

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Authorize grant agreements or intergovernmental agreements with eleven community groups and native plant mini grants related to the Community Watershed Stewardship Program up to \$100,000 total. (Ordinance)

Contact name: Jennifer Devlin

Contact phone: 503-823-1234

Presenter name: N/A unless requested

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

Since 1995, CWSP grants have supported community-initiated watershed stewardship activities. The community will be positively impacted by this item in part because the activity and project ideas come from, and are desired by, the community. Along with stormwater management results which provide direct environmental benefits and cost savings, projects also build skills, educate citizens, and beautify neighborhoods. Direct watershed health benefits include removal of invasive plants, habitat restoration, erosion control, tree planting and protection, removal of impervious surfaces, soil improvements which reduce stormwater runoff, and planting native vegetation. These grants also strengthen community ties through cooperative programs and volunteer participation, which draw diverse groups together for joint activities and common goals.

The program supports not only BES watershed enhancement and stormwater management goals, but city-wide equity and inclusion goals.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

The eleven projects will each include a grant agreement or intergovernmental agreement not to exceed \$95,020 total. Native plant mini grants totaling \$4980 will be awarded in sums from \$50 to \$500 community projects throughout the year. Funds unspent by grantees will be used to purchase additional native plant mini grants, not-to-exceed program area total of \$100,000. The program is staffed by students from PSU's Indigenous Nations Program for whom BES and PSU commit to via intergovernmental agreements.

Community impacts and community involvement:

Each project is evaluated based on community partnerships, watershed enhancement and equity. The eleven projects selected engage a diverse group of Portlanders:

1. Mudbone Grown will be working in partnership with the Oregon Food Bank and other community groups.
2. Verde working with the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, Habitat for Humanity and homeowners to install raingardens.
3. Depave, working with the Ascension Catholic Church congregation and Elemental Technologies will be depaving a church parking lot.
4. Harmony Montessori will be creating a raingarden to educate youth and control a flooding problem.
5. Rose CDC will employ youth to work with the Lents Neighborhood.
6. National Indian Parent Information Council working with Johnson Creek Watershed Council and Portland Parks and Rec. to engage youth in restoration projects.
7. The Portland Montessori School will be working with Verde to develop a rain garden at the school.
8. Blueprint Foundation will be working with students from Roosevelt High School to make stormwater improvements at the Dharma Rain Zen Center

