

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING 2016 ) RESOLUTION NO. 16-4725  
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;

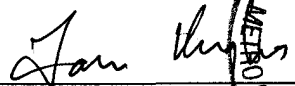
WHEREAS, Metro awarded the second round of Nature in Neighborhood Restoration and Community Stewardship grants in November 2015 via Resolution 15-4644;

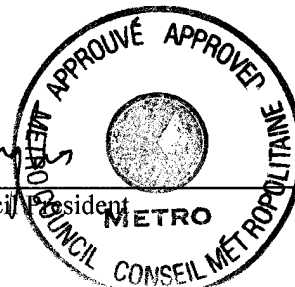
WHEREAS, Metro has solicited and received applications for 2016 Nature in Neighborhoods community grants, now known as "Restoration and Community Stewardship" grants, and the grant review committee has identified the proposals which best meet the grant criteria and the goals of the Nature in Neighborhoods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

WHEREAS, the Metro Council adopted Resolution No. 16-4697 approving \$200,000 in the FY 2016-17 Budget and Appropriation Schedule for 2016 Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration and Community Stewardship grants; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council hereby approves the award of the 2016 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 29 day of September, 2016.

  
Tom Hughes, Council President



Approved as to Form:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a series of connected loops and a long horizontal tail.

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Alison R. Kean, Metro Attorney

**Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration and Community Stewardship Grants  
2016 (Third Round) Grant Awards  
Grant Review Committee Recommendations to the Metro Council**

**Backyard Habitat Certification - Clackamas County Expansion**

**Recipient:** Audubon Society of Portland

**Grant Amount:** \$12,000

**Partners:** Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District, Clackamas County Water Environment Services, City of Milwaukie, City of West Linn, North Clackamas Urban Watersheds Council, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Oak Lodge Sanitary District

This project will expand the Backyard Habitat Certification Program to new areas of urban and sub-urban Clackamas County.

**Bee Stewards in Wilsonville**

**Recipient:** City of Wilsonville

**Grant Amount:** \$22,662

**Partners:** Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP), West Linn-Wilsonville School District (CREST), Friends of Trees, Xerces Society, Habitat Landscape Design, Northwest Youth Corps, Oregon State University (North Willamette Research-Extension Center)

The City of Wilsonville will see an expanded pollinator habitat with increased student education, community awareness and stewardship on private lands. The project will also safeguard pollinator health by enacting sustainable pest solutions on City lands.

**A Green Community Plaza for Hillsboro's M&M Swap Meet**

**Recipient:** Depave

**Grant Amount:** \$30,000

**Partners:** M&M Swap Meet Marketplace, Clean Water Services, City of Hillsboro, Hillsboro Downtown Partnership

Depave plans to transform the M&M Swap Meet property from grey to green by engaging community members in urban re-greening activities involving pavement removal, rain garden creation, native plant installation, and related neighborhood greenspace elements.

### **Increased Tree Shading for the Johnson Creek Watershed**

**Recipient:** Johnson Creek Watershed Council

**Grant Amount:** \$30,000

**Partners:** Verde, Wisdom of the Elders, African Youth and Community Organization (AYCO), multiple committed landowners

Johnson Creek Watershed Council will work with private landowners in the Johnson Creek watershed to provide critical shade to watershed streams by employing workforce training crews from communities of color to plant native trees and shrubs.

### **Rinearson Creek Stewardship Initiative**

**Recipient:** North Clackamas Urban Watersheds Council

**Grant Amount:** \$22,811

**Partners:** North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council, Dig In Community, Rex Putnam High School

The North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council and Dig In Community are joining forces with community members, schools and agencies to expand and improve restoration outcomes and environmental education to the youth of the Rinearson watershed.

### **Pollinator Parkways**

**Recipient:** Pollinator Parkways

**Grant Amount:** \$3,300

**Partners:** The City Repair Project, Bridgeport United Church of Christ, Creative Science School

Pollinator Parkways creates urban pollinator habitat and eliminates pesticide use by replacing lawn/ornamentals/invasive plants with native plants of staggered bloom times.

### **Lents Conservation Partnership**

**Recipient:** ROSE Community Development

**Grant Amount:** \$35,000

**Partners:** Green Lents, Portland Parks and Recreation, Portland State University

The Lents Conservation Partnership expands and enhances pollinator habitat restoration and connectivity in the Lents portion of the Johnson Creek watershed. The program will use existing conservation projects to increase youth engagement and community stewardship.

**Creating Community Natural Area Stewardship**

**Recipient:** West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

**Grant Amount:** \$50,000

**Partners:** West Willamette Restoration Partnership, Tryon Creek Watershed Council, SW Watershed Resource Center, Friends of Terwilliger, Friends of Marquam, Portland Parks and Recreation, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Backyard Habitat Certification Program.

This project will build upon a successful engagement program. Tools are designed for the community to engage residents around natural area stewardship.

## STAFF REPORT

### IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 16-4725, FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING 2016 NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS RESTORATION AND COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP GRANTS

Date: September 9, 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 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.

### 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 19 pre-applications, totaling \$517,351 in funding requests for the \$205,000 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 19 pre-applications submitted, the review committee recommended inviting 11 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 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.

### **2016 Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration Grant Review Committee**

Michael Ahr, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Shannah Anderson, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

Lokyee Au, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO)

Andrew Collins-Anderson, North Clackamas Urban Watersheds Council

John Goetz III, Clean Water Services

Danielle Jones, Leadership for Sustainability Education, Portland State University, Governance and Development Intern, Lloyd EcoDistrict

Jeff Merrill, Metro, Parks and Nature

Angela Previdelli, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

Josie Simonis, DAPPER Stats

Kris Taylor, SOLVE, Western Energy Institute

## **ANALYSIS/INFORMATION**

### **1. Known Opposition**

None.

### **2. Legal Antecedents**

Resolution No. 15-4644, For the Purpose of Approving 2015 Nature in Neighborhood Restoration and Community Stewardship grants.

Resolution No. 14-4554, For the Purpose of Approving 2014 Nature in Neighborhood Restoration and Community Stewardship 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 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. 30 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. 16-4725.