



East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

2016 Strategic Partnership Agreement

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For Immediate Release

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East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District Announces a Five-year Strategic Partnership Agreement with Local Watershed Councils

The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) is proud to announce the launch of a new five-year *Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA)* with three local watershed councils.

On June 27, 2016, the EMSWCD entered into a long-term partnership with the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, the Johnson Creek Watershed Council, and the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council. Under the partnership, the EMSWCD and watershed councils will work together to plan for and implement joint conservation projects within the EMSWCD's service area (all of Multnomah County east of the Willamette River). The partnership will include grant funding up to \$1.5 million from EMSWCD to the watershed councils as well as joint fund-raising from other sources.

In the past nine years, the EMSWCD has provided nearly \$6 million through more than 225 grants to over 85 organizations. This strategic partnership, however, represents a new way of doing business for EMSWCD. The SPA was established to better support organizations that are committed to helping fulfill the EMSWCD's mission to help people care for land and water. Jay Udelhoven, EMSWCD's Executive Director, says "We have worked successfully with each individual watershed council for years, but this partnership will bring us all together under the same roof to plan for and undertake activities that affect our communities and the natural resources we depend on. We think this will dramatically improve the services we provide to people."



Initial Watershed Council Funding under the Partnership

Columbia Slough Watershed Council \$55,000

Restoration in Action

With a new Executive Director at the helm, the CSWC will establish a science committee, develop a Restoration Action Plan for the slough, and begin restoration efforts through an on-the-ground project on the Buffalo Slough that includes landowners and volunteers.

Johnson Creek Watershed Council \$73,000*

Citizen Science

Using its successful citizen science model, the JCWC will implement four new monitoring projects to assess watershed conditions. The monitoring projects will document: spawning activities of steelhead and lamprey; use of natural areas by amphibians, migrant birds, and butterflies; activities of beavers; and distributions of migratory dragonflies as indicators of wetland health.

** A portion of this is for a three-year project.*

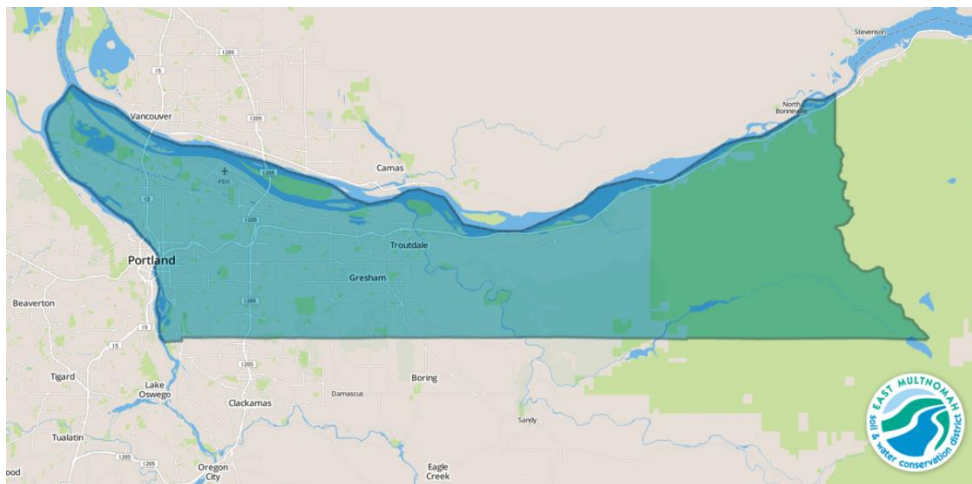
Sandy River Basin Watershed Council \$47,000

Mt. Hood Community College Green-retrofit

The SRBWC will coordinate a new multi-partner effort to assess and implement the establishment of green infrastructure within the Mt. Hood Community College campus. Early actions under the project may include rain gardens, Naturescaping, and depaving.

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 Alex Woolery, our Marketing and Media Manager, with any questions about EMSWCD or our grant programs at Alex@emswcd.org or (503) 935-5367. Learn more about us at <http://emswcd.org>



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

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