

Approved 2020 PGC Grant Recipients

1. Vestal Elementary School PTA

\$2200

Executive Summary: ADA accessible raised garden beds (that were constructed in January 2020)

Request: would cover soil, plants (with a focus on trees and sensory plants that are therapeutically beneficial to special needs students), an inground irrigation kit and labor/staff time (+/--\$300) to oversee the project.

Background: Vestal Elementary School is a Title 1 Portland Public School educating 265 K through 5th Grade students in the Montavilla neighborhood in Northeast Portland. 67% of students qualify for free lunch. 23% have special needs or disabilities. The PTA has partnered with Grow Portland <https://www.growportland.org/> for the past 4 years and has established a September--May gardening program which includes classroom time as well as time in the garden for all students. PTA fundraises to cover the Grow Portland costs. The Committee admired the well thought-out application for ADA access addition to the program and consistent efforts to get all the kids out in the dirt.

2. Depave

\$2500

Executive Summary: Replacing paved surfaces with new interactive nature play area with rain garden installed at Powell Butte Elementary School.

Request: would cover funds for plants and compost needed for the rain garden and other planting areas

Background: Depave, <https://depave.org/> whose mission promotes “the transformation of over-paved places to overcome the negative social and environmental impacts of pavement”, has designed and is installing a new play area (which includes the removal of 7400 square feet of asphalt) at Powell Butte Elementary School. The school located in the Centennial School District, is a Title 1 School with over 80% of students from low income families who are also enrolled as free lunch recipients. Depave is currently working on three projects in the Centennial District. The Committee was impressed with the volunteer coordination promoted and encouraged by Depave and the Centennial staff, families and community volunteers, as well as its commitment to conservation and education efforts in underserved parts of our community.

Approved 2020 PGC Grant Recipients

3. Forest Grove School District

\$2500

Executive Summary: 6 raised garden beds with irrigation system installed at Joseph Gale Elementary School.

Request: 5 raised garden beds, 1 ADA accessible garden bed, soil, seeds, garden tools and irrigation equipment.

Background: Joseph Gale Elementary School, in the Forest Grove School District plans to use the new outdoor classroom/garden for English Language Development classes, K-4th grade for about 50 students. The school had an established garden that was removed to make room for a portable classroom. 100% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch. 54% minority enrollment. The entire school will have access to the garden once established. The committee recognized the value of a new school garden and was impressed with the volunteer base and contributions from a diverse group including, high school students, Pacific University students, AmeriCorps volunteers, parents and community.

4. James John Elementary PTA.

\$2500

Executive Summary: A garden expansion project which includes asphalt removal, building new garden beds, soil and mulch

Request: Funds to cover a portion of asphalt removal (contractor provided in kind donation), garden bed materials including wood, dirt and mulch.

Background: James John School is a K-5 elementary school educating 357 students in the St. John’s neighborhood in Portland. The student body is racially and linguistically diverse with 57% kids of color and 24% English learners. Additionally, 68% of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

The PTA, under the leadership of their “Green Team” (which includes one parent with a farming background) is partnering with Grow Portland <https://www.growportland.org/> to expand the garden and add a garden curriculum for all students. An annual PTA plant sale covers the Grow Portland partnership costs. The Committee was impressed with the enthusiasm and energy of the PTA leaders and the partnership with Grow Portland whose curriculum, materials and experience we hope will enhance the education of these students

Approved 2020 PGC Grant Recipients

5. Friends of the Cornelius Public Library

\$2000

Executive Summary: Garden planted to attract insects for study by 3rd and 4th grade students at Cornelius Elementary School

Request: potting soil, insect friendly plants, shovels, gloves, tools, fertilizer and interpretive plaques.

Background: The Cornelius Library is located across the street from the Cornelius Elementary School. Staff and volunteers from both will work together to create seasonal bilingual curriculum (90% of students are Hispanic) and planting activities for the students in garden spaces around library. 95% of students qualify for free lunch program. Committee was impressed with the partnership of two organizations (and the fact that the Library is year round for garden care) and the impetus to get kids planting and knowing their bugs.

6. Leach Botanical Garden

\$1800

Executive Summary: Design, fabricate and install explanatory interpretive signs for Johnson Creek native habitat restoration project

Request: The request was for \$2180 which included \$360 of staff time. The Committee proposes offering \$1800 toward the project which help in the design, fabrication and installation the signs.

Background: Since May of 2019, 165 students and 66 adults have volunteered over 1400 hours and 45 professionals have spent 1300 in-kind hours clearing invasive species, planting natives, creating log piles and an ephemeral pond to improve habitat for pollinators, amphibians and birds on the 1st of a 5 acre project along Johnson Creek. The signs will be fabricated in anticipation of the American Public Garden Association event in June at the Leach Garden and are meant to last for several years. The committee was impressed with the large network of volunteers working diligently on this garden project and believe that the installment of these signs speak to several components of the PGC mission including civic beauty, conservation, horticulture and education.

Approved 2020 PGC Grant Recipients

7. Portland State University Herbarium

\$2500

Executive Summary: Museum quality storage cabinet to house a portion of the Ruth Martin Hansen plant collection.

Request: Funds to cover a portion of the cost of the cabinet, full cost is \$2678 (including shipping)

Background: Hansen (1910-2003), a former member of the Portland Garden Club, amassed a large, artfully mounted personal herbarium of about 2,000 specimens of native and ornamental plants dating back to 1930. She mounted about 400 large specimens on oversized sheets that do not fit in standard herbarium cabinets. These oversized specimens are unique among herbaria in the Pacific Northwest, noteworthy for their artistic merit as well as scientific utility. In order to house these specimens under required archival conditions, the PSU Herbarium needs to purchase an insect-proof, metal museum storage cabinet with drawers.

Founded in 1959, with collections dating to 1868, the PSU Herbarium is the second-largest herbarium in Oregon and currently houses about 29,000 specimens of vascular plants, mosses, and lichens. Its mission is focused on the changing flora of the rapidly urbanizing Portland-Vancouver metro area, the Columbia River Gorge, and the lower Columbia River region. The Herbarium receives very limited support from PSU and depends on external funding and volunteers for its day-to-day operations. The committee felt the historical connection to PGC as well as the education and conservation aspects of the request were compelling.

8. Home Orchard Society

\$1500

Executive Summary: A roof shelter to provide cover for 4 honeybee hives and demonstration kiosk

Request: Materials needed to construct the shelter

Background: The Home Orchard Society maintains a fruit orchard and demonstration garden on a 1.6-acre site on the Clackamas Community College campus in Oregon City. Two years ago they installed 4 honeybee hives to help pollinate the orchard. The hives have a better chance of survival if kept dry during the winter season and the shelter will also provide an educational demonstration space for visiting school children to learn about the importance of pollinators. All construction labor will be done by volunteers.

Approved 2020 PGC Grant Recipients

9. Friends of Nob Hill Nature Park

\$500

Executive Summary: Planting and protecting native plants at Nob Hill Nature Park

Request: Plant cages, stakes and native plants

Background: Nob Hill Nature Park is a 6.6-acre oak woodland located in the City of St. Helens on a basalt bluff overlooking the Columbia River. The Friends of Nob Hill hold semi-annual work parties to remove invasive plants and restore natives. This year they plan to install deer proofing cages to protect the new plantings. The Committee was impressed with the horticultural knowledge and passion of the group and its goal to promote conservation, education and civic beauty for the city of St. Helens.