



## East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

2016 Partners in Conservation Grants

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<http://emswcd.org/>

### East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District Announces 2016 Partners in Conservation Grants

**The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District announces its 2016 *Partners in Conservation (PIC) grants*** totaling \$759,600 awarded to 24 conservation and environmental education projects in the EMSWCD service area (all of Multnomah County east of the Willamette River). PIC funding for 2016 will also leverage more than \$4 million in additional support through matching in-kind and cash contributions.

**The EMSWCD received 34 PIC applications this year**, representing projects in each of its five primary grant program areas: restoration and monitoring, stormwater management and naturescaping, urban gardening and sustainable agriculture, environmental education, and equitable access to conservation benefits. To ensure a thorough and fair evaluation of the applications, the grant review committee included EMSWCD Board Directors and others from a diverse range of backgrounds and expertise, including members of the community and staff from non-profits and public agencies.

The EMSWCD Board of Directors awarded 24 grants, including one multi-year PIC Plus grant. A wide variety of projects were funded this year, including: a project to improve watershed health while engaging youth and community in environmental education and restoration in the Lents neighborhood; an “Agriculture of the Middle Accelerator,” which will help build capacity and foster environmental stewardship in midsize farms; and a project to replace a culvert and improve fish passage at the North Fork tributary of Johnson Creek.

The PIC program was created in 2007 to support organizations that help fulfill the EMSWCD’s mission to help people care for land and water. In the past nine years, nearly \$6 million has been distributed through more than 225 grants to over 85 organizations. Jay Udelhoven, EMSWCD’s Executive Director, says “We’re very excited to help these organizations work within our communities to improve people’s lives and their environment at the same time. Together, we’re making a difference.”

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## 2016 Partners in Conservation Grants

### **Albina Neighborhood Tree Team**      \$20,000

#### ***The Albina ReLeaf Program***

This project will improve the urban forest canopy in Boise and Eliot neighborhoods by removing and replacing trees, enhancing the quality and diversity of trees while reducing the burden of care on low-income homeowners.

### **Coalition of Communities of Color**      \$20,000

#### ***REDEFINE: The Coalition of Communities of Color's Initiative for Climate and Environmental Justice***

Part of the REDEFINE initiative, this project will engage culturally-specific community-based organizations around environmental and climate justice, promote leadership in these organizations and strengthen relationships between organizations of color and environmental groups.

### **Columbia Land Trust and Portland Audubon**      \$26,345

#### ***Backyard Habitat Certification Program (BHCP) - East County Investment Initiative***

The BHCP provides technical assistance, incentives, resources and recognition to small lot private property owners to restore native wildlife habitat and manage stormwater. Through this project, Audubon and CLT will continue to develop the program in outer east county.

### **Columbia Riverkeeper**      \$14,400

#### ***Columbia River Monitoring Project***

Columbia Riverkeeper will engage volunteers to adopt and monitor river sites, collect and report critical *E.coli* data via a free smart phone and on-line app, coordinate river clean-ups, and complete a restoration project.

### **Depave**      \$60,000

#### ***Depave Season 2016***

Depave's 2016 season will include five depaving and greening efforts in East Multnomah County. These sites will be transformed into such uses as outdoor play spaces, community gardens, native garden spaces and stormwater infrastructure.

### **Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors**      \$25,000

#### ***Ecology Education in Elementary Schools***

ECO will present hands-on lessons in 44 elementary school classrooms in East Multnomah County, along with service learning in nearby field sites.

### **Ecotrust**      \$60,000

#### ***Mapping and Convening an "Agriculture of the Middle Accelerator" in East Multnomah County***

Ecotrust aims to re-build the "Agriculture of the Middle" – a mid-level scale of farms that are ideally suited to serve institutional food buyers, provide the greatest benefits to regional economies, and



commit to on-farm management practices that foster environmental stewardship. The District service area will provide a pilot geography for this project.

**Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon**      \$10,000

***Grounding Rockwood***

The project will work with culturally diverse families in the Rockwood area of Gresham to promote involvement in gardening, urban farming, environmental education and parks.

**Grow Portland**      \$35,880

***Planning for Community Garden Expansion in East Portland***

Grow Portland will partner with the City of Portland Community Gardens program to help plan and fund five new community garden projects in East Portland to be constructed over the next six years.

**Growing Gardens**      \$10,000

***School Garden Assessment***

The project will entail a survey of the six school districts in the EMSWCD service area to determine the location, status and funding levels of all existing school gardens. A final report and updated map will inform future planning for developing new school gardens and sustaining garden education programs.

**Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership**      \$28,376

***Outdoor Conservation Education Program***

The LCEP Education Program takes students outdoors to apply watershed focused classroom lessons in the field, reaching 400 students in grades 3-6 and providing one teacher workshop to 20 teachers.

**Multnomah County**      \$150,000 (PIC Plus)

***North Fork Johnson Creek Fish Passage Restoration***

The County fish passage restoration project on the North Fork tributary of Johnson Creek will replace the existing complete fish-barrier culvert at SE 267th Ave with a structure that meets the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife regulations for fish passage.

**Northwest Youth Corps**      \$51,019

***East Multnomah Youth Stewardship Project***

The project's objective is to provide 30 Portland area youth with a paid summer stewardship experience focusing on restoration projects in east Portland, Gresham and Troutdale.

**Oregon Food Bank**      \$20,000

***Underserved Communities at the Learning Gardens***

OFB will expand the Learning Gardens program to develop and implement an outreach strategy to underserved populations, including communities of color, immigrants and individuals experiencing extreme poverty.



**Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition**      \$11,000

***100 Days of Stories***

The project will collect video and written stories from people around the state about their experiences with Outdoor School, providing an opportunity to give voice to those who rarely have the chance to have their experiences, thoughts and opinions heard.

**Outgrowing Hunger**      \$30,000

***East Portland Neighborhood Gardens & Natural Garden Education***

This project unites environmental education with restoration and conservation while building capacity among disadvantaged populations. This is done through garden-based environmental education, sustainable gardening mentoring, youth internships and ecological restoration projects.

**Parkrose Heights Association of Neighbors**      \$12,510

***Sacramento Outdoor Classroom***

Sacramento Elementary School will build an outdoor classroom with the help of the Association of Neighbors, contributing an environmental educational space for implementing the school's curriculum.

**Portland State University**      \$13,185

***Ecoroof Symposium, Education, and Research***

PSU, in partnership with the Green Roof Information Thinktank (GRIT), will revive the Ecoroof Symposium to facilitate discussion and education about green roofs and to promote efforts to significantly increase their use in the Portland region.

**Rose Community Development**      \$32,000

***The Lents Youth Initiative Green Ring Watershed Partnership***

The Lents Youth Initiative, OPAL Environmental Justice and Green Lents partnership will carry out efforts to improve watershed health and to engage youth and community in environmental education and habitat restoration in and around the Lents Green Ring.

**Sauvie Island Center**      \$19,885

***STEM on the Farm at the Sauvie Island Center***

The Center offers teachers and students an engaging, hands-on day of outdoor environmental and gardening education that reinforces Next Generation Science Standards, along with more intensive classroom lessons.

**Urban Nature Partners PDX**      \$20,000

***Sustain and Strengthen Outdoor Opportunities for Youth***

Serving 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade underserved youth, UNPP works to build long-term, one-on-one mentoring relationships with caring adults (primarily environmental professionals), facilitating experiential education in east side urban greenspaces.



**Verde**      \$60,000

***Let Us Build Cully Park!***

Verde is transforming a brownfield into a new environmental asset. Set to open in 2017, the project restores habitat, creates space for recreation and environmental education for District youth, and provides new areas for community gardening. The involvement of numerous local partners and residents is establishing a community-based model for green infrastructure development.

**Wisdom of the Elders**      \$20,000

***Wisdom Workforce Development***

The project provides low-income Native Americans experience to help pursue environmental career pathways through habitat restoration training and service learning.

**Woodlawn Farmers Market**      \$10,000

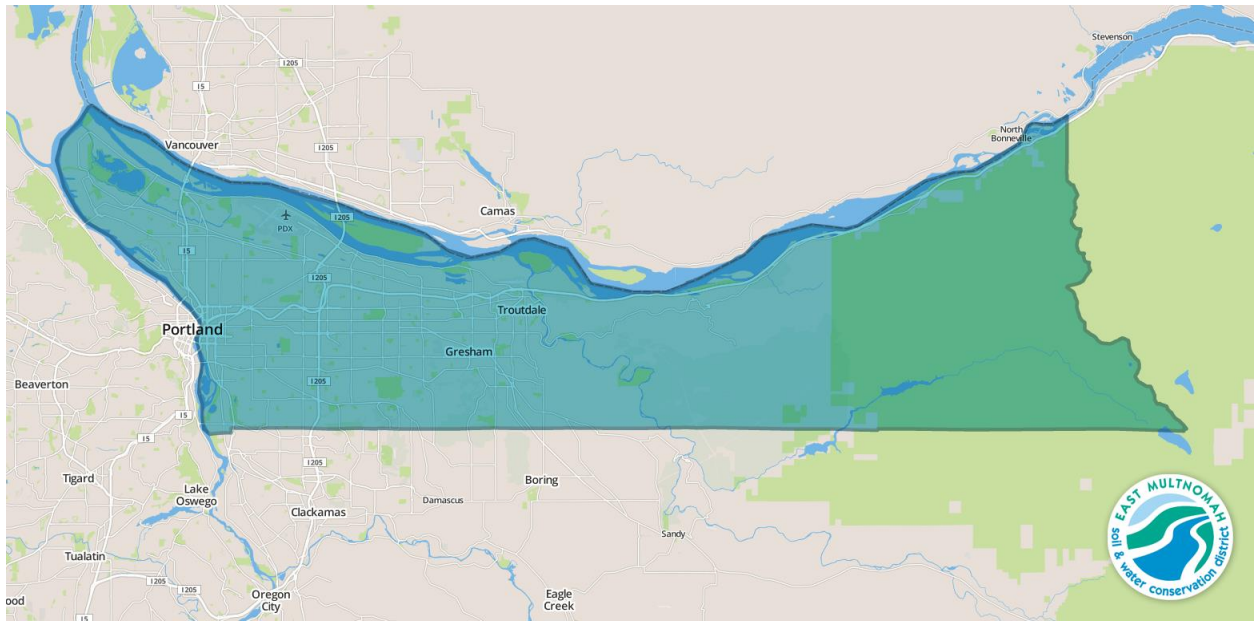
***Woodlawn Farmers Market***

Woodlawn Farmers Market will launch the *Introducing Farmers Program* - a low-risk farmers' market trial period and paid workshop opportunity for beginning small farmers, which will improve and expand educational workshops, and will help increase its customer base with greater marketing and outreach.



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 with landowners, land managers, and other residents east of the Willamette River centerline in Multnomah County. All of the EMSWCD's work is geared toward keeping water clean, conserving water and keeping soil healthy.

Contact Suzanne Easton, our Grants Manager, with any questions about our grant programs at [Suzanne@emswcd.org](mailto:Suzanne@emswcd.org) or (503) 935-5370. Learn more about us at <http://emswcd.org>



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

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