



East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District New Grant for Portland Parks

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East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District awards grant to City of Portland for Colwood Park

The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) is proud to announce that it has awarded a \$1 million grant to the City of Portland to support the recent acquisition of a natural area at Colwood National Golf Course in northeast Portland. This grant will support the dedication of 37 acres as a natural area, 32 acres of which will be restored as forest and wetland areas.

The City originally purchased the land after The Trust for Public Land negotiated this complex and important park acquisition. The project aligns with the EMSWCD's goals to permanently protect special natural areas and provide access to nature for local communities. Recently, the EMSWCD also partnered with various agencies, organizations and the City of Gresham to purchase or expand other natural areas, including the Grant Butte Wetlands and the newly opened Nadaka Nature Park & Garden.

"Portland Parks & Recreation is delighted to partner with East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District to protect the natural area surrounding the Colwood Golf Center," says Portland Parks Commissioner Amanda Fritz. "It is land which represents significant environmental and recreational opportunities for the entire City of Portland. Our partnership with East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District is a wonderful example of government workers coming together to preserve a watershed for current and future generations of Portlanders."

The new park area will also help provide access to nature and recreation in the Cully neighborhood, a region which has suffered from a deficit of parks and open space. Alan Hipólito, the Executive Director of Verde, a non-profit community organization serving Cully, had this to say about the new park:

"Colwood is an amazing opportunity to build environmental wealth for Cully's low-income people and people of color. Verde looks forward to working with community members, the City, the District and

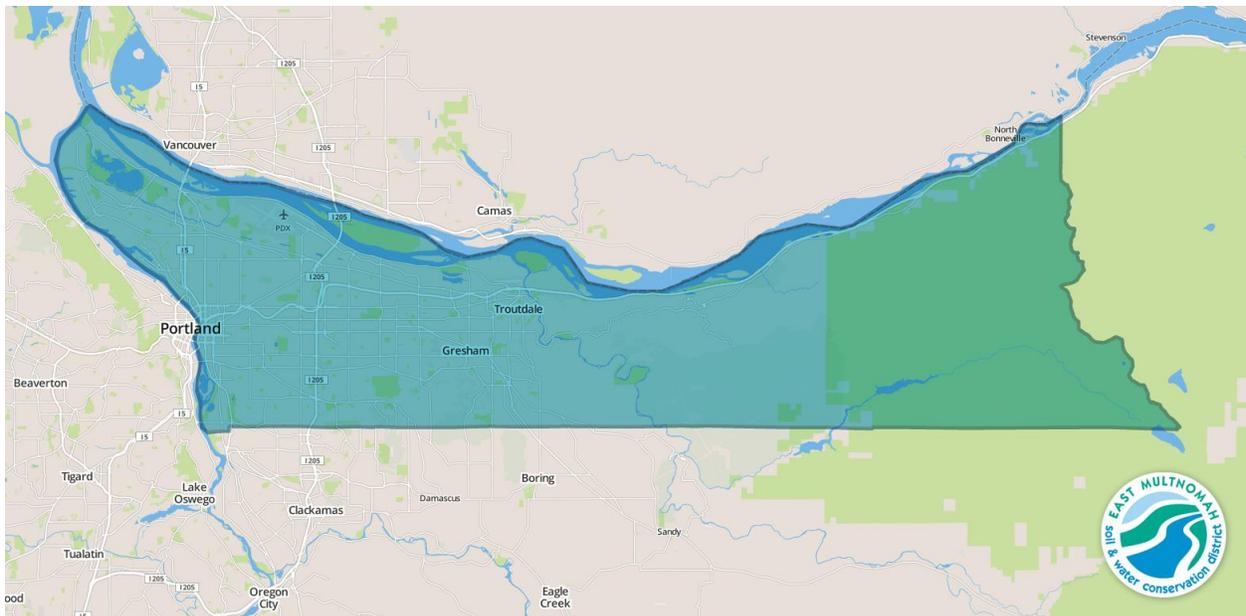


other partners to craft an innovative, community-based model for the design and development of Colwood Park.”

EMSWCD will continue to collaborate with Portland Parks, Verde and other organizations for the long-term management and protection of the Colwood natural area.

The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) is a unit of local government whose mission is to help people care for land and water. The EMSWCD is led by an elected board of five directors and works entirely on a voluntary, non-regulatory basis. All of the EMSWCD’s work is geared toward keeping water clean, conserving water and keeping soil healthy.

Contact **Rick McMonagle**, our Land Legacy Program Manager, with any questions about the project at rick@emswcd.org or (503) 222-7645. Learn more about us at <http://emswcd.org>



Map of EMSWCD District area, which is all Multnomah County East of the Willamette River.

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