



Native American Youth for the Environment and Quest into Nature

GRANTEE: National Indian Parent Information Center

2016-17, 2017-18 GRANT AWARDS: Nearly \$13,000

THE PROJECTS provided hands-on experiences for local indigenous families to learn about native plants and cultural practices that maintain the peoples' connection to the environment. The projects provided opportunities for dialogue about how individuals can help protect natural ecology.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS – ITEK was central to these projects, providing meaningful cultural experiences. Participants learned traditional uses of plants—like important first foods camas and biscuitroot—by Northwest Tribes including Warm Springs, Siletz and Klamath. Participants learned how to identify and sort seeds; and to properly plant, harvest, and use native plants. They received tools to encourage ongoing stewardship of local natural areas. Special consideration was given to ensure that this project was inclusive, including accommodations for all ages and cognitive abilities.

WATERSHED BENEFITS – More than 400 volunteers enhanced 12,000 square feet of riparian and upland area and planted a total of 520 native plants and approximately 13,000 seeds and bulbs in the Johnson Creek Watershed.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS – Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Portland Parks & Recreation, Autism Society of Oregon, PSU Indigenous Nations Studies Program



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM LABARGE

Seeds for the Future— Friends of Tryon Creek Field Ecology Intern

GRANTEE: Friends of Tryon Creek (FOTC)

2018-19 CWSP GRANT AWARDS: \$5,000

THE PROJECT – Chris Rempel, whose tribal affiliations are Kalapuya, Chinook, and Klamath, served as the FOTC Field Ecology Intern supporting the implementation of the Understory Species Increase Project. The project gathered valuable information about creating resilient native plant communities. Activities included surveying native understory species in Tryon Creek State Natural Area (TCSNA), documenting seed sources of these plants, and collecting seeds to be stored and used for further research.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS – The project strengthened relationships between FOTC, the local community, and land management agencies. The findings will help inform baseline data. Chris will continue to use his data collection and advanced plant identification training.

WATERSHED BENEFITS – The seeds and data collected will be utilized to understand and improve health of plant communities in Tryon Creek and across the Portland Metro region. For example, data from seeded plots in TCSNA will offer information about herbicide effectiveness in ivy removal areas.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS – Oregon State Parks, Clean Water Services, Metro Regional Government

Learn more about CWSP at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/cwsp or call the program coordinator at 503-823-7917.

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Community Watershed Stewardship Program



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM LABARGE

Field ecology intern Chris Rempel carefully studies a stinging nettle plant at Tryon Creek Nature Area.

Grants support conservation work of Portland's indigenous communities

The City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services is honored to support the environmental conservation work of Portland's indigenous communities through the bureau's Community Watershed Stewardship Program (CWSP) grants.

The indigenous people—or the First People—of Portland are active stewards of Portland's watersheds and ecosystems. Through CWSP, grants have supported projects that:

- Teach Indigenous Traditional Ecological and Cultural Knowledge (ITEK) – indigenous science handed down through generations that help maintain the peoples' cultural practices and connection with the environment, promoting mutual wellness.
- Include service work to restore habitat and natural areas.
- Provide intergenerational learning opportunities.
- Promote healthy growth of native plants, including first foods.
- Strengthen relationships to and within the community of indigenous people in Portland leading to their increased self-determination and sovereignty.



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The Bureau of Environmental Services works with Portland residents and businesses to protect water quality, public health, and the environment through wastewater collection and treatment, sewer construction and maintenance, stormwater management, and stream and watershed restoration.

CWSP GRANTS SUPPORT CONSERVATION WORK OF PORTLAND'S INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES



What is CWSP?

The Community Watershed Stewardship Program (CWSP) provides stewardship grants of up to \$10,000 for community projects that protect and enhance watershed health, and native plant mini grants of up to \$500.

CWSP grants have funded projects like:

- Pavement removal
- Watershed education
- Rain gardens, downspout disconnections and other natural stormwater solutions
- Natural area restorations and cleanups
- Community gardens

The benefits of CWSP projects go beyond watershed health. They give Portlanders more access to nature, help communities make positive change to their environment, and provide opportunities for youth.

Since its start in 1995 through to June 2017, CWSP has granted more than \$1.4 million to 275 projects. Funds were matched by \$4.8 million in community support through donations of services, materials, and volunteer time. More than 51,000 people donated 369,000 volunteer hours. Learn more at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/cwsp.



Restoration of the Tiin Tamaniksh Rooftop Garden

GRANTEE: PSU Native American Student and Community Center (NASCC)

2018-19 CWSP GRANT AWARD: \$10,000

THE PROJECT replenished and restored the rooftop garden and nature space surrounding the PSU Native American Student and Community Center to create a native plant sanctuary.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS – The NASCC is a gathering place for indigenous students and community members to practice cultural arts, engage in traditional practices, study, and socialize. Community elders selected 50 culturally significant native species as part of the project. The restored rooftop garden will offer a learning space for people to become more aware of the ecology of the land they live on and will provide edible, medicinal, and ceremonial plants to be used for community events.

WATERSHED BENEFITS – Located in the Willamette River Watershed, the rooftop garden will manage more than 38,000 gallons of stormwater each year and provide habitat for birds, bees and other pollinators. Educational signs about the roof will educate garden visitors about its watershed benefits. Additionally, the garden helps insulate the building to reduce heating and cooling needs.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS – PSU Indigenous Nations Studies Program students, American Indian Science and Engineering Society, United Indigenous Students in Higher Education, Healing Feathers—Native Youth Suicide Prevention, PLACE Landscape Architecture & Urban Design, Sustainability Leaders Network



Kah San Chako Haws First Foods Garden

GRANTEE: PSU Indigenous Nations Studies Program and Native American Youth and Family Center

2016-17 CWSP GRANT AWARD: \$10,000

THE PROJECT – PSU students and indigenous youth and elders designed and built the Kah San Chako Haws Community Elder Garden at the NAYA affordable housing units in Lents. The garden provides an indigenous knowledge-based natural area that includes traditional food and medicinal plants. Volunteers installed raised beds, rain barrels, stormwater features and planted more than 250 plants representing 34 native species.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS – The project provided an opportunity for intergenerational engagement and greater community cohesion. Student project coordinators and volunteers learned about project planning, garden construction and local watershed health. As the garden grows, it will provide an accessible space for elders to gather edible, medicinal, and ceremonial plants—increasing food security and supporting cultural wellbeing.

WATERSHED BENEFITS – Located in the Johnson Creek Watershed, the garden and related infrastructure reduces stormwater runoff, promotes natural rainwater infiltration, and provides habitat for birds, pollinators and other wildlife.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS – PSU Indigenous Nations Studies Program, Native American Youth and Family Center, Bosky Dell Native Plant Center, Portland Youth Builders



The Wisdom Project

GRANTEE: Wisdom of the Elders

2013-14 CWSP GRANT AWARD: \$6,000

THE PROJECT – During this 2-week Summer Field Science Camp, 20 Native youth and 10 of their family members learned about watershed health, climate change and science, technology, engineering, (cultural) arts, and mathematics (STEAM). The camp combined classroom training with field trips and fun hands-on service learning activities. The project mindfully combined western science standards with ITEK, oral history, and cultural arts. Older Native Peer mentors learned about climate science, media, leadership and mentoring skills.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS – The project used a community-based education approach to traditional practices which has been strongly correlated to improved mental, spiritual and social health in indigenous communities. Additionally, indigenous youth learned how to produce multimedia and received stipends for participating.

WATERSHED BENEFITS – Volunteers planted 150 native plants and restored 700 square feet of riparian and upland areas in the Johnson Creek Watershed. Community members contributed nearly 2,000 volunteer hours.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS – The program received strong community support with numerous community partners, including Portland Parks and Recreation, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Metro, Portland Harbor Community Coalition and NAYA. The project received \$120,323 in matching funds—the most ever of a CWSP project. Thank you to project sponsors!