

Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Program
Fourth Round Grant Awards
Grant Review Committee Recommendations to the Metro Council

Total award amount recommended: \$ 9,889,331

Application Title: Evergreen Park Nature Play

Organization Name: City of Hillsboro

Requested Amount: \$116,000

Project Summary: The project proposes to develop an accessible “off-trail” nature play area at Evergreen Park. The proposed "off-trail" nature play area will be approximately 10,000 square feet in size. It will feature natural fallen trees, exposed root wads, snags, native vegetation, access to water through a water table (play equipment), native soil, sand, rocks, and logs, creating a nature-based experience with plenty of room to explore, yet with well-defined boundaries.

Application Title: Milwaukie Bay Park Nature Enhancements

Organization Name: City of Milwaukie

Requested Amount: \$1,775,000

Project Summary: Milwaukie Bay Park will provide important enhancements for cooling and naturally improved water quality. Amenities include a natural amphitheater, nature-based play area, splash pad, and increased tree canopy; all in a diverse, walkable neighborhood.

Application Title: Clackamette Park Restoration

Organization Name: City of Oregon City

Requested Amount: \$1,538,480

Project Summary: Oregon City seeks funding to transform 2.26 acres of underutilized parkland at Clackamette Park into resilient natural space with improved river access. This project will remove and replace the existing RV Park with open lawn space, river access, pathways, and native plantings.

Application Title: Helen Althaus Park and Trail Restoration

Organization Name: City of Troutdale

Requested Amount: \$212,294

Project Summary: Rehabilitate Helen Althaus Park, improve access, reduce the buildup of wood debris and ground fuels, improve the health of a beautiful stand of mature Western Red Cedars. The project will mitigate the spread of invasive plants and replant natives that promote bird and insect biodiversity.

Application Title: Tualatin Riverfront Park and Trail

Organization Name: City of Tualatin

Requested Amount: \$2,000,000

Project Summary: The Downtown Tualatin Riverfront Park project restores six acres along the Tualatin River, removing invasive species, replanting native vegetation, and enhancing wildlife habitat. It provides inclusive river access, walking and biking connections, and educational opportunities, creating a resilient, nature-rich space that benefits the community.

Application Title: Marquam Nature Park Restoration

Organization Name: Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation

Property owner: City of Portland

Requested Amount: \$250,000

Project Summary: The Marquam Habitat and Access Infrastructure Project will restore and enhance 20 acres within Marquam Nature Park, a 200-acre urban natural area with extensive trails and heavy public use. Years of informal trail creation and high visitor traffic have fragmented habitat, eroded soils, and degraded forest understory and riparian zones, impacting wildlife movement and contributing sediment to headwater streams. This project will close unsustainable trails, stabilize soils, and replant native, climate-resilient vegetation to improve habitat quality and connectivity. A limited number of new or realigned trails will provide safe, sustainable access while concentrating use along engineered routes designed to reduce ecological impacts. Permanent drainage and erosion-control features, along with interpretive infrastructure, will further protect natural resources and enhance visitor understanding of the park's ecological and cultural significance.

Application Title: Kelly Creek Dam Removal and Restoration

Organization Name: Mt. Hood Community College

Requested Amount: \$1,997,557

Project Summary: Kelly Creek Dam Removal and Restoration in Gresham, OR, is a cornerstone project that will leverage and amplify decades of investment in the Sandy River watershed by restoring habitat, increasing climate resilience, and reconnecting people with a stream forgotten since 1968.

Application Title: World Forestry Center Plaza

Organization Name: World Forestry Center

Property owner: City of Portland

Requested Amount: \$2,000,000

Project Summary: World Forestry Center (WFC) seeks support from the Metro Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grant program to renovate its campus into a welcoming, year-round community space that strengthens access to nature and connection across Washington Park. The project will replace extensive hardscape in the central plaza with native and culturally significant landscaping, incorporate flexible gathering areas, art, and interpretive features that integrate Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge and regional ecology. The project also includes wayfinding and restored trail connections that link the WFC campus directly to the Marquam Trail and surrounding park systems.