

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING 2015) RESOLUTION NO. 15-4644
NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS)
RESTORATION AND COMMUNITY) Introduced by Chief Operating Officer Martha
STEWARDSHIP GRANTS) Bennett in concurrence with Council President
Tom Hughes

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Metro Council established an initiative designed to protect and restore our region’s significant fish and wildlife habitat and connect people with nature as provided in Resolution No. 05-3574A, “Establishing a Regional Habitat Protection, Restoration and Greenspaces Initiative called Nature in Neighborhoods,” adopted May 12, 2005;

WHEREAS, the Metro Council established the Nature in Neighborhoods grant program in 2005 to provide local communities support to fulfill this regional initiative (Resolution No. 05-3580A);

WHEREAS, in May 2013, voters in the Metro region approved a 5-year local option levy for Metro’s parks and natural areas including new and expanded funding for what were referred to in the levy as Nature in Neighborhoods community grants;

WHEREAS, the Metro Council reiterated the community grant program’s purpose, eligibility and funding criteria via Resolution No. 12-4398 referring the 5-year local option levy to the voters, and called for the creation of a committee to review grant applications and make award recommendations to the Metro Council;

WHEREAS, Metro awarded the first round of Nature in Neighborhood Restoration and Community Stewardship grants in September 2014 via Resolution 14-4554;

WHEREAS, Metro has solicited and received applications for 2015 Nature in Neighborhoods community grants, now known as “Restoration and Community Stewardship” grants, and the grant review committee has identified the proposals which best meet the grant criteria and the goals of the Nature in Neighborhoods grant program;

WHEREAS, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 15-4612 approving \$600,000 in the FY 2015-16 Budget and Appropriation Schedule for 2015 Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration and Community Stewardship grants; now therefore

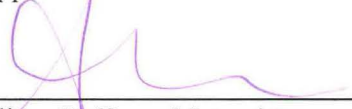
BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby approves the award of the 2015 Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration and Community Stewardship grants to those recipients listed in Exhibit A and for the amounts listed for each individual award.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 12th day of November 2015.



Tom Hughes, Council President

Approved as to Form:



Alison R. Kean, Metro Attorney

**Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration and Community Stewardship Grants
2015 (Second Round) Grant Awards
Grant Review Committee Recommendations to the Metro Council**

Expand, Diversify and Steward Backyard Habitat Certification Program

Recipient: Audubon Society of Portland and Columbia Land Trust

Grant Amount: \$ 34,380

Partners: APANO/Jade District, Friends of Tryon, City of Gresham, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, and community-based organizations

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program is an initiative that engenders community stewardship and improves habitat in developed areas through the efforts of private landowners. This project will spread the program to 550 new households and pilot a targeted outreach project with APANO, aimed at increasing program participation among Jade District residents.

Badger Creek Culvert Fish Passage Restoration

Recipient: Johnson Creek Watershed Council

Grant Amount: \$ 25,000

Partners: Portland Parks & Recreation (landowner), Clackamas County Dept. of Transportation, Inter-Jurisdictional Committee of the Johnson Creek Watershed (multiple agencies with natural resource interests in the watershed-technical assistance), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, and Portland Bureau of Environmental Services.

This project will restore access for salmon to 1.6 miles of lower Badger Creek, a primary tributary to Johnson Creek, by replacing two adjacent undersized steel culverts with a properly sized culvert under the Springwater Trail in 2016. This fish barrier is ranked within the top ten out of 275 identified barriers for restoration in the watershed, barriers.

Riparian and Wetlands Restoration on the Springwater Corridor

Recipient: Johnson Creek Watershed Council

Grant Amount: \$ 19,866

Partners: Portland Parks & Recreation, Oregon Bhutanese Community Organization, Impact Northwest, Wisdom of the Elders, Walker Emulsions, Crystal Springs Partnership

Engage watershed residents, including members of underserved communities, in maintaining recent riparian planting sites, and new plantings in riparian and wetland areas along the Springwater Corridor.

Partners Restoring Strategy Habitats in Lake Oswego

Recipient: City of Lake Oswego

Grant Amount: \$ 45,000

Partners: Adelante Mujeres, Association of Women in Science (AWIS), Backyard Habitat Program, Clean Water Services, Friends of Trees, Friends of Tryon Creek, The Lake Corporation, Lakeridge High School, Lewis & Clark College, Tualatin River Watershed Council, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Ash Creek Forest Management/Ecology and Scholls Valley Native Nursery

On 66 acres within a 270-acre South Lake Oswego Habitat Cluster, the project will engage local non-profits, schools, agencies and businesses to reestablish resilient, native plant communities on lands identified as regionally significant for recovery of native species and ecological processes.

KelipiCamas: A Cultural Confluence of Landowners and Native Americans Fostering Community Conservation and Stewardship of Oak and Prairie Habitats

Recipient: Portland State University, Indigenous Nations Studies Program

Grant Amount: \$ 48,041

Partners: Kingfisher Ecological Services LLC, Mark G. Wilson consultant, Urban Greenspaces Institute, Metro, Native American Youth and Family Center, Native American Community Advisory Council, The Intertwine Alliance, City of Portland Parks and BES, West Multnomah, Clackamas, and Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USFWS, Audubon Society of Portland

Provide paid internships for two Native youth in natural resources stewardship and engage local Native Americans in development and implementation of culturally-relevant stewardship activities at one or two natural areas. Train 45+ urban landowners from Western Washington and Clackamas counties in naturescaping to restore and reconnect fragmented oak habitats in strategic oak-rich neighborhoods.

Sandy River Delta Restoration II

Recipient: Sandy River Basin Watershed Council

Grant Amount: \$ 73,043

Partners: The Confluence Project, US Forest Service, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Friends of the Sandy River Delta, Reynolds School District, Friends of Trees, Ash Creek Forest Management, Jubitz Foundation, FedEx, Portland Trail Blazers

Expands the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council's efforts engaging a diverse community of students, scientists and residents in stewardship of strategic habitats at the popular, 1,500-acre Sandy River Delta.

Springwater Meadows Pilot Project - A Sellwood-Moreland Community Pilot Project for Meadowscaping Along the Springwater Corridor Trail

Recipient: Sellwood-Moreland Improvement League (SMILE)

Grant Amount: \$ 12,000

Partners: Portland Parks & Recreation, Columbia Land Trust, Meyer Boys & Girls Club, Metro

Springwater Meadows will engage an urban community in stewardship efforts to improve wildlife habitat on the first of six public properties adjacent to the Springwater Corridor Trail in the heart of Portland's Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood and inspire neighbors to improve habitat in their own backyards.

Engaging Diverse Communities in Restoration & Stewardship Volunteerism at Council Creek

Recipient: SOLVE

Grant Amount: \$ 18,081

Partners: City View Charter School, Landowner (Hilja Davis), Clean Water Services, Tualatin River Watershed Council, Centro Cultural, Adelante Mujeres

SOLVE will enhance restoration and stewardship of Council Creek with opportunities for volunteers from traditionally underserved communities in Cornelius through strong partnerships with culturally diverse organizations, offering summer camp watershed education field trips and weekend community tree planting and stewardship events.

East Fork Tryon Creek Fish Habitat Restoration

Recipient: Tryon Creek Watershed Council

Grant Amount: \$ 75,000

Partners: Tryon Creek State Natural Area, Friends of Tryon Creek State Park City of Portland BES, and adjacent landowners

An earthen dam and undersized culvert will be removed to restore fish passage in Tryon Creek State Natural Area. The creek bed will be reconstructed and riparian area replanted with native trees and shrubs. A footbridge and path will be installed to accommodate the well-used trail.

Willow Creek Greenway Enhancement

Recipient: Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

Grant Amount: \$ 25,025

Partners: Five Oaks/Triple Creeks Neighborhood Association Committee, Parsons Brinkerhoff Green Team, Clean Water Services

This project will improve water quality, and amphibian habitat in Willow Creek, a tributary of Beaver Creek in the Aloha area. Stewardship activities will engage youth and other community members through weed removal, native plant installation, and site monitoring.

Whitaker Ponds Restoration

Recipient: Verde

Grant Amount: \$ 25,000

Partners: Columbia Slough Watershed Council, Portland Parks and Recreation, Hacienda CDC, Multnomah Youth Cooperative

The Whitaker Ponds Restoration project utilizes Verde's most mature social enterprise, Verde Landscape, to comprehensively restore Whitaker Ponds Nature Park through engagement of underserved communities. Three primary habitats will be restored involving five areas of the Park, consistent with the Whitaker Ponds Master Plan.

Hummingbird Hill Forest Restoration

Recipient: West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Grant Amount: \$ 25,000

Partners: Verde Landscape, Turnstone Environmental Consultants, Homeowners of NW Riverview Drive

A collaborative neighborhood forest restoration project designed to control invasive ivy and blackberry and revive native understory in the Tualatin Mountains. The project engages land owners and volunteers, as well as providing job training to Verde crew members recruited from local, low-income communities in methods of invasive plant control, native planting, maintenance, monitoring, and project reporting.

Connecting Portland's Urban Forest

Recipient: West Willamette Restoration Partnership and Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

Grant Amount: \$ 98,500

Partners: Portland Parks & Recreation and Bureau of Environmental Services, Audubon Society of Portland & Columbia Land Trust's Backyard Habitat Certification Program, Oregon Health & Sciences University, Friends of Marquam Nature Park, SW Watershed Resource Center, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, Friends of Terwilliger and Homestead Neighborhood Association

Connecting Portland's Urban Forest is a collaborative project with diverse stakeholders bringing together restoration, stewardship, and interactive learning across public and private properties to enhance 85 acres of habitat in the Westside Wildlife Corridor located between Forest Park and Tryon Creek.

Nyberg Herptile Project

Recipient: The Wetlands Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$ 14,011

Partners: Clean Water Services, Cascade Education Corps, New Avenues for Youth

The Nyberg Herptile Project will add and enhance key habitat features at The Wetland Conservancy's Nyberg Wetland Preserve to attract the northern red-legged frogs and Western pond turtles found upstream and downstream. The project will create habitat and connectivity in a watershed supporting Oregon Conservation Strategy species.

Restore Ross Island

Recipient: Willamette Riverkeeper

Grant Amount: \$ 62,000

Partners: Portland Parks & Recreation GRUNT, Jr. GRUNT and Youth Conservation Corps Programs, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, Audubon Society of Portland, Groundwork Portland

Restore Ross Island is a partnership effort focused on restoring ecological function to a wildlife corridor and floodplain forest on the publically owned Ross Island Natural Area located within the heart of Portland and the Willamette River Greenway. Partners will work with youth crews and school groups, community volunteers and groups in restoration, monitoring and habitat enhancement activities.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 15-4644, FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING 2015 NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS RESTORATION AND COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP GRANTS

Date: November 12, 2015

Prepared by: Heather Nelson Kent, 503-797-1739
Crista Gardner, 503-797-1627

BACKGROUND

For nearly two decades, the Metro Council has provided funding for grants to community groups, non-profits, local governments and other organizations, which grants are designed to improve water quality and wildlife habitat and give people of all ages opportunities to learn about and connect with nature.

In May 2013, voters approved Measure 26-152 (the “Natural Areas Levy”), providing new funding for Metro’s parks and natural areas and providing increased funding for Nature in Neighborhoods community grants. Grant program staff used the framework provided by Metro Council in Resolution No. 12-4398, which referred the Natural Areas Levy to the voters, to develop an outreach plan, application materials and evaluation criteria for these community grants, referred to as Restoration and Community Stewardship grants, as outlined in the approved work plan. Staff aligned Metro’s Restoration and Community Stewardship grant criteria with state, regional and community initiatives in order to achieve multiple benefits.

Grant Evaluation Criteria

Using the framework provided by Metro Council in Resolution No. 12-4398, Metro’s grant program staff developed an outreach plan, application materials and evaluation criteria for this first cycle of restoration grants. Staff worked to align this new funding with other state, regional and community initiatives so that these grants can achieve multiple benefits. To do this, the grant criteria focused on two categories for funding, based on the Regional Conservation Strategy – Community Stewardship in Developed Areas and Restoration in Natural Areas. Additionally, staff identified two primary goals for all Restoration and Community Stewardship grants:

Goal 1: Preserve and restore fish and wildlife habitat in local communities and support larger conservation initiatives such as the Oregon State Conservation Strategy, Regional Conservation Strategy, Watershed Action Plans or local community plans.

Goal 2: Increase people’s awareness of the need for – and benefits of – protecting and managing natural areas. Engage people in learning about, protecting and managing natural areas at the community level.

The response to the funding opportunity was great. Metro received 27 pre-applications, totaling \$1,112,083 in funding requests for the \$600,000 in funding available.

Due to the large number of applications, Metro’s Nature in Neighborhoods grant program follows a two-step process. The review committee evaluated pre-applications based on the information submitted by applicants, the stated evaluation criteria, and the review committee’s

professional and collective judgment. The purpose of the pre-application review is to determine the best proposals to invite for full applications. Of the initial 27 pre-applications submitted, the review committee recommended inviting 23 to submit full applications. Those invited had one month to prepare a full application. The same committee reviewed the final proposals using the same evaluation criteria and recommended 15 for funding (see attachment).

Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration Grants Review Committee

Participation on the grant review committee is by application, open and advertised to all community members. Parks and Nature Interim Director Kathleen Brennan-Hunter selected the committee members from the group of applicants. The committee included local experts in project management, habitat restoration, natural area land management, conservation planning, grants administration, non-profit management, volunteer coordination, and community partnerships. Committee members declared any direct conflict of interest in the proposals and did not score or participate directly in the discussion or ranking of applications where there was a conflict. Perceived conflicts were also noted and recorded in meeting minutes.

2015 Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration Grant Review Committee

Michael Ahr, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Ben Axt, Institute for Applied Ecology

Gaylen Beatty, Columbia Land Trust

Greg Creager, Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District

Jenny Dezso, Clackamas River Basin Council

John Goetz III, Clean Water Services

Jeff Merrill, Metro, Natural Areas Program

Kristen Pleyte Acock, City of Portland, BES

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. Known Opposition

None.

2. Legal Antecedents

Resolution No. 12-4398, For the Purpose of Referring to the Voters of the Metro Area a Local Option Levy for the Purpose of Preserving Water Quality, Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Maintaining Metro's Parks and Natural Areas for the Public.

Resolution No. 05-3574A, Establishing a Regional Habitat Protection, Restoration and Greenspaces Initiative called Nature in Neighborhoods.

Resolution 05-3580A, Transferring \$1,250,000 from the Balance of the FY 2004-05 Recovery Rate Stabilization Reserve to a General Fund Reserve for Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration Projects.

Ordinance No. 07-1160B, Transferring \$250,000 from the Recovery Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund for Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration Projects.

Ordinance No. 09-1215B, Approving \$92,500 in the FY 2009-10 Budget and Appropriation Schedule for an additional round of Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration and Enhancement grants.

Ordinance No. 10-1235B, Approving \$150,000 in the FY 2010-11 Budget and Appropriation Schedule for an additional round of Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration and Enhancement grants.

Ordinance No. 12-1274A, Approving \$200,000 in the FY 2012-13 Budget and Appropriation Schedule for an additional round of Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration and Enhancement grants.

3. Anticipated Effects

This Resolution approves the award of 2015 Nature in Neighborhood Restoration and Community Stewardship community grants and begins the individual contract award process for the selected grant applicants with an anticipated project start date on or after Sept. X 2015. Projects may be up to three years in length.

4. Budget Impacts

This Resolution authorizes award of contracts in an amount previously identified by the Metro Council in the budget for this purpose. The adopted FY 2015-16 budget includes the necessary appropriation authority for reimbursement of these grants.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Chief Operating Officer recommends adoption of Resolution No. 15-4644.