



East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

2019 Partners in Conservation Grants

6/27/2019

For Immediate Release

June 27, 2019

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East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District Announces 2019 Partners in Conservation Grants

The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District announces its 2019 *Partners in Conservation (PIC) grants* totaling \$622,362 awarded to 20 conservation and environmental education projects in the EMSWCD service area (all of Multnomah County east of the Willamette River). PIC funding for 2019 will also leverage more than \$3 million in additional support through matching in-kind and cash contributions.

EMSWCD received 29 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 an EMSWCD Board Director 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 20 grants, including support for three two-year projects. A wide variety of projects were funded this year, including a \$50,000 two-year grant to Outgrowing Hunger, an organization focused on nurturing connection to nature, food and community among immigrant and refugee populations. Outgrowing Hunger currently operates 12 community garden sites in East Multnomah County, provides supplies and tools, and offers culturally relevant and language specific garden workshops and education to its gardeners. Funding will provide access to sustainable, watershed-friendly urban agriculture and gardening, provide education and technical support, and build a new community garden.



Another highlight of the 2019 PIC awards is a \$45,000 two-year grant to Columbia Riverkeeper. In addition to supporting the ongoing monitoring of *E. coli* in the Columbia River to encourage safe swimming, this grant will support the organization's collaboration with the Yakima Nation to address fish contamination near Bradford Island. Bradford Island, located near the Bonneville dam, is one of the most popular fishing spots in Multnomah County. Most anglers do not know it is dangerous to eat the resident fish near the Island due to extremely high levels of cancer-causing PCBs. This two-year project engages diverse communities who fish near Bradford Island, one of the most contaminated sites on the Columbia, working closely with the Yakima Nation, tribal fishers and other impacted groups to advocate for more effective cleanup.

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 ten years, over \$7 million has been distributed through more than 250 grants to over 100 organizations. EMSWCD's Acting Executive Director, Andrew Brown, says "We'd like to congratulate and applaud this year's grant recipients. They have demonstrated a deep commitment to our local community and the natural environment in our service area. We couldn't achieve our mission without their tremendous contribution and dedication."



2019 EMSWCD Partners in Conservation Grants

Adventures Without Limits

Equity in the Outdoors \$15,000

AWL will partner with community organizations to host outdoor educational kayaking and rafting trips for underserved youth. Participants gain outdoor skills and learn about river habitat and wildlife, as well as the impacts of climate change on local watersheds.

Audubon Society of Portland/Columbia Land Trust

Backyard Habitat Certification Program - East Multnomah County Engagement and Equity \$70,000

This two-year project will provide technical assistance, incentives, resources, and recognition to urban and suburban residents as they create backyard habitats and manage stormwater.

Camp E.L.S.O. Inc.

Camp ELSO Expansion Project \$30,000

This project expands hands-on environmental education programming to reach youth and families of color, partner with schools and communities, and expand professional development opportunities for diverse educators.

Columbia Riverkeeper

Columbia River Monitoring and Restoration Project \$45,000

This two-year project engages diverse communities who fish near Bradford Island, one of the most contaminated sites on the Columbia; encourages safe swimming by collecting E. coli water quality data; and supports diversity, equity and inclusion training for staff and board.

Depave

Depave 2019 - Centennial School District \$60,000

Depave will develop, plan and implement two projects at Centennial School District elementary schools, removing pavement, creating nature play elements, installing native plants, and incorporating on-site sustainable stormwater management.

Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors

Ecology Enrichment in Elementary Schools \$20,500

ECO will expand its ecology enrichment program to include additional classroom from underserved Title I schools. Students will participate in a pilot program – Hop, Skip, Jump – that involves deeper partnerships with schools and teachers to define and implement environmental education programs.

Ecotrust

Green Workforce Collaborative \$40,000

The Green Workforce Collaborative is a partnership of conservation, workforce development, and community-based organizations focused on promoting culturally specific workforce development in environmental careers for Black and Native American young adults.



Friends of Nadaka Nature Park

Community Restoration and Workforce Project \$25,000

This project enables culturally relevant and community-based environmental education programming and restoration at Nadaka Nature Park in Gresham's Rockwood neighborhood.

Grow Portland

Glenhaven Community Garden \$15,000

Grow Portland is supporting the construction of a new community garden at Glenhaven Park to be operated by Portland Parks & Recreation's Community Gardens Program.

Janus Youth Programs, Inc.

Growing Deeper: Intergenerational Community Organizing Through Food and Farming \$43,989

The two-year initiative enables low-income youth/adults to become effective and independent stewards of the Village Garden food projects. Different generations will work together across sites to connect communities with natural spaces, gardening and farming.

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Feasibility Assessment of Pilot Cold Water Refuge Enhancement Technique \$30,000

This project will assess the feasibility and develop 30% designs for a pilot technique to enhance cold water refuges at the mouths of lower Columbia Gorge tributaries to benefit salmon and steelhead in the face of warming climate conditions.

Northwest Youth Corps

East Multnomah Youth Stewardship Program \$20,000

Four weeks of summer programming will include environmental education and stewardships experience for low-income youth crews. This program is in partnership with Friends of Trees and Girl's Inc.

Outgrowing Hunger

Gardens for Health \$50,000

This two-year project will provide access to sustainable, watershed-friendly urban agriculture and gardening, provide education and technical support for marginalized and underserved gardeners, and build one new community garden.

Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center Inc.

Student Crew Leadership Training Program \$25,000

Through partnerships with Friends of Trees and Portland Parks & Recreation, this project will engage low-income youth and youth of color in project-based education and career-track natural resource mentorship.

Sauvie Island Center

DEI on the Farm & in the Classroom \$20,393

This project will support farm field trips and classroom visits for 2nd and 3rd grade students from Title 1 schools, with a focus on increasing the cultural relevancy of the program's farm-based education.



The Wetlands Conservancy

Healing Habitats \$20,706

This project is a partnership between The Wetlands Conservancy, Ecology in the Classrooms and Outdoors, Springwater Trail High School, and The City of Gresham. Partners will work together to educate a community about local natural areas and to enhance a small but incredibly valuable wetland in the middle of a Gresham neighborhood.

Tucker Maxon School

SE 28th Place Parklet \$20,350

A street block with severe drainage problems will be converted into a small neighborhood park with native plant and pollinator gardens. It will provide space for environmental and art education for both deaf and hearing students at the school, as well as a gathering place for community.

Verde

Verde Landscape Training Program \$40,000

The Verde Landscape Training Program will implement the first year of an updated curriculum. The program provides low-income people of color with on-the-job and classroom training, individualized learning plans, and connections to destination employers.

Wisdom of the Elders

Wisdom Workforce Development Capacity Project \$38,680

This project will expand capacity of the workforce development program to carry out restoration activities and will provide a more secure conservation work pathway for Native American adults. This project will also allow Wisdom to further its Traditional Ecological Knowledge educational role with colleagues, students and the public.

World Salmon Council

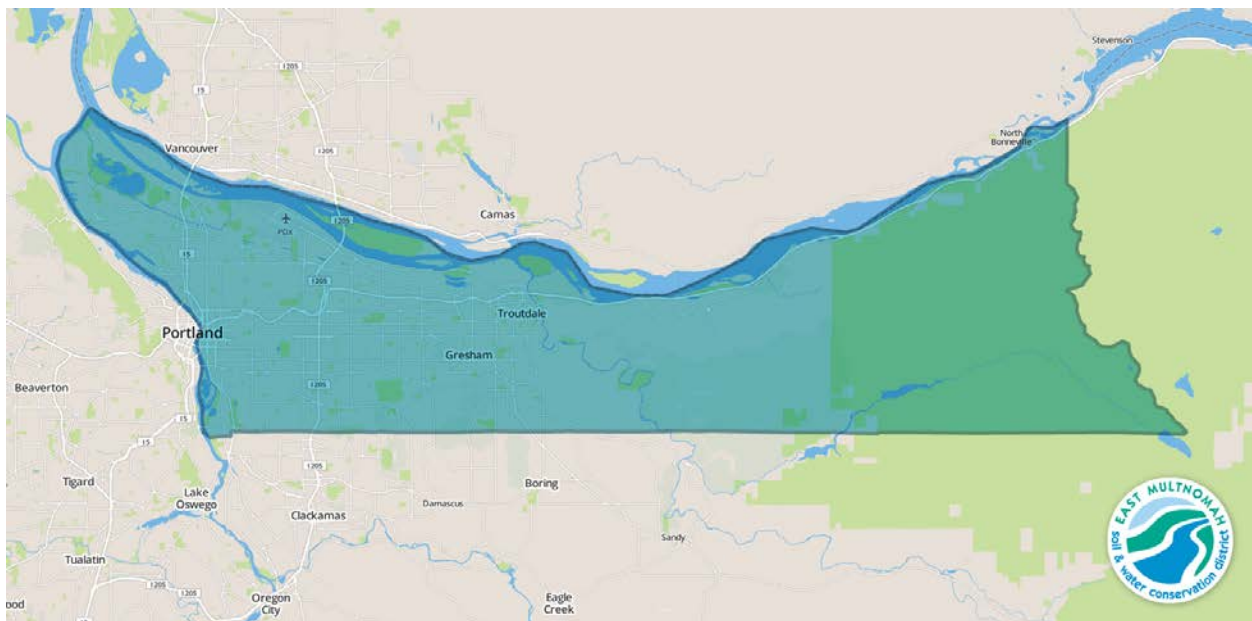
Salmon Watch \$18,842

Focusing on salmon as a keystone species of the Northwest ecosystem, Salmon Watch reaches over 1,500 middle and high school students through field trips, service-learning projects, and classroom curriculum. The program partners with The Blueprint Foundation and the “Unidos” Latinx student club at Jefferson High School.



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 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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