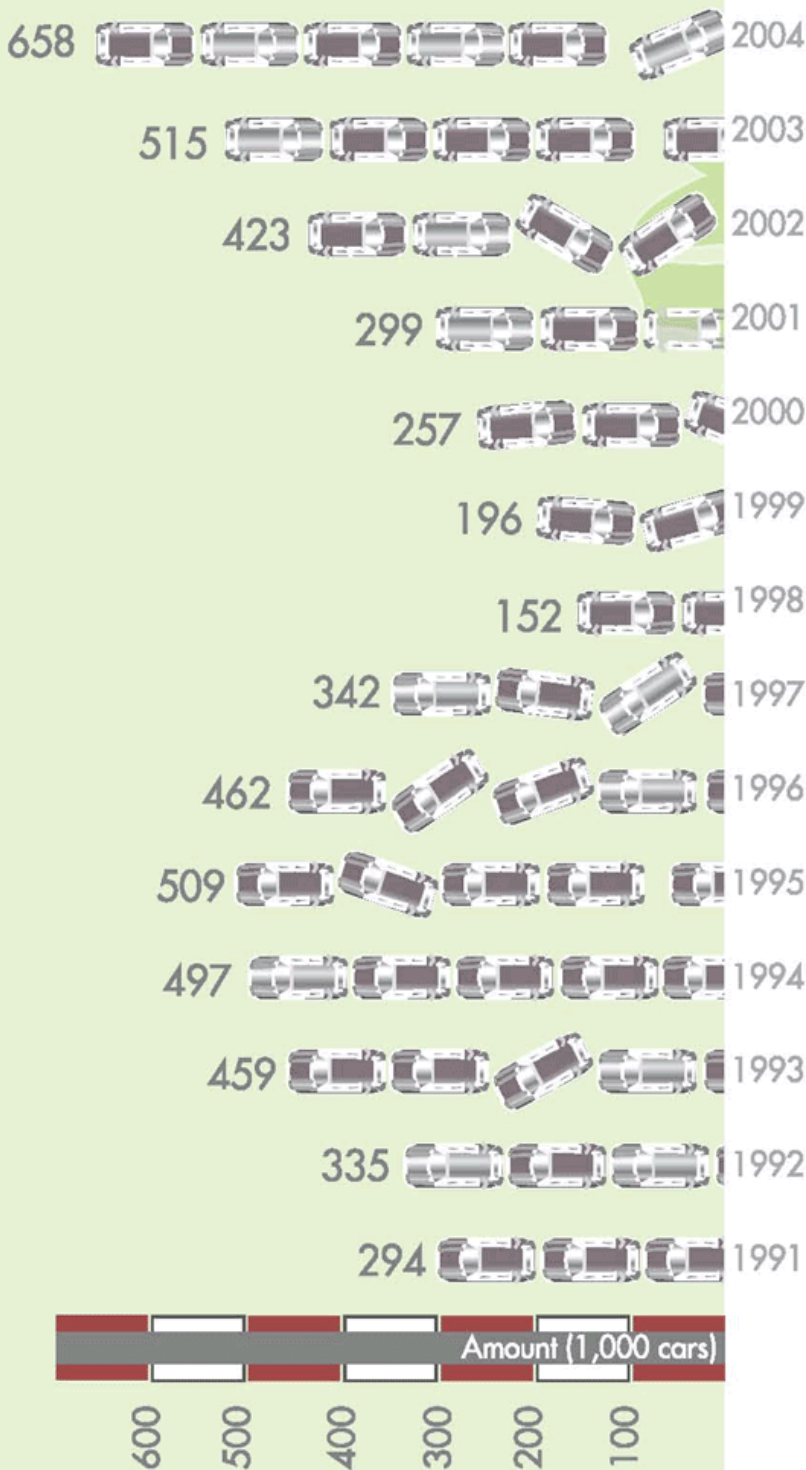


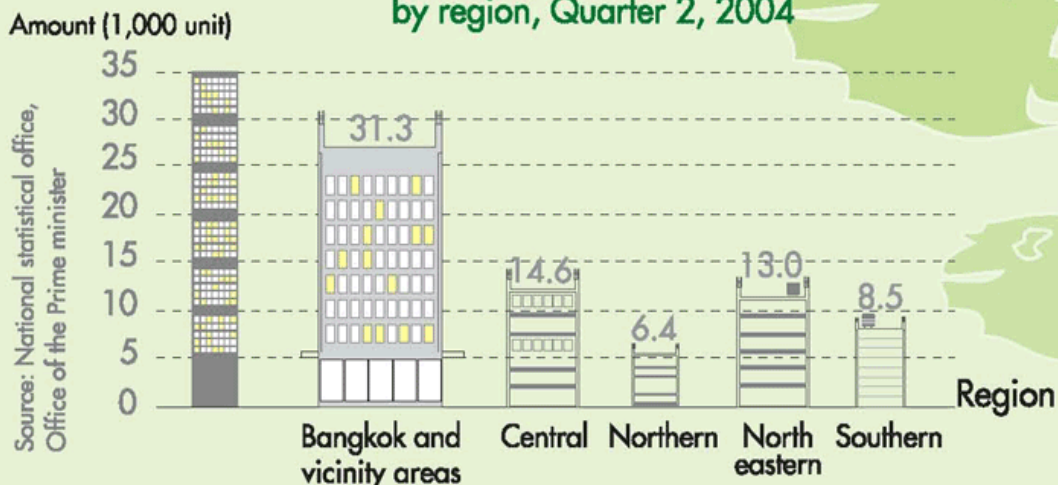
Environment



Source: Office of Land Transportation, 2004

Number of new registered vehicles in Bangkok, 1991-2004

New construction building addition or alteration of building by region, Quarter 2, 2004



Source: National statistical office, Office of the Prime minister

The population of Bangkok grew from 4.6 million in 1980 to 6.8 million in 2005, an increase of 47.8% in 25 years. Demand for housing and transport grew accordingly. This has had a direct effect on dust levels, because almost all dust in Bangkok comes from construction and vehicles. Twice as many houses have been built or renovated in Bangkok than in other parts of the country. Similarly, the increase in the number of vehicles is 1-6 times higher than in other regions. This has had a predictable effect on dust and air pollution.

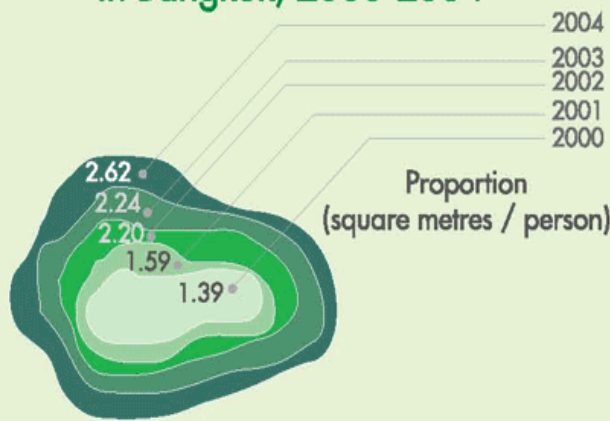
However, for many years Bangkok has strictly enforced measures to reduce dust and pollution. This has included checks on vehicle emissions, rules requiring covers on building sites and trucks, and new forms of public transport such as the Sky Train and Metro that have reduced dependence on private automobiles. At the same time, the number of parks—the “lung” of the city—has increased markedly.

All these efforts have reduced the quantity of dust in the air, though the amount of very fine dust still exceeds the health guidelines. Overall air quality in Bangkok has improved, and the number of parks and trees has increased.

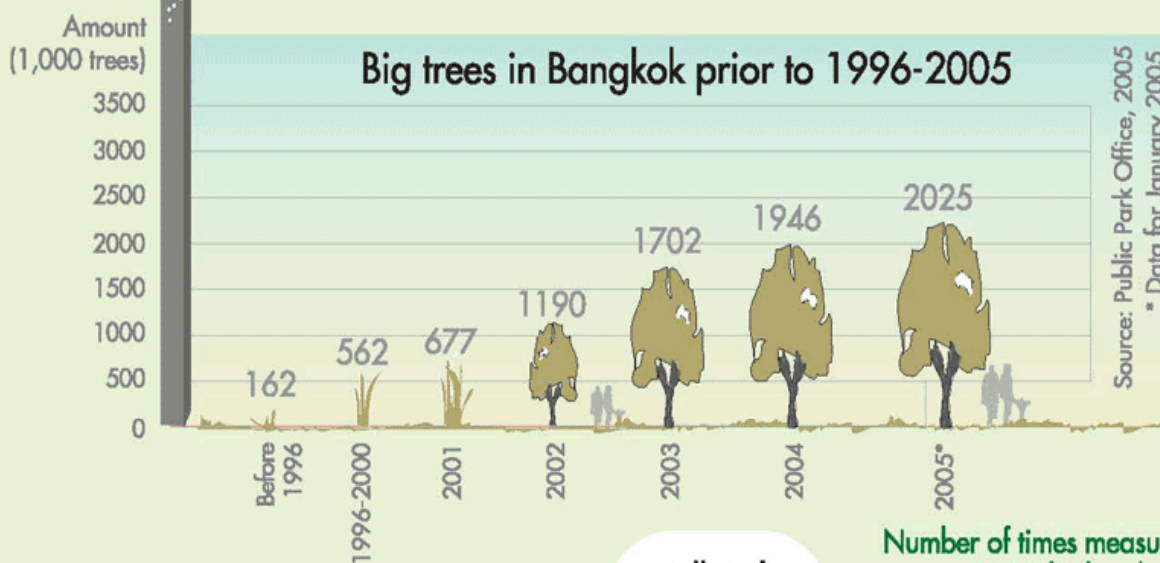
Air quality in Bangkok has been improving

Proportion of green areas per population in Bangkok, 2000-2004

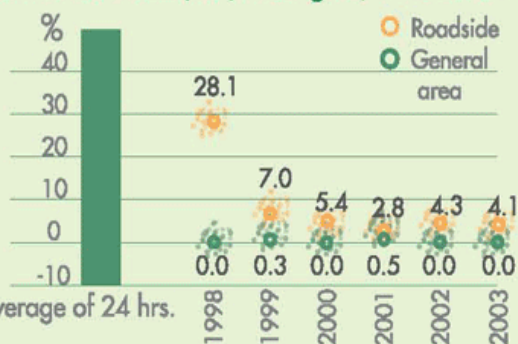
Source: Public Park Office, 2005



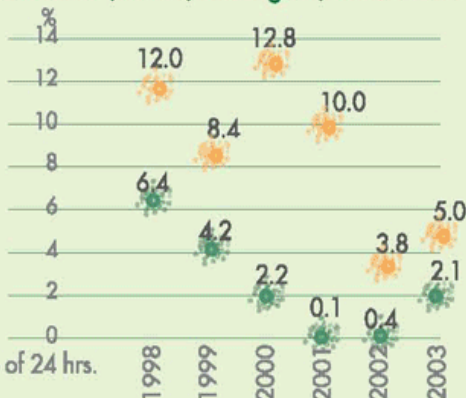
Strict enforcement of regulations has reduced the amount of dust in the air, and has kept air pollution at the legally allowed level



Detected higher than standard level of total suspended particulate matter (TSP) in Bangkok, 1998-2003



Detected higher than standard level of suspended particulate matter (PM 10) in Bangkok, 1998-2003



Number of times measurement of PM10 higher than standard level in Bangkok, 1998-2003

Polluted substances

Polluted substances	standard value	General area		Roadside	
		number of examination times	number of times found higher than standard (%)	number of examination times	number of times found higher than standard (%)
TSP	0.33	434	0 (0%)	588	24 (4.1%)
PM 10	120	1,680	36 (2.1%)	2,152	108 (5.0%)
Carbon monoxide	30	74,991	0 (0%)	65,389	0 (0%)
Ozone	100	61,789	155 (0.2%)	24,905	13 (0%)
Sulfurdioxide	300	77,176	0 (0%)	24,244	0 (0%)
Nitrogen dioxide	170	78,041	0 (0%)	24,621	0 (0%)

Source: Pollution Control Department, 2003