

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING 2016 ) RESOLUTION NO. 16-4723  
NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS )  
CONSERVATION EDUCATION COMMUNITY ) Introduced by Chief Operating Officer Martha  
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, to fulfill the goals of this regional initiative, the Metro Council approved Resolution No. 05-3580A to establish the Nature in Neighborhoods grant program for local communities;

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

WHEREAS, in May 2013, voters in the Metro region approved the 5-year local option levy which included new and expanded funding for this grant program, referred to in the levy as Nature in Neighborhoods community grants;

WHEREAS, Metro awarded the first round of Nature in Neighborhood Conservation Education grants in July 2014 via Resolution 14-4549;

WHEREAS, Metro awarded the second round of Nature in Neighborhood Conservation Education grants in July 2015 via Resolution 15-4635;

WHEREAS, Metro has solicited and received applications for 2016 Nature in Neighborhoods Conservation Education grants, and the grant review committee has identified the proposals which best meet the grant criteria and the goals of the Nature in Neighborhoods community grant program; now therefore,

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

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 30th day of June, 2016.

  
Tom Hughes, Council President



Approved as to Form:



---

Alison R. Kean, Metro Attorney

Nature in Neighborhoods Conservation Education Program  
2016 (Third Round) Grant Awards  
Grant Review Committee Recommendations to the Metro Council

Total award amount recommended: \$203,626

**Program:** CDE's Youth Leadership Development Program  
**Grant amount:** \$30,000  
**Recipient:** Center for Diversity & the Environment  
**Partners:** Youth Mentoring Collaborative, Westwind Stewardship Group, Metro/Oregon Zoo ZAP Program (Zoo Animal Presenters), Audubon Society of Portland TALON Program (Teach, Advocate, Lead, Observe and Nurture), Friends of Tryon Creek

**Program summary:** CDE will offer their Youth Leadership and Development Program with a racial equity focus to engage historically underrepresented youth. The program will support participants as emerging leaders to reshape and diversify the environmental movement.

**Program:** Bike Camp  
**Grant amount:** \$17,367  
**Recipient:** Community Cycling Center  
**Partners:** Groundwork Portland, Hacienda CDC, Home Forward, Columbia Slough Watershed Council

**Program summary:** Bike Camp provides opportunities for youth (ages 6-13) from low-income families to discover nature in their own backyards. Participants ride to regional parks, learn through hands-on environmental education, develop problem-solving skills and earn a bicycle.

**Program:** Ecology Education in North Clackamas  
**Grant amount:** \$30,000  
**Recipient:** Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors  
**Partners:** North Clackamas School District, Oak Lodge Sanitary District, Clackamas River Water Providers, Schoolyard Farms, Institute for Permaculture Education for Children, Portland State University, North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council

**Program summary:** Ecology Education in North Clackamas engages 600 4th and 5th grade students and 20 teachers at four Title I elementary schools in the North Clackamas School District. Each classroom will receive four ecology lessons and a service-learning field trip.

**Program:** Opportunity Corps & Beyond  
**Grant amount:** \$30,000  
**Recipient:** Momentum Alliance  
**Partners:** Northwest Youth Corps, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Bureau of Land Management, APANO, Latino Network

**Program summary:** Opportunity Corps & Beyond is a partnership between Momentum Alliance & Northwest Youth Corps. The partnership will diversify leadership in conservation through intensive internships for ten youth and provide year-round programming and coaching for 35 additional youth.

**Program:** Sandy River Delta Conservation Education  
**Grant amount:** \$15,000  
**Recipient:** Sandy River Basin Watershed Council  
**Partners:** Confluence, US Forest Service, Oregon Zoo, ODFW, Friends of the Sandy River Delta, Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute, Lower Columbia River Partnership, National Park Service, Friends of Trees

**Program summary:** The Sandy Delta Education Initiative brings Portland, Troutdale and Gresham students to the Sandy River Delta to develop a sense of stewardship through place-based learning about the Sandy River's ecology and culture and ongoing habitat restoration.

**Program:** Soul River Youth and Veterans Program  
**Grant amount:** \$30,000  
**Recipient:** Soul River, Inc.  
**Partners:** U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Oregon Zoo, The Intertwine Alliance, City of Vancouver Parks & Recreation, PPS Title VII Indian Education, Integrated Interventions, Portland Parks & Recreation, Loop, Orvis, Swim, Water Master, Columbia Sportswear, Oregon Public House.

**Program summary:** Soul River, Inc. connects veterans and youth to nature through events in both local and remote settings. This project will strengthen learning about local nature, establish relationships with local youth organizations and build organizational capacity.

**Program:** Growing Green: Training Diverse Leaders for Tomorrow's Jobs  
**Grant amount:** \$30,000  
**Recipient:** Tualatin Riverkeepers  
**Partners:** Tualatin Riverkeepers, Centro Cultural of Washington County, Muslim Educational Trust, Center for Intercultural Organizing

**Program summary:** As Washington County's green industry jobs increase, Tualatin Riverkeepers will work with Centro Cultural, Muslim Educational Trust and other partners to deliver culturally relevant vocational training and internships for people of color in urban forestry.

**Program:** Blue Lake Young Rangers  
**Grant amount:** \$21,259  
**Recipient:** Washington County 4-H Association  
**Partners:** Metro, Portland Community College SE Center, U.S. Forest Service, Pacific NW Research Station, Alliance High School @ Joseph Meek ProTech, David Douglas High School, Parkrose Middle School, Reynolds School District, Food & Community Health interns from OSU Extension School

**Program summary:** This summer capstone experience, piloted in 2015, will continue the success of the Blue Lake Young Rangers. Middle and High School aged rangers from diverse backgrounds participate in outdoor service projects, conduct research and explore new technologies develop interpretive materials, and present their findings.

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 16-4723, FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING 2016 NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS CONSERVATION EDUCATION COMMUNITY GRANTS**

---

Date: June 30, 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 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, 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 to develop an outreach plan, application materials and evaluation criteria for these community grants, referred to as Conservation Education grants, as outlined in the approved levy work plan. Staff aligned Metro's Conservation Education grant criteria with state, regional and community initiatives in order to achieve multiple benefits. The Metro Council awarded the first round of Conservation Education grants in July 2014 (Resolution 14-4549) and the second round of Conservation Education grants in July 2015 (Resolution 15-4635).

## **Grant Evaluation Criteria**

The Conservation Education grant criteria focused on three program categories for funding:

- Connect people with nature (capacity building, collaboration, activities across the conservation education sector)
- Environmental Literacy (access to nature education and programs for all ages, integration with formal education, increased knowledge and engagement about the environment and natural systems)
- Develop Conservation Leaders (leadership development, mentorship, workforce training)

Metro received 35 pre-applications, totaling \$812,303 in funding requests. More than 300 individual applicants, partners or potential partners were listed in the pre-applications.

A staff analysis of a demographic survey of applicants and their partners revealed that efforts to reach and build capacity within community based organizations that have not historically accessed these funds were effective. The demographic survey of grant applicants in the pre-application phase found that more than one-fifth of applicants and partners self-identified as a culturally specific organization and more than two-thirds described underserved populations as their primary audience as defined by the Metro Council as low-income and/or communities of color.

## **Application review and selection**

Participation on the grant review committee is by application, open and advertised to all community members. Parks and Nature Director Kathleen Brennan-Hunter selected this year's review committee from a pool of applicants. The committee included local experts in nature education, program

management, philanthropy, grant management, fundraising, community partnership development and volunteer management. 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.

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 35 pre-applications submitted, the review committee recommended inviting 16 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 eight (8) for funding by the Metro Council (see Exhibit A).

### **2016 Nature in Neighborhoods Conservation Education Grant Review Committee**

**Rachael Bashor**, Gray Family Foundation

**Katherine Cory**, Sandy River Basin Watershed Council

**Julia Crown**, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

**Anne Morse**, Adelante Mujeres

**June Reyes**, Willamette Partnership, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO)

**Jessica Rojas**, Community Watershed Stewardship Program (CWSP)

**Traci Price**, 3 Ways to Change

**Gabe Sheoships**, Friends of Tryon Creek

**Patrick Willis**, Oregon State University Extension Service, Washington County

### **2016 Conservation Education Awards**

For the third round of levy-funded grants, the committee was inspired by the variety of proposals, the quality of the programs, and the great work of the organizations, especially on small budgets. Generally, they appreciated well laid out and organized proposals that included specific objectives.

The review committee noted a paradigm shift over the last few years demonstrated by the increase of applications by community based organizations and by traditional environmental organizations with an emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion. They valued programs in which the need was clearly outlined and identified by the community. They appreciated organizations' recognition and acknowledgement that building relationships and partnerships and increasing engagement with diverse communities takes time and commitment. The committee regarded highly partnerships between community based and environmental organizations which reflected mutual learning from one another rather than one delivering a service to the other.

The committee was interested in the outcomes and support given to the children and adults participating in the programs. They appreciated the intentional building of a career pipeline and expanded knowledge for youth in the environmental field, especially by exposing youth to a variety of agencies, types of work, and professionals. They held in high regard the opportunity for the mutual exchange of skills for partners and participants. They also valued organizations with year-round community programs and/or wrap-around services that proposed to integrate conservation education into their existing framework.

In selecting the overall group of grants recommended for funding, the review committee sought to find a balance of program types. They balanced the breadth of field trips or outdoor experiences for more people with the depth of experiences for a smaller number of participants. For some, nature programs were more compelling than indoor meeting or training time.

Applications for community garden, agriculture-based or food production programs were judged against the grant program criteria, especially how well the program included strong natural resource, wildlife habitat or water quality education curriculum. Generally, programs focused on food or edible gardens were not found to fit the grant goals. Similarly, proposals for Outdoor School or similar programs were not deemed to fit the grant program since Metro provides substantial funding for Outdoor School through its Waste Reduction Education Program.

The total award amount recommended is \$203,626. Grant projects will begin July 1, 2016. Grant applicants may have up to two years to complete their projects.

## **ANALYSIS/INFORMATION**

### **1. Known Opposition**

None.

### **2. Legal Antecedents**

Resolution 15-4635, For the Purpose of Approving the 2015 Nature in Neighborhoods Conservation Education Community Grants.

Resolution No. 14-4549, For the Purpose of Approving the 2014 Nature in Neighborhoods Conservation Education Community Grants.

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 2016 Nature in Neighborhood Conservation Education community grants and begins the individual contract award process for the selected grant applicants with an anticipated project start date on or after July 1, 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 2016-17 budget includes the necessary appropriation authority for reimbursement of these grants.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Chief Operating Officer recommends adoption of Resolution No. 16-4723.