

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING 2018) RESOLUTION NO. 18-4896
NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS NATURE)
EDUCATION AND OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES) Introduced by Chief Operating Officer Martha
COMMUNITY 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 community grants in July 2014 via Resolution 14-4549;

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

WHEREAS, Metro awarded the third round of Nature in Neighborhood Conservation Education community grants in June 2016 via Resolution 16-4723;

WHEREAS, the Metro Council confirmed the grant program's purpose and funding via Resolution No. 16-4690, when the council referred the renewal of Metro's local option levy for Metro's parks and natural areas to the voters;

WHEREAS, the Metro Council approved Metro's Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion via Resolution No. 16-4708, which directs the agency to incorporate racial equity into all aspects of its work;

WHEREAS, Metro has solicited and received applications for 2018 Nature in Neighborhoods Nature Education and Outdoor Experiences 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 2018 Nature in Neighborhoods Nature Education and Outdoor Experiences community grants to those recipients listed in Exhibit A and for the amounts listed for each individual award.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 28 day of June, 2018.



Tom Hughes, Council President

Approved as to Form:



Alison R. Kean, Metro Attorney

**Nature in Neighborhoods Nature Education and Outdoor Experiences Community Grants
2018 Grant Review Committee Recommendation to Metro Council**

Advancing Cultural and Environmental Equity for API Communities

Recipient: APANO Communities United Fund

Grant amount: \$30,000

Program Partners: Friends of Trees, Willamette Partnership, Columbia Land Trust, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Multnomah County, Oregon Zoo

Program summary: Connects APANO members with greater Portland's parks and natural areas and offers leadership development opportunities to advance environmental equity in East Portland neighborhoods.

Environment 2042 Emerging Leaders (E42EL)

Recipient: Center for Diversity & the Environment

Grant amount: \$60,000

Program Partners: US Fish & Wildlife, Racial Equity Institute, Youth Mentoring Collaborative (which includes other organizations such as USFW and Portland Parks & Recreation), Leaven Community, CDE Community

Program summary: The Environment 2042 Emerging Leaders Program will identify and develop a cohort of youth (age 18 to 25) from the Metro area to prepare them to build a more diverse, equitable and inclusive environmental movement in the region.

Nature-focused Scholarship Bike Camps!

Recipient: Community Cycling Center

Grant amount: \$54,771

Program Partners: Sharon Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Shaver Elementary SUN Community School program, Hacienda Community Development Corporation, Gladys Ruiz Consulting, Columbia Slough Watershed Council

Program summary: The Community Cycling Center has taught high-quality summer bike camps since 2000. This program will deliver 20 week-long, nature-focused, full-scholarship bike camps to low-income youth, primarily youth of color, including giving new bikes to 100 participants in North, Northeast and East Portland.

Ecology Education in North Clackamas

Recipient: Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors

Grant amount: \$57,700

Program Partners: N. Clackamas School District: Milwaukie, Oak Grove, Bilquist, Ardenwald and Whitcomb Elementary Schools, Clackamas Water Environment Services, Oak Lodge Water Services, The Wetlands Conservancy, Milwaukie Elks Lodge, Bilquist Parent Teacher Association, Oregon Forest Resources Institute

Program summary: Ecology Education in North Clackamas will engage 1,200 third- through fifth-grade students and 40 teachers at five Title I elementary schools each year of this two-year program. Each classroom receives four ecology lessons and a service-learning field trip each year.

Reclaiming Indigenous Futures through Cultural Ecology

Recipient: Friends of Tryon Creek

Grant amount: \$100,000

Program Partners: Native American Youth and Family Center, Cultural Lifeways Community, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon State Parks Foundation

Program summary: Friends of Tryon Creek will collaborate with the Native American Youth and Family Center to reclaim and reconnect to culturally significant lands at Tryon Creek State Natural Area, through the Cultural Ecology curriculum, supported by Cultural Lifeways.

Farm School

Recipient: Friends of Zenger Farm

Grant amount: \$72,850

Program Partners: David Douglas School District, Wisdom of the Elders, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, SUN Community Schools at Gilbert Park and Earl Boyles Elementary, ROSE Community Development, and Mt. Scott Learning Center

Program summary: Farm School is a farm, garden and wetland-based outdoor education program that connects East Portland youth with 12 hours of instruction over three seasons and introduces their families with a natural area near their home.

KairosPDX – Culturally Responsive Nature Education

Recipient: KairosPDX

Grant amount: \$60,000

Program Partners: Mudbone Grown LLC, Oregon State University Extension 4-H, Portland State University, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

Program summary: KairosPDX is engaged in providing all of its diverse 160 students with experiential and culturally responsive nature-based outdoor education through community partnerships, classroom lessons, neighborhood outdoor adventures, and excursions to natural areas.

Portland Harbor Access & Cultural Ties to the River

Recipient: Portland Harbor Community Coalition

Grant amount: \$30,000

Program Partners: Get Hooked, LLC, East European Coalition, American Indian Movement - Portland Chapter, Iraqi Society of Oregon

Program summary: This program connects and re-connects youth and adults to the Portland Harbor through culturally-specific events and outings that educate about the Willamette River and superfund site and inspire a reverence for nature and wildlife.

Student Crew Leadership Training Program

Recipient: Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center Inc.

Grant amount: \$30,000

Program Partners: Friends of Trees, Portland Parks & Recreation, Metro, Columbia Slough Watershed Council, Friends of Columbia Children's Arboretum, Ecology in Classrooms & Outdoors, Xerces Society

Program summary: Through the Student Crew Leadership Team Training Program, POIC, Friends of Trees and others provide low-income youth of color with the opportunity to engage in project-based education and career-track natural resource mentorship.

Soul River Conservation Leadership Training and Celebration of Wild Steelhead

Recipient: Soul River Incorporated

Grant amount: \$15,000

Program Partners: Urban Nature Partners, Vive NW, US Fish & Wildlife, Rosemary Anderson High School, Sistah Sistah, Afrovivalist, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Portland Fly Shop

Program summary: This program provides educational and training activities at Oxbow Park and the Celebration of Wild Steelhead at McCoy Park, which connect to and support educational deployments to the Arctic, the Ochoco Mountains, Owyhee Canyonlands and Bears Ears National Monument.

Nature Experiences and Workforce Training (NEWT): Changing the Face of the Field

Recipient: Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

Grant amount: \$69,935

Program Partners: Adelante Mujeres, Beaverton School District including the Multilingual Department, Columbia Sportswear, Friends of the Tualatin Hills Nature Park, Vose Neighborhood Association Committee

Program summary: Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District will partner with Adelante Mujeres and the Beaverton School District to develop after-school nature programming at four schools in Beaverton and develop a two-year workforce development program for Latino students.

Growing Green: Training Leaders for Tomorrows Jobs

Recipient: Tualatin Riverkeepers

Grant amount: \$99,880

Program Partners: Centro Cultural, Muslim Educational Trust, The Wetlands Conservancy, City of Tualatin, City of Portland Urban Forestry Department, Friends of Trees

Program summary: Tualatin Riverkeeper's Green Jobs-Urban Forestry Training Program uses private, public and non-profit partnerships to promote environmental stewardship, increase access to economic opportunities and improve the social conditions of immigrants and refugees in Washington County.

Living Cully Youth Nature Education Program

Recipient: Verde

Grant amount: \$80,044

Program Partners: Hacienda CDC's Expresiones after-school program, Native American Youth and Family Center's Early College Academy, Portland Youth and Elders Council, Scott Elementary School, Rigler Elementary School, Portland State University

Program summary: Verde's two-year youth nature education program will benefit low-income youth and youth of color in Portland's Cully neighborhood and establish a replicable model of service delivery.

Wisdom Workforce Development Program

Recipient: Wisdom of the Elders, Inc.

Grant amount: \$39,820

Program Partners: Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Portland Parks City Nature East and West, Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors, Zenger Farm, Friends of Trees, Native American Youth and Family Center, Green Lents, ROSE Community Development, Columbia Slough Watershed Council, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Leach Botanical Garden, Reed and Lewis & Clark Colleges

Program summary: Wisdom Workforce Development provides Native American adults with culturally tailored environmental assessment and habitat restoration workforce training and provides diverse partners with equity training through field experience in local natural areas.

STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 18-4896, FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING 2018 NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS NATURE EDUCATION AND OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES COMMUNITY GRANTS

Date: JUNE 4, 2018

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BACKGROUND

For nearly two decades, the Metro Council has provided funding for grants to community groups, non-profits, and other organizations designed support and create partnerships in local communities that improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and connect people 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, which were referred to the voters by Metro Council (Resolution 12-4398). The Metro Council awarded Conservation Education grants in July 2014 (Resolution 14-4549), in July 2015 (Resolution 15-4635) and in June 2016 (Resolution 16-4723). In November 2016, voters renewed the Metro parks and natural areas levy with Measure 26-178, which continued funding for Nature in Neighborhoods community grants, which were referred to the voters by Metro Council (Resolution 16-4690). Furthermore, in June 2016, the Metro Council adopted the Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Resolution 16-4708), which directs the agency to incorporate racial equity into all aspects of its work.

Grant program staff used the framework provided by Metro Council in Resolution No. 12-4398, Resolution No. 16-4690, and Resolution No. 16-4708 to develop an outreach plan, application materials, review committee and evaluation criteria for these community grants, referred to as Nature Education and Outdoor Experiences grants. Staff aligned Metro's grant criteria with state, regional and community initiatives in order to achieve multiple benefits.

Grant Evaluation Criteria

The Nature Education and Outdoor Experiences grant criteria focused on three goal categories for funding:

- **Cultural equity**

People of all cultures play, connect, and celebrate their histories, languages and traditions in the region's parks and natural areas.

- **Environmental equity**

Communities of color in the Portland region have direct access to safe parks, protected natural areas, and the benefits of healthy land, air and water; communities enjoy learning about, helping restore, experiencing and connecting with nature and the region's natural areas.

- **Economic equity**

Non-profit and community based organizations, and individuals of color thrive in the region's outdoor, environmental and natural resources economies; the business of parks and nature is a source of community prosperity.

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 applicant organizations self-identified as a culturally specific organization and more than four-fifths described communities of color as their primary audience.

Application review and selection

Participation on the grant review committee is by application, open and advertised to all community members. Parks and Nature Director Jonathan Blasher selected this year's review committee from a pool of applicants. The committee included local experts with backgrounds in nature education, outdoor experiences, cultural programs, mentorship and job skill development, diversity, equity and inclusion, community partnership development, philanthropy, and grant 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 applications 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 community 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 to submit full applications.

Metro received 52 pre-applications, totaling \$2.85M in funding requests, and 28 full applications, totaling \$1.4M in funding requests. The review committee reviewed the pre-applications and full applications according to the grant criteria and recommends **fourteen (14)** grants for funding a total of **eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000)** to the Metro Council (see Exhibit A).

2018 Nature in Neighborhoods Nature Education and Outdoor Experiences Grants Review Committee

Charissa Jones, Environmental Education Coordinator, Tualatin Riverkeepers

Denise Luk, Philanthropy Northwest Momentum Fellow: Healthy Environment, Meyer Memorial Trust

Derron Coles, Executive Director, The Blueprint Foundation

Jessica Rojas, Community and Environmental Engagement Manager, NE Coalition of Neighborhoods, The City of Portland

Kristin (Atman) Smith, Interpretive Programs Supervisor, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

Rachael Bashor, Program Officer, Gray Family Foundation

Robert Gutierrez, Camp Director, Friends of Tryon Creek

Sarah Bercume, Program Director, Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors

Susanne Raymond, Outreach & Events Director, Columbia Slough Watershed Council

Traci Price, Change Consultant, 3 Ways to Change

2018 Nature Education and Outdoor Experiences Grant Awards

In the first round of the renewed natural areas levy grants, the committee found compelling those proposals for programs by and for the community, with strong partnerships, and that aligned with the grant's equity goals and their organization's strategic mission. They appreciated the breadth of types of programs and the variety of ways to access nature, provide nature education and outdoor experiences.

The review committee valued programs that articulated how a community identified a need, programs based in their neighborhood or other green space, and those in which the community served is reflected in the staff and board of the applicant or partner organizations. This was demonstrated in a variety of ways including applications from organizations with leadership from communities of color and gathering input from and letting the communities served guide the process, particularly when this was done through compensated partnerships with community led organizations to do outreach to their own communities. They also appreciated applications that demonstrated an understanding of intersectionality when they were not just focused on a single group but adjusted their programs to meet the needs of various groups. The committee responded well to asset-based narratives to describe the community, including discussing opportunities, leadership, ownership of place and a shared design approach.

The committee valued established partnerships continuing or expanding their work together, building time into the schedule for deepening collaboration that clearly articulated and compensated the unique roles of each partner, and aligned with the organization's strategic goals or mission. They also found it compelling when the experience of the people who would be implementing the program was shared and demonstrated the strength of those staff in areas such as a program delivery, coordination, working with communities and advising on implementing programs. They found it compelling when applicants focused primarily on what they are doing now and what they plan to do in the future, not just what they have done in the past. Finally, they appreciated the clearly stated expected impact of the program, especially if they had a robust evaluation protocol for the future.

The committee valued organizations that not only described the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion commitments, but could give examples of efforts moving to implement specific change in leadership, staffing, programs and outcomes. They also found it convincing when the organization's mission or strategies were clearly aligned with their equity work and the grant program's equity goals. For those whose staff or culture didn't already reflect their goals, the committee found it compelling when applications included what they have learned from what hasn't worked and how they are addressing challenges. Furthermore, they found it compelling when those organizations reflected honestly on their internal work and discussed how they will work respectfully and effectively with communities they don't reflect. This was also demonstrated in some budgets that included training for staff on diversity, equity and inclusion topics.

The committee valued nature education and outdoor experiences that included financial incentives, career pathways and skill building for participants, mentorship components and multiple touch points for long-term engagement. They appreciated school age youth programs that reached

beyond school hours, included family engagement and intergenerational learning, and included hands-on-science based projects that get children outside into the natural world. For the proposed programming the committee appreciated proposals that included cultural knowledge incorporated into curriculum and found it especially compelling when organizations were working with partners with a deep understanding of those traditions to learn how they fit into the curriculum.

As in previous years, applications for community garden, agriculture-based or food production programs were found to be more compelling when programming included strong natural resource, wildlife habitat or water quality curriculum.

The total award amount recommended is \$800,000. Grant projects will begin July 1, 2018. Grant applicants may have up to three years to complete their projects.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. Known Opposition

None.

2. Legal Antecedents

Resolution No. 16-4690, For the Purpose of Referring to the Voters of the Metro Area Renewal of the Metro's Local Option Levy for Protecting Water Quality, Restoring Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Connecting People to Nature.

Resolution 16-4708, For the Purpose of Approving the Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

Resolution 16-4723, For the Purpose of Approving the 2016 Nature in Neighborhoods Conservation Education Community Grants.

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 2018 Nature in Neighborhood Nature Education and Outdoor Experiences 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, 2018. 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 2018-19 budget includes the necessary appropriation authority for reimbursement of these grants.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Chief Operating Officer recommends adoption of Resolution No. 18-4881.