

Restoring Ecosystems in Seattle, Washington

*Urban Forests in "The Emerald City in the
Evergreen State..."*

AP Diaz, Superintendent | May 28, 2024

Urban Nature Program, Istanbul - Türkiye



Seattle
Parks & Recreation

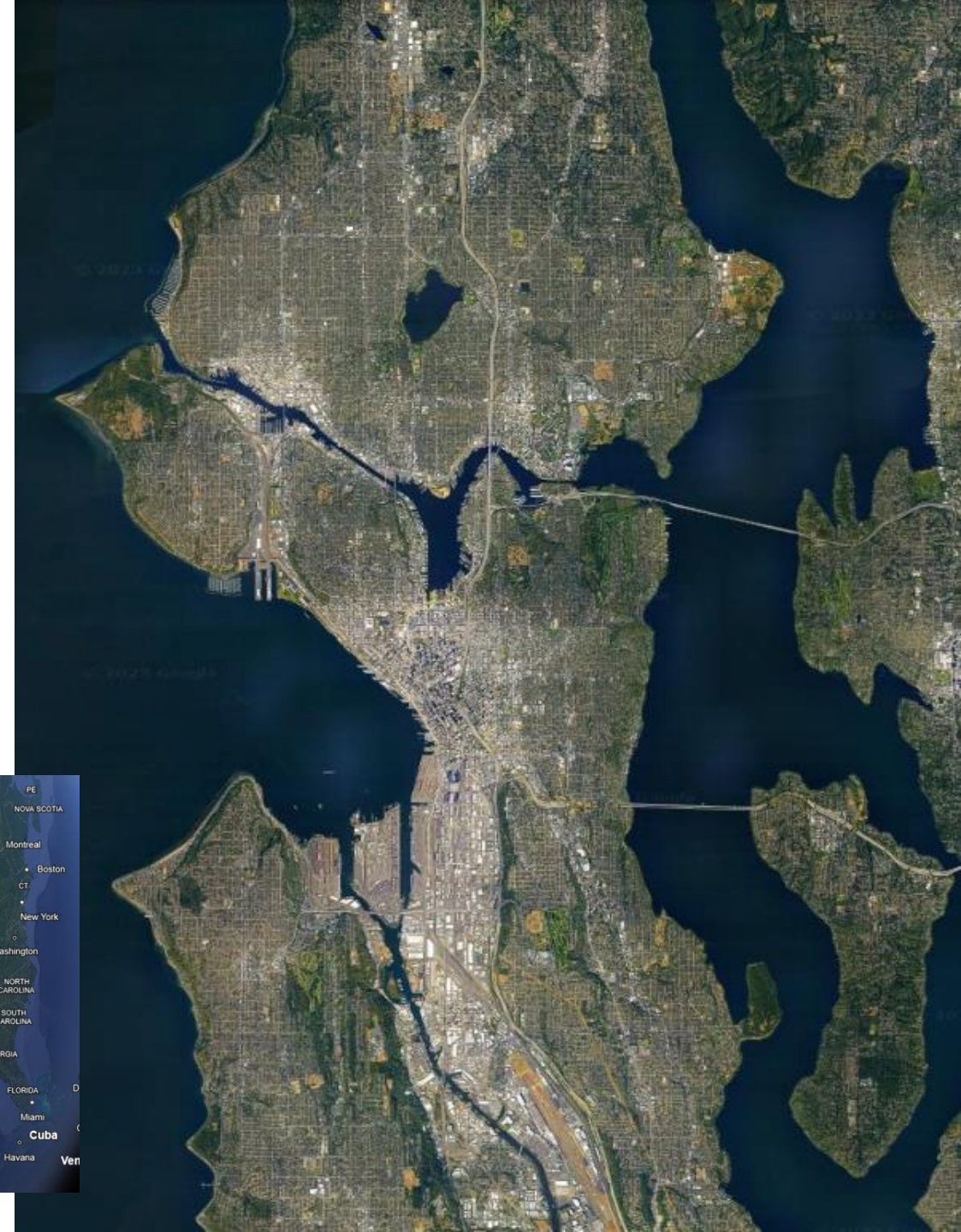
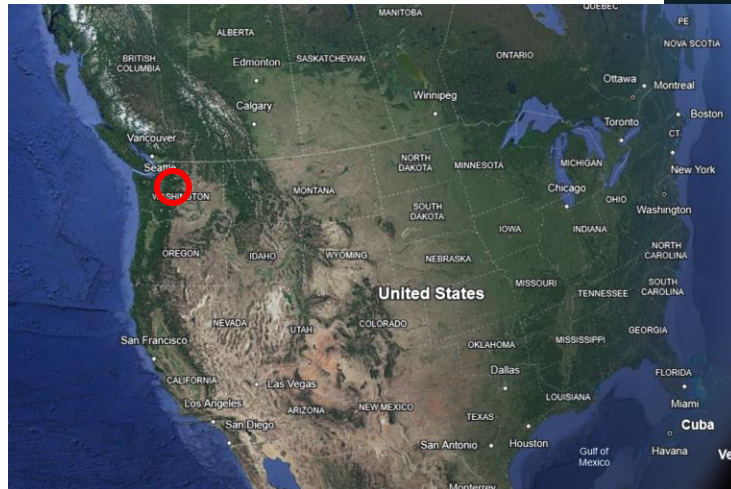
Healthy People, Thriving Environment, Vibrant Community

#SeattleShines



Seattle, Washington USA

- a city of land & seascapes
 - 217 square kilometers
 - Salish Sea to west
 - Lake Washington to east
 - Home of the indigenous Coast Salish
 - Founded 1851
 - 750,000 people



Seattle's Parks

- 2,600 hectares of parks
- 500 parks
- 99% live within a 10-minute walk to a park
- 8th ranked best park system in the United States
- UNEP Role
Model/Flagship City for urban forest regeneration



Seattle
Parks & Recreation



Plans and Actions for Urban Nature

- **Commitments:**

- Migratory Bird Treaty
- Bee Pollinator City
- Integrated Pest Management

- **Plans:**

- Urban Forest Plan
- Native Plant Policy

- **Actions:**

- Pollinator Habitat Expansion
- Urban Wildlife Studies
- City Nature Challenge
- Green Seattle Partnership



Green Seattle Partnership



Improving human
health through access
to nature

Building wildlife habitat and
improving Puget Sound
health

Strengthening
neighborhood cohesion

Increasing climate
adaptation and
resiliency

The Partnership

A background image showing three people in a forest. On the left, a woman in a blue t-shirt with a "DIMINISH INFRASTRUCTURE" logo is pointing upwards. In the center, a woman in a blue raincoat is holding a clipboard. On the right, a man in a blue raincoat is also holding a clipboard. They are all looking up at something out of frame.

Partner Organizations

Community Members

Professional Crews

City of Seattle

- Partners engage the community
- (some X number of volunteers)
- Community members volunteer their time
- Professional crews do the technical work
- City staff coordinate and support

#SeattleShines

A graphic consisting of four horizontal bars in red, orange, green, and blue, stacked vertically.

Progress We've Made

- 769 hectares in restoration
- 1.25 million volunteer hours
- 543,970 professional crew hours
- 1.4 million plants in the ground
- 114 hectares mulched
- 9500 trees planted in 2023 – the largest provider of new tree population in the City



#SeattleShines

Climate Adaptation

- C-40 Member
- Climate Action Plan
- Climate Resiliency Strategy
- Resilient Native Plants
- Water and Irrigation Plan
- Pollinator Habitat
- Climate Adaptation Toolkit



Future Plans

- Coastal Habitat & Vulnerability Assessment
- Biodiversity Policy
- Pollinator Habitat Mapping
- Plant Resiliency
- Specific Projects:
 - Waterfront park improvements
 - Sword fern studies
 - Urban forest restoration
 - Salmon creek restoration



Challenges

- Climate change
- Invasive species
- Human impacts
- Training



Support Needed

- Knowledge sharing of "next" practices
- Public education and engagement
- Regional coordination



Thank You



Seattle
Parks & Recreation

Healthy People, Thriving Environment, Vibrant Community

