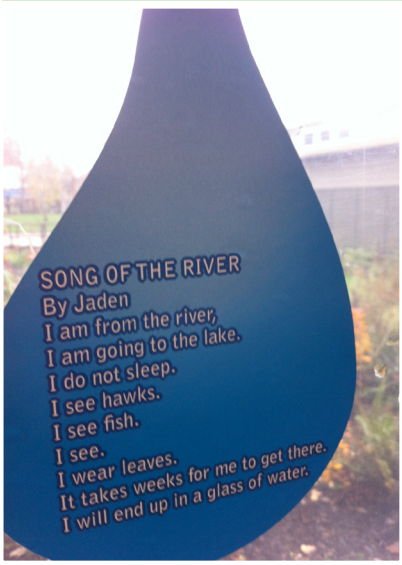
Community Watershed Stewardship Program

Funding for your community project

Annual Report



2012-2013

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Environmental Services
City of Portland
working for clean rivers

Portland State University

Table of Contents

Program Overview **1**

Project Site Map **3**

Project Summaries **4**

POIC/Rosemary Anderson High School – Columbia Children's Arboretum 4

PCC Sylvania – Habitat Team 5

Tryon Creek Watershed Council – Restoration Mentors 6

Pilgrim Lutheran Church – Rain Garden and Labyrinth 7

Gilbert Park Elementary School – Outdoor Learning Area 8

Franciscan Montessori Earth School – Windows Into Wetlands 9

Franklin High School – Nature Trail and Garden 10

Tabor Commons – Stormwater Shelter 11

Beach School – Stormwater Gardens 12

Depave – Word and Spirit Church Parking Lot Retrofit 13

Groundwork Portland – Green Team Summer Youth Program 14

Program Performance Measures **15**

Native Plant Mini Grants **16**

Portland State University Master of Urban and Regional Planning Program **18**

Community Watershed Stewardship Program

The Community Watershed Stewardship Program (CWSP) is a partnership between Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services and Portland State University. The program awards grants of up to $10,000 for projects that address community-defined needs and priorities while also improving the health of Portland's watersheds. Since 1995, CWSP has fostered partnerships among community groups, businesses, government agencies, and schools, and has leveraged hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of in-kind donations and volunteer hours.

This report describes CWSP's activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012, and ending June 30, 2013.

Grants

CWSP grants empower community groups and residents to get involved in watershed improvement projects and help leverage community resources to expand stewardship efforts. Since 1995, CWSP has distributed over $965,000 to 224 projects. Grant recipients use funds for native plants, materials, tools, and services for community-based watershed projects in the City of Portland. The CWSP grant application is released in the winter each year and is due in spring. Proposals are considered in a competitive process. Award announcements are then made for project funding available July through the following June.

CWSP disbursed $84,221 in Stewardship Grants to 11 projects for the 2012-2013 grant cycle. Grantees attracted over $290,000 in community support through donations of services, materials, and volunteer time.

1,364 volunteers contributed more than 10,000 hours to plant 11,700 native plants, improve 530,000 square feet of upland and riparian areas, and manage stormwater runoff from over 23,000 square feet of impervious surface.

CWSP also provides opportunities for private landowners and community groups to become involved in stewardship opportunities through the Mini Grants program, designed to kick-start small scale restoration and enhancement projects. This program awards gift certificates of up to $500 to community groups and $50 to private landowners for the purchase of native plants. In the 2012-2013 fiscal year, CWSP distributed $5,650 to 17 projects.

Planning Assistance

CWSP provides project planning assistance, identifies resources, and introduces new partners. We also connect groups with technical specialists and guide them in securing approvals and permits from landowners or other city agencies.

The CWSP program assists and funds projects that offer immediate watershed health benefits and that build further community capacity and interest in watershed stewardship.

Partnering with Underrepresented Communities

In 2009, City Commissioner Dan Saltzman's office called on CWSP to more purposefully involve traditionally underserved groups to participate in watershed stewardship. The Commissioner's office began working with CWSP to further increase the equitable distribution of program resources and outcomes.

In 2009 -2010, CWSP identified areas of the city with a historic lack of program funding, targeted community outreach to those areas, encouraged grant applicants to consider social equity in developing their projects, and revised the proposal evaluation process to include social equity.

CWSP targets project planning assistance, technical assistance, and partnership assistance to groups and geographies identified as underserved. CWSP partners with the Portland Office of Equity and Human Rights and Neighborhood Coalition community organizers to connect with local community groups that would be interested in CWSP grants. Several equity advisors sit on the selection committee.

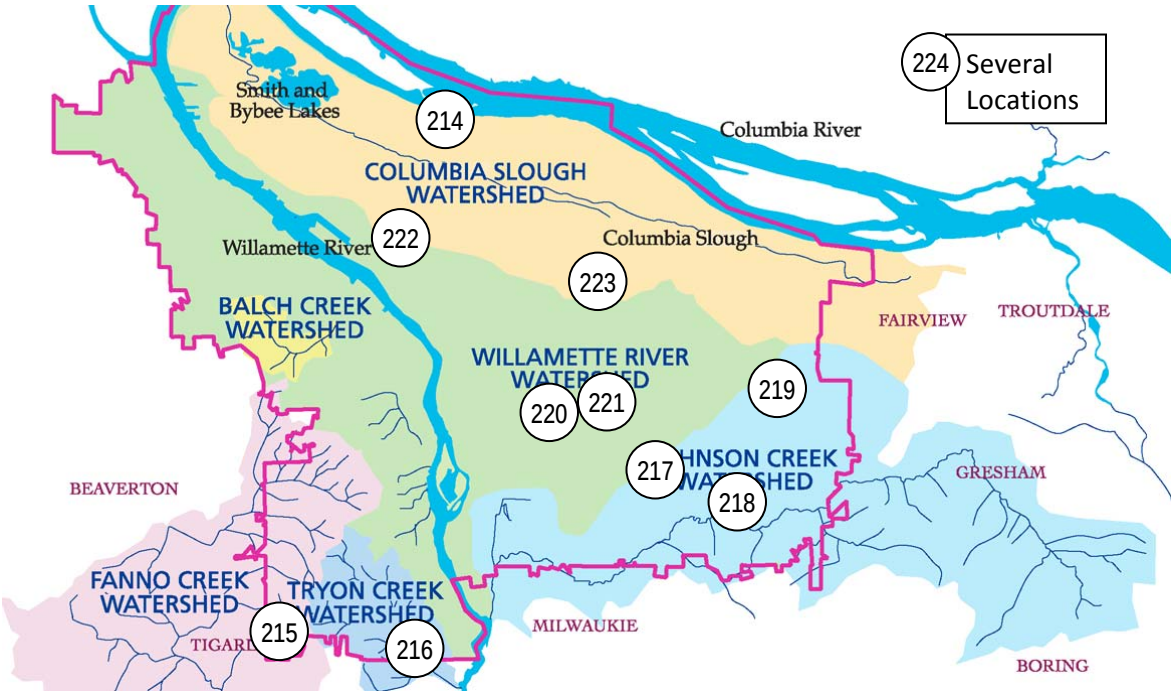
The CWSP grant application encourages applicants to involve underrepresented groups in leadership, project planning and implementation roles and includes this in the selection criteria.

Additionally, CWSP increased the allowable compensation for youth participating in CWSP grants. The change aligns CWSP funding guidelines with the goals of leadership development and skills training programs serving youth from underrepresented communities.

In 2012, project proposals increasingly include underrepresented groups and the CWSP grant selection committee is selecting an increasing share of those projects. Almost all 2012-2013 grantees involve underrepresented groups.

CWSP will continue working with the Portland Office of Equity and Human Rights to increase the meaningfulness of involvement by underserved communities in the next grant cycle.

2012-2013 CWSP Grant Projects



Site	Project Name	Amount
214	POIC	$9,610
215	PCC Sylvania	$4,388
216	TCWC	$10,000
217	Pilgrim Lutheran	$5,921
218	Gilbert Park	$9,890
219	Franciscan Montessori	$2,720
220	Franklin High School	$7,450
221	Tabor Commons	$8,100
222	Beach School	$8,142
223	Depave	$10,000
224	Groundwork	$8,000
Grand Total		**$84,221**

POIC/Rosemary Anderson High School – Columbia Children's Arboretum

Project Location:	Columbia Children's Arboretum 10040 NE 6th Drive
Watershed	Columbia Slough
CWSP funding	$9,610
Matching funding	$11,423
People involved	144
Total volunteer hours	480
Number of workshops or events	3
Native plants installed	720
Square feet of riparian area enhanced	4500 sq ft
Linear feet of stream enhanced	300
Square feet invasive species removed	4500

Five students from Rosemary Anderson High School (RAHS) improved a riparian section of the Columbia Children's Arboretum with assistance from community volunteers. The RAHS students worked with Portland Parks & Recreation and Friends of Trees professionals to develop the design and implement the plan. During three community volunteer events RAHS students and volunteers removed invasive species, revegetated with native species and mulched the new plantings.

The RAHS students were trained as crew leaders by Friends of Trees. Students learned how to identify native plants and how to choose the appropriate plants for a site. This training allowed them to lead volunteers in revegetating the site.

Restoring the area with native vegetation adds beauty to the landscape and contributes to watershed health by controlling soil erosion, shading the Columbia Slough, and allowing rainwater to soak into the ground.

The volunteer days brought together volunteers from many different groups in Portland and introduced them to a park many had never been to.

PCC Sylvania – Habitat Team

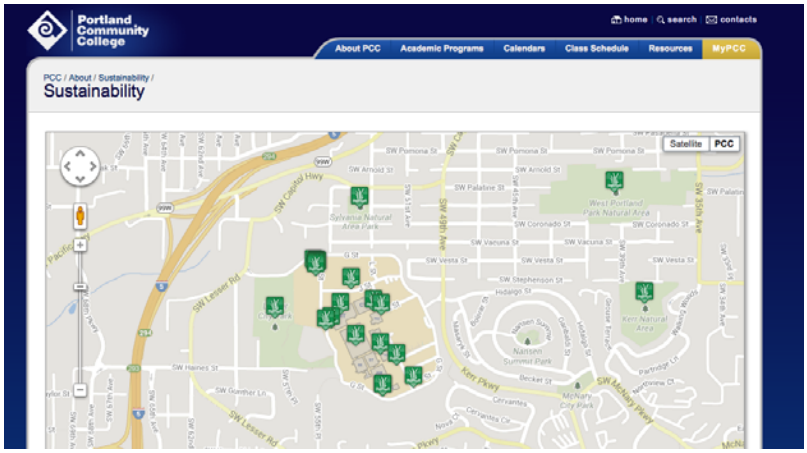
Project Location:	12000 SW 49th Ave Portland, OR 97219
Watershed	Fanno Creek
CWSP funding	$4,388
Matching funding	$22,350
People involved	74
Total volunteer hours	560
Number of workshops or events	16
Native plants installed	1,170
Square feet of riparian/upland area enhanced	8,000
Square feet treated by stormwater feature	1,500
Plant name plates installed	66

The Habitat Team ran 16 work parties in Sylvania Natural Area Park, in the PCC Wildflower Display Garden, and the area upland of North Upper Ball Creek. This included expanding the PCC Wildflower Display Garden, installing 66 new plant nameplates, and participating in a No Ivy Day Event to remove invasive plants.

Another major accomplishment was developing an iGoogle map at www.pcc.edu/about/sustainability/map/ which includes links to six parks and discusses several CWSP-funded activities.

The habitat team continued the removal of herb Robert, shallow-rooted ivy, spurge laurel, lesser celandine, Italian arum and other invasives from the stream banks and upland areas, and in their place, planted species that improve support to the banks. They also continued planting native plants in the riparian area to prevent additional erosion.

By involving southwest neighborhoods and PCC Sylvania students in this project, they have created a greater sense of community and teamwork. Students saw how much they can impact their community and have now worked side by side with Portland Parks & Recreation staff, neighbors from the far southwest neighborhood, and PCC faculty and staff.



Tryon Creek Watershed Council – Restoration Mentors

Project Location – Multiple locations near Tryon Creek	
Watershed	Tryon Creek
CWSP funding	$10,000
Matching funding	$57,987
People involved	397
Total volunteer hours	1,585
Number of workshops or events	7
Native plants installed	8,000
Natural area enhanced (square feet)	500,000
Linear feet of stream enhanced	3,900
Number of outreach materials	3

The Tryon Creek Restoration Mentor program is the primary mechanism through which the Tryon Creek Watershed Council restores habitat in the watershed. This program connects landowners interested in improving habitat on their streamside property with trained volunteer mentors and resources to conduct habitat improvement projects.

In 2012, the program provided 8,000 plants to 24 sites. Six mentors volunteered with the Tryon Creek Watershed Council and more helped in other Portland watersheds..

Partners included:

- 24 private landowners
- West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District
- Tryon Creek State Natural Area
- Friends of Tryon Creek State Park
- Cascade Education Corps
- Multnomah Youth Corps
- SW Watershed Resource Center
- Hands On Greater Portland
- Southwest Neighbors, Inc.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church – Rain Garden and Labyrinth

Project Location - 4244 SE 91st Ave Portland, OR 97266	
Watershed	Johnson Creek
CWSP funding	$5,921
Matching funding	$4,575
People involved	22
Total volunteer hours	247
Locations with signs	2
Native plants installed	117
Downspouts disconnected	1
Benches	1
Number of outreach materials and media features	4

The church community replaced impervious pavement with an octagonal, pervious pavement labyrinth. Their new labyrinth is accessible to people of all abilities and surrounded by native plants. The labyrinth creates a walking path for healing and meditation and a community meeting place that will benefit the whole neighborhood.

Additionally, they built a rain garden separated from the labyrinth by a retaining wall. The rain garden is a learning tool for the community and has direct watershed benefits in managing stormwater runoff.

Gilbert Park Elementary School – Outdoor Learning Area

Project Location - 13132 SE Ramona St Portland, Oregon 97236	
Watershed	Johnson Creek
CWSP funding	$9,890
Matching funding	$40,676
People involved	253
Total volunteer hours	776
Number of workshops or events	10
Native plants installed	980
Square feet riparian/upland area enhanced	8,400
Number of outreach materials	15

Gilbert Park School started off the year with a large courtyard that was mostly compacted, impervious lawn, invasive species and dead trees maintained by gas mowers and pesticides. They transformed their courtyard into a dynamic, permeable space including a pollinator meadow, edible garden beds and fruit trees, a rain garden with disconnected downspouts, rock garden and dunes, an "Industrial Crops of Oregon" garden, an herb circle, outdoor classroom area, reading garden, forest habitat and memorial garden.

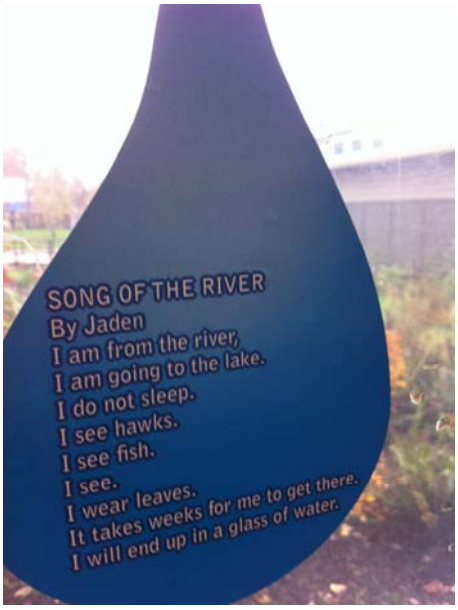
Students, teachers, staff and parent volunteers were all essential to the success of the project along with a long list of community partners.

Franciscan Montessori Earth School – Windows Into Wetlands

Project Location - 14750 SE Clinton, Portland, OR 97236	
Watershed	Johnson Creek
CWSP funding	$2,720
Matching funding	$1,740
People involved	55
Total volunteer hours	132
Number of workshops or events	3
Square feet rain garden	2000
Native plants installed	150

Windows Into Wetlands enabled the school and neighborhood to become more aware of the value of water in the urban landscape.By planting native plants, they substantially enhanced a recently constructed rain garden area that is visible from several classrooms and common spaces in the school.

They worked with poet Carlos Reyes to write poems about water, and created window stickers based on their poetry to draw people's attention to the rain garden and to heighten appreciation of water recapture, purification, and its role in nurturing urban wild spaces.



The school also hosted a rain garden workshop for their school and neighborhood community, at which BES and native plant experts taught participants how to create rain gardens.

School volunteers then put their new skills into practice by working with residents of a nearby apartment complex, Arbor Glen, to install a rain garden.

This year-long effort was a notable part of the 2012-13 academic year and has continued their community's focus on naturescaping and increased sustainability.

Franklin High School – Nature Trail and Garden

Project Location – 5405 SE Woodward Portland, OR 97206	
Watershed	Willamette River
CWSP funding	$7,450
Matching funding	$70,415
People involved	1,784
Total volunteer hours	4,020+
Number of workshops or events	23
Native plants installed	60

A dynamic group of 200 students, numerous adult volunteers, and community partners practiced and taught watershed stewardship through hands-on learning.

The group researched, published and installed two 84-page informational binders created by students. They plan to add more student-made pages each year. They also installed four outdoor bulletin board cabinets with content about watershed stewardship.

The school also installed a native planting along the 53rd Avenue Walkway. They coordinated with a SUN School landscape architecture class to develop a landscape site plan with native plants. They removed invasive plants, prepared and mulched soil for the nature trail, planted and maintained native plants, installed logs and stumps, and placed plant ID signs. Students created an organic garden for life skills classes.

There has been a significant reduction in littering, vandalism, unwanted camping, and theft on their site. There has also been a significant increase in use before, during, and after school.

Their landscaping and native plantings have redirected stormwater runoff into garden plots. Where there were few pollinators, there are now many. There is less littering, and therefore less pollution entering our storm drains and rivers. Storm drains (some of which were previously blocked) are now functioning better.

The project increased feelings of ownership and pride in the area both for students and the wider community.

The project increased feelings of ownership and pride in the area both for students and the wider community.

Tabor Commons – Stormwater Shelter

Project Location Au Play 5633 SE Division St. Portland, OR 97214	
Watershed	Willamette River
CWSP funding	$8,100
Matching funding	$11,800
People involved	27
Total volunteer hours	360
Number of workshops or events	6
Signs	11
Square Feet treated by rain garden	600

Café Au Play's mission is to be a place for community to happen. This project exemplified that goal by bringing volunteers together to build a shelter which also interprets the sustainable stormwater features of the site.

It consists of a 20' by 30' canopy roof over the back patio behind Café au Play. A large interpretive display on the west wall of the shelter explains all the various sustainable stormwater features around the Tabor Commons site.

All the roof runoff from the gutter drains onto a decoratively cut out steel panel. Rainwater drains down the panel and into a swale that leads to the main rain garden.

Beach School – Stormwater Gardens

Project Location – 1710 N. Humbolt St Portland, OR 97217	
Watershed	Willamette River
CWSP funding	$8,142
Matching funding	$15,450
People involved	39
Total volunteer hours	966
Number of workshops or events	3
Native plants installed	538
Square Feet riparian/upland area enhanced	530
Square Feet treated by rain gardens	7,600

The school community came together to create a greener, more beautiful and more educational playground and landscape at Beach School. They removed asphalt from the playground and replaced it with rain gardens filled with native plants. The new gardens engage the students, provide learning opportunities, and intercept stormwater.

Several community partners helped make the project possible, including MAC Concrete, the Overlook Neighborhood Association and the Beach PTA.

Depave – Word and Spirit Church Parking Lot Retrofit

Project Location- 6140 NE Stanton St Portland, OR 97213	
Watershed	Willamette River
CWSP funding	$10,000
Matching funding	$11,950
People involved	97
Total volunteer hours	550S
Number of workshops or events	3
Native plants installed	335
Square Feet impervious surface managed	10,000
Locations with signs	1
Number of outreach materials	5

Depave engaged church community members and Portland residents at large in transforming a large, degraded paved lot into a vibrant, living neighborhood space. Nearly 100 volunteers helped implement the project.

Two large community events and numerous smaller work parties hosted volunteers to contribute and learn about stormwater and native plants.

All of the stormwater falling on this 10,000 square foot lot is now captured on site due to the improvements. In addition, the neighborhood has been vastly improved through the beautification of this formerly unsightly corner.

Groundwork Portland – Green Team Summer Youth Program

Project Location – Various Locations Throughout the City	
Watershed	Several
CWSP funding	$8,000
Matching funding	$43,053
People involved	21
Total volunteer hours	450
Number of workshops or events	13
Riparian area enhanced (square feet)	1,000

Groundwork Portland had two Green Teams with a total of 21 young people, ranging in age from 14-24. The Green Teams combined education with hands-on projects to make inner-city neighborhoods, trails and schools more livable.

Eco-roofs

- Built three ecoroof kiosks
- Took an ecoroof tour and learned about career opportunities
- Built a garden shed
- Installed a rain barrel

Stormwater Facilities

- Took a green street tour, removed trash from facilities and learned about career opportunities
- Learned neighborhood stormwater management design
- Helped construct a bioswale

Brownfields/Superfunds

- Learned about brownfields redevelopment and airborne chemicals testing
- Took a canoe tour of the Portland Harbor Superfund site
- Learned about bioaccumulation of chemicals and about the chemical threats to the Grand Ronde tribe catching lamprey eel in Willamette Falls
- Removed invasive plant species
- Painted over graffiti
- Watered natives
- Removed informal trails and built fences to keep people and animals in trails in natural areas

Program Measurements

	2012-2013	Program Total: 1995 - 2013
CWSP funding	$84,221	$965,308
Matching funding	$291,419	$3,961,174
Total number volunteers	1,364	44,326
Total volunteer hours	10,126	343,109
Student volunteer hours	2,806	228,741
Adult volunteer hours	3,990	76,267
Professional volunteer hours	3,330	32,799
Number of workshops or events	88	1,496
Number of Number of media features	3	287
Number of locations with permanent signs	81	406
Natives planted	11,70	158,349
Natural area enhanced (square feet)	531,547	3,678,494
Stream enhanced (linear feet)	4,200	59,036
Area treated by ecoroof or stormwater feature (square feet)	23,760	331,264
Downspouts Disconnected	2	67

Native Plant Mini Grants

The Community Watershed Stewardship Program awards gift certificates for native plants to help start or maintain projects beneficial to Portland watersheds. In fiscal year 2012-2013, CWSP awarded 17 Mini Grants totaling $5,650. Native plants benefit Portland's watersheds by controlling erosion and retaining and cleaning stormwater.

Watershed	Number of grants awarded	Total amount awarded
Willamette River	7	$ 2,450
Fanno Creek & Tryon Creek	6	$ 1,700
Johnson Creek	2	$ 900
Columbia Slough	2	$ 600
Mini Grant Program Total	17	$ 5,650

Willamette River

Franklin HS **$300**
Franklin High School created "Taggart Creek Nature Trail." They removed weeds, amended the soil, and planted native plants.

Peninsula Children's Center **$300**
Junior League of Portland volunteers improved and expanded a rain garden managing stormwater at Peninsula Children's Center by adding native plants.

Beach Elementary School **$300**
The school improved three large water catchment gardens and added a new garden at the entrance of the playground. The gardens collect water runoff from the blacktop and concrete surfaces.

New Day School **$500**
School instructors, parents, and children continued work on a native plant garden to improve their play area and permaculture food garden.

ROSE Community Development **$300**
Residents at this affordable housing complex initiated a community garden project that they are planting with native plants.

The Madeleine Parish and School **$500**
The church and school community revived existing bioswales in high traffic areas that were being overrun by replanting them with native plants.

The Treehouse Nursery **$250**
The pre-school mitigated flooding and improved habitat by installing a rain garden. They will also be educating students and their parents about the process.

Johnson Creek

Birthingway Midwifery College **$400**
Community members installed native plants on the college grounds as part of a larger effort to improve rainwater infiltration and wildlife habitat.

Human Solutions **$500**
The nearby community came together to install native plants with the goal of reducing stormwater runoff that currently floods their sidewalks.

Fanno Creek & Tryon Creek

Friends of Tryon Creek State Park **$500**
Friends of Tryon Creek State Park removed invasive vegetation from forested areas and restored native plants

North Ash Creek Neighborhood **$250**
Local residents removed English ivy and planted native plants on the hillside above Ash Creek.

Red Rock Creek Neighbors **$150**
Neighbors came together to remove streamside invasive species and restore native vegetation.

Hillsdale Community Church **$500**
As part of the Backyard Habitat Certification Program, the church is removing invasive species and replacing them with natives.

Shomrei Tera **$50**
The congregation of Neveh Shalom is restoring an area adjacent to Fanno Creek. Sixth graders, teachers, and community volunteers all participated in the planting.

Gabriel Commons **$250**
The residents of the Gabriel Commons condo complex removed invasives and installed native species in their green spaces.

Columbia Slough

Vernon School **$300**
Students at Vernon School expanded the plantings in their Native Garden on the school's Day of Service.

Eagle Scout Project **$300**
Andrew Larson of Boy Scout Troop 820 built an outdoor learning environment filled with native plants for elementary school students.

Portland State University: Master of Urban and Regional Planning Program

In partnership with Portland State University (PSU), three graduate students worked on behalf of Environmental Services to manage the grants program. Rebecca Hamilton and Shannon Jamison coordinated the CWSP grants while Cameron Herrington focused on achieving CWSP's equity goals.

The goal of PSU collaboration is to create opportunities for community members to improve watershed health.

Outreach Efforts

PSU graduate students reached out to the community in several ways, particularly through attending public events and direct telephone outreach to promote the grants program.

This included attending the East Portland Sunday Parkways and East Portland Expo, participating in a neighborhood bike ride with the Powellhurst Gilbert Neighborhood Association and meeting with neighborhood coalition staff from SE Uplift and the East Portland Neighborhood Office to learn about emerging stewardship organizations in their service areas.

Grantee Support

CWSP provided extensive technical assistance to community groups that were interested in applying for grants and developing stewardship projects.

CWSP graduate students held three grant workshops to help prospective applicants write their proposals. The workshops were at the Central Library, Kenton Library, and East Portland Community Center.

Direct telephone outreach targeted over 30 organizations. Additional assistance or advice was provided to over 50 organizations.

Beyond that, CWSP staff held meetings and on-site consultations, and arranged technical assistance for 19 organizations out of the 50.

Campus Connections

PSU Undergraduate students in a Senior Capstone under the supervision of Dr. Thad Miller conducted fish barrier assessments for the Johnson Creek Watershed Council to serve as baseline data for ecological restoration efforts. Capstone students then presented the preliminary results of the assessments at the Johnson Creek Watershed Council Annual, a meeting and fundraiser held each year.

The City of Portland complies with all non-discrimination laws including Title VI (Civil Rights) and Title II (ADA). To request a translation, accommodation or additional information, please call 503-823-7740, or use City TTY 503-823-6868, or Oregon Relay Service: 711.

WS 1447