



## East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

2018 Partners in Conservation Grants

5/11/2018

***For Immediate Release***

***May 11, 2018***

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### East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District Announces 2018 Partners in Conservation Grants

**The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District announces its 2018 *Partners in Conservation (PIC) grants*** totaling \$750,351 awarded to 17 conservation and environmental education projects in the EMSWCD service area (all of Multnomah County east of the Willamette River). PIC funding for 2018 will also leverage more than \$2 million in additional support through matching in-kind and cash contributions.

**The EMSWCD received 31 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 17 grants, including five multi-year PIC Plus grants. A wide variety of projects were funded this year, including a \$115,000 two-year grant to Friends of Trees. The organization will use this funding to develop and host a paid adult training program focusing on urban forestry and restoration related topics. Participants will be selected by four Community Benefit Organizations (APANO, POIC, VERDE, and Wisdom of the Elders). Those chosen will attend weekly training for twelve weeks and upon completion, will be placed in a 100-hour paid internship with a local lead organization in urban forestry or restoration work in the Portland Metro area. This project is a two-year pilot project, modeled after the successful jobs training program operated by Tualatin Riverkeepers.



The World Salmon Council also received a PIC grant this year, the first for this organization. The grant will support their Salmon Watch program for east Multnomah middle and high school students. Salmon Watch reaches a broad cross-section of kids in 6-12 grades, providing teachers with Core and Next Generation Science Standards-aligned curriculum, lessons and activities to reinforce critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Each class takes a field trip during the fall to salmon spawning rivers, where students conduct hands-on learning activities focused on biology, chemistry, nature observation and data collection. A new partnership this year with the Blueprint Foundation enables students of color to participate in environmental education and career exploration, stewardship activities, and civic engagement. The Council is also working with VIVE NW to explore ways to connect their large network of Latinx professionals with the Salmon Watch program. Additionally, Salmon Watch has a long history of working with Native American tribes on curriculum and field trips.

**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. Over the past nine years, nearly \$7 million has been distributed through more than 250 grants to over 100 organizations. Jay Udelhoven, EMSWCD's Executive Director, says "We'd like to congratulate and applaud this year's grant recipients as they have demonstrated a deep commitment to our local community, its people, and the natural environment. We couldn't achieve our mission without their tremendous contribution and dedication."



## 2018 Partners in Conservation Grants

### Adventures Without Limits

**Adventures Without Limits - Experiential Learning for Underserved Youth** \$6,529

This project partners with local nonprofits Hacienda CDC and Friends of the Children to provide six full day experiential learning opportunities for underserved youth, including one overnight camping trip.

### Audubon Society of Portland/Columbia Land Trust

**Backyard Habitat Certification Program - Outer East Multnomah County Expansion** \$35,000

This project provides technical assistance, incentives, resources, and recognition to east Multnomah County residents as they create backyard habitats and manage stormwater, deepening investment in eastern part of the County.

### Columbia Riverkeeper

**Columbia River Monitoring and Restoration Project** \$17,000

This project will collect and share E. coli water quality data to promote safe swimming and fishing, partner with Wisdom of the Elders Workforce to restore riparian habitat, and organize a *Conoce Tu Columbia/Know Your Columbia* stewardship and educational event for Latino communities.

### Depave

**Depave 2020** \$60,000

Depave projects engage communities and reconnect urban landscapes to nature through education, advocacy and stewardship. Depave's 2018/19 work in east Multnomah County will develop, plan and implement three projects – Boise-Eliot Humboldt School, Kelly Elementary School, and Rockwood Greenspace. Capacity building will focus on training and support for the new executive director.

### Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors

**Ecology Enrichment in Elementary Schools** \$26,000

ECO will provide lessons and outdoor experiences to classes in Title 1 elementary schools, working with teachers to define and implement district and school-specific environmental education, which will be focused on the goal of creating the next generation of conservation-minded leaders.

### Friends of Trees

**Urban Forestry and Restoration Adult Training Program** \$114,919

The project will organize and host a paid twelve-week adult training program focusing on urban forestry and restoration related topics, with the participation of four community benefit organizations – APANO, POIC, VERDE, and Wisdom of the Elders. Upon completion, participants will be placed in a paid internship.

### Friends of Zenger Farm

**Reducing Barriers: Developing Future Farmers and Relevant Youth Programming** \$100,036

Through a multi-year farm internship program, Zenger aims to reduce barriers and increase interest among a diverse range of potential farmers. The project will also enhance Farm School (a youth field trip program) to ensure relevancy to classroom curriculum and the culturally diverse David Douglas School District.



## Green Lents

### ***Lents Green Ring: Connecting People & Pollinators*** \$75,000

This project builds capacity in partnership with ROSE CDC and Wisdom of the Elders through supporting conservation youth internships, establishing pollinator habitat at approximately 10 sites in Lents, and working to deliver environmental equity in the community.

## Grow Portland/Outgrowing Hunger

### ***Expanding ecological gardening opportunities for East Portland*** \$100,00

Grow Portland and Outgrowing Hunger will work in partnership on this project, which focuses on expanding ecological gardening opportunities for underserved communities in East Portland and East County. The project will include: building three new community and school gardens, refurbishing and expanding four school gardens, delivering culturally relevant garden education, and planning for future community gardens in low-income communities.

## Janus Youth Programs, Inc.

### ***Garden Works*** \$22,000

This is the first of a 3-year project to develop and implement a cooperative model that leverages the existing food infrastructure and leadership capacity of low-income North Portland communities, all as a part of Janus Youth's Village Gardens program. The project includes training in financial literacy, food access, conservation, community cohesion and program equity.

## Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

### ***Lower Eagle Creek Restoration*** \$75,000

The project goal is to assess feasibility and begin to develop designs for restoring lower Eagle Creek to benefit salmon, steelhead, and lamprey. LCEP will assess restoration alternatives and develop designs for stakeholder-chosen alternatives to improve processes, Cascade Hatchery operations, riparian conditions, and visitors' recreational experiences.

## Native American Youth & Family Center

### ***Native Gathering Gardens for the Seventh Generation*** \$10,000

Through work with community members, NAYA will develop a gathering garden design grounded in permaculture principles and focused on low maintenance, safety, and cultural significance. Garden development will involve youth from the After-School Program and include additional community planting events.

## Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center Inc.

### ***POIC+RAHS & Friends of Trees Student Crew Leadership Training Program*** \$40,115

In partnership with Friends of Trees, this project offers environmental education, leadership, and community engagement opportunities to low-income and minority high school youth. Through hands-on classroom learning and site-based experiences, students restore habitats; participate in community outreach, volunteer recruitment, and training; plant, monitor, and prune public trees; and gain an appreciation for the region's urban forest and watersheds.



## Reynolds School District

### ***Multnomah Youth Cooperative*** \$25,537

In partnership with conservation organizations, MYC students are given the opportunity to learn about natural resources, human impact, habitat and restoration through hands on projects in natural areas. Students take part in invasive plant removal, native plant revegetation, erosion control and field education.

## Sauvie Island Center

### ***Connecting Urban Students to a Working farm*** \$10,000

The project will support the participation of 15 classes from schools in North, NE and SE Portland in the farm-based environmental education program at Howell Territorial Park on Sauvie Island, coupled with a winter classroom visits. Lessons take place on a farm and natural area, using the farm environment to introduce children to nature and science curriculum including plant life cycles, healthy soils, wildlife, the food web, and pollination.

## Wisdom of the Elders

### ***Wisdom Workforce Development*** \$20,000

This project will strengthen Wisdom's capacity in environmental assessment, habitat restoration, and monitoring by training Native American adults in service learning projects with 12 conservation partners. It will also involve Native youth in similar activities, provide indigenous perspectives including Traditional Ecological Knowledge in ecosystem restoration at public events in the community, and build organizational capacity for improved workforce development.

## World Salmon Council

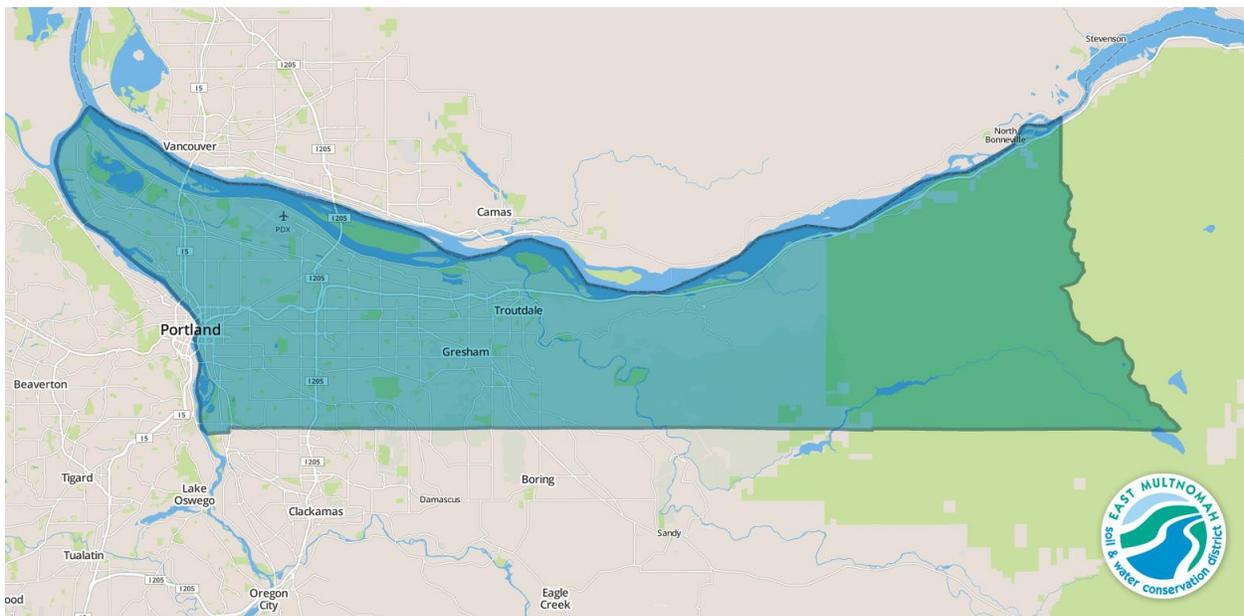
### ***Salmon Watch*** \$13,215

Using salmon as a keystone species of Northwest ecosystems, the program provides students with a unique opportunity to learn about ecosystem and watershed health firsthand through comprehensive, multidisciplinary education in the classroom, field study and in-stream observation, and community service. The project will engage over 1,500 students and will partner with the Blueprint Foundation to increase participation of youth that have faced historical barriers to inclusion.



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 Program 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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