

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING 2016) RESOLUTION NO. 16-4680
NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS)
REGIONAL TRAILS GRANTS) Introduced by Chief Operating Officer Martha
) 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;

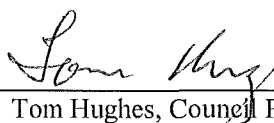
WHEREAS, the Metro Council reiterated the community grant program's purpose, eligibility and funding criteria via Resolution No. 12-4398 referring the 5-year local option levy to the voters, and called for the creation of a committee to review grant applications and make award recommendations to the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

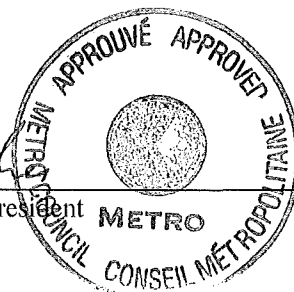
WHEREAS, Metro has solicited and received applications for 2016 Nature in Neighborhoods community grants, now known as "Regional Trails" grants, and the grant review committee has identified the proposals which best meet the grant criteria and the goals of the Nature in Neighborhoods grant program;

WHEREAS, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 15-4612 approving \$500,000 in the FY 2015-16 Budget and Appropriation Schedule for 2015 Nature in Neighborhoods Regional Trails grants; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby approves the award of the 2016 Nature in Neighborhoods Regional Trails grants to those recipients listed in Exhibit A and for the amounts listed for each individual award.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 31st day of March, 2016.


Tom Hughes, Council President



Approved as to Form:


Alison R. Kean, Metro Attorney

**Nature in Neighborhoods Regional Trails Grants
2016 Grant Awards
Grant Review Committee Recommendations to the Metro Council**

The AccessTrails Project - phase 2

Recipient: Access Recreation

Grant Amount: \$50,000

Project Partners: Audubon Society of Portland, Clark County Parks, Hillsboro Parks & Recreation, Metro, Independent Living Resources, The Intertwine Alliance, Bureau of Land Management, North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Pacific University School of Occupational Therapy, Portland Parks & Recreation, SWTrails, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, City of Tualatin - Parks and Recreation, U.S. Forest Service, West Linn Parks & Recreation

Project Summary: Access Recreation creates online trail maps, descriptions, photos and videos so people of all abilities know whether a regional trail will meet their abilities and expectations before they arrive at the trail. Phase 2 of this project will create new partnerships, double the number of trails mapped and videos produced, and expand education/outreach.

McLoughlin-to-Canemah Trail Plan

Recipient: City of Oregon City

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Project Partners: The City of Oregon City (Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Planning Departments, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, and the Natural Resources Committee), The Oregon City Trail Alliance (OCTA), The McLoughlin Neighborhood Association, Clackamas County Historical Society

Project Summary: This project will develop a Master Plan for the mile-long McLoughlin-Canemah Trail connection, a crucial segment of the Oregon City Loop Trail, which will connect the Oregon City trail system to the Canemah Bluff Natural Area.

Cedar Creek Trail/Ice Age Tonquin Regional Trail Signage/Wayfinding System

Recipient: City of Sherwood

Grant Amount: \$68,045

Project Partners: Sherwood School District, Washington County, Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, Clean Water Services, City of Tualatin, City of Wilsonville, Parks and Recreation Advisory

Exhibit A to Resolution No. 16-4680

Board, Sherwood Mainstreets

Project Summary: The project will provide wayfinding and signage to provide visual cues for the Cedar Creek/Ice Age Tonquin Trail so users can safely access this regional trail when it is constructed in 2017.

Wood Village-Fairview Interceptor Trail

Recipient: City of Wood Village

Grant Amount: \$67,390

Project Partners: City of Fairview, The Friends of Fairview, Home Forward and adjacent property owners

Project Summary: This project will build a 1,875'-long, 10'-wide surfaced trail to connect woodlands, wetlands, schools and shopping to residential areas between the end of Bridge Street in the City of Fairview to the city hall property in Wood Village.

Rood Bridge Park Canoe Launch

Recipient: Hillsboro Parks & Recreation

Grant Amount: \$100,000

Project Partners:

Tualatin River Keepers, Bienestar, Washington County Visitors Association, Western Farm Workers Association (WFWA)

Project Summary: This project will redevelop the existing, unusable watercraft launch at Rood Bridge Park in Hillsboro into a safe, user friendly access to the Tualatin River Regional Water Trail for people of varying abilities and backgrounds.

North Johnson Creek Trail Extension

Recipient: Neighbors For Smart Growth

Grant Amount: \$33,600

Project Partners: Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District (THPRD), Providence St. Vincent Hospital, Catlin Gabel School, West Tualatin View School (West TV), Washington County, Clean Water Services, Westside Transportation Alliance, Tualatin River Watershed Council

Exhibit A to Resolution No. 16-4680

Project Summary: This project will plan a trail and riparian restoration along North Johnson Creek corridor between SW 90th & 95th Avenues in Washington County.

CCC Shared Use Path

Recipient: Oregon City School District No. 62

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Project Partners: City of Oregon City, Clackamas Community College, Clackamas Academy of Industrial Sciences, Greater Oregon City Watershed Council, Caulfield Neighborhood Association

Project Summary: This project will significantly improve and pave an existing gravel pathway between Oregon City High School and Clackamas Community College to become part of the regional trails connection between the Oregon City Loop Trail and the Beaver Lake Trail.

Living Cully Walks Phase 2

Recipient: Verde

Grant Amount: \$90,000

Project Partners: Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East, Hacienda Community Development Corporation, Native American Youth & Family Center, Oregon Museum of Science & Industry, Portland Bureau of Transportation, Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation, Port of Portland, Columbia Slough Watershed Council

Project Summary: Living Cully Walks Phase 2 will help this low-income neighborhood overcome access barriers to nearby parks, natural areas and the Regional Trail System through wayfinding, bi-lingual youth education and community outreach.

Wisdom Springwater Trail Partnership

Recipient: Wisdom of the Elders, Inc. (Wisdom)

Grant Amount: \$35,000

Project Partners: Portland Parks and Recreation, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Zenger Farm, Native American Youth and Family Center, PSU's Institute for Sustainable Solutions, Ant Farm (Woape), Portland Community Media TV

Project Summary: Wisdom and its diverse partners will develop youth leaders and support local climate initiatives by restoring habitat for native salmon and Pacific Lamprey along the Springwater Trail.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 16-4680, FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING 2016 NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS REGIONAL TRAILS GRANTS

Date: March 10, 2016

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 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 regional trails grants. Staff worked to align this new funding with other state, regional and community initiatives so that these grants can achieve multiple benefits. Nature in Neighborhoods regional trails grants implement the Regional Trails Plan; support and create partnerships in local communities that improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat; and improve the ability of all communities to learn about and connect with nature. The regional trails grant criteria focused on the following goals and categories:

- Increasing access to nature for Regional Trail users: These grants support projects that increase or enhance access to nature for Regional Trail users by planning, building or improving Regional Trails that connect people to parks and/or natural areas.
- Increasing nature as part of our Regional Trails system: These grants emphasize improving the trail users experience of nature or enriching people’s experience of nature when using Regional Trails.
- Community engagement: For both project categories, proposals must show how the grant meets Metro’s goals for community engagement and improve the ability of all communities, including underserved communities (e.g. low-income, communities of color) to learn about, help restore, experience and connect with nature and the region’s natural areas through Regional Trails.

Metro received 18 pre-applications, which total \$1,225,130 in requests for \$500,000 in available funding.

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 18 pre-applications submitted, the review committee recommended inviting 13 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 9 for funding (see list below).

Nature in Neighborhoods Regional Trails Grant Review Committee

Participation on the grant review committee is by application, open and advertised to all community members. Parks and Nature Program Director Kathleen Brennan-Hunter selected this year's review committee from a pool of applicants, including Metro staff members with experience in active transportation and trails planning. The committee included local experts in trail planning and design, trail construction management, environmental planning and habitat restoration, outreach related to recreational trails or active transportation, grant management, volunteer coordination, and/or 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 application where there was a conflict. Perceived conflicts were also noted and recorded in meeting minutes.

2016 Nature in Neighborhoods Regional Trails Grant Review Committee

Lake McTighe, Metro, Planning

Daniel Newberry, Johnson Creek Watershed Council

Mike Rose, Alta Planning and Design

Robert Spurlock, Metro, Parks and Nature

Holly Van Houten, community member

Jill Van Winkle, IMBA Trail Solutions

Amber Wierck, Clean Water Services

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 No. 14-4546, For the Purpose of Approving the Regional Trails and Greenways Map.

3. Anticipated Effects

This Resolution approves the award of 2016 Nature in Neighborhood Regional Trails community grants and begins the individual contract award process for the selected grant applicants with an anticipated project start date on or after March 31, 2016. Projects may be up to two 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. 16-4680.