberation Education Network (ELEN) members.

DOC Assistant Secretary Donald Holbrook continued to serve as SPP's Co-Director for WA Corrections. SPP-Evergreen leadership met with Don and other DOC leaders several times throughout 2024. Regular attendees at SPP Leadership meetings included Melissa Andrewjeski, Jo Wofford, Eric Jackson, Julie Vanneste, Chris Idso, James Key, Chuck Anderson, Kristen Morgan, and Sarah Sytsma. Deputy Secretary Sean Murphy and former Secretary Cheryl Strange also provided input on several key issues throughout the year.

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-or three year terms. Each summer, several students complete their work with SPP and train new students to take over their positions. During the reporting period, 8 Program Coordinators worked for SPP: Courtney Murphy, Mikala Waldrup, Mariana Cervantes, Nat Kelly, Xitlali Herrera, Sal Hernandez, Laureen Dulo, and Anneke Wilder.



The SPP team as of November 2024, left to right: Emily Passarelli, Kelli Bush, Nat Kelly, Mikala Waldrup, Xitlali Herrera, Laureen Dulo, Mariana Cervantes, Anneke Wilder, Sarah Larson, Carl Elliot, Sunnie, and Sal Hernandez.

Photo by Aarudra Moudgalya.

SPP-Evergreen Advisors

SPP continues to regularly consult a range of individuals to advise and guide our work. In 2024, we consulted previously incarcerated people, SPP co-founders, Evergreen faculty, and leadership of multiple organizations. Guidance is valuable as we work to continually improve.

SPP-Evergreen Staff Development: Training, Safety, and Security

Programs are operated in compliance with all partnering agencies and state and federal regulations. We follow WA Corrections safety and security rules, SPP-Evergreen operations guidance, plant and animal care protocols, and state and federal rules for working with threatened and endangered species.

All SPP-Evergreen staff completed the required WA Corrections training. Safety and security topics are included on every SPP-Evergreen staff meeting agenda, held every two weeks. SPP-Evergreen staff maintain our commitment to be adaptable to changing safety and security needs. Posted below are trainings SPP-Evergreen staff completed during this reporting period.

Table 1. SPP-Evergreen staff trainings for 2024.

Name of Training	Trainer	Description	Hrs/Staff Person
WA Corrections: Annual-in Service Trainings	WA Corrections, Online & Instructor-led; annual requirement for established employees	Behavior Observation Entries, Ethics in State Government, Fire Prevention & Extinguisher Training, Infectious Disease Prevention, Introduction to Information Governance, IT Security Awareness, Outdoor Heat Exposure, Resolution Program, Respiratory Protection Awareness, Transgender Cultural Fluency, Trauma-Informed Practices, Medications for Opioid Use Disorder, Preventing Sexual Harassment and Sexual Abuse in Prisons (PREA), Dynamic Security & Staff Wellness: WA Way, Prison Safety, First Aid, Suicide Prevention, & Emergency Management System Training	25
WA Corrections: New Employee Orientation Trainings	WA Corrections, Online & Instructor -led; requirement for new employees	Ethics in State Government, IT Security Awareness, Sexual Harassment Prevention for All Employees, Disability Awareness, Confidentiality of Protected Health Information, Fire Prevention and Extinguisher Training, Infectious Disease Prevention, Introduction to Information Governance, Mandatory Reporting, Naloxone (NARCAN), Non-Discrimination Training – Pregnant and Nursing Mothers, Office of the Corrections Ombuds, Policy and General Information, PREA/PSASH, Initial Safety Orientation, FEMA ICS, Dynamic Security & Staff Wellness: WA Way, Prison Safety, First Aid, Suicide Prevention, & Emergency Management System Training	30
SPP-Evergreen: Working in Prisons	Carl Elliot w/other SPP staff	Evergreen-led training on safety, security, & professionalism using common scenarios encountered while working in prisons.	8
SPP New Employee Orientation	Emily Passarelli w/other SPP-Evergreen staff	Welcome to SPP, Program Operation/Admin., Taking Care of Yourself at SPP, Communication, & Time Management	4
Evergreen Annual & Professional Development Trainings	Online & Evergreen staff	IT Security, Appropriate Use of IT Resources, Non-Discrimination Policies and Procedures, Public Records Act, Copyright, Ethics in Public Service, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), &Fiscal Note Training	5
OMNI Overview and Basic Training	WA Corrections, Kristen Morgan	Introduction to WA Corrections database; Offender Management Network of Information (OMNI)	1
Compassion Prisons Project	MCCCW	Trauma informed practices for prisons.	6
Student Accessibility Training: Improving	WA Corrections, Dr. Kayce Aspen	Overview of memory processes, strategies to improve learning, and ways to increase education accessibility.	1

Student's Memory & Recall			
Student Accessibility Training: Your Role in the Assessment Process	WA Corrections, Dr. Kayce Aspen	Student referral process for assessing learning disabilities and how to assist w/assessments.	1
Emergent Strategies in Prison Education: Part 1	The Washington Center	Exploring emergent strategy, and expanding teaching practices to embrace change, complexity, adaptivity, and relationship as part of curriculum.	1.5
Emergent Strategies in Prison Education: Part 2	The Washington Center	Developing teaching statements using emergent strategy as a tool for co-creating learning communities w/incarcerated students.	1.5
WA Way/Amend DOC	CCCC Staff	An introduction to the Washington Way initiative.	4
Government to Government Training	Gordon James	Improving cultural awareness, exploring a variety of legal issues impacting modern relationship building, increase understanding of tribal sovereignty, & examining approaches to working w/tribal governments.	8

Partnerships

Partnerships have long been a cornerstone of SPP’s approach to bringing science and sustainability into prisons. In 2024, partnerships continued to grow and flourish. A working list of SPP partners, allies, and contributors is included as [Appendix 2](#); during this reporting period, more than 151 different organizations contributed or connected to SPP programs in WA. Sometimes we collaborate with separate offices within larger organizations. In these cases, regional offices or divisions of larger organizations may be counted as individual collaborators, as those partnerships are within distinct areas of an organization to support specific services or programs.

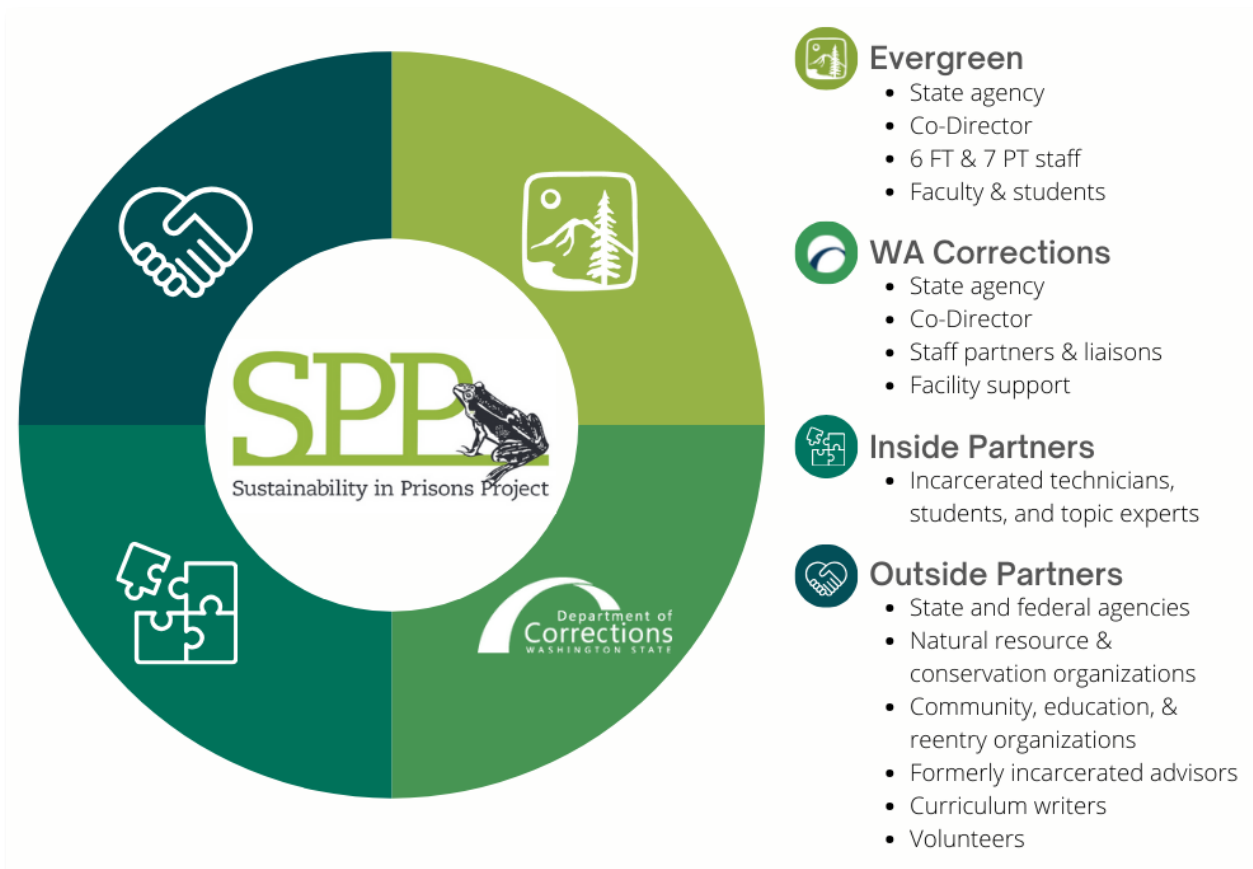


Figure 2. SPP generalized program structure.

At the program level, SPP staff 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.

Partners play varying roles to fit the needs of different 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

SPP continually invests in tending partnerships and identifying new collaborations to increase access to nature, science, and environmental education. We aim to learn from, grow with, celebrate, and share our experience to better serve currently and previously incarcerated people. Working collectively, we are much more likely to create positive change.

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

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.

Tribal Sons Cultural Group



The Tribal Sons medicine garden at WCC. Photo by Emily Passarelli.

In 2024, SPP began building relationships with the Tribal Sons, a cultural group at the Washington Corrections Center (WCC). With the support of DOC staff and tribal partners, the Tribal Sons started a medicinal garden next to the SPP conservation nursery and an alliance began to develop. SPP started working with Tribal Sons members, DOC staff, and Evergreen campus partners to bring workshops into the prisons on topics like weaving, plants, and carving. We are also planning to meet with tribal leaders and DOC to discuss potential expansion of the SPP conservation nursery area to support increased availability of culturally significant plants.

Evergreen Prison Education Project (EPEP)



A student outlines a butterfly for a workshop. Photo by SPP Staff.

In July 2022, Evergreen received legislative funding to expand access to prison education and reentry services. This work builds on years of effort and experience from Evergreen faculty, SPP, Gateways for Incarcerated Youth, student-led groups, and Liberation Scholars (previously Reentry Scholars). Throughout 2024, we continued to collaboratively develop the Evergreen Liberation Education Network (ELEN). ELEN'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." We also supported the launch of the new Evergreen Prison Education Program (EPEP), a bachelor's degree program at Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC). SPP-Evergreen staff are core members of the ELEN Network team. With support from the SPP team, Kelli Bush took on the role of Co-Director of the ELEN network with Evergreen faculty member, Dr. Eirik Steinhoff. SPP's Education Development Manager, Sarah Larson, provided critical support for the new bachelor's degree program. SPP Evergreen will continue to support ELEN Network development with funding that is separate from our contracts to operate SPP programs. 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



Composting expert and volunteer, Chuck Henry, chats with Juan Hernandez after a composting workshop. Photo by SPP.

SPP continued to collaborate with incarcerated composting educators and practitioners, WCC staff, and partners to strengthen composting programs in Washington prisons. The incarcerated crew at WCC further refined a proposal to expand training, education, and composting materials to other prisons and community organizations. Throughout 2024, they presented their proposal to various groups and invested in partnerships with DOC HQ, WCC leadership, WCC’s maintenance department, Department of Ecology, University of Washington professors, and more. While collaborators haven’t identified a way to fund the proposed expansion of composting education and training programs, the group is poised to submit a grant request if opportunities arise. In the meantime, partners are offering workshops to continue relationship building and to support the Foundations in Composting class. For program details, refer to [Section 6, Sustainable Living and Training](#) and [Section 4, Education](#).

Peer Facilitation Training

In 2023, SPP and peer educators identified a need for additional resources to support peer facilitators of the Foundations in Gardening and the Foundations in Composting courses. SPP partnered with incarcerated facilitators, DOC staff, and contracted with peer facilitation experts in the community to begin building a training. This training will be finalized and piloted in 2025. For more information, please see [Section 4, Education](#).



A student takes notes during the Foundations in Composting Class. Photo by Emily Passarelli.

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. For more information on this partnership please see [Section 6, Sustainable Living and Training](#).

SPP as a Partnership

SPP is a partnership between the Evergreen State College and the Washington Department of Corrections that includes many other contributors. SPP's work aligns with Evergreen's education approach and DOC's mission.



DOC Sustainability Liaison, Patrick Strand, and a gardener show some of the biggest pumpkins in the pumpkin patch at AHCC. Photo by Emily Passarelli

SPP Alignment with Evergreen's Five Foci

SPP's educational programs are aligned with Evergreen's approach to education and 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 engages incarcerated students 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. These robust partnerships with community experts and Evergreen allow us to describe program experiences in a way that translates into credit eligible courses.

SPP Alignment with WA Corrections' Mission & Vision

From WA Corrections' [website](#):

Mission: To improve public safety by positively changing lives

Vision: Working together for safer communities

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

"I have served as a staff liaison for 4 incredible years. I am grateful for the opportunity, knowledge and teams work with the population, staff, leadership, Evergreen State College SPP Staff, Kitchen Staff, maintenance, Warehouse, custody staff, WASBA staff, and West Sound Beekeeper Master Beekeeper Sandra Fanara. I am grateful for providing a place for participants to be heard, to learn and to do. This hands-on education has changed lives, behaviors for the better, people's mental health, and created empowerment. These programs create positive change by letting the participants empower themselves and learn how to work together as strong and capable individuals. Thank you for the opportunity."

- Muriah Albin, SPP liaison



Honeybee resting on a marigold and SPP liaison Muriah Albin posing outside the gardens. Photos by SPP staff.

Budget

This section of the report addresses budget resources specifically available to the SPP team at [The Evergreen State College](#), [Washington Department of Corrections](#) and other partners dedicate substantial resources, such as personnel time, funding, and materials support for SPP programs. Those critical contributions are not detailed here. The SPP team at Evergreen is primarily funded by grants, contracts, and donations. Since 2023, Evergreen has been contributing to a portion of one of SPP-Evergreen's education development positions. The college also supports space, payroll, budget, human resources, and other services.

During this reporting period, SPP used approximately \$850,000 in funds available from 17 sources. 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 SPP received another generous gift from an anonymous donor through the [Seattle Foundation](#). These funds were awarded for general use and served as critical resources for science and sustainability education and training programs including SPP's credit-bearing courses. Seattle Foundation funds were also used to support gardening, composting, beekeeping, turtle, and butterfly program supplies. With donor support, SPP has been able to develop and deliver impactful education and training programs in prisons statewide.



SPP Coordinator, Mikala Waldrup, smells some cedar during a nature drawing workshop. Photo by Emily Passarelli.

In December of 2023, SPP-Evergreen received a substantial gift from the Lorna Jordan Foundation. Throughout 2024, these funds helped SPP make considerable progress toward increasing access to fresh produce, improving gardening and composting courses, supporting beekeeping programs in prisons, and prioritizing staff wellness. In December of 2024, SPP received an additional gift from the Lorna Jordan Foundation. In 2025, SPP will use these funds to support the expansion of SPP's nature, art and culture workshops and events, continue development of gardening and composting programs, and support staff wellness.



SPP-Evergreen during a Team Building Event. Photo by Mikala Waldrup.

Other donations included a gift from the Martin Family Foundation and a variety of generous individual contributions. These funds were used to purchase program supplies and native plants, support workshops for the Tribal Sons group, compensate 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!

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 the 2024 reporting period, SPP-Evergreen staff were responsible for stewarding funds from the sources described in Table 2.

Table 2. SPP-Evergreen 2024 Funding Resources		
Source	Program Area	Funding Period
Grants, Contracts, & Legislative Proviso		
DOC SPP General Operating	Program Operation (Bees, Gardening, Turtles, etc.), Training, Org Planning, etc.	07/01/23–06/30/24
DOC SPP General Operating	Program Ops (Bees, Gardening, Composting Turtles, etc.), Training, Org Planning, etc.	07/01/24–06/30/25
JBLM Task 1	Conservation Nursery Education & Training	07/01/24–09/30/26
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	01/01/24–12/01/24
WDFW – Sagebrush	Shrub-Steppe Conservation Nursery Education and Training	07/01/23–06/30/24
WDFW – Sagebrush	Shrub-Steppe Conservation Nursery Education and Training	07/01/24–06/30/25
USFWS – Sagebrush	Shrub-Steppe Conservation Nursery Education and Training	10/01/24–12/31/27
WDFW – Plantain & Butterfly	Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly & Conservation Nursery Programs	02/01/23–12/31/24
USFS Olympic Nat'l Forest	Conservation Nursery Education & Training	05/01/24–12/31/27
Evergreen Prison Education Project (EPEP)	SPP Education Development & Prison Education Program Planning; Legislative Funding	07/01/24–06/30/25
SPP Revenue	Funds from small contracts	On-going
Donations		
Individual Donors	Gardening, Beekeeping, Education Materials, Planning, Training, Program Supplies, etc.	On-going
Seattle Foundation	Credit-Eligible Programs for Incarcerated Students, Education Development & Printed Materials, Program Operation Supplies, Peer-Led Education Resources, & SPP Advisor Support	On-going
Martin Family Donation	Education & Program Supplies and Materials	On-going
Lorna Jordan Foundation	Nature, Arts & Culture Workshops, Gardening, Composting, Peer-Led Education, & Staff Wellness	12/20/24–TBD

The majority of SPP-Evergreen's budget is dedicated to funding education resources, program supplies, and personnel that support development and delivery of education and training programs. A smaller, but significant portion goes to small infrastructure projects, scientific equipment, and books for prison programs and libraries.

“This class will help me in the desire to take college classes and get a college degree. Never having done a business proposal and doing one for this class gave me a lot of confidence.”

- Foundations in Composting student

Education Programs

4

SPP aims to include learning opportunities in all programs. Education, training, and connections with nature continue to be the primary areas of focus for the Evergreen side of the partnership. Since 2022, SPP has offered college credit, at no cost to students. To date, **237 students from 7 SPP programs have been awarded 1,326 credits since the establishment of the SPP Prior Learning Experience model.** With the exceptions of workshops and beekeeping, which is a certificate program, all SPP-Evergreen led programs are now credit-bearing.



Michelle Nichols practices drawing at an SPP Nature Drawing workshop at WCCW. Photo by Emily Passarelli.

SPP's Prior Learning Experience Program – Portfolios

The SPP Prior Learning Experience (SPP PLE) program is an education model developed by SPP and Evergreen. The program is designed to allow students to earn college credit during incarceration by completing coursework that culminates in an education portfolio. SPP education portfolios are standardized programs that include a syllabus describing course work, a portfolio checklist, and a templated course evaluation. Portfolios are reviewed and evaluated by Evergreen faculty Dr. Carri LeRoy. Student learning includes both academic and experiential learning and a final reflective writing assignment. Upon completion of all requirements, SPP submits portfolios to Evergreen for processing, with SPP covering the administrative fee to award academic credit. Students receive a narrative evaluation and a document of completion which represents their achievements, course equivalencies, and college credits earned. SPP students can complete more than one portfolio. In 2024, **82 students completed 101 portfolios and earned a total of 746 credits.** Portfolio and credit details are included in Table 3.



SPP Conservation Nursery Manager Carl Elliott delivers a program specific workshop to the Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly crew as part of their portfolio requirement. Photo by SPP Staff.

Table 3. Number of students awarded college credit in 2024 through the SPP PLE Program.

Program	Portfolio Title	Course Equivalencies & Credit Value	Students Awarded Credit	Total Credits Awarded
Foundations Curricula	Foundations in Gardening	Introduction to Gardening and Ecological Horticulture – 4 credits	49	196
	Foundations in Composting	Introduction to Composting and Soil Science – 2 credits	20	40
Conservation Nursery	Salish Lowland Conservation Nursery Technician	Introductory Botany – 4 credits Introduction to Native Plant Ecology – 4 credits Ecological Horticulture Practicum – 10 credits	8	144
	Sagebrush-Steppe Conservation Nursery Technician	Introduction to Botany – 4 credits Wildlife Conservation on the Sagebrush-Steppe – 4 credits Ecological Horticulture Practicum – 10 credits	9	162
Western Pond Turtle	Western Pond Turtle Rehabilitation Specialist	Introduction to Wetland Ecology & Turtle Biology – 4 credits Introduction to Animal Husbandry with Laboratory – 6 credits	4	40

Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly	Butterfly Captive Rearing Specialist	Introduction to Butterfly Biology – 4 credits Introduction to Conservation Biology & Endangered Species Restoration – 4 credits Introduction to Animal Husbandry with Laboratory – 8 credits	5	80
	Butterfly Conservation Technician	Practice in Butterfly Husbandry – 3 credits Practice in Endangered Species Biology – 3 credits Introduction to Plant Horticulture – 4 credits Introduction to Ecological Concepts – 4 credits	6	84
	Total for 2024		82 Students*	746 Total Credits

*82 students completed 101 portfolios

Further Portfolio Development

SPP-Evergreen continues to build new portfolios for our environmental education and ecological conservation programs. Table 4 describes the new portfolios developed in 2024 and potential course equivalencies. Portfolio 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.



Composting Graduate, Calvin Cleaves, poses in the WCC SPL gardens with his SPP portfolio. Photo by Emily Passarelli.

Table 4. Education Portfolios finalized or in development in 2024.

Program	Course Equivalencies & Credit Value
Salish Lowland Conservation Nursery Ecological Practicum	Ecological Horticulture Practicum – 5 credits Introductory Botany and Native Plant Ecology – 3 credits
Butterfly Conservation Technician	Practice in Butterfly Husbandry – 3 credits Practice in Endangered Species Biology – 3 credits Introduction to Plant Horticulture – 4 credits Introduction to Ecological Concepts – 4 credits
Butterfly Combined Portfolio	Practice in Butterfly Husbandry – 3 credits Practice in Endangered Species Biology – 3 credits Introduction to Plant Horticulture - 4 credits Introduction to Ecological Concepts – 4 credits Introduction to Butterfly Biology – 4 credits Introduction to Conservation Biology and Endangered Species Restoration – 4 credits Introduction to Animal Husbandry with Laboratory – 8 credits
Advanced Topics in Conservation Nursery	In development

Education Development

SPP continues to identify, improve, and develop educational materials including peer facilitation training resources, workshops, and modules. Modules are typically 8-20 pages of print materials and include learning activities, visual aids, and discussion questions. Some modules are offered in more than one program or education portfolio. See the next section for more information on the peer facilitation training. Below is a table of modules created by SPP in 2024.

Table 5. Education modules in development in 2024.

Main Program	Module Title
Freestanding Content	Effects and Benefits of Exposure to Nature
Peer Facilitation Training	Peer Facilitation
Peer Facilitation Training	Team Building
Peer Facilitation Training	Tips for Peer Facilitation

Peer-Led Education

Peer-led education continues to be a popular model for delivering education to many students across Washington. In 2024, SPP offered the Foundations in Gardening and the Foundations in Composting peer-led education programs.

[Foundations in Gardening](#) is a 4-credit 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 students continue to request additional education and training on hands-on portion for this gardening course. In 2024, SPP began developing an optional practicum component to accompany the curriculum with anticipated completion in 2025.

[Foundations in Composting](#) is a 2-credit 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 students develop a proposal for a composting project. In 2024, Stafford Creek Corrections Center started their first Foundations in Composting course.



Marje McKenzie, a sagebrush conservation nursery and Foundations in Gardening student at WSP receives his SPP portfolios from SPP's Gerry Glenn. Photo by Sarah Larson

In response to needs expressed by staff and students, and in collaboration with current and former facilitators, SPP began developing facilitator training to support Foundations in Gardening and Composting peer-led classes. The training will introduce facilitation, cultural competency, team building, and tips for supporting a healthy learning environment. The new training includes a variety of activities such as scenarios, creating a lesson plan, and facilitation practice. We will work with current peer facilitators to pilot the new training in 2025 and then offer it more broadly. The table below provides 2024 updates on SPP's peer-led programs.

Table 6. Key updates on peer-led curricula for 2024.

Program and Description	Key Highlights	Facilities	Students Participated
Foundations in Gardening	Began development of hands-on practicum to complement course	CRCC, MCCCW, SCCC, MCC-TRU, WSP	74 students
Foundations in Composting	Curriculum offered at 3 facilities	SCCC, WCC, MCCCW	32 students
Facilitation Training	Developed in late 2024. Content to be finalized and piloted in 2025.	Working w/ facilitators at SCCC & WCC + facilitators in community.	



Composting student Felix Sitthivong poses with his culminating project idea which brings composting education to inner city students. Photo by Emily Passarelli.

Beekeeping

During this reporting period, SPP supported 11 active beekeeping programs in partnership with facility staff and the [Washington State Beekeepers Association](#) (WASBA). For many facilities, the 2024/2025 winter season was very successful for bee survival. WCC and SCCC reported successfully splitting hives to make more hives. This success is likely due to more experienced incarcerated beekeepers and increased guidance and support from WASBA in the form of quarterly virtual check-ins with liaisons. Incarcerated beekeepers are reaching the journey level which allows them to teach all three levels to others and approach hive care with even more confidence. Beekeeping certification courses were offered to almost all prisons statewide.

In 2024, SPP spent significant time identifying a solution for facilities who cannot use or sell their own honey. With the help of DOC's leadership and ethics team, SPP cleared the way for prisons to have the option to donate honey to WASBA. WCCW was the first to try this and successfully donated honey for WASBA's annual conference and auction. Proceeds from the honey that was auctioned will support beekeeping programs in prisons. Other facilities report giving honey to volunteers and visitors.

WASBA's "Facility of the Year" award was established in 2023 to recognize a prison for going above and beyond to support beekeeping programs. In 2024, the Washington Corrections Center for Women won this prestigious award. Partners will celebrate this achievement in 2025. More details for this reporting period are shared in Table 7.



2024 was full of beekeeping moments in which to be proud! Photos by SPP.

Table 7. Key updates for beekeeping programs for 2024.

Facility	Key Highlights	Partners	WSDA Certified Hives	Certificates Earned
AHCC	Added two expert beekeeper community volunteers from to the AHCC Bee Team.	West Plains Beekeepers	3	0
CBCC	Planning to restart in February 2025.	North Olympia Peninsula Beekeepers Association	1	0
CCCC	Successfully saved a sick hive.	Olympia Beekeepers Association	1	14 Beginner
CRCC	Used a new Hive IQ model (an insulated hive with sensors).	Mid-Columbia Beekeepers Association	2	14 Beginner, 2 Apprentice
McNeil Island	Trips to McNeil were used as an incentive.	Olympia Beekeepers Association	2	Beekeeper certification at CCCC, then can assist at McNeil Island.
MCC-TRU	Successfully split a hive in time for overwintering.	Northwest District Beekeepers Association	3	9 Beginner, 8 Apprentice

MCCCW	Preparing a beekeeper for journey level certificate—the first level beekeeper from women's facility.	West Sound Beekeepers Association	2	12 Beginner, 1 Apprentice
SCCC	Two journey level beekeepers scored 100% on their journey level tests—a score WASBA had never seen before.	West Sound Beekeepers Association	5	36 Beginner, 24 Apprentice, 2 Journey level
WCC	Beekeepers built an observation hive for visitors to view the bees.	West Sound Beekeepers Association	5	19 Beginner (2 of the 19 are staff)
WCCW	Won WASBA's 2024 Facility of the Year Award.	West Sound Beekeepers Association	4	25 Beginner
WSP	Caught 4 wild swarms.	Mid-Columbia Beekeepers Association	10	2 Beginner, 1 Apprentice

Environmental Engagement Workshops

Though the official workshop series continues to be suspended, SPP began offering one-time workshops in 2024, with plans to expand opportunities in 2025. In late 2024, SPP offered two supplemental workshops to the Foundations in Composting students at WCC led by UW professors and composting experts. SPP also offered three science, art, and culture-based workshops, including a collaboration with Evergreen's Center for Climate Change and Sustainability.



Moments from the first workshops offered since the pandemic. Photos by Emily Passarelli

In November of 2024, SPP received a generous donation from the Lorna Jordan Foundation to bring more art, nature, and culture workshops to Washington prisons. SPP plans to bring at least one workshop to every facility within the next two years. See the table below for more details.

Table 8. Key updates on workshops offered in 2024.

Workshop Title	Presenter	Facility and Audience
Toilets Around the World	Chuck Brown, University of Washington	WCC, Foundations in Composting class
Soil and Composting	Sally Brown, University of Washington	WCC, Foundations in Composting class
Climate Change & Climate Justice 101	Anthony Levenda, Michael Joseph, & Mina Morris, Evergreen's Center for Climate Action and Sustainability (CCAS)	SCCC, general audience
Nature Drawing	Anneke Wilder, SPP	WCCW, general audience
Plant Teachings	Kendra Aguilar, The Evergreen State College	WCC, Tribal Sons Group

Evergreen Liberation Education Network (ELEN)

This year, several SPP-Evergreen staff continued to invest in the development of the Evergreen Liberation Education Network. SPP's work with ELEN was funded by Evergreen via a legislative appropriation. ELEN is a liberation education and reintegration network with the mission to expand access to an Evergreen education for currently incarcerated and legally liberated people and to provide holistic support services. The network is dedicated to communication, coordination, and collaboration with both internal and external partners. ELEN organizations include Gateways for Incarcerated Youth, Liberation Scholars, SPP, and the Evergreen Prison Education Project, the new prison-based bachelor's degree program which began offering courses at SCCC Winter quarter, 2024.

Community College Collaboration

SPP appreciates and acknowledges the educational offerings of community colleges and other education organizations. We have a long history of finding ways to collaborate to better serve students. Community college staff and faculty continue to offer students meaningful educational opportunities, despite challenges.



SPP coordinator Mikala Waldrup and FEPPS Manager Shohei Morita enjoy the nature drawing workshop at WCCW. Photo by Emily Passarelli.

Ecological Conservation Programs

5

In 2024, SPP offered 6 separate conservation programs including [Conservation Nurseries](#) at 4 sites, [Western Pond Turtle Rehabilitation](#), and the [Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Program](#). SPP's ecological conservation initiatives encompass a broad range of goals, activities, and topics. They also 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, students, SPP staff, scientists, and community experts with everyone contributing their knowledge, time, and enthusiasm.
3. Incarcerated participants are partners, students, and technicians. They share their knowledge and ideas to improve program operations. They also receive education, training, and hands-on experience. Participants are eligible for academic credit at no expense to the student as they complete education portfolio requirements.
4. Conservation program success is dependent on each contributor, and they are designed to maximize benefits for everyone involved.

Conservation Education and Training



Butterfly program technicians and SPP butterfly coordinator, Courtney Murphy, pose outside the butterfly program area at MCCCW. Photo by DOC staff.

Participants in SPP's ecological conservation programs receive education and training as a key component of each work/experiential learning course. Students completing education requirements are eligible to receive academic credit through The Evergreen State College. For more information on credit-bearing education and conservation program students completing portfolio requirements, please see [Section 4, Education](#).

I love being able to wrap everything together. I didn't expect to learn about geology. My youngest son decided to major in geology. Now I can chat with him about the glaciers and connect with him.

— Michelle Nichols, Conservation Nursery Technician

Conservation Nursery Programs

SPP's Conservation Nurseries continued and expanded partnerships to deliver education and training. Partners in these programs cultivated plants and seeds at WCCW, SCCC, WCC, and WSP. SPP partners with U.S. Forest Service, Olympic National Forest (USFS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), WA State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and non-profit conservation organizations to produce plants and seeds for restoration sites. The restoration projects can be divided into three end uses: Taylor's checkerspot butterfly habitat recovery, revegetation of trails and roadsides, and sagebrush-steppe habitat restoration (see Table 9).



Conservation nursery programs thrived in 2024. Photos by SPP Staff.

In 2024, SCCC conducted infrastructure maintenance and shifted cultivation to provide a more consistent supply of *Plantago lanceolata* (narrowleaf plantain), which serves as a vital food source for butterfly larvae. These plants are used for both butterfly habitat improvement and captive rearing efforts at MCCCW. Additionally, increased nursery capacity allowed for a subsequent production of plants to restore trails and road closures on Olympic Peninsula public lands for the DNR and USFS.

WCCW produced plants for the restoration of Taylor’s checkerspot butterfly habitat on JBLM and surrounding Salish lowland prairies. The nursery site also functions as a small-scale seed laboratory supporting production for seed to be grown on a larger scale at WCC.

In 2024, SPP and partners transitioned the seed production at WCC to grow fewer annual plants and more perennial plants not produced on a commercial scale. *Danthonia californica*, *Castilleja hispida*, *Silene scouleri*, and *Silene douglasii* collected from Salish lowland prairies were cultivated in the nursery and planted out in 2023-24. The technicians made significant progress researching and implementing *Castilleja hispida* protocols for seed production, a vital host plant for Taylor’s checkerspot butterflies in the Salish lowlands. They also designed and completed nursery site drainage improvements—going above and beyond in the quality of the system they installed.

The sagebrush-steppe nursery 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 and SPP manager Gerry Glenn. In addition to *Artemisia tridentata*, nursery production expanded in 2024 to include other forbs and shrubs vital to the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem. This expansion was possible through the combined support of incarcerated people, staff, and WDFW and USFWS. The plants will be installed in the fall of 2025 on Eastern Washington public lands impacted by wildfire.

Table 9. Summary of key outcomes for SPP conservation nursery programs for 2024.

Conservation Nursery Programs					
Program	Facility	Key Ecological Results	# of Techs	Partners	Key Highlights
Conservation Nursery	WCCW	Plant plugs produced: 24,800 Species grown: 31	2	Nursery Technicians, DOC, SPP-Evergreen, JBLM	Plants produced for Salish lowland prairie restoration
Conservation Nursery	SCCC	Plant plugs produced: 48,760 Species grown: 15	4	Nursery Technicians, DOC, SPP-Evergreen, WDFW, DNR, USFS	TCB larvae & nectar plant production, & Olympic peninsula forest habitat restoration
Sagebrush-Steppe Conservation Nursery	WSP	Plant plugs produced: 18,980	21	Nursery Technicians, DOC, SPP-Evergreen, WDFW, USFWS – Sagebrush-Steppe	Delivered all <i>Artemisia tridentata</i> & <i>A. rigida</i> to Spokane Indian Reservation
Seed Nursery	WCC	Harvest of perennial species: <i>Danthonia californica</i> , <i>Castilleja hispida</i> , and <i>Silene douglasii</i>	4	Nursery Technicians, DOC, SPP-Evergreen, JBLM	Developing long-term perennial crop for soil fertility & integrated pest management

During this reporting period, 8 technicians completed the Salish Lowland Conservation Nursery Technician education portfolio for 18 credits and 9 technicians completed the Sagebrush-Steppe Conservation Nursery Technician portfolio for 18 credits.

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 the WDFW and 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 2024, we cared for and released 11 turtles. For the first time since the pandemic, the technicians were able to attend a workshop at the turtle release site. While they were at the release site, the group was able to observe a wildlife biologist find freshly hatched turtles at an egg nest site. We anticipate caring for up to 24 turtles in the 2025 season.

In 2024, four participants earned college credit through the Western Pond Turtle Rehabilitation program education portfolio. Each participant received 10 college credits through Evergreen State College. We anticipate an increased number of participants will earn credit in 2025.



Cedar Creek Technicians participated in the release of rehabilitated turtles. WDFW Biologist also unearthed 4 baby turtles during the release. Photos by Emily Passarelli.

Table 10. Summary of key outcomes for SPP’s Western Pond Turtle Rehabilitation program for 2024.

Western Pond Turtle Rehabilitation Program – CCCC			
Key Ecological Results	# of Techs	Partners	Key Highlights
Turtles Received: 11	9	Turtle Technicians, DOC, SPP-Evergreen, WDFW, PAWS Wildlife Rehabilitation Center , Woodland Park Zoo , & Oregon Zoo	Awarded 4 technicians credit through the Evergreen State College ; hosted turtle technicians at release site for turtle release for the first time since 2019
Turtles Released: 11			

"Becoming a Turtle Tech was a wonderful experience. I've learned how to care and help treat hurt and endangered animals while also stepping out of my comfort zone to be a part of something bigger than myself. While caring for these Turtles, I often found myself caring for myself. So, in a way by helping the turtles they have also helped me on my journey of becoming a better man and overall person."

- Bijon Price, turtle program technician

Taylor’s Checkerspot Butterfly Program

Since 2011, the Taylor’s Checkerspot Butterfly Captive Rearing Program has reared over 64,100 butterfly larvae for release onto Salish lowland prairie sites. Program technicians demonstrate exemplary teamwork and skill in caring for these federally endangered butterflies. In fact, this nationally recognized collaboration was awarded and recognized as “Recovery Champions” by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their conservation efforts (see [Section 12, Dissemination](#) for more details). In 2024, we continued the captive breeding component of the butterfly program in response to significant population decline of this species in the wild. Technicians had great success caring for butterflies and following captive breeding procedures, releasing a record number of 2023 rearing season post-diapause larvae in March of 2024 (Table 11). In partnership with WDFW, SPP technicians and staff successfully reared and bred butterflies later in the spring of 2024. Our larvae also experienced unprecedented illness in 2024, resulting in a loss of 1,892 individuals. Despite this setback we still managed to send just over 5,000 larvae into diapause at the end of the 2024 rearing season.

In 2024, five technicians completed the requirements of the Butterfly Captive Rearing Specialist education portfolio, offered January-June, each receiving 16 academic credits from The Evergreen State College. In 2023, SPP-Evergreen staff finished developing a second, complementary education portfolio: Butterfly Conservation Technician, offered July-December. Six technicians completed this new education portfolio in 2023 and were awarded 14 credits each in the summer of 2024. We anticipate awarding credit to seven technicians in summer of 2025.

The Taylor’s Checkerspot Butterfly season and reporting period begins with the collection of wild female butterflies in April or May and ends when the offspring of those adults are released as larvae the following spring, typically in March. The data table below covers just one calendar year and is compiled using both final (July 2024) and interim (January 2025) reports which include information collected throughout the previous and current rearing seasons and is summarized in a format developed and approved by WDFW.



A butterfly tech points out an adult Taylor's checkerspot and a mural painted by a MCCCW resident. Photos by SPP.

Table 11. Summary of key outcomes for the SPP Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly program for 2024. Created using WDFW 2023-2024 Final Report and WDFW 2024-2025 Interim Report.

<u>Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Program - MCCCW</u>						
Key Ecological Results	Raven Greenhouse	Turtle Greenhouse	Totals	# of Techs	Partners	Key Highlights
# Larvae at Wake up (~Feb 2024)	4,567	4,533	9,101	9	Butterfly Technicians, DOC, SPP-Evergreen WDFW, USFWS, Ronda Naseth (butterfly husbandry expert), JBLM	5 Butterfly Techs awarded 16 credits each for the Jan-June 2024 captive rearing season; re-started captive breeding program; tested new methods for TCB release; completed the second educational portfolio for the July-Dec diapause season (6 techs awarded 14 credits each)
# Larvae Released (~March 2024)	3,888	4,011	7,899			
# Pupae Released	67	7	74			
# Adult Butterflies Released (May 2024)	217	226	443			
# Wild Females Brought to Lab (May 2024)	10	10	20			
# Resulting Larvae from Wild Females Brought to Lab	1,329	1,092	2,421			
# Captive Females Bred (May 2024)	21	20	41			
# Resulting Larvae from Captive Females Bred	1,527	2,857	4,384			

Sustainable Living & Training

This section reports on training and education programs focused on sustainable practices, like composting and gardening. These programs reduce environmental impacts while also providing opportunities for transferable training and skills that can benefit individuals and communities.

Gardens in Prisons

SPP and partners support many different types of prison gardens. Garden types vary depending on the facility's climate, partnerships, goals, and programs. Most facilities feature a variety of gardens which may include educational gardens to accompany SPP's Foundations in Gardening classes, produce gardens for donation or on-site use, herb and medicinal gardens, culture gardens for cultural groups, flower gardens, pollinator friendly gardens, small orchards, rental plot gardens, and drought tolerant native plant gardens. SPP aims to bring education to all programs. SPP Evergreen developed the Foundations in Gardening course in response to requests to help provide broad educational resources for the wide variety of gardeners in prisons. Flower and pollinator friendly gardens are primarily described in [Section 7, Restorative Nature](#). For more information on the Foundations in Gardening course, please see [Section 4, Education](#). To see more information on the amount of produce donated to community organizations, see Table 17 in the [Section 8, Community Contributions](#).



Prisons gardens have a variety of different goals. Photos by DOC and SPP Staff.

Garden to Kitchen

Through the Garden to Kitchen Project, SPP collaborates with incarcerated gardeners, community partners, and facility staff to identify and expand opportunities to grow food and to increase access to prison-grown produce for incarcerated people. Many facilities already successfully make the produce grown in prison available to incarcerated people. Prisons such as AHCC and CRCC receive produce grown at WSP, while other facilities are considering options for increasing access to fresh produce.

This project happens simultaneously with programs focused on donating produce to local food banks and community organizations. Table 12 describes the produce used within facilities in 2024.



Gardens, raised beds, hoop houses, and produce from several facilities. Photos by SPP and DOC staff.

In 2024, SPP focused on SCCC's pilot Garden to Kitchen Project. Throughout the year, SCCC regularly brought together all facility gardeners to discuss challenges, ideas, and successes of the Garden to Kitchen Project. This group of over 50 people included facility leadership and staff, HUB gardeners, unit gardeners, lifers' gardeners, and often SPP staff. SCCC is committed to increasing the amount of prison-grown produce available to incarcerated people. SPP provided support by attending gardener meetings, purchasing new garden boxes specific for herbs and cultural gardens, and buying soil, seeds, compost, books, and other educational materials for all living unit gardens. SCCC also started an herb garden that

specifically grows herbs for the kitchen. Starting in Fall 2024, the kitchen began offering a daily soup using prison grown produce and herbs.

To support other facilities, SPP collaborated with DOC leadership to update language regarding access to produce and related topics in DOC's Sustainability Policy. The policy is in review and DOC plans to publish it in 2025. SPP is also developing targeted workshops based on gardening challenges facilities may be experiencing. For example, some facilities are requesting that produce receives more cleaning before it arrives in the kitchen. In response, SPP will offer a workshop for gardeners on cleaning and preparing produce for market. Facilities and gardeners also expressed interest in topics like small farm businesses, the benefits of gardening on well-being, and pest management in gardens.

Giving back to Mother Earth heals you and brings you back to humanity.

- Juan Hernandez, Composting Facilitator and Expert



Produce grown by WCC, AHCC, and SCCC. Photos by SPP and DOC Staff.

Table 12. Produce grown at facilities for kitchen use in 2024 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations).

Facility	Highlights
AHCC	Grew & used 1,338 lbs. of produce in the facility kitchen. Also received and used produce from WSP.
CCCC	Grew and used 3,195 lbs. of produce and 480 lbs. of apples in the facility kitchen. Gardeners prioritized nutrient rich produce like leafy greens, herbs, broccoli, and brussels sprouts.
CBCC	Although produce was not grown at CBCC, they plan to restart a farmers' market in 2025. This program allows incarcerated people to purchase produce similar to a farmers' market outside prison.
CRCC	Grew and used approximately 2,000-3,000 lbs. of produce. Received and used produce from WSP.
MCCCW	All produce grown on site was used in the facility kitchen when quantities were sufficient.
MCC-TRU	Grew and used 6,896.5 lbs. of produce. MCC-TRU focused on growing items their kitchen would accept including zucchini, garlic, bush beans, leafy greens, and cucumbers.
SCCC	Grew and used 1,504 lbs. of zucchini. SCCC's kitchen started offering a daily soup using produce and herbs from the facility gardens.
WCCW	Grew and used 4,250 lbs. of produce. The facility kitchen used fresh produce and herbs to make salsa to be offered with meals. The kitchen also uses produce to make stir fries, salads, and oven baked mixed vegetables. As part of Washington Way, J-unit now has garden beds for residents to grow and consume their own food.
WSP	Around 9,000 lbs. of the 21,890 lbs. of produce from SPL's Green Zone were used on site. The institutional garden grew, used, and shared cabbage, zucchini, cucumbers, melons, and squash with CRCC and AHCC.

Composting

Almost all Washington state prisons have some form of large- or small-scale composting program or send their food waste to other facilities for composting. **In 2024, all prisons converted a combined total of 1,666,199 lbs. of food waste into usable compost.** By diverting food waste from landfills and creating compost, these programs enrich their soil for gardening, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and save the facility significant costs from tipping and dumping fees. Facilities also have the option to include credit-eligible education and training through SPP's Foundations in Composting course. Composting is expected to gain even more traction in the next year as state law will require facilities to divert food waste from landfills. Composting programs that operated in 2024 are described in Table 13.

In 2023, SPP began to offer the Foundations in Composting course. In 2024, MCCCW completed their first class, WCC completed their second class, and SCCC started their first class. SPP offered additional composting workshops at WCC on soil science and composting toilets. For more information on this course and workshops see [Section 4, Education Programs](#).

Composting continues to be a major highlight for the Sustainable Practices Lab crew and staff at Washington Corrections Center (WCC). This team has been working with partners to develop a sustainable model for a robust composting education and training program. In 2024, they reached their goal of composting 100% of facility food waste and started taking food waste from MCCCW. In partnership with SPP, the team began creating how-to manuals on various methods of composting including bokashi and worms. These manuals will be shared as a resource for other facilities in 2025.

WCC also hosted a meeting with Department of Ecology partners to discuss potential funding options for expanding the composting area and capturing carbon in cardboard and palettes, which are currently going to the landfill.



WCC's composting program continues to support education and training. Photos by SPP staff.

To transform waste into valuable resources, technicians at WCC work with several systems, including:

1. **Bokashi Microbial Treatment:** Specialist bacteria can ferment/pre-process citrus, dairy, and meats that the worms cannot. WCC treats all food waste with bokashi to prevent food from molding and rotting. Bokashi treated food waste can be fed to worms and black soldier flies.
2. **Vermicomposting with red wiggler worms:** Worms consume discarded grains, vegetables, and fruits. Their droppings, called castings, are highly prized as fertilizer and soil amendment.
3. **Black soldier flies:** Larvae of a stingless wasp (looks like a fly) that can consume many kinds of food waste including meat; the adult form of the black soldier fly produces more larvae that are prized as sustainable and high-quality animal feed for chickens.
4. **Chicken Composters:** Chickens can consume leftover food scraps and black soldier flies. Chicken droppings are a great fertilizer.
5. **Traditional Thermophilic Composting:** Small piles balanced with nitrogen-rich materials (green) and carbon-rich materials (brown) are regularly turned to produce a finished compost.

Table 13. Composting highlights for 2024 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations).

Facility	Composting Highlights
AHCC	Made improvements to infrastructure for the EnviroDrum. Composted 1,800 lbs. of food waste in the worm bin and produced 700 gallons of worm tea used in the gardens.
CBCC	Composted over 57,000 lbs. of food waste, diverted to OCC.
CCCC	Composted 194,073 lbs. of food waste, 112,171 lbs. of woodchips, and 17,042 lbs. of biosolids.
CRCC	Produced 1,800 lbs. of compost.
MCCCW	Diverted over 21,000 lbs. of food waste. Worked with WCC to compost.
OCC	Composted over 210,000 lbs. of food waste from OCC, CBCC, and Kalaloch Lodge; produced 27 tons of compost.
SCCC	Composted 103,551 lbs. of food waste; produced 9,034 lbs. of compost.
WCC	Composted over 365,777 lbs. of food waste was treated with bokashi and then distributed through various composting systems including: worm bins, black soldier flies, chickens, and thermophilic composting. In late 2024, WCC started taking some of MCCCW's food waste to help compost it.
WSP	Diverted 712,998 lbs. of food waste from the landfill. Of that, 360,564 lbs. were composted on site and the remaining 352,434 lbs. were used to help build farming soil.

Restorative Nature

SPP aims to bring nature inside prisons for the numerous benefits it can provide for people living and working in prisons. Benefits can include stress relief and the enhanced well-being of human and non-human organisms. Research demonstrates that incorporating nature into institutional and urban environments positively impacts 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. Both incarcerated and staff partners consistently recognize SPP's programs for their therapeutic values, ability to support well-being, and connections 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. The following table aims to represent the status of various initiatives reported to us by WA Corrections.



A collage of facility gardens, indoor house plants, and SCCC's koi fish pond. Photos by Emily Passarelli.

Table 14. Restorative nature and wildlife habitat efforts for 2024 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations)

Prison	Programs	Status & Highlights
AHCC	Pollinator plantings	In 2024, the main greenhouse successfully supplied over 5,000 plant starts, further enriching the flower gardens and promoting the health of the local bee population. This multifaceted approach not only beautifies our surroundings but also supports sustainability and rehabilitation efforts within the community.
	Nature imagery	Nature imagery rooms are available for use in the SMU Unit.
CBCC	Flower gardens	Flower beds continue to be well maintained.
CCCC	Pollinator-friendly flowers	Used cover crops to benefit pollinators. Most flowers and bushes planted in 2024 were for the bees and other pollinators.
CRCC	Heritage and flower gardens	Gardens are doing amazing and are enjoyed by the population. In 2024, CRCC expanded the Heritage Gardens to minimum security living units. CRCC plans to expand the Heritage Gardens to the medium units.
	Land restoration	Land restoration area thriving and looking beautiful.
MCCCW	Chickens	3 chickens are thriving at MCCCW. They are very well taken care of and are checked on and cared for daily. They are very loved and happy hens!
	Flower gardens	Flower gardens were well-maintained and planted with perennials, butterfly bushes, lavender, and lupin.
	Pollinator plantings	Continued the beautification project started in the summer of 2023, as funds allowed. Purchased more plants and focused on getting pollinator plants both inside and outside of the facility.
MCC-TRU	Gardens	Added beautiful flowers to the gardens for pollinators and beautification.
MCC-SOU	Nature imagery	Nature imagery rooms are available for use in the SOU Core Units.
MCC-WSRU	Flower gardens	Gardens at MSU were planted during 2024. Rabbits continue to be an issue.
OCC	Water features	1 living unit has a fishpond; the other has a fountain and basin.
SCCC	Pollinator plantings	The apiary was improved with many pollinator-friendly plants and bricks made from clay in the soil. The new dog enclosure is surrounded by new beautiful plants.
	Lifer garden	The Lifer Garden crew has been working on propagating flowers to provide support for pollinators.
	Pond	Installed a new koi fishpond with picnic benches to enjoy the gardens.
WCC	Chickens	WCC now has 70 chickens that are fed un-processed food waste, processed food waste (Bokashi), and black soldier flies. 42 chickens live in the SPL and the other 28 live outside the perimeter in the second compost area. WCC started using an incubator and have been hatching batches of chickens to replenish the flocks.
	House plants	586 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.
WCCW	Flower gardens	Olympic College's Horticulture program planted a flower garden next to the bee hives and planted the grounds with approximately 7,000 annuals, perennials, and herbs to encourage pollinators.



Two technicians take a moment in the WCC SPL area. Photo by Emily Passarelli.

The Washington Way

The [Washington Way](#) (WA Way) is a partnership between the [Washington State Department of Corrections](#) (DOC) and [Amend](#) at the University of California, San Francisco. It introduces a health-centered approach to transforming correctional culture within Washington's prison facilities and Reentry Centers. The Washington Way focuses on sustaining and expanding culture change efforts in partnership with frontline staff and incarcerated people to improve overall health and well-being.

Achieving sustainable, widespread cultural transformation requires multiple interventions. The Washington Way offers staff-centered models, such as Resource/Activity Teams, Contact Officers, and Change Agents, to equip staff with the tools and resources needed to drive meaningful change. These models can often lead to ideas for projects that align with the SPP mission.

A key example of this alignment is grounded in the principle of normality – the idea that life inside prison should resemble life outside *as much as possible* to reduce the harms of institutionalization on both staff and incarcerated people. Research consistently shows that workplaces and living environments that incorporate nature are better equipped to support the wellbeing and health of those within them. While the scope of the WA Way extends beyond the scope of this report, several completed and ongoing WA Way projects across the Department directly align with the SPP mission. See Table 15 for examples.



A gardener tending a garden space provided by Washington Way. Photo by DOC Staff.

Table 15: Washington Way highlights for 2024.

Statewide
Improve solitary confinement units to include more access to nature and the outdoors.
WCCW
Collaborated with a University of Washington professor in landscape architecture, who led a design studio with students to develop conceptual designs for healing garden spaces for staff and residents, as well as nature-centered, child-friendly visitation areas.
With support from WA Way normalization funds, the facility significantly enhanced its outdoor areas by adding more greenery, flowers, hanging plants, and nature-inspired artwork. The Mobile Activity Team uses the MSU yard to walk with participants or sit at benches to have meaningful conversations on goals and behaviors, utilizing nature as a healing component to their work.
The Mobile Activity Team also has many plants in their activity room to enhance the space with nature.
As part of a Change Agent idea, J-unit now has garden beds for residents to grow and consume their own food, as well as a goldfish pond for the healing effects of water.
The MSC campus now has pickle ball courts for staff and residents to participate in pickle ball.
MCCCW, WA Way Committee proposals submitted and supported the following areas:
Improving the dog run area to include shelter canopies and updated agility course to enhance to exercise and health of the dogs and the residents that train them.
Zen Gardens and canopy shelters for each yard so that residents have a place to be calm and be one with nature.
Greenhouses being added to perimeter, to grow food and repurpose it back into the population while enhancing horticulture skills with the residents.
Plants, hanging baskets, and flowers throughout the facility to enhance normalization and beautification.
Resident chickens housed in the secured perimeter of the facility.
Accent walls for normalization in resident rooms.

SCCC
Outdoor seating areas for both staff and residents to enjoy nature, both together and separate.
Resource Team launched a plant program, allowing individuals in solitary confinement the opportunity to care for a house plant.
With support from WA Way normalization funds, the facility installed a koi pond and a staff outdoor eating space.
Murals created by residents are displayed throughout the breezeways.
WSP
Raised and mobile garden beds have been provided for residents living in the Health Services Building to care for.
Hanging planters, planted by staff and residents, are now suspended along the interior walls of East Complex.
An outdoor running track has been established for a staff and resident running club.
East Complex community garden spaces.
CBCC
Plans to start using vacant greenhouse.
Bellingham Reentry Center
Outdoor space dedicated to residents and staff for wellness and normalization activities.
BBQ area designated for social get-togethers.
Gazebo with fire pit for social gatherings.
Peninsula Reentry Center
Raised garden beds installed.
Greenhouse for residents to grow their own produce.
Wenatchee Valley Reentry Center
Outdoor recreation area.
Plans to install overhanging sunshade for further utilization during summer months.
Helen B. Ratcliff Reentry Center
Raised garden beds installed.
Dedicated social/ relaxation area for residents in the backyard.
Recent clearing in brush to utilize for BBQ and social gatherings.
Longview Reentry Center
Outdoor recreation area is available with tables used for social gatherings.
Ahtanum View Reentry Center
Raised garden beds for residents to grow their own produce.
Plan for this year to expand the available gardening area.
Tri Cities Reentry Center
Outdoor recreation area.
Gazebo for residents and staff to utilize for social gatherings.
BBQ area and patio used for normalization activities.
Olympia Reentry Center
Plans for outdoor area expansion beyond recreation area for residents.
Brownstone Reentry Center
Plans for outdoor area creation for residents and staff.

Moving forward, a common component of the normalization principle is the recognition of the value of green space in carceral environments. Not surprisingly, many DOC staff continue to propose ideas for ways to improve staff and resident access to nature and green spaces, as well as the creation of decompression areas for staff that integrate natural elements. Some of these staff ideas align quite well with the mission and work of SPP. Ideas include:

- Low canopy landscaping in courtyard.
- Staff and residents adopt, care for, and decorate planter boxes along breezeways.
- Utilize empty greenhouses.
- Increase incentive-based in-cell plant programs.
- Increase color and greenery in outdoor spaces.
- Create accessible outdoor staff wellness/decompression areas that include nature elements.
- Increase outdoor activities and access to nature.
- Increase programming/job opportunities for residents (greenhouse, compost program, vegetable garden, Farmers' Market).
- Increase animal care programs (dogs, rabbits, cats, fish, chickens, etc.).
- Allow staff and residents to personalize their working or living space with greenery, nature integration.



Examples of Washington Way focusing on normalization spaces. Photos by DOC Staff.

The Washington Way will continue supporting facilities in implementing nature and health-centered ideas proposed by staff and residents. There are numerous promising opportunities ahead for the Washington Way team to collaborate more closely with SPP, working together to create healthier, more normalized prison environments that integrate the evidence-based benefits of increased access to nature and greens spaces.

Community Contributions Programs

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

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



Many programs in Washington prisons provide a variety of services and goods to the local communities. Photos by SPP and DOC staff.

Dog and Cat Programs

Nearly all of Washington's prisons have one or more partnerships with community nonprofit organizations for pet programs. Program participants receive education and support from partner organizations, learning how to provide excellent animal care, training, grooming, boarding, and, in a few cases, service or therapy animal training. Incarcerated participants and staff say that pet programs

benefit everyone involved, including those living and working in prisons and outside community members. Participants of these programs often describe working with dogs or cats as transformative. Table 16 summarizes the pet program highlights shared by DOC for 2024.



Almost every facility in Washington has a dog training program. Photos from partners, DOC, and SPP staff.

Table 16. Dog and cat programs in 2024 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations). Please note: all dog and cat programs include incarcerated people and DOC staff working in collaboration with nonprofit partners.

Prison	Program	Program Partners	Highlights
AHCC	Pawsitive dog training	Diamonds in the Ruff, SpokAnimal, Spokane Humane Society	AHCC restarted their program after a 4-year pause. They have graduated 13 dogs from 2 sessions with more planned for 2025.
CBCC	Dog training & adoption	Welfare for Animals Guild (WAG!)	New dog program starting in 2025.
CBCC	Cat program	Welfare for Animals Guild (WAG!)	Cat program continues to thrive. CBCC had 4 cats in 2024.
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. CCCC is considering partnering with PAWS.
CRCC	Ridge Dogs	Adams County Pet Rescue, The Pitbull Pen	81 dogs graduated from the program.

CRCC	Service dogs for veterans	Brigadoon Service Dogs	2 dogs onsite.
MCC – TRU	Dog training & adoption	Summit Assistance Dogs	Dogs live 24/7 with pairs of incarcerated individuals who care for and train them. 4 program classes and graduations. 8 dogs in training, 9 dedicated two-person handler teams, and 18 dedicated dog walkers.
MCC-SOU	Cat Program	Purrfect Pals	Program room was decorated with new supplies for cats to have a nice space to socialize.
MCCCW	Pawsitive Prison Project	Kitsap Humane Society	Fostered 30 cats, most of which returned to their owners after fostering. 40 participants in the program.
MCCCW	Pawsitive Prison Project	Humane Society of Mason County	194 cats and 42 dogs were adopted. 106 participants in the program.
SCCC	Service dogs for veterans	Brigadoon Service Dogs	10 dogs were trained and 7 were placed with veterans
SCCC	Freedom Tails	GH Paws	35 dogs went through the program in 2024.
WCC	Training dogs for veterans	Brigadoon Service Dogs	2 dogs went through the program in 2024.
WCCW	Prison Pet Partnership	Prison Pet Partnership (PPP), Feisty Felines	Continued education and training for incarcerated people in basic pet care, training, grooming, and boarding. PPP partnered with Feisty Felines cat rescue to house foster kittens. In 2024, over 60 kittens were adopted.
WSP	Dog Training	Blue Mountain Humane Society	2 units started training dogs for the humane society.



An AHCC dog chews on a pumpkin grown in the prison garden. Photo by AHCC Staff.

Reclaim, Repurpose or Restore, and Donate Programs

DOC-led sustainability programs continue to morph over time. Washington prisons partner with local communities to reduce waste and create items out of discarded materials. In some cases, the creations from these programs help to meet an organization's need, such as donating quilts to a housing shelter, refurbished computers for schools, or growing produce for food banks. In other cases, programs donate handmade or restored creations for organizations' fundraising events. **Combined, prisons grew approximately 284,800 lbs. of produce, of which approximately 110,399lbs. was donated to food banks and 131,482 lbs. was used in facility kitchens.** For more information on produce grown and donated see Table 17. For information on produce grown and used on site, please see [Section 6, Sustainable Living and Training](#).



Prisons support their local communities by offering fresh produce, small projects, and resources like firewood to community members. Photo by DOC and SPP staff.

Table 17. Community contribution programs to reclaim, repurpose, restore, or donate for 2024 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations).

Prison	Programs	Program Partners	Highlights
AHCC	Computers 4 Kids	Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, WA Department of Enterprise Services	24,843 computers (PCs, laptops, and monitors) were refurbished and 18,695 were surplus. In addition, 1,932 computers were donated to local schools.
AHCC	Firewood donation	Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners (SNAP)	In 2024, the wood program was a huge success as they brought in around 200 cords of firewood and delivered about 566 cords of processed firewood to the community through SNAP's heating assistance programs and fundraisers. AHCC also prepared 25 cords of wood for CRCC's religious ceremonies and 44 for WSP's religious ceremonies. The incarcerated individual community crew Sawyers worked 4,940 hours to achieve these tasks.
AHCC	Gardens, main and minimum	Master Gardeners, Ronald McDonald House, Shriners Children's Hospital	Main: More than 5,911 pounds of produce was grown. Some produce was given to the Women's and Children's Pantry, located in downtown Spokane. Minimum: Received a greenhouse to increase the functionality of the pollinator stations and foster sustainable agricultural practices.
AHCC	Pumpkin Program	Shriners Children's Hospital	600 pumpkins collectively weighing 7,974 lbs. were donated to the Shriners Children's Hospital. Pumpkins were given away at a hospital event where children could pick a pumpkin and choose a free costume donated by Spirit Halloween.
CBCC	Vegetable gardens	Clallam Bay Food Bank	Grew 1,515.75 lbs. of produce, 1,94.5 lbs. were grown hydroponically. Approximately 1,400 lbs. were donated to the food bank who gives any extra to the local Senior Citizen Center.
CCCC	Construction	Centralia Community College	2 custom bus stops were donated to the Littlerock Elementary School, a doghouse and custom chicken coop donated to a fundraiser auction for the Seattle Children's Hospital. Products were made with 85% recycled materials.
CRCC	Gardens, Minimum & Main	Harvest Now, food pantries	CRCC donated an estimated 4,000 lbs. of produce.
MCC-SOU	Gardens		In 2024, gardens were used to provide pumpkins that were used as a holiday decorating contest within the facility expanding the benefits of the gardens.
MCCCW	GRACE (Gardening for Restoration & Conservation Education) Project	Kitsap Conservation District, Central Kitsap Foodbank	MCCCW started another crew in July 2024. The 2 nd crew started with Kitsap Conservation District in July 2024. Since starting back with Kitsap Conservation District, the main focus has been on the GRACE Project and Backyard Habit program.

OCC	Religious Firewood Program & Community Involvement Firewood	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 99 cords to support their Religious Programs. Community Involvement Firewood supplied 80 cords to the local senior citizens, 20 cords to the town of Clearwater, 20 cords to the Quillayute Valley Scholarship Auction, 2 cords to Quillayute Valley Scholarship Auction, and 1 cord to the Forks Elementary PTO Auction, and 1 cord to Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.
OCC	Vegetable gardens	Peninsula College, Sunshine and Rainbows Child Development Center, Quileute Tribe	Delivered 2,400 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 22,408 lbs. from the Lifer Garden, unit gardens, and outside work crew and donated the produce to Coastal Harvest.
SCCC	Bicycle Repair	Lions Club	197 bikes were restored and delivered.
SCCC	SBU Looming Class	Toy Time	106 hats, 5 blankets, 1 scarf, and 1 poncho were donated to Toy Time.
SCCC	CI, Christmas for Kids	Toy Time, Connections of Grays Harbor	853 toys were made and donated to Connections, A Center for Healthy Families
SCCC	Bears Program	Aberdeen Fire Station; Parenting Inside Out	In 2024, bears were made by incarcerated individuals and donated to the following organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 bears to the Aberdeen Fire Station. • 15 slings made for Teran Beeman at AHCC and Parenting Inside Out • 70 bears to the SCCC API Event • 75 Bears to SCCC Visitation
SCCC	Shine from the Inside	SCCC Incarcerated Fundraising Group	\$2,294.82 was donated to Caring Kids in Fircrest.
WCC	Plant starts	Hoodspport Kiwanis	2,928 vegetable seedlings were provided to Thurston County Food Banks, WCC living units, and the SPL
WCC	Houseplants	Staff and Custody	586 house plants were distributed or donated. This is a 63% increase from last year!
WCC	Gardens and greenhouses	Thurston County Food Bank, The Hoodspport Canal Food Bank, Matlock Community Church, Harvest Now	17,888 lbs. of vegetable produce was donated to local food banks, helping more than 450 unique households and children in Thurston County and the surrounding counties.
WCCW	Sisters of Charity: quilts, fabric crafts, wildlife rescue	Community members donate supplies; West Sound Wildlife receives nests and beds	Over 1,800 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 181,488 lbs. of produce, donating over 40,000 lbs. to BMAC (Blue Mountain Action Council), a local food bank. The garden also produced and donated 9,000 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	7,280 items donated to nonprofits and charities. SPL completed 12,440 state work orders. 291 individuals participated.
WSP – SPL	SPL: Wood Shop & Wood Carving		Reclaimed approximately 65,000 lbs. of wood from pallets and used lumber. 110 wine barrels tuned into furniture.
WSP – SPL	SPL: Art Program	Various non-profits partners	Participated in 2 public art shows with all the profits going to charities. Art pieces were not accounted for this year.
WSP – SPL	SPL: Quilting		Produced 890 quilts.
WSP – SPL	SPL: Green Zone	Farm to School, Lettuce Grow, Master Gardening	Foundations in Gardening class donated 12,890 lbs. to local food banks.



AHCC gardeners give SPP a tour. Photo by Emily Passarelli

Community Work Crews

Many incarcerated residents of minimum-security prisons (CCCC, MCCCW, and OCC) and units (Minimum Security Unit: “MSU”) work on offsite crews providing services on public lands and community organization sites. In total, it is estimated that 1,322 incarcerated 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 the table below.

Table 18. Community work crew special projects for 2024 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations).

Prison	Programs	Program Partners	Highlights
AHCC	Forestry	DNR	The AHCC DNR program helps mitigate the immediate impacts of wildfires and fosters a sustainable approach to forest management. This ensures the ecological integrity and economic viability of timberlands for future generations.
AHCC	Community Crew	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 during the reporting period.
CCCC	Forestry	DNR	DNR crews were dispatched to many fire projects and local fires. Additional crew bosses were hired in 2024, so they were able to increase the number of individuals involved in DNR.
CCCC	Community Crew	Multiple agencies	Maintained sports fields; cleaned county roads of trash and debris; litter and debris removal along on and off ramps; litter control and maintained grounds and cemeteries. Monthly average for community work crews was 1,512 hrs. of incarcerated individuals working hrs. with a total of 18,144 hrs. for the year.
MCCCW	Conservation Crews	Multiple agencies	CSC continued through 2024 working with St. Andrews House, Harmony Hill, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group and the HUB-Faith in Action.
MCC-WSRU	Community Crew: MSU	Vincent DePaul, WA State Parks	Has 5 crews with 10 incarcerated individuals each. They serve 18 contracts with several cities in Snohomish County. They assisted with landscaping, litter picking, clearing areas, and other related projects.
OCC	Community Crew	City, state, federal, tribal, and local orgs	<p>The crew completed weekly grounds work such as cutting/weed eating grass and cutting brush and pressure washing a sidewalk for a local nonprofit group, Maintained the lookout above Sekiu, both access roads by removing downed trees, weed eating and brushing both sides of the road. Supplied firewood for the Native American culture groups at CBCC and 4 loads for OCC.</p> <p>Partners include: City of Forks, Senior Center, Forks Food Bank, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Sunshine & Rainbow Daycare, OlyCap, Olympic National Resource Center, Forks Visitor Center, Sarge’s Place, La Push Reservation, West End Youth League, Quillayute Valley School District, Town of Clearwater, Bogachiel Fish Hatchery, Clallam Bay Corrections Center, Forks Community Hospital, City of Clallam Bay and Sekiu, Peninsula College</p>
OCC	Forestry	DNR	DNR’s crews continue to assist with wildfire, forest health (pre-commercial thinning and planting), silviculture, roadside clean up, culvert replacement. They assisted with several local wildfires and supplied the fire kitchen for wildland firefighters throughout the state.

Statewide, Sustainable Operations programs are led by the WA Corrections Capital Planning and Development team and a dedicated Sustainable Operations Manager. This role was established to oversee and implement strategies that reduce the environmental, economic, and human impacts of correctional facilities.



SPP Coordinator Lauren Dulo checks out WCC's water catchment system. Photo by Emily Passarelli.

WA Corrections, also referred to as the Department, focuses on initiatives minimizing greenhouse gas emissions, optimizing energy efficiency, reducing waste, and conserving potable water. Additionally, efforts are continuously evolving to integrate sustainable practices that enhance operational resilience and compliance with state environmental policies. The following Department-authored section provides updates on key sustainable operations initiatives undertaken in 2024.

Clean Buildings Performance Standards

Efforts over the past year focused on positioning the agency to successfully achieve compliance with [RCW 19.27A.210](#), also known as the Clean Buildings Performance Standard (CBPS), enacted in 2019. This legislation establishes Energy Use Intensity (EUI) targets by building type, considering regional and local data to represent average energy use for similar buildings. To achieve compliance, the Department must first establish the current energy use of buildings covered under this legislation and then either meet the target EUI or obtain conditional compliance through an alternative compliance pathway.

The Department has 139 buildings subject to the legislation. Buildings met the first deadline in relation to this legislation in June 2024, and additional efforts are on track to meet the next deadline of June 2025. In 2024, the Department's Capital Planning and Development Division established and

implemented operations and maintenance programs that will meet the compliance standard for all campuses and subject buildings. All available compliance pathways require the development of energy management plans, operations, and maintenance programs.

In June 2024, the Department opted into an alternative compliance pathway known as the Decarbonization Compliance Pathway, made available through [House Bill 1390](#) enacted in 2023. HB 1390 facilitates the decarbonization of campus district energy systems while providing an alternative compliance pathway for the Clean Buildings Performance Standard. This approach allows for a holistic and long-term strategy to improve energy efficiency across WA Corrections facilities.

The Department has five campuses required to begin developing decarbonization plans by June 30, 2024. Final plans must be submitted to the Department of Commerce by June 30, 2025. These plans must:

- Outline strategies to replace fossil fuels in heating plants.
- Evaluate partnerships for waste heat utilization.
- Explore opportunities to expand decarbonized systems.
- Prioritize energy conservation efforts.

WA Corrections is on track to complete these plans ahead of the June deadline, ensuring the successful implementation of a comprehensive, long-term decarbonization strategy. Development of these plans enhances energy efficiency and reduces greenhouse gas emissions across Washington State's campus district energy systems and optimizes capital and facility preservation planning efforts.

Zero Emission Vehicles

In compliance with [Executive Order 21-04](#), WA Corrections works towards 100% electrical vehicle usage by 2035. The Department continues to focus on increasing the number of BEVs (Battery Electric Vehicles, also referred to as EVs or Electric Vehicles). In 2024, DOC hit 57% BEV obtainment (the amount of BEV leased vs the amount needed to hit 40% of total fleet).

Last year, 63 of the 780 DES (Department of Enterprise Services) *leased* vehicles were BEV. While this is only 8% of the total leased fleet, the current metric is only counting light duty (LD) vehicles, of which WA Corrections has 361. Considering LD vehicles only, the Department's BEV percentage increases up to 17% of total LD vehicles. For the Department to hit the 40% goal by the end of 2025, 82 more gas fueled vehicles need to be replaced with EV.



One of DOC's electric vehicles. Photo by Emily Passarelli.

The Department currently has 973 *owned* vehicles which fall under Executive Order 21-04 goals. To reach current goals, 818 out of 973 vehicles are LD vehicles that would need to be converted to EV by 2035. However, exemptions are in place for the 391 vehicles that are classified as incarcerated individual transfer vehicles. This leaves 427 vehicles that need to be converted to EV by 2035. WA Corrections currently has 32 EV in DOC's owned fleet, which is 7.5% and would need an additional 135 EVs to hit their 40% goal by the end of the year.



One of WCC's EVs. Photo by Emily Passarelli.

WA Corrections hired two EV specialists to help with the vehicle fleet implementation processes. A certified electrician oversees all charging station (EVSE) installs, including site analysis and electrical loads and works with Department Plant Managers to solicit job bids. The Department also hired a data analyst to oversee a variety of tasks such as writing policy, running algorithms for fleet replacement, managing EVSE site needs, and establishing ride and drive events. With the help of these individuals, WA Corrections has become one of the go-to agencies within the state for EV implementation and strategy. The Department has been recognized by both DES and the State Efficiency and Environmental Performance office for the drastic increase in EV implementation last year.

WA Corrections installed a new DC Fast Charging station at AHCC in 2023. This station has allowed employees to travel from eastern to western Washington without detours for charging. The station hosted one of the Department's fall Ride and Drive events. Additional chargers were installed at CBCC, WSP, and the Tri Cities Reentry Center, increasing the use of EVs in surrounding areas.

The Department plans to continue increasing the number of rented and owned BEVs while continuing to invest in support infrastructure. Plans are in progress to install new EV charging stations at MCCCW, CCCC, and re-entry facilities next year and to consider their first heavy duty rig, with two, full battery garbage trucks.

Awards

In 2024, OCC received the 2023 Outstanding Performance Award from WA Department of Ecology for their Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Sustainable Jobs Programs

WA Corrections offers a variety of sustainability jobs to incarcerated individuals. These job programs include work related to sustainability, science, and interactions with non-human nature. Some of these job programs have minimal input from SPP-Evergreen partners. According to DOC's database, approximately 2,067 of the 13,867 (15%) incarcerated people in WA prisons held sustainability-related jobs during this reporting period. These include jobs like community crews, gardeners, SPP technicians, and maintenance workers, like electricians.



A gardener at AHCC tends to one of the gardens. Photo by Emily Passarelli.

"Overall, I really enjoyed this program. It was a great way for me to ground myself, practice self-care, and enjoy the nature. Prison hasn't been easy for me, but this program has given me the opportunity to have a healthy outlet."

- Foundations in Gardening student, MCCCW

Research and Evaluation

Program evaluation and research involving incarcerated people requires extensive review and resources for 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.

Research with External Partners

Data Request

SPP plans to submit a data request to DOC’s Research Development Administration to gain more information about SPP participants who have been released. SPP will examine recidivism rates and compare them to the general population. SPP will look at conservation and ecological program technicians, graduates and facilitators of peer-led programs, and apprentice and journey-level beekeepers.

EPEP Listening Sessions

SPP supported the Evergreen Prison Education Project (EPEP) in conducting listening sessions with potential incarcerated students at Stafford Creek Corrections Center. EPEP wanted to gauge interest in education topics, barriers to education, and potential ideas for addressing these barriers. SPP supported EPEP throughout the research development process, including applying for an exemption through the WA State Institutional Review Board. The listening sessions found that students were generally eager for more educational opportunities. Challenges expressed included access to technology, busy schedules, chaotic prison experiences, and difficulty in regular communication. Students expressed interest in topics like environmental education, agriculture and horticulture, graphic design, political science, and many more. This information was used to design the education program EPEP began offering in 2024.

STEM Education in US Prisons

In 2024, a book titled [*STEM Education in US Prisons*](#) was published. SPP contributed a chapter titled “First Person Experiences of Science in Prisons: Writings from the Sustainability in Prisons Project.”

Student Theses

No student theses related to SPP were completed in 2024. However, two SPP coordinators started their SPP related theses. These theses are anticipated to be reported on in 2025.

SPP highly values connectivity and collaboration to improve programs and increase access to education both nationally and internationally. In 2024, SPP received many requests for more information on SPP type programs from both within the United States and abroad. Significant contact included visitors from Japan, media interest from the United Kingdom, and contact with an organization in Zambia interested in starting SPP type programs.



DOC staff, SPP staff, and partners gather at SCCC. Photo by Emily Passarelli.

SPP in Washington State

Staff at SPP-Evergreen maintained contact with all Washington state prisons during the January – December 2024 reporting period. Almost every prison in WA hosts one or more programs coordinated by SPP-Evergreen including beekeeping, Foundations in Gardening and/or Composting, and ecological conservation programs. Posted below 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 for 2024.

Organization	Interest in SPP
Kitsap Conservation District	Interested in gardening and garden to kitchen.
UW Landscape Architecture	Interested in designing an outdoor classroom space for WCCW.
WA Department of Ecology	Interest in learning about composting programs at WCC and beyond.

Tribal Sons Group	Interest in hosting workshops on a variety of art, culture, and nature topics.
Evergreen’s Native Pathways Program and Tribal Relations Director	Interest in offering workshops and creating connections with incarcerated tribal members.
Evergreen’s Center for Climate Change Action and Sustainability	Offered a workshop on climate change at SCCC.

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 3.



*SPP’s Nat Kelly, DOC liaison Autumn Clift, and Atsuko, a visitor from Japan, tour SCCC’s apiary.
Photo by Emily Passarelli.*

Table 20. SPP-Evergreen's national and international contacts for 2024.

New and ongoing contacts: Title/profession, organization	Topics Discussed with SPP	State/ Country
Derrick Stowell, University of Tennessee	Interest in connecting with similar programs and networks.	TN
Christina Brownlee, University of Nevada	Interest in starting a beekeeping program in a NV Prison.	NV
Atsuko Otsuko	Interest in touring animal programs with a group of professors from Toyo University.	Japan
Stanslous Banda	Interest in a learning exchange to bring sustainability programs to those re-entering the community in Zambia.	Zambia

Amanda Micek, Ph.D. Candidate	Interest in gardening programs.	TX
Maya Buelow, Waste Reduction Specialist	Interest in composting materials and resources for kitchen staff at the Lane County Jail.	OR
Gulf Coast States Consortium	Met about SPP's model of restoration and endangered species recovery on and adjacent to military bases	East Coast US
Meredith Elizalde	Interest in restorative justice and nature based programs. Would like to visit programming.	MT
Martha League	Interested in supporting Foundations in Gardening in FL prisons.	FL
Genesa Garcia, Nevada DOC	Interest in the Sagebrush Program.	NV
Land Together (formerly Insight Garden)	Interest in a learning exchange about in-prison programming and re-entry services.	CA

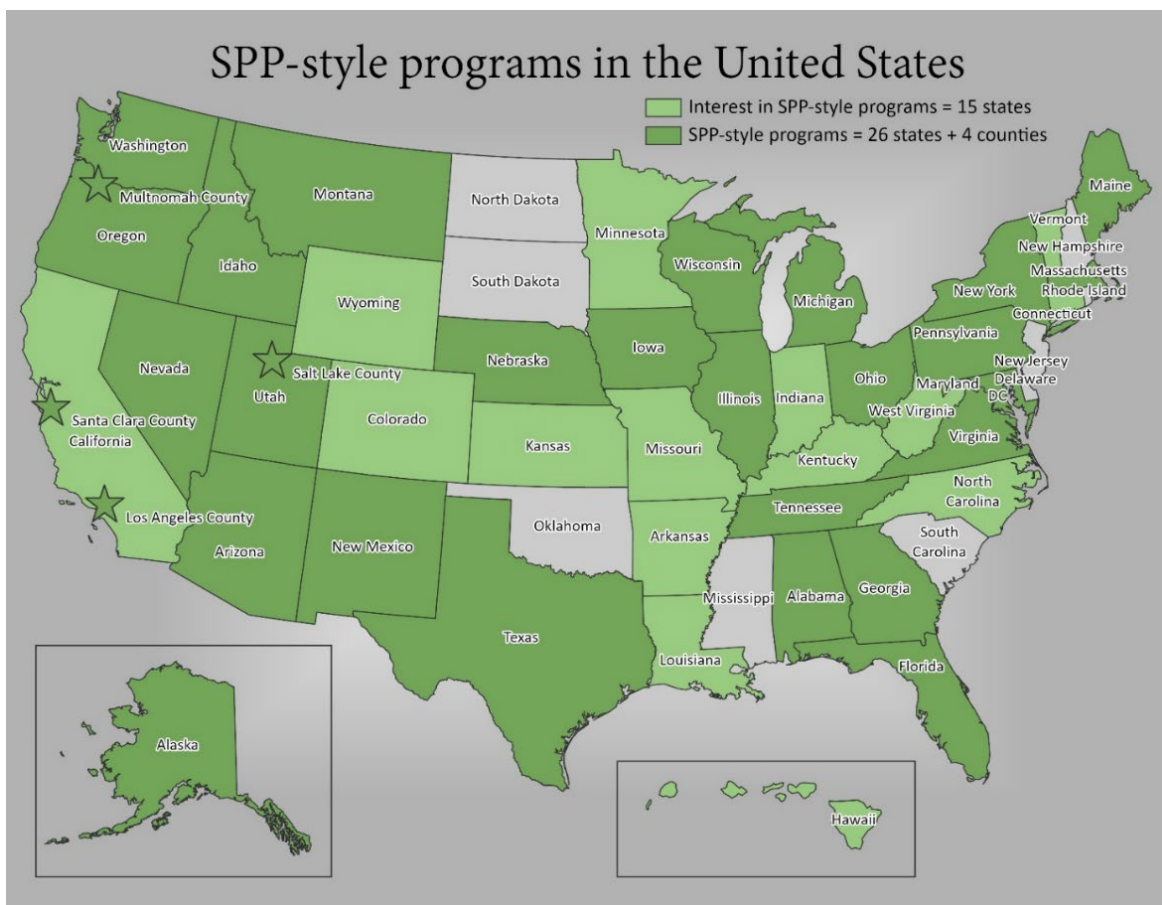


Figure 3. Prevalence of SPP-style programs nationwide.

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.



SPP's Emily Passarelli, MCC's CUS Collins, and beekeeping volunteer Ann Dryer talk next to the gardens at MCC. Photo by Anneke Wilder.

Table 21. SPP-Evergreen Presentations, January – December 2024 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations).

Date	Presenter(s)	Title	Venue
01/04/24	Emily Passarelli and Sarah Larson	Overview of SPP and results	Phipps Observatory
01/09/24	Mikala Waldrup	Annual Western Pond Turtle Partner Meeting	Natural Resources Building, Olympia, WA
01/19/24	Kelli Bush, Eirik Steinhoff, David McAvity	Progress update and review proposed resolution	Evergreen Board of Trustees-Student Success Sub Committee
01/29/24	Kelli Bush, Eirik Steinhoff, David McAvity	Progress update and request to pass proposed resolution	Evergreen Board of Trustees
03/18/24	Nat Kelly, Xitlali Herrera & Courtney Murphy	Conservation and butterfly programs. South sound area conservation efforts that directly support JBLM.	Earth Works
05/03/24	Kelli Bush	SPP Overview	DOC Victims Services Department

05/08/24	Kelli Bush & Eirik Steinhoff	SPP & ELEN Overview	Evergreen Faculty Meeting
04/26/24	Emily Passarelli, Mikala Waldrup, and Nat Kelly	SPP Overview and Open Positions	Evergreen MES Admitted Students Day
06/06/24	Kelli Bush	SPP Overview	HAW International- Germany
07/30/24	Carl Elliot & Kelli Bush	SPP Conservation Programs	Multiple Gulf Coast States
10/02/24	Kelli Bush	SPP Overview	Oly Green Drinks - CCAS
12/11/24	Jordan Kettel, SPL team, SPP	WCC Food Waste Diversion Plan	SPL, WCC

SPP Tours

A summary of tours of SPP program areas is summarized in the table below.



SPP's Nat Kelly, Atsuko, a visitor from Japan, and DOC's Autumn Clift pose for a picture. Photo by Emily Passarelli.

Table 22. SPP-Evergreen Tours, January – December 2024 (see [Appendix 3](#) for abbreviations).

Date	Visitors	Tour Area	Facility
05/08/24	Linda Andrews and Onya Robertson (Evergreen BoT)	Butterfly area	MCCCW
07/19/24	Office of Corrections Ombuds	Courtyard pollination, pumpkins, garden, and worm composting	AHCC
08/19/24	Visitors from Japan, Toyo University	Cat programs, butterfly program	MCCCW
08/26/24	Visitors from Japan, Toyo University	Conservation Nursery	SCCC
08/26/24	Visitors from Japan, Toyo University	Composting and Conservation Nursery	WCC
08/29/24	Greg Batton, Nikkole Adams, Peninsula College	Greenhouse, beehives, sweat lodge, and vegetable gardens	CBCC
09/03/24	Eliza Billingham, Inlander Paper	Courtyard pollination, pumpkins, gardens, and worm composting	AHCC

09/09/24	SPP, Evergreen State College	Sustainability Area, gardens	AHCC
12/11/24	Department of Ecology, UW professors, DOC Headquarters, WCC Leadership, WCC Facility Team	Composting and Conservation Nursery (Sustainable Practices Lab)	WCC
12/23/24	Jeannette Wendt, Steve Beyt	Greenhouses, beehives, cat program in MSC	CBCC
All year	Over 40 tours given to various visitors, DOC staff and leadership, and training classes.	Composting and Conservation Nursery	WCC
All year	Over 50 tours of the SPL were given to various visitors, DOC staff and leadership, and training classes.	Sustainable Practices Lab and Sagebrush Nursery	WSP

Media Coverage

The table below includes all the media pieces that SPP-Evergreen staff tracked during 2024.



Butterfly program coordinator, Xitlali Herrera, speaks to butterfly technicians, MCCCW staff, and program partners during an event to celebrate education portfolio completions and the program receiving a “Recovery Champions” award from the USFS. Photo by SPP staff.

Table 23. SPP Media, January – December 2024

Date	Source	Author	Title
02/27/24	Hakai Magazine	Brian Payton	The Butterfly Redemption
05/14/24	DOC social media	DOC Communications	Western Pond Turtle Release Video
05/29/24	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	U. S. Fish and Wildlife	Service Partners Named “Recovery Champions” for Butterfly Conservation
09/12/24	Inlander	Eliza Billingham	Nature-focused programs at Airway Heights Corrections Center improve prisoner health while providing food for the community
11/19/24	Biocycle	Sally Brown	Connections: Empowering Sustainable Change in Prisons



Nichole Alexander (SPP and Evergreen Alum) and Onya Robertson (Evergreen Board of Trustees) visit the butterfly program. Photo by SPP Staff.

Outreach

SPP's main outlets for social media include Facebook (facebook.com/sustainabilityinprisons/) and Instagram (instagram.com/sustainabilityinprisons/).

The SPP Facebook page gained 24 page likes in this reporting period and the SPP Instagram page gained 18 new followers. During this reporting period, we made 48 posts on Facebook. Most posts were blogs about programming and SPP staff. The most popular posts are summarized in the following table.

Table 24. Most popular Facebook posts, January – December 2024.

Subject	# People Reached	# Likes	Date
Come join our team! SPP is hiring an Ecological Programs Manager	1.8K	17	04/17/24
Happy Indigenous Peoples Day!	1.1K	20	10/14/24
November Gratitude Post	786	9	11/28/24
Western Pond Turtle treatment update	756	35	02/16/24
Giving Tuesday Post	488	12	12/03/24
Meet SPP Conservation Nursery Coordinator, Sal Hernandez	403	14	11/22/24
Sharing SPP's 2023 Annual Report	389	18	05/07/24
SPP Workshops are back!	291	12	12/10/24

Appendix 1. SPP Programs

SPP Programs in Washington State Prisons – 2024

A1

We reported on **162** SPP programs in Washington State’s 11 prisons this year; 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).

[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	Flower gardens, boxes, baskets
Waste sorting & recycling	Planter pot contests
Cat program	Food Drive
Water catchment	Dog training and adoption*
Vegetable gardens	

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

Waste sorting & recycling	Community work
Large-scale composting	Aquaponics
Training dogs for veterans	Vegetable gardens
Horticulture	Flower gardens
Construction	Beekeeping – CCCC*
Waste Treatment	Beekeeping – McNeil Island Stewardship
Forestry	Western pond turtle rehabilitation

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

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

[Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women \(MCCCW\)](#)

Small-scale composting	Cat program
Waste sorting & recycling	Gardens
Pawsitive Prison Project	Vegetable gardens
House Plants	Flower gardens

Wildflower Planting for Pollinators
Chicken Tenders (Chicken Care & Education)
Conservation crews
Plant and animal habitat
Scarlet Road
Business and Entrepreneurship (B.O.S.S.)
GRACE (Gardening for Restoration and Conservation Education) Projects
SPP Foundations in Gardening
SPP Foundations in Composting

Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC)

WSR

Community Crew: MSU
Flower gardens

SOU**

Gardens
Nature Imagery

TRU

Community Aide Coalition: quilting, crochet, textile arts*
Dog training and adoption
SPP Foundations in Gardening

Olympic Corrections Center (OCC)

Waste sorting & recycling
Large-scale composting
Wastewater Treatment
Water catchment
OCC Dog Program
Solar power

Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC)

Large-scale Composting
Waste sorting & recycling
Freedom Tails
Service dogs for veterans
Pollinator plantings
Flower gardens, boxes, baskets
Toy Time
Shine From the Inside
Houseplants
Skill Builder Unit (SBU) Art Class
Gardens and greenhouses
Lifer Garden
Violence Prevention

Washington Corrections Center (WCC)

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

Garden Club
Paint and Sip Workshop
Financial Literacy Workshop
Writing Workshop
Book Club
Civil Survival
Financial Empowerment
Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Program
Beekeeping

Cat program

Gardens
Beekeeping

Firewood for Native American programs
Community Crew
Forestry
Gardens
Wood Product Shop
Flower gardens, boxes, baskets

Flagging Class Certification
Community Art Show
SBU Looming Class
Electric Cars and Charge Stations
Bears Program
Garden to Kitchen
SPP Foundations in Gardening
SPP Foundations in Composting
Beekeeping
Prairie Conservation Nursery
Gardening curriculum development

Training dogs for veterans
Vermiculture/ Soldier Fly and Bokashi composting
Chicken Program
Gardens and greenhouses
SPP Foundations in Composting
Workshops
Prairie Conservation Nursery
Beekeeping, "Intensive Bee Management Unit"

Gardening in Intensive Management Unit (IMU)

[Washington Corrections Center for Women \(WCCW\)](#)

Prairie Conservation Nursery
Horticulture
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*
Lighting Upgrades
Electric Vehicles

[Washington State Penitentiary \(WSP\)](#)

Institutional Sustainability Garden
Waste sorting & recycling
Composting, main
Electrical upgrades

Podcast
Dog training
Water conservation

BAR Units

Kitten program*

Crochet 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

SPL: Art program
SPL: Creative projects
SPL: Quilting
SPL: Creative projects
SPL: Green zone

162 active programs reported by 11 prisons

Appendix 2. SPP Partners

SPP Partners in Washington State Prisons – 2024

A2

Complementing the efforts of founding partners, WA Corrections and Evergreen, program partners contributed to almost every SPP program. Most programs would not be possible without their input, enthusiasm, and resources. In this reporting period, we have **151** known (reported) partners. Considering that WSP’s Sustainable Practices Lab has donated program creations to more than 400 charitable organizations, we know the actual number is far greater!

Table 26. SPP Partners and Allies (Partnering with WA Corrections, Evergreen, or both) in alphabetical order, January – December 2024

A Center for Healthy Families	Littlerock Elementary School
Aberdeen Fire Station	Longview Girl Scout Camp
Adams County Pet Rescue	Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI)
Beyond Survival for victims of sexual assault	Make a Difference in Grays Harbor
Blue Mountain Action Council	Master Composters
Blue Mountain Humane Society	Master Gardeners
Bogachiel Fish Hatchery	North Mason Food Bank
Brigadoon Service Dogs	North Olympic Peninsula Beekeeping Association
Central Kitsap Food Bank	Northwest District Beekeepers Association
Centralia College	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Christian Aid Center	OlyCAP
Christmas for Kids	Olympia Beekeeping Association
City of Clallam Bay	Olympic Natural Resource Center (ONRC)
City of Forks	Olympic Peninsula Humane Society
City of Hoquiam	Oregon Food Bank
City of Oakville	Oregon Zoo
City of Sekiu	Orting VA Soldiers Home
City of Spokane	PAWS of Grays Harbor
Clallam Bay Food Bank	Peninsula College
Coastal Harvest Food Bank	Pierce County
Daybreak Stars	Prison Pet Partnership (PPP)
Department of Ecology (DOE)	Purrfect Pals
Department of Health (DOH)	Quileute Tribe
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Quillayute Valley Scholarship Auction
Department of Transportation (DOT)	Quillayute Valley School District (QVSD)
Diamonds in the Ruff	Sarge’s Place
Farm to School?	Shriner’s Children’s Hospital (donations)
Feisty Felines	South Puget Sound Community College
Forks Community Hospital	Spokane Humane Society
Forks Food Bank	Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners (SNAP)
Forks Visitor Center	SpokAnimal
Franklin County Sheriff’s Office	St. Andrew’s House
Grays Harbor College	Summit Assistance Dogs

Great Peninsula Conservancy	Sunshine & Rainbow Daycare
GRuB	Tacoma Community College (TCC)
Harmony Hill	The Pitbull Pen
Harvest Now	Thurston County Food Bank
Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Thurston County Litter Control
Hood Canal School District	Thurston County Sheriff
Hoodsport Canal Food Bank	Tilth Alliance
Hoodsport Kiwanis	Town of Clearwater
Hoquiam Fire Department	Toy Time
Hoss Field	Treehouse Program for Foster Kids
HUB-Faith in Action	Tri-Cities Toys for Tots
Humane Society of Mason County	WA Department of Enterprise Services
ICON Systems Inc.	WAG
Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE)	Walla Walla County Sheriff's Department
Jefferson Land Trust	Walla Walla Police Department
Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM)	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
K&S Recycling	Washington State Beekeepers Association
Kalaloch Lodge	Waste Management
Kitsap Conservation District	West End Youth League (WEYL)
Kitsap Humane Society	West Plains Beekeepers
La Push Reservation (Quileute Tribe)	West Sound Wildlife
Lake Quinault Fire Department	Wheels for the World
Lamb Weston	WSU Extension
Lettuce Grow	
Lions Club	
Little Earth Farm	

Appendix 3. Abbreviations

Table 27. Common abbreviations found in current report

Prisons	
AHCC	Airway Heights Corrections Center, Airway Heights (near Spokane)
CBCC	Clallam Bay Corrections Center, Clallam Bay (northwest Olympic Peninsula)
CCCC	Cedar Creek Corrections Center, Littlerock
CRCC	Coyote Ridge Corrections Center, Connell (south, central Washington)
DOC	Department of Corrections
MCC	Monroe Correctional Complex, Monroe (northeast of Seattle)
MCC-SOU	Monroe Correctional Complex, Special Offender Unit
MCC-TRU	Monroe Correctional Complex, Twin Rivers Unit
MCC-WSR	Monroe Correctional Complex, Washington State Reformatory
MCCCW	Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women, Belfair (Kitsap Peninsula)
OCC	Olympic Corrections Center, Forks
SCCC	Stafford Creek Corrections Center, Aberdeen
SPL	Sustainable Practices Lab
WCC	Washington Corrections Center, Shelton
WCCW	Washington Corrections Center for Women, Gig Harbor
WSP	Washington State Penitentiary, Walla Walla
WSP-MSU	Washington State Penitentiary, Minimum Security Unit
WSP-BAR	Washington State Penitentiary, Baker Adams Rainier Unit
Agencies & Organizations	
CI	Correctional Industries
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
DoD	Department of Defense
Evergreen	The Evergreen State College, a public, four-year institution
ELEN	Evergreen Liberation Education Network
EPEP	Evergreen Prison Education Program
JBLM	Joint Base Lewis-McChord
OR Zoo	Oregon Zoo
PAWS	Progressive Animal Welfare Society
SBU	Skills Building Unit
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
WSDOT	Washington State Department of Transportation
Definitions & General Abbreviations	
MAX	Maximum custody areas are also called IMUs (Intensive Management Unit) and segregation
MED	Medium custody includes close custody, which has less freedom, and general population.
MIN	Minimum custody areas are also called MSUs (Minimum Security Unit). WA has three prisons (CCCC, MCCCW, and OCC) that are wholly MIN and house incarcerated individuals with six years or less remaining on their sentences.
OMNI	Offender Management Network Information