



East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

2017 Partners in Conservation Grants

9/25/2017

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East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District Announces 2017 Partners in Conservation Grants

The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District announces its 2017 *Partners in Conservation (PIC)* grants totaling \$760,416 awarded to 18 conservation and environmental education projects in the EMSWCD service area (all of Multnomah County east of the Willamette River). PIC funding for 2017 will also leverage more than \$3 million in additional support through matching in-kind and cash contributions.

The EMSWCD received 32 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 18 grants, including three multi-year PIC Plus grants. A wide variety of projects were funded this year, including the EMSWCD's first grant to the ***Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO)***. SE 82nd and Division St is the heart of the Jade District, within one of the City's only census tracts with majority residents of color. The area is surrounded by some of Portland's most congested major transportation corridors. Not surprisingly, the area suffers from a deficient tree canopy, significant exposure to air toxins, and excessive stormwater runoff.



The Jade/Lents Greening project addresses the historic disinvestment in the Jade District that has resulted in these environmental disparities. This project implements a three-prong strategy:

- 1) Increase community capacity to participate in planning processes via leadership development
- 2) Work with new neighborhood leaders to implement interventions that project partners have co-developed through an “Oregon Solutions” process
- 3) Facilitate a unified community vision for green infrastructure.

PIC funding over two years will help recruit and train 8 to 15 community leaders, engage residents in opportunities to envision solutions to the environmental issues the community faces through the Oregon Solutions and EPA Design process, deliver education sessions around tree planting and neighborhood environmental issues, and support the planting of approximately 300 trees. Friends of Trees is a major partner on the grant and will help facilitate the planting and training sessions.

The long-term benefit to the community is that residents will develop skills to assume direct control over the water/soil quality in their neighborhood by joining a powerful and committed partnership of diverse community-based organizations, researchers, and neighborhood, city, county, regional, and state government. Moreover, the project will result in significant improvements in stormwater quality and soil erosion a few years down the line as trees mature.

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, over \$6 million has been distributed through more than 250 grants to over 90 organizations. Jay Udelhoven, EMSWCD’s Executive Director, says "It's an honor for us to support such a wide variety of amazing organizations that are working to improve our environment, enrich our communities, and provide valuable conservation-related education and opportunities for our youth."



2017 Partners in Conservation Grants

Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon

Jade/Lents Greening \$101,000

This project will improve climate, storm water, and health outcomes in the Jade District/Lents through green infrastructure, with a focus on tree planting.

Audubon Society of Portland/ Columbia Land Trust

Backyard Habitat Certification Program - East Multnomah County Expansion and Equity Project
\$30,000

The joint program provides technical assistance, incentives, resources, and recognition to urban/sub-urban participants as they create backyard habitats and manage stormwater.

Camp E.L.S.O. Inc.

Camp ELSO Adventurers Day Camp \$9,148

The project provides culturally inclusive environmental education camp program for children of color.

Centennial School District

Wood Elementary Community Garden \$24,511

A 30,000-square foot community garden will be created at Wood Elementary School in partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation.

Columbia Riverkeeper

Columbia River Monitoring and Restoration Project \$15,000

This project will collect water quality data for E. coli to promote safe swimming and fishing and engage underserved youth in restoring riparian habitat.

Depave

Depave Season 2017 \$40,000

Depave's annual efforts engage community members in transforming neighborhood spaces by removing impermeable surfaces, capturing stormwater, and adding nature to urban areas.

Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors

Ecology Enrichment in Elementary Schools \$25,000

ECO will provide environmental education program to East Multnomah County Title One schools.

Friends of Zenger Farm

Zenger Farm Internship Program \$40,000

This project provides support for 6-month program to train interns in commercial sustainable farming.

Growing Gardens

Growing Minds, Growing Food: School Garden Programming in East Portland \$131,916

Specialized Garden Educators will integrate garden-based lessons into school day curricula in seven schools.



Janus Youth Programs, Inc.

Growing in Place \$20,000

This program connects children, youth and adults to sustainable agriculture and natural spaces through hands-on experience with local food production.

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Outdoor Conservation Education Program \$32,643

LCIP provides elementary East Multnomah students with watershed education and supports teacher training workshops.

Multnomah County

Green Gresham / Healthy Gresham \$143,000

In partnership with Friends of Trees, this project will plant over 200 trees in the low-income neighborhoods of Rockwood, Wilkes East, and North Gresham with local youth and volunteers.

Northwest Youth Corps

East Multnomah Youth Stewardship Project \$30,000

This project supports crews comprised primarily of low income youth and youth of color who will complete 6600 hours of restoration work.

Outgrowing Hunger

Garden-Based Environmental Education \$30,000

Through this project, OGH will provide school garden-based delivery of environmental education to K-12 students within Portland area public schools.

PDX Greywater Partnership

Greening with Greywater 2017 \$18,198

This project partners such as Greywater Action, Recode, and others deliver an educational workshop series to the public on greywater residential systems.

Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center Inc.

Rosemary Anderson High School & Friends of Trees Student Crew Leader Training Program \$40,000

Through hands-on classroom and site-based experiences, students learn techniques of habitat restoration; plant, monitor, and prune street trees; and gain appreciation for our urban forest and watersheds.

Wisdom of the Elders, Inc.

Wisdom Workforce Development Initiative \$20,000

This project provides Native American adults and youth with environmental assessment and habitat restoration training and service learning in local natural areas and watersheds.

Woodlawn Neighborhood Association

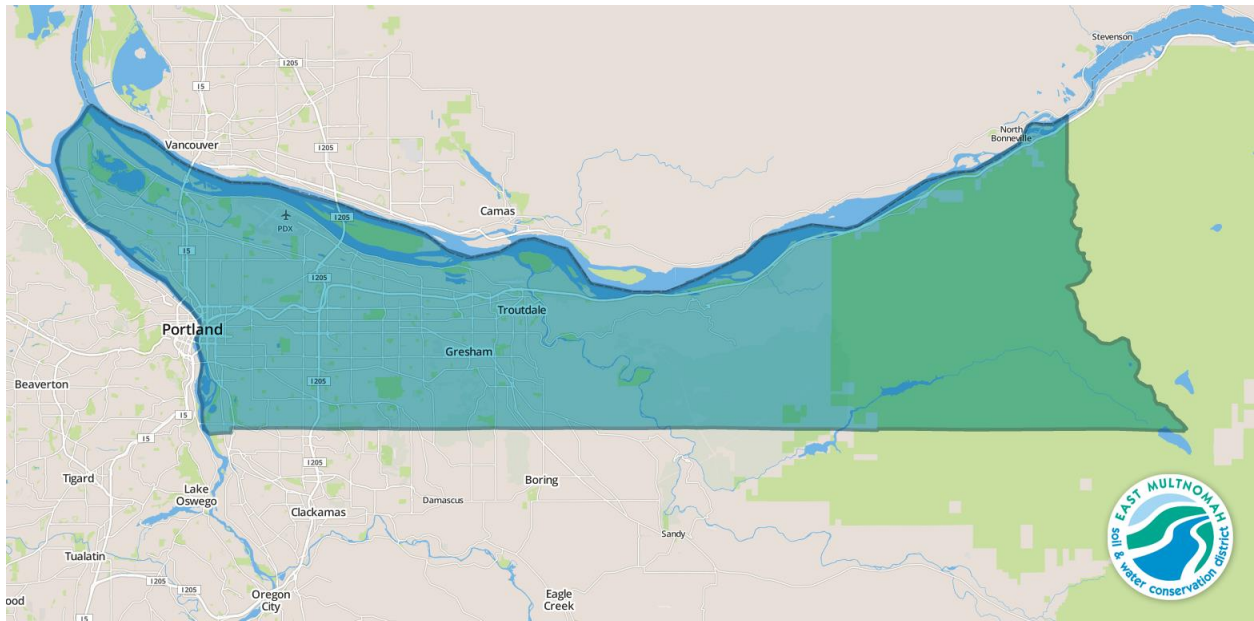
Woodlawn Farmers Market \$10,000

The Farmers Market will provide support for Introducing Farmers Program and bilingual workshops and farm tours.



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 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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