



City of Seattle

City profile downloaded from CitiesWithNature

19 April 2026

Chapter 1

Profile overview



About

Founded in 1869, the city of Seattle is located in the state of Washington on Puget Sound, 113 miles (182 km) from the U.S.-Canadian border. Seattle is a commercial, cultural and advanced technology hub of the U.S. Pacific Northwest and a major port city for trans-Pacific and European travel and trade. Surrounded by mountains and water, the Greater Seattle area features picture-perfect views and abundant recreational opportunities year-round.

Overview

737000

Population size

United States

Country

North America

Region



Bruce Harrell, Mayor of City of Seattle

Head of government

Platform engagement statistics



16

Actions made on the Action Platform

Achievements

Profile awards

The city has updated their profile and achieved the following:



Starter profile
67% complete



Fronrunner profile
100% complete



Star profile
0% complete

The Nature Pathway

The city has engaged with the Nature Pathway to integrate nature throughout their city's plans, policies and operations.



Starter profile
0% complete



Fronrunner profile
0% complete



Star profile
0% complete

Tools & resources hub

The city has made uploads to the CitiesWithNature tools & resources hub, which provides a knowledge-sharing platform for cities to share information and inspire one another.



Starter profile
0% complete



Fronrunner profile
0% complete



Star profile
0% complete

Action Platform

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for cities to make commitments, share their actions and set targets for people and nature to flourish.



Starter profile
100% complete



Frontrunner profile
100% complete



Star profile
50% complete

Chapter 2

The Action Platform



The Action Platform

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for cities to make commitments, share their actions and set targets for people and nature to flourish.



Action area 1

Protect and restore nature

Commitment Made:

Protect, connect and restore ecosystems

Decrease conversion of natural areas and maintain natural/semi-natural areas

Description of how city is taking action

Seattle has 489 parks and green spaces, including several marine reserves, and wildlife sanctuaries. A local initiative ensures no parks are converted to other uses. Overall, parks and green spaces cover 14% of Seattle's land and waters.

Restore and/or rehabilitate terrestrial, freshwater and coastal ecosystems.

Description of how city is taking action

Seattle has a robust urban forest restoration program, the Green Seattle Partnership, that works with volunteers, community organizations, and contractors to remove invasive plants, install native plants, and connect the community to their natural areas. Seattle Parks and Recreation also uses a comprehensive Integrated Pest Management program to tackle noxious weeds and ensure healthy habitats without the use of pesticides when possible. We recently conducted a coastal habitat assessment to understand where and how we can restore marine ecosystems on our coast.

Increase protected areas

Description of how city is taking action

Seattle Parks and Recreation has an acquisition program to purchase new parks and expand existing ones when possible. Our priority is to increase equitable access to parks throughout our city, which already provides parks within a 10-minute walk for 99% of residents.

Integrate ecosystem protection considerations across policies, plans and programmes.

Description of how city is taking action

Seattle has a revamped tree ordinance which ensures large trees are preserved and when trees are removed they are replaced by two or three new trees. Seattle Parks and Recreation has a Native Plant Policy to prioritize expansion of habitat for indigenous urban wildlife in all our parks. In addition, the Green Seattle Partnership strategic plan ensures continued restoration of natural areas throughout the city.

Commitment Made:

Conserve and restore fauna and flora

Maintain or increase the diversity of native species

Description of how city is taking action

Seattle Parks and Recreation's Native Plant Policy ensures native plants are prioritized in all our work, including in natural areas and more

recreational parks. A strategy to expand pollinator habitat throughout our system will complement our several existing pollinator gardens.

Restore habitat for threatened and locally valued species

Description of how city is taking action

Seattle has several urban streams that support Pacific Salmon, which include five locally valued anadromous fish species, and departments such as Seattle Parks and Recreation and Seattle Public Utilities work to restore these streams and riparian areas to support these species. SPR also supports ospreys, a IUCN red listed species, by building nesting platforms and supporting healthy habitats.

Commitment Made:

Manage invasive alien species



Identify and assess priority invasive alien species

Description of how city is taking action

Seattle is obligated by law to manage noxious and invasive species at varying levels dependent on their negative impacts. A list of invasive species is maintained by the city and county, which helps to prioritize management actions.

Control or eradicate invasive alien species and prevent their introduction

Description of how city is taking action

Seattle's Integrated Pest Management program tackles the challenge of invasive species using the least amount of chemicals possible. Our Green Seattle Partnership program actively removes invasive plants such as English Ivy and Himalayan Blackberry on a nearly daily basis.

Commitment Made:

Control Pollution



Reduce plastic consumption and the amount of plastic waste generated and discarded

Description of how city is taking action

Seattle has actively worked to remove plastics from our environment, including a plastic bag ban, requiring restaurants to use compostable to-go products, and a robust recycling program.

Reduce other types of pollution, such as solid waste, air pollution, noise pollution and light pollution

Description of how city is taking action

Seattle is a leader in recycling and composting, requiring both of all residents and businesses. Noise ordinances limit this disturbance to residents and wildlife. And Seattle's code requires Dark Sky compliant lighting, including conversion of all street lights to LED, ball field lighting conversions, and more. State regulations limit most types of pollutants, and the City is actively supporting electric vehicle adoption, including our own fleet of vehicles and installation of public EV charging stations throughout the city.

Commitment Made:

Climate change adaptation and mitigation



Reduce the urban heat island effect by working with nature

Description of how city is taking action

Seattle has actively mapped urban heat islands and is integrating this information into expanded tree planting programs to mitigate these effects. In addition to this, our urban forest restoration efforts support healthy habitats that continue to provide heat mitigation in our city. Seattle has a tree canopy goal of 30% and the city is currently at 28%.

Increase the use of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation

Description of how city is taking action

Seattle has a requirement to add green stormwater infrastructure to new developments and supports multiple restoration efforts including restoring and expanding wetlands and restoring urban forests in our city. Tree planting efforts have expanded dramatically both programmatically and through policy and regulations.



Action area 2

Use nature sustainably

Commitment Made:

Promote people's access to green and blue spaces

Increase equitable and inclusive access to nature to enhance people's health and wellbeing.

Description of how city is taking action

99% of residents live within a 10-minute walk to a park in Seattle. Our current acquisition strategy is not to close the last 1%, but rather to ensure equitable access to parks by expanding access in areas that benefit most from nature. In addition, Seattle has a robust Food Action Plan to provide access to healthy local food, is expanding our trail system in natural areas, and increasing programming that connects people to nature in their neighborhood.

Baseline:

Currently, the city has 6,414 acres of urban green and blue spaces to engage with, Nature can be accessed by 99 % of the total number of people living in the city.

Last update: 07 April 2026

Enable meaningful experiences of nature for the health and well-being of urban communities

Description of how city is taking action

Seattle hosts 120 miles of trails in our natural areas that provide access to nature in the city. In addition, we have over 20 miles of marine and freshwater coastline preserved in parks that provide direct access to the water and blue space. These public spaces are enhanced through environmental education programs and environmental learning centers that provide a deeper understanding of nature and our place in it.

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Other commitments under this action area

Equitable benefits through sustainable use of wild species

Biodiversity in urban agriculture, aquaculture and forestry



Action area 3

Develop tools and solutions

Commitment Made:

Mainstreaming biodiversity values

Other commitments under this action area

Mainstreaming biodiversity values

Sustainable production and consumption

Use relevant knowledge, including traditional knowledge, for effective biodiversity management

Equitable and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity-related decision-making

Mobilize resources for biodiversity actions

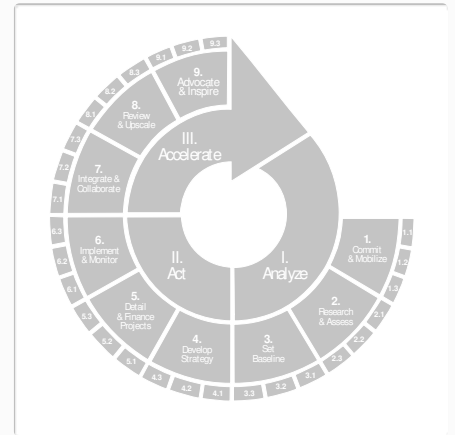
Chapter 3

Nature Pathway



Nature Pathway

The Nature Pathway assists cities with integrating nature throughout their city's plans, policies and operations.



I. Analyze

1. Commit & mobilize

No uploads or resources have been linked

2. Research & assess

No uploads or resources have been linked

3. Set Baseline

No uploads or resources have been linked

II. Act

4. Develop strategy

No uploads or resources have been linked

5. Detail & finance projects

No uploads or resources have been linked

6. Implement & monitor

No uploads or resources have been linked

III. Accelerate

7. Integrate & collaborate

No uploads or resources have been linked

8. Review & upscale

No uploads or resources have been linked

9. Advocate & inspire

Chapter 4

City Biodiversity Index



City Biodiversity Index

The City Biodiversity Index (CBI) is a self-assessment tool for cities to evaluate and monitor the progress of their biodiversity conservation efforts against their own individual baselines.

This city has measured the following total CBI score out of 112 points:

0 Points

Native biodiversity in the city

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 36 points

City of Seattle has not started on this biodiversity index section

Ecosystem services provided by biodiversity

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 20 points

City of Seattle has not started on this biodiversity index section

Governance and management of biodiversity

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 56 points

City of Seattle has not started on this biodiversity index section

Chapter 5

Tools & resources



Tools & resources

All tools & resources the city has uploaded to the CitiesWithNature Tools & resources hub.

City of Seattle has not yet posted any tools and resources



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