



2024 Partners in Conservation Grant Review Committee Meeting Group 3 – Sustainable Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens Focus

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In-person meeting - 5211 N. Williams Ave., Portland, Oregon

MEETING GOALS

- 1) To ensure a thorough and fair review process that considers a diverse range of perspectives, expertise, and backgrounds.
- 2) To identify important questions/concerns requiring further research or follow-up
- 3) To rank applications in order of merit to help guide the EMSWCD Board of Directors' 2024 Partners in Conservation (PIC) funding decisions.

Agenda

8:30 a.m.	Come early – coffee/tea and snacks provided by EMSWCD
9 a.m.	Welcome, introductions
9:15 a.m.	Review of the process, objectives, and current applicant pool; conflict/potential bias disclosures
9:30 a.m.	Review scores – identify key applications needing discussion Discuss strengths and weaknesses of applications, feedback to applicants
10:30 a.m.	Break (15 min)
10:45 a.m.	Discuss strengths and weaknesses of applications, feedback to applicants Review and rank: Urban Ag/Gardening Education proposals (16)
Noon	Break – Grab Lunch (15 min)
12:15 p.m.	Final rankings; process check and feedback
1 p.m.	Adjourn

2024 Partners in Conservation Grant Summary

Column1	Organization Name	Application Title	Project Description	Requested Amount	Total Project Cost	Watershed(s) - Check all	Natural resource issue(s)
1	Audubon Society of Portland / Portland Audubon	Green Leaders Program	The Green Leaders program provides meaningful, paid training and work experience in environmental education for youth of color that elevates them as leaders and mentors where they live. Leveraging feedback from fellow community members, Green Leaders co-develop and implement a combination of watershed-focused after-school programs, family days, and stewardship opportunities with guidance from program staff. Green Leaders also lead summertime nature camps for children in grades K-8, gaining practical experience and readying them to take up career-track positions as environmental educators or in related professions while inspiring the next generation through nature-based learning. This program is a collaborative effort managed by Hacienda CDC, Portland Audubon, and Verde.	\$70,000	\$472,600	Columbia Slough Johnson Creek	Habitat restoration or conservation
2	Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors	Ecology Education for Spanish Immersion Students	The Ecology Education for Spanish Immersion Students program aims to enrich science education at Lent and Alder Elementary in Southeast Portland. Focused on 3rd-5th grade in Title I Spanish Immersion classrooms, we offer a curriculum that merges local ecology lessons with global and cultural perspectives, engaging students in hands-on experiential learning about watershed health, habitat restoration and climate action. Furthermore, the project aims to enhance schoolyard habitats, transforming them into vibrant, living classrooms. These outdoor spaces serve as practical settings for our environmental education lessons and as areas where students can directly engage in habitat improvement activities, fostering environmental stewardship and global understanding among young learners.	\$33,550	\$86,120	Columbia Slough Columbia River Johnson Creek Willamette River	Habitat restoration or conservation
3	Green Lents	Building Climate Resilient Community and Urban Environment of Lents Neighborhood	Green Lents will engage the Johnson Creek community in the Lents neighborhood in planting and maintenance of neighborhood green spaces, reducing urban heat island effects, improving water filtration and drainage, and reducing air and noise pollution around our local Lent Elementary school and public right of ways. Green Lents will also educate the community on climate change, and encourage action towards preparedness, mitigation, and adaptation to its hazards, particularly heat and drought. The project will foster community connections and build individual and collective resilience. Local activities will include hands-on education in English and Spanish, and languages tailored to the specific community and partnership engaged.	\$70,000	\$140,000	Johnson Creek	Habitat restoration or conservation
4	Grow Portland	Expand Native Plantings in School Gardens	Grow Portland will expand our native plant program to include native planting areas at several of our current partner school gardens, adding corresponding signage and curriculum. Plants and signs will be incorporated into curriculum, events, and work parties, in partnership with Indigenous communities. We will partner with an Indigenous farmer to implement planting and signage and develop new lessons and activities to engage with these areas. This project will expand our thriving gardens while prioritizing ecological health and water conservation to create healthier, more biodiverse garden ecosystems. It will also provide new opportunities for students and their families to engage with the garden and learn about Indigenous plants, uses, and culture.	\$22,425	\$46,842	Johnson Creek Willamette River	Habitat restoration or conservation
5	Leach Garden Friends/Leach Botanical Garden	Back 5 Community Habitat Enhancement Project	The Back 5 Habitat Enhancement Project is a collaboration to restore a 5-acre portion of Leach Garden adjacent to the 12-acre main campus. The "Back 5" was acquired in 1999 as an educational/community science site. Active restoration and monitoring began in 2016, in partnership with organizations primarily serving underserved and BIPOC youth. In addition to working in the field, students participate in workshops about topics including macroinvertebrates, pollinators, traditional ecological knowledge, ornithology, plant identification/propagation, and health in nature. Monthly meetings with partner organizations help refine plans and programming. The first 2 acres of the Back 5 will open to the public in Spring 2025; student restoration and monitoring will continue through at least Spring 2026.	\$70,000	\$342,282	Johnson Creek	Habitat restoration or conservation
6	People of Color Outdoors	Bring Nature to the BIPOC Community	POCO, in partnership with the Backyard Habitat Certification Program (BHCP) will create opportunities for BIPOC residents to change the narrative of who belongs in habitat restoration. In POCO's Habitat Restoration Project, 32 volunteers will transform 32 yards into habitats. Outcomes include benefits to 200 POCO members; improving water and soil quality; and increasing urban tree canopy, habitats for local wildlife, access to greenspaces, and climate resiliency. 66 POCO leaders will receive training in BHCP, growing them as BIPOC leaders in nature conservation. Lastly, the project will integrate habitat restoration education into scheduled outings so that all POCO members can learn about potential actions that they can take without enrollment in the project.	\$70,000	\$71,000	Columbia Slough Johnson Creek	Habitat restoration or conservation
7	Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center Inc.	Natural Resource Pathways (NRP): The Green Team Program	The POIC+RAHS Green Team is an environmental leadership program that works with a team of high school students on outdoor environmental projects throughout the summer. The program places youth in charge of projects including tree pruning, maintenance, surveying and mapping tree health and mortality. It also supports student interest in pursuing living-wage careers in the natural resource field. The Green Team supports and offers guidance to low-income students and students of color to help them play an active role in their community's environmental health. This grant would support the Green Team over the 2024 and 2025 summers, allowing us to expand capacity by hiring a staff position to lead the program in place of the current volunteer position.	\$36,694	\$179,284	Columbia Slough Johnson Creek Willamette River	Habitat restoration or conservation
8	Soul River Inc.	ECO Youth Leadership Lab	The Soul River Inc. (SRI) program will expand its transformative impact on youth, veterans, and their community by offering year-round programming. The goal is to empower youth to become leaders, increase access to nature, increase environmental education opportunities, and create experiences to support future leadership and vocational opportunities in conservation. The program also provides opportunities for BIPOC veterans to meaningfully engage with youth. SRI will create an ECO Lab at Roosevelt High School where veterans will mentor youth in environmental education, conservation, outdoor leadership skills and advocacy. SRI will partner with local conservation groups to support the program. SRI is meeting the increasing need for programs that benefit inner-city youth and veterans.	\$35,000	\$117,251	Columbia Slough Columbia River Willamette River	Habitat restoration or conservation
9	Wisdom of the Elders Inc.	Wisdom Workforce Development: Traditional Ecological Knowledge Environmental Internship	Wisdom Workforce Development's paid internship provides education and job skill training for the Environmental and Conservation sector. The curriculum focuses on Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Field classes are held for 12 weeks. Wisdom provides hands-on experience with Portland Metro partner organizations, cultural practitioners, and environmental scientists. Field classes take place at various locations while Wednesday classroom days are held at our office. Topics include Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) concepts as well as Indigenous cultural arts, plant identification, uses, habitat restoration and conservation, biocultural restoration, and environmental career pathways.	\$70,000	\$336,189	Columbia Slough Columbia River Johnson Creek Sandy River	Habitat restoration or conservation
10	World Salmon Council	Salmon Watch	This grant would expand the Salmon Watch Program, which has reached more than 80,000 students in Oregon over 20 years. Salmon Watch provides comprehensive, multidisciplinary education focused on salmon through classroom instruction, in-stream study, and community service projects. Each year, the Salmon Watch program trains volunteers and mentors to guide up to 1,000 students and creates the next stewards of our watersheds and environment. Salmon Watch's science-based field stations teach students about salmon biology, macroinvertebrate identification, water quality testing, and riparian ecosystems. Committed to equity and inclusion, WSC provides field trips at no cost and provides culturally-relevant learning experiences.	\$28,000	\$179,000	Columbia River Johnson Creek	Habitat restoration or conservation
11	1000 Friends of Oregon	Land Use Leadership Initiative 2024	This grant will support 1000 Friends 2024 Land Use Leadership Initiative (LULI) in the Portland Metro region. LULI broadens and diversifies support for and participation in land use decisions that shape our cities, our natural working lands, and our community resilience. Focusing on a specific geographic area, LULI brings together 20-25 community leaders for 9 sessions over 5 months to gain technical knowledge about land use decisions, learn about the most pressing land conservation and development issues in their community, and equip participants with resources and relationships to engage in land use issues that matter to them. A major goal of the program is to build power among a diverse, grassroots network of advocates who continue working together after the cohort has ended.	\$29,275	\$44,854	Columbia Slough Columbia River Johnson Creek Sandy River Willamette River	Soil health
12	AfroVillage PDX	AfroFuturism Oasis: Bridging Communities for Environmental Equity	The AfroFuturism Oasis is a sanctuary space that harmoniously integrates nature, culture, art, and technology to create an oasis for Black and Brown communities in Portland to rest, collaborate, innovate, and access pathways to economic empowerment, carving space to hold the past and sculpt the future. The idea was developed for Trimet's Max Reuse Design Challenge in 2020 and won the People's Choice Award. AfroVillage continued developing the idea and searching for a site to make this project a reality. The site will host MAX cars with therapeutic spaces, hygiene resources, and places for local BIPOC farmers to sell their produce, as well as community and healing gardens, a nature trail, and regenerative landscape and soil care.	\$70,000	\$163,500	Willamette River	Soil health
13	Birch Community Services	Teaching Garden: Empowering families through sustainable gardening	In 2012, Birch opened the Sunderland Teaching Garden in Gresham, serving as a space for families facing hardship to learn valuable, sustainable gardening skills through hands-on learning, classes, and community-building. However, the increasingly hot Portland summers and years of use have resulted in an inefficient and outdated irrigation system, straining water resources and impacting the garden's output. To address these challenges, Birch proposes installing a new drip irrigation system and adding rain barrels to help conserve water, reduce the garden's environmental impact, and support sustainable agriculture. Families will work together to create a more sustainable garden, instill a sense of accomplishment, and connect with others.	\$28,400	\$35,650	Columbia Slough	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
14	Bridgeport UCC	Bridgeport Village Community Garden	The Bridgeport Village Community Garden is a place to grow food, create connections between neighbors and transitional houseless residents and strengthen people's connection to healthy food and land. People need and crave community connection. Two years ago, these transitional housing pods were built and 10 recently houseless residents live on the property. In the first year of operation, relationships grew through gardening together. The Garden not only grows food, but provides gardening support and education for new gardeners. With immigrants, refugees, houseless and housed neighbors gardening side by side, the garden creates a safe healthy place for neighbors to rest and connect in a green space in a neighborhood with few of these places.	\$14,250	\$30,000	Columbia River Willamette River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
15	Build Soil	Build Soil Chestnut Education Project	Build Soil's initiative focuses on enhancing landscape literacy by cultivating (edible) chestnuts, a project that combines community engagement with environmental education. The goal for 2024 is to plant and nurture 8,000 chestnut trees in Build Soil's urban nursery, distributing them to foster local biodiversity and food resilience. The chestnuts serve as a foundation for hands-on learning, involving the community in tree care and ecological observation. Through a series of online and in-person workshops, participants develop skills in landscape design, site analysis, and urban agroecology. The learning materials from these workshops will be accessible on the chestnut GIS hub, a digital platform for knowledge sharing and community participation in sustainable practices.	\$30,000	\$60,000	Columbia Slough Columbia River Johnson Creek Sandy River Willamette River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
16	Depave	Morning Star Church Nature Space	Depave will partner with the African-American Morning Star Church in the Cully neighborhood of Northeast Portland to transform 18,000 square feet of pavement into a verdant, nature space with the support of volunteers and area residents. The new nature space will feature an ADA-accessible food garden, shade trees, native landscaping, a nature playground for Pequeñitos Childcare, and outdoor seating and gathering areas. The nature space will include 30 trees, 2630 native or edible plants, 14 raised garden beds, and more than 5,500 square feet of area dedicated to food growing. Altogether the project will redirect 482,000 gallons of runoff per year to rebuild soil, sequester carbon, and reduce flooding.	\$70,000	\$345,298	Columbia Slough	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening

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17	Ethiopian and Eritrean Cultural and Resource Center (EECRC)	EECRC Sustainability Project	This project will provide crucial support to the ongoing environmental initiatives of the Ethiopian and Eritrean Cultural and Resource Center (EECRC). The primary objectives include sustaining and maintaining the EECRC community garden, fostering environmental education, and promoting habitat restoration through hands-on experiences and garden education. A key aspect involves the selection of Garden Ambassadors from passionate individuals who will be responsible for the regular care of the garden plots. The cultivation of culturally specific foods to ensure access to fresh and culturally relevant food. Additionally, the grant will support tree planting events, designed to contribute to environmental restoration, mitigate carbon emissions, and promote environmental stewardship.	\$70,000	\$70,000	Johnson Creek	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
18	Feed'em Freedom Foundation	The Liberation Project	The project focuses on enhancing community gardens, fortifying food security, and nurturing regenerative agricultural education. Rooted in principles of climate resilience and the cultivation of culturally specific crops, this project, guided by Feed'em Freedom, prioritizes uplifting Black Agriculturalists and fostering cultural food connections. The mission at its core revolves around empowering communities towards self-sustainability while fostering care and reciprocity. Funding supports advancing health, bolstering food sovereignty, and strengthening BIPOC agriculture across farms and gardens within EMSWCD's district. Activities include regenerative agricultural workshops, technical guidance for gardeners, and the provisioning of essential resources.	\$57,000	\$57,000	Willamette River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
19	Folk-Time, INC	Inclusive & Accessible Community Garden	FolkTime operates a Peer Connection Center in NE Portland, providing free mental health care for individuals facing mental health or substance use challenges. Our services include peer support, workforce development, technology assistance, a weekly food bank, daily free hot meals, resource navigation, and the FolkTime Bliss Garden. We will renovate the current garden by creating accessible tall, raised beds and opening it to the community as a shared garden space. Community gardeners will be selected by prioritizing those confronting systemic challenges such as disabilities, discrimination, economic barriers, lack of land, and food insecurity. This project will significantly impact community well-being, foster inclusivity, and broaden access to both gardening and mental health services.	\$36,303	\$96,529	Willamette River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
20	Friends of Zenger Farm	Zenger Farm - Building Pathways to Farming	Zenger Farm seeks to increase the number of diverse farmers by training the next generation of local food producers and by providing accessible educational programming for youth and families to build pathways for future BIPOC, women, and non-binary farmers in the Portland Metropolitan area. Across programs, our curriculum will provide a comprehensive, culturally responsive, climate action-focused learning environment for four (4) beginning farmers apprentices, six (6) farm interns, 600 David Douglas School District 5th graders, and 1,200 folks participating in our family programming.	\$70,000	\$141,070	Johnson Creek	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
21	Growing Gardens	Horticulture Education and Workforce Development at Columbia River Correctional Institute	This grant would help sustain Growing Garden's Lettuce Grow program at Columbia River Correctional Institution (CRI) in NE Portland. Lettuce Grow uses garden education to support the health and agency of incarcerated individuals while developing workforce skills in greenhouse management, sustainable gardening, and other horticultural fields. Our program puts incarcerated individuals on a pathway to post-release work and successful reintegration into their communities while promoting the use of sustainable agricultural methods which have a significant impact on the local environment.	\$56,067	\$116,434	Columbia Slough Columbia River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
22	Kindness Farm	Kindness Farm: Environmental Stewardship and Education for Youth, Immigrants & Refugees, & Underserved Communities	This program works to address health and wellness disparities in youth, adults, and seniors from underrepresented communities by providing access to: - Ongoing, experiential education of regenerative, holistic practices (including understanding of the interconnectedness between our actions, the environment's health, and our own health) - a safe, inclusive natural space for communal gathering and this learning - the experience of growing food - the tools needed to build food security and sovereignty. Through partnerships with schools and various immigrant and refugee groups, and experiential community learning days, we aim to work with our community to build an equitable and resilient foundation that will serve all of us for years to come.	\$59,000	\$521,192	Johnson Creek	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
23	Latino Network	Sustaining SUN Gardens	Latino Network's Sustaining SUN Gardens project will enliven six (6) school garden programs to nourish the minds and bodies of students and families facing climate change. Funds will support garden infrastructure and related programming at Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) Community Schools: Scott, Cesar Chavez, Kelly, Hartley, Rigler, and Kellogg. Each school's comprehensive garden program will collaborate with program partners Growing Gardens & FoodCorps volunteers, PTAs, Garden Committees, teachers, administrators, and students to experience the power of growing food and staying happy and healthy.	\$20,000	N/A	Columbia Slough Columbia River Johnson Creek Willamette River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
24	Montavilla Farmers Market	Local Food For All	Local Food for All will increase access to fresh, local food for food-insecure community members in the Montavilla and adjoining neighborhoods. This program supports culturally relevant seasonal recipe demonstrations and classes, Market Bucks, and produce distribution and will make Montavilla Farmers Market more welcoming and accessible to low-income neighbors.	\$21,375	\$25,216	Johnson Creek Willamette River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
25	Nutrition Garden Rx (fiscal sponsor - YWCA of Greater Portland)	Optimizing and Amplifying Ecosystem Vitality	We are building a culturally-relevant, ecologically-aligned, and vibrantly healthy food system and learning lab to improve human-nature interconnectedness, awareness, curiosity, and balance. Our hub is at the CareOregon Boys & Girls Club at Rockwood (BGC), where we engage and inspire youth and young adults to explore fresh, local, nutritious, food systems that help prevent costly, chronic health conditions and support vibrant human health. In addition to sustainable food systems, we explore sustainable lifestyles for optimal health and well-being in alignment with other types of restoration and conservation efforts, share and implement these solutions with and for the surrounding community, and highlight and create bridges into climate just, "green" professional pathways.	\$70,000	\$70,000	Johnson Creek Willamette River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
26	Oregon State University	Advancing Water Resilience in East Multnomah County through Dry Farming Outreach and Education	Climate change has adversely affected Oregon vegetable growers. Climate-smart farming practices and resilient cultivars are essential for Oregon's agricultural future, but consumers need a better understanding of these practices, their benefits, and specific varieties. The project purpose is to increase awareness and provide education about dry farming and its benefits - for the environment, the farmer, and the consumer. This project will engage, connect and educate EMSWCD consumers, gardeners, farmers and culinary professionals through large public events including Variety Showcase, Sagra, and two festivals; a dry farming zine; recipes; retail plant starts; and social media. The project will support current and recruit new dry farmers in creating a market for dry-farmed products.	\$69,290	\$69,290	Columbia Slough Columbia River Johnson Creek Sandy River Willamette River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
27	Our Village Gardens	Building Food Resilience Through Community Garden & Growing Projects	This grant will support the impact and reach of OVG's Growing Projects, which include our Seeds of Harmony Community Garden, our Fruits of Diversity Community Orchard, and our Neighbor-to-Neighbor Veggie Share Box initiative. These programs are designed to build community resilience, provide natural green spaces, and increase access to fresh, healthy, and culturally relevant food. This year's priorities of capacity building, enhancing growing spaces, and promoting culturally-diverse practices are efforts that amplify our growing projects and community organizing initiatives in Oregon's largest affordable housing neighborhood, New Columbia.	\$69,047	\$160,753	Columbia Slough	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
28	Outgrowing Hunger	East County Community Gardens Support	This project will provide for the continuing operation and expansion of a network of independent, community-led urban agriculture facilities in east Multnomah County (Gresham, Rockwood, Fairview, Wood Village, and Happy Valley) which serves low-income immigrant and refugee clients from Africa, Burma, Mexico, Nepal, and Ukraine.	\$24,925	\$159,524	Columbia Slough Johnson Creek	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
29	Peace Village Global	Cully Community Revitalization and Climate Resilience	The Portland Placemaking Coalition seeks to create replicable neighborhood-scale models of urban revitalization through a network of ecological regeneration projects. Our project will train local BIPOC youth in placemaking and permaculture, and create multigenerational community engagement with food forests, pollinator habitats, and deep mulch gardens. Youth will be paid to participate in a range of activities, from organizing listening sessions and strategic planning to site preparation, planting, mulching, maintenance, and harvest. Other positive outcomes of this project are: improved neighborhood cohesion and health, violence reduction, increased soil quality, carbon sequestration, food sovereignty, stormwater runoff reduction, increased urban canopy and climate resilience.	\$70,000	\$170,000	Columbia Slough	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
30	Play Grow Learn	Agricultural Mentoring Program 2024	Play Grow Learn is continuing previous environmental education, workforce development, and conservation-oriented agricultural and nature programming throughout east Multnomah County including: 1) paid youth stewardship, conservation and restoration internships at Nadaka Park, 2) organizing and hosting partner-led environmental and ag internships, 3) operation of a farmers market and logistics, and, 4) outreach and engagement of low-income and communities of color to develop more self-sufficiency through agricultural skill building.	\$70,000	\$259,473	Columbia Slough	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
31	Portland Food Forest Initiative	Educational Food Forests for Community Empowerment	We convert Portland homeowners' lawns into rich, perennial food forests, including design, preparation, planting, harvest, and steward training. These sites serve as demonstration learning gardens where classes, workshops, and hands-on volunteer opportunities happen throughout the year for youth and adults. Harvests from these gardens benefit homeowners, volunteer stewards, and local food banks for five years minimum. Outreach and education efforts aim to raise awareness of regenerative ag practices and food security issues. We are also working to install public food forests and expand our nursery and urban canopy plantings, especially in heat-island-affected areas. Grant funds will support seeds, plants, construction, tools, volunteer training, outreach, admin, and staff wages.	\$30,000	\$56,898	Columbia Slough Johnson Creek Willamette River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
32	Portland Fruit Tree Project	Reinvigorating Community Orchards	This project is intended to deeply invest in the Parkrose and Sabin Community Orchards, to build community, educate participants about sustainable agriculture, and empower neighbors to grow and care for fruit trees, vines, and shrubs. Through volunteer work parties, stewardship workshops, mason bee education, native plant swaps, potential cider presses, and more, we are excited to help these spaces be meaningful gathering places for fruit enthusiasts.	\$9,954	\$20,000	Willamette River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
33	Rocky Butte Farmers Market	Rocky Butte Farmers Market New Farmer Pipeline	This grant will help us establish a formal vendor pipeline aimed at lowering barriers to participation for emerging and under-represented farmers. We will develop and manage a 3-track participation pipeline: Community Table: The lowest barrier entry point is for emerging farmers and backyard gardeners. The table provides equipment and staffing and is covered by the market's insurance eliminating all barriers to entry. Subsidized Vendors: This tier will support emerging and underrepresented farmers to access the market through reduced booth fees, a market supply/equipment fund, and assistance with insurance requirements. Established Vendors: The traditional model of farmers markets; however, we provide support and flexible payment options for our already low booth fee.	\$22,710	N/A	Willamette River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
34	Rogue Farm Corps	Building Resilient Communities through Regenerative Agriculture	Rogue Farm Corps is building an equity-informed regenerative agricultural workforce to address farmland loss, environmental degradation, and racial inequity. Our Beginning Farmer Training Programs equip aspiring and beginning farmers from all backgrounds with the hands-on experience, knowledge, skills, and relationships they need to obtain successful careers in sustainable agriculture while simultaneously bringing ecological benefits to the communities most deeply touched by the negative impacts of climate change and industrial farming. We are seeking funding support for the Portland Chapter's Beginning Farmer Training programs which serves aspiring farmers in the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District.	\$40,000	\$99,670	Columbia Slough Johnson Creek Willamette River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening

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35	Sauvie Island Center	Empowering the Next Generation of Stewards through Farm Education	This project offers students, parent chaperones and educators from low-income schools engaging, hands-on, outdoor environmental education that reinforces Next Generation Science Standards. In the fall and spring, as many as 450 students (each student will visit twice) from Title 1 schools will visit a working farm, where children are introduced to a broader natural resource curriculum through culturally relevant lessons about plant life cycles, healthy soil, and pollination. Students also plant, tend to, and taste fresh vegetables from their farm row, the Grow Lunch Garden. In winter months, classroom visits provide a bridge between seasonal visits and aid retention as participants explore the journey different foods take from farms to our tables.	\$35,440	\$123,907	Columbia River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
36	Serendipity Center, Inc.	Growing Minds Garden and Wellness Program	This grant would support Serendipity's Growing Minds Garden (GMG) and Wellness Programs, which provide learning and exposure to nature, sustainable agriculture, and nutrition for young people who are living with disability and trauma. The garden is located on a half-acre of land owned by the school. Every season, over a ton of fruit and vegetables are grown, harvested, processed and enjoyed by students, staff, volunteers, and the wider community through local food pantries. Serendipity's Wellness Program includes the GMG, our school meals and experiential nutrition programs. Students participate in preparing school meals that are primarily scratch-made, include a daily salad bar and incorporate fresh, sustainably grown produce from the school garden and small, local farms.	\$62,807	\$125,614	Johnson Creek	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
37	The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization - IRCO	IRCO Africa House Elder Garden	IRCO's Africa House is a unique one-stop center providing Oregon's African immigrants and refugees with culturally and linguistically specific services. This grant will revive a vital community asset: the Africa House Elder Garden. Organic garden plots begun by African elders now lie fallow due to the pandemic. With EMSWCD support, African elders will be empowered to co-create a sustainable calendar of care for this site and grow drought-resistant crops native to their home countries, as well as salad greens and tomatoes for senior group meals. We will also partner with other immigrant and refugee partners to provide hands-on learning opportunities and field trips to learn about organic gardening, conservation benefits, land and water stewardship, and sustainable agriculture.	\$70,000	\$140,000	Johnson Creek Willamette River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
38	Thimbleberry Collaborative Farm	Thimbleberry Collaborative Farm School Partnered Education	Thimbleberry Collaborative Farm will use grant funds to support our school-partnered programs for the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 school years. We are partnering with East Multnomah County schools and extracurricular programs, including Reynolds and Gresham-Barlow school districts and Camp Fire Columbia, to provide educational, farm-based field trips and classroom visits to students in grades K-12. During these field trips and classroom visits, participants learn about how to grow food and cook with seasonal produce, as well as engage in discussions about complex food systems issues like the pollution caused by industrial farming practices. Our programs are tailored to the participant's grade level and are intended to supplement and enhance classroom curriculum using experiential learning.	\$70,000	\$160,000	Johnson Creek Sandy River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
39	Trash for Peace	Co-Created Community Gardening	Trash for Peace has been providing sustainability-themed youth services in the form of weekly after-school programming on supportive multifamily housing sites for over a decade. At two of the sites (both operated by Home Forward) where we provide services, there has been a great deal of interest and involvement on behalf of residents in gardening, and two community gardens have been built with support from residents, Trash for Peace, and Home Forward staff. Both of the gardens, although doing well, need more support. This grant will provide staffing and resident stipend support at both of these community gardens, improve opportunities for resident education, and create a sustainable maintenance plan so that they can thrive and serve the community to their potential.	\$54,165	\$162,220	Columbia Slough	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
40	Tucker Maxon School	Garden Teacher at Tucker Maxon School	Tucker Maxon School had an organic gardening program at the school as part of our science curriculum before COVID-19. Each class had their own raised garden bed in our back schoolyard, amongst the resident goats. The raised beds were funded by the Portland Garden Club several years ago. In 2018, we built a new greenhouse thanks to funding by the Swindell's Trust. Students learned how to propagate plants from seeds in the greenhouse. Unfortunately, the gardens program has taken a back seat during the pandemic, so we are seeking funds to hire a new part-time gardening teacher to resuscitate the program. The garden teacher will collaborate with our part-time science teacher.	\$9,960	\$9,960	Willamette River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
41	Unite Oregon 1390 SE 122nd Avenue, Portland, OR. 97233	Unite Oregon Community Garden Initiative	This grant award would support two Unite Oregon community garden projects one in North Portland and one in Southeast Portland. North Portland Garden: In its first year of development, this initiative is transforming underutilized green space at the Cathedral Gardens Apartment Complex into a sustainable community garden. It benefits apartment residents and participants in Unite Oregon's Building Undergraduates through Inclusive Leadership Development (BUILD) Program. Knott Park Garden: This garden was established two years ago and prioritizes plots for immigrants and refugees, Black, Indigenous, and people of color (IR-BIPOC), empowering them to grow culturally specific foods, learn about local ecosystems, pursue entrepreneurship opportunities, and promote sustainability. The garden includes native plantings and pollinator habitats.	\$30,000	N/A	Columbia Slough Willamette River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
42	VetREST	Bybee Lakes Victory Garden Workforce & Stewardship Project	The Workforce & Stewardship Project builds upon ongoing agriculture and sustainable efforts to revitalize, maintain, and grow the Bybee Lakes Victory Garden. We will educate, promote, and advance sustainable garden efforts and environmental stewardship at Bybee Lakes Hope Center while improving soil health and advancing conservation outcomes. During this multi-phase project, we will inclusively offer a Horticulture for Life curriculum to train and educate participants, onboard a part-time Garden Manager, and expand community engagement and stewardship efforts within the EMSWCD boundary. Efforts will address and support needed agriculture and sustainability work and education in the unhoused community, which many times is overlooked and experiences disparities in environmental efforts.	\$47,500	\$100,910	Columbia Slough Columbia River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
43	Ka Aha Lahui O Olekona	Piko to Piko	Piko to Piko brings the Native Hawaiian community together to promote food sovereignty and access to traditional foods through the creation of community gardens to grow kalo on the continent. Volunteers across the lifespan are invited to participate in weekly maintenance and workdays at least twice per month during the growing season. At each workday, volunteers learn about Hawaiian cultural practices and language, have time to talkstory, work together in the dirt, and enjoy a traditional meal. Most workdays, volunteers are able to take leaves (used in food preparation) and small plants to take home. This program includes a community-research hui who work together and diverse interdisciplinary trainees.	\$70,000	\$100,000	Columbia River Willamette River	Sustainable agriculture / Urban food gardening
44	Columbia Riverkeeper	Columbia River Environmental Justice & Monitoring Project	The grant will fund two of Riverkeeper's programs: Stopping Pollution and Engaging Communities. The project consists of three main parts: Working with Yakama Nation to engage diverse communities fishing near Bradford Island, the Pacific Northwest's newest proposed Superfund Site; monitoring harmful algal blooms and E. coli at nine popular beaches, sharing results in English and Spanish; and offering job-skills training to paid interns. The projects tap into The Riverkeeper's experience working with Tribal Nations, public engagement, toxic pollution, applying DEI practices in recruitment, hiring and outreach, and water sampling.	\$60,000	\$120,056	Columbia River Sandy River	Water quality/toxics reduction
45	Human Access Project	Ross Island Lagoon - Harmful Cyanobacteria Bloom Cost Engineering	A harmful cyanobacterial bloom (HCB) in Ross Island Lagoon on the Willamette River threatens environmental and human health. Since 2017, Human Access Project has partnered with Oregon State University (OSU) to identify a feasible and effective solution for suppressing the HCB. Constructing a flushing channel has emerged as the most promising and sustainable solution. Funds would support developing the 30% design and cost estimate for a flushing channel. Tasks to be funded involve experimenting with channel dimensions and locations within the existing hydrodynamic/water quality model, estimating the effect of channel configurations on measures of algal activity, producing an engineer's cost estimate, and developing a monitoring and evaluation plan.	\$49,000	\$337,500	Willamette River	Water quality/toxics reduction
46	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	STEAM Paddle Project	The STEAM Paddle Project will provide eight (8) Willamette River-based, educational paddles for 208 individuals from community organizations and schools within the EMSWCD boundaries in 2024-25. Using Estuary Partnership's 29-foot, 14-passenger, bright orange Big Canoes, the Paddle Project will prioritize engaging low-income and under-resourced groups through strategic partnerships. Participants conduct water quality monitoring while exploring the wonders of a local waterway. Public school student participants also receive 2-3 class lessons on watershed health impacts. This program provides participants unique opportunities to local access of the Willamette River, nature exploration, the benefits of citizen science, and fosters knowledge and curiosity about environmental impacts in our watershed.	\$25,571	\$53,185	Columbia River Willamette River	Water quality/toxics reduction
47	Padres Unidos de Rigler	Rigler: Creating an Ecological and Equitable Schoolyard	The Rigler ecological and equitable schoolyard project will transform designated areas of the Rigler School property. The vision calls for transforming multiple small areas from asphalt to a living natural area delivering multiple conservation gains. We will begin revitalizing this area by removing thousands of square feet of pavement and then planting trees for both climate mitigation through carbon capture, and climate resiliency by strategically placing certain tree species to cast shade on individual classrooms. The plan also calls for creating bioswales to capture rainfall runoff from the school parking lot and Prescott Street. New meeting and recreational opportunities are planned to be built into this new school environment.	\$47,000	\$297,237	Columbia Slough	Water quality/toxics reduction
48	SOLVE	Urgent Need Clean-Up on NE 33rd & Sunderland Avenue	Mobilize, train, equip 300 volunteers for 8 urgent need events to remove litter, debris, & biohazards in and around Dignity Village, a membership-based intentional community for the homeless providing shelter for 60 persons a night. The public area outside Dignity Village has become a safe haven for the houseless living in cars and tents compounding the hazards. This area was identified as an urgent need high-risk environmental impact location because of its proximity to the Columbia Slough watershed and the volume and nature of trash accumulating on a daily basis. SOLVE has a proven track record of success at this unique location and has established a solid working relationship with Dignity Village, and together have demonstrated the effectiveness and benefit of a monthly cleanup.	\$69,621	\$154,780	Columbia Slough	Water quality/toxics reduction
				\$2,314,329	\$6,068,318		