



Seattle
Parks & Recreation

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TEAM

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

593 TOTAL PROGRAMS 23,049 PARTICIPANTS
883 PROGRAM HOURS
4.85 STAFF 92 VOLUNTEERS



38
PUBLIC
PROGRAMS
AND GUIDED
WALKS



338
SCHOOL
PROGRAMS



23
NATURE
ACTIVATIONS



188
COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAMS



6
SPECIAL
EVENTS



4 TEEN
INTERNS

38 PUBLIC PROGRAMS & GUIDED WALKS

Join an Environmental Education Naturalist to explore and learn about your neighborhood park. Public Programs and naturalist guided walks are led in over 20 different parks around Seattle. Everyone is invited to register online (classes offered for families, toddlers, teens and seniors). Classes vary from native plant ID, mushrooms, birds, urban forest walks, geology, salmon, beavers, nocturnal animals, low tide beach explorations and much more.

483 PARTICIPANTS



338 SCHOOL PROGRAMS

5383 students from 65 different schools participated in our 2024 school fieldtrip programs. Lessons combine nature exploration and curiosity with Next Generation Science Standards and Washington State Essential Academic Learning requirements.

School Fieldtrips are provided for Preschool - 9th grade classes and are located at parklands adjacent to schools or at destination parks. Free buses are provided to Title I Schools and scholarships are available.

43% of school programs were provided scholarships or 100% free programs.

See our webpage below for more information.

[Environmental Education & Outdoor Learning - Parks | seattle.gov](https://seattle.gov/parks/eeol)

5383 PARTICIPANTS



23 NATURE ACTIVATIONS

In 2024 we ran two Nature Activation programs:

In July and August, Interns and staff from the Environmental Education Team brought pop-up Nature Activation programs to summer free lunch sites three days a week. **The Summer in the Parks program** engaged families in Seattle parks with nature exploration, arts and crafts, and birdwatching.

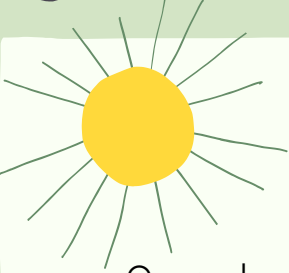
November is Salmon Season at Carkeek Park! **Our Salmon Stew**, in partnership with Seattle Public Utilities, hosted educational stations at Piper's Creek every weekend, staffed by volunteers and Environmental Education staff.

10,233 PARTICIPANTS



SPR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW (CONT.)



188 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

Our work prioritizes neighborhoods and community groups most impacted by social and environmental injustices, aligning with Seattle's commitment to equity, environmental justice, and public health.

Spending time in nature has been linked to significant benefits, including lower stress, improved sleep, enhanced social connections, and increased happiness ([Mayo Clinic](#)). By working closely with community organizations, our Community Naturalists help bridge the gap, ensuring everyone has access to meaningful outdoor experiences that support both individual well-being and broader citywide sustainability goals.

1693 PARTICIPANTS



6 SPECIAL EVENTS

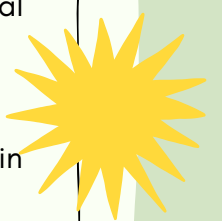
Citywide Environmental Education team hosted fun interactive nature booths to these neighborhood festivals:

Beacon Hill Fest, Daybreak Star Pow Wow, Duwamish River Festival, and New Holly Family Fun Fest

Staff helped plan Seattle Parks **Big Day of Play Event** and hosted an educational booth with nature activities. Our youth interns helped to lead activities and answered questions at this festival.

Our signature festival, **Salmon Celebration**, was a major community gathering in 2024, with over 2000 people in attendance. Featuring educational booths, food and salmon viewing the Environmental Education team Seattle Public Utilities to put on this large event.

5190 PARTICIPANTS



4 TEEN INTERNS PARTICIPATED IN MENTORSHIP AND JOB TRAINING

Through funding from Seattle Parks and Recreation Teen Programs, we hired four Environmental Education interns for the spring and summer of 2024. Intern training focused on; interpretation and communication skills, Pacific Northwest natural history, group leadership and public engagement.

Over the summer, interns worked alongside staff mentors, delivering programming to thousands of youths. Collectively, they contributed 569 hours of hands-on environmental education work, gaining valuable experience that aligns with Seattle's workforce development goals. By equipping young people with skills in environmental education, public engagement, and leadership, this program prepares them for careers in sustainability, natural resource management, and community outreach.

569 INTERN HOURS



92 VOLUNTEERS

92 dedicated volunteers contributed a total of 4,124 hours in 2024—an equivalent national value of \$123,513.80. Their support was essential to the success of our programs, from guiding nature walks to assisting with educational booths.

Volunteer Antje Mueller won the Denny Award for HEALTHY PEOPLE
[Read more here](#)



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