



2013 Outcomes Summary

Metro Central Enhancement Grants

January 2014

About Metro

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy, and sustainable transportation and living choices for people and businesses in the region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges and opportunities that affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to providing services, operating venues and making decisions about how the region grows. Metro works with communities to support a resilient economy, keep nature close by and respond to a changing climate. Together we're making a great place, now and for generations to come.

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METRO CENTRAL ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

The Metro Central program was established in 1991 to compensate the community affected by the Metro Central Transfer Station. The grants are funded through a 50-cent surcharge collected for each ton of garbage brought to the transfer station. To date, the Metro Central enhancement grants have invested more than \$3.3 million in more than 340 local improvement projects in Northwest and North Portland.

To be considered for funding, projects must directly benefit the Metro Central enhancement grant target area. The boundary generally encompasses the neighborhoods of Forest Park, Cathedral Park, Linnton, Northwest District Association and the Northwest Industrial areas as well as the St. Johns Bridge. The following funding priorities were also considered for the 2013 grants:

- Rehab or upgrade a non profit's property
- Improve the environmental quality of the area
- Enhance wildlife areas
- Provide benefits to youth and/or seniors
- Improve or increase recreation areas
- Provide benefits to low income persons
- Improve safety in the area
- Create recycling opportunities

The Central Enhancement Committee is comprised of six neighborhood association representatives. The Metro Councilor from District 5 serves as chair. The following committee members volunteered their time to evaluate applications and award the grants:

- Les Blaize, *Forest Park Neighborhood Association*
- Andrew De Veux, *Friends of Cathedral Park Neighborhood Association*
- Greg Madden, *Northwest Industrial Neighborhood Association*
- Haze Moss, *Linnton Neighborhood Association*
- Caroline Skinner, *Northwest District Association*
- Elizabeth Patte, *Environmental community*

The 2013 funding cycle marked the 19th year of these grant awards. The committee awarded a total of \$78,986 to 14 projects. A brief description of how the funds were spent by each project is included below.

2013 GRANT AWARDS

Forest Park Conservancy

Award: \$10,000

In partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation and the Bureau of Environmental Services the Forest Park Conservancy conducted field work for a comprehensive sub-watershed analysis for the streams in Forest Park. Four priority sub-watersheds, and more than ten miles of stream were walked, monitoring base line conditions and assessing culverts. This field work will help determine priorities for improving water quality in Forest Park.

Forest Park Conservancy worked with young leaders and students to expand their knowledge of watershed health. Outdoor School staff and leaders engaged in watershed assessment and restoration in the park and the partnership with Sunnyside Environmental School was expanded. Working with their partners, they freed 4,331 trees from canopy weeds and monitored 87 acres for baseline vegetation composition.

Friendly House, Inc.

Award: \$15,000

Friendly House replaced an aging and inadequate play structure that was designed for home use by preschool age children. The 85 children who use the structure every week were too tall for it, which restricted their play and resulted in a higher risk of injury. Some of the children using the structure are experiencing homelessness, adding to the urgency of creating safe spaces for recreation in their after-school program. With the help of volunteers and this grant award, the structure was replaced by one that is developmentally appropriate for the children ages one to seven, enhancing their outdoor and creative play experiences.

Golden Harvesters

Award: \$2000

Golden Harvesters has provided assistance with food, clothing and household supplies to people in need since 1988 and this year moved into a larger location to better serve growing numbers.. This grant provided much needed equipment for the new “store”. They installed additional shelving, purchased small shopping carts and a glass door cooler for perishable goods. The new equipment has increased their capacity and improved the experience for those they serve.

Lift Urban Portland

Award: \$3,000

In 2012 Lift Urban Portland partnered with the White Shield Center to expand their onsite garden through a Metro central enhancement grant. The project was a great success and they continued the partnership with these funds, focusing on maintenance. They installed a drip irrigation system which reduces water usage and the time volunteers spend watering. The project was completed with the help of volunteers from local schools, churches and businesses logging 435 hours. They also worked out a long-term partnership agreement and implemented a variety of volunteer training techniques and systems to ensure upkeep of the garden.



Lines for Life

Award: \$3,000

Lines for Life provides a peer-to-peer youthline that supports teens by telephone, text or online chat. Lines for Life identified that bullying is one of the top two reasons youth contact the youthline service so these funds supported a bullying awareness campaign. Working closely with Friendly House they created advertisements, posters and other bullying prevention materials which were distributed to public and private schools in Northwest Portland. In June, they held a bullying prevention workshop which included a three hour workshop for students, a one hour educational class for parents and a family friendly carnival event.

Linnton Community Center

Award: \$11,686

The Hungry Families program at Linnton Community Center received a grant to purchase a new large capacity refrigerator and a drinking fountain. The addition of the refrigerator not only increased the availability of fresh produce and other perishables, it helped them cut costs and maximize their partnership with the Oregon Food Bank. A large refrigerator provides space for hundreds of pounds of fresh produce that their volunteer team is able to glean at no cost to the agency and is more energy efficient than the multiple small refrigerators they had been using. The new drinking fountain has been a boon to activities at the Center, reducing the use of paper cups and the time spent by staff and volunteers getting water or cleaning spills. This year, though the closure of a nearby food pantry increased their requests for emergency food, no one in need was sent away without food. In 2013 the Hungry Families program served 10,222 individuals, an increase of 23 percent from 2012.

Meals on Wheels People: Loaves and Fishes

Award: \$5,000

This grant supported food purchases for the Two Rivers Meal Center which provides hot meals to seniors over 60 in the Cathedral Park and Linnton neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are home to a higher than average rate of low income seniors. In addition to meal delivery, the center provide meals, socialization and connections to referral services and case management on site. This grant helped 180 volunteers serve 34,648 meals, a seven percent increase over last year. The Center also increased efforts to provide ethnically appropriate meals to the diverse immigrant populations they serve. The Kitchen Coordinator used recipes provided by the seniors to provide these meal options.

Neighbors West-Northwest

Award: \$4,300

This grant supported an upgrade of outdated and failing office equipment for this organization which supports twelve neighborhood associations in Northwest Portland. Their new copier is more functional and more cost effective for scanning and maintenance. Two desktop computers have improved functionality. The older model still functions for volunteers. The laptop has been used to train volunteers in website development, used for taking minutes and giving digital presentations at neighborhood association meetings.

Portland Festival Symphony

Award: \$6,000

Portland Festival Symphony opened their 33rd season in St. Johns with a free concert in Cathedral Park. On July 27th the park filled with approximately 2,000 people to listen to classical music set against the scenic backdrop of the Willamette River. For their closing number, 100 children with toy instruments joined the symphony for a rendition of Haydn's "Toy Symphony".

Rebuilding Together

Award: \$5,500

Rebuilding together worked with the St. John's Main Street Coalition to enhance the landscape and public areas in downtown St. Johns through two separate projects. In March 120 University of Portland students volunteered to help with everything from pulling invasive species and spreading mulch to power-washing the plaza, collecting trash and removing graffiti. In September 50 University of Portland students and over a dozen neighborhood volunteers replanted what had been known as 'Ivy Island' with 300 plants, all native species, that require little maintenance or water but look beautiful year round.



Sauvie Island Center

Award: \$5,000

The grant to the Sauvie Island Center provided funding for classroom and farm-based education for 2nd and 3rd graders. During the winter months, the Sauvie Island Center came to classrooms where students learned about growing seasons and plant parts, creating and eating their own 'plant parts tacos'. In the Spring students came to the farm to plant, tend and harvest vegetables from the Grow Lunch Garden. They also explored the farm for plant parts and the forested area of Howell Park to make connections between the farm and forest life cycles. Overall, the program worked with 50 students from James John Elementary, 110 from Chapman Elementary and 60 from Skyline Elementary. This year, Portland State University students joined the volunteer team to lead field trips as part of their class. 'Hunger in the City'.

Store to Door

Award: \$2,500

Across the Portland Metro Area, seniors and people with disabilities can contact Store to Door for personalized grocery deliver services. Volunteers help take orders by phone and fulfill them at grocery stores. Vetted and trained delivery drivers then bring groceries and other needed items such as household supplies, stamps or TriMet tickets directly to homebound individuals. An important part of the service is providing social support to these individuals, having someone check in with them every week not just drop off supplies. This grant provided salary support for the trained delivery drivers, ensuring that the 60 individuals utilizing the service in the Central target district received needed supplies and support. A survey of their clients in August reflected that 97 percent feel more socially supported and 98percent feel the service has helped support their independence.



Tears of Joy Theatre

Award: \$2,000

Tears of Joy Theatre used their grant funds to offer seven different classes at the James John SUN after school program over the school year. The On Stage Theater class learned about Greek mythology, prepared and performed a short play at the SUN school showcase. The Broadcast Yourself class worked cooperatively to produce, write, direct and star in a series of web-tv shows learning to use new media techniques. In the Puppet Making class, students created puppets out of every day materials and learned puppetry. All of the classes worked on a 40 foot puppet, Lombard the Dragon, which they debuted and marched with in the St. Johns Parade. Students also performed in the Tears of Joy After-School BIG NIGHT performance in March.

Tsuga Community Commission**Award: \$4,000**

The grant helped pilot a new summer day-camp. Tsuga developed, integrated and tested a new curriculum, Neighborhood PLACE: Parks Learning and Community Enhancement at the Linnton Community Center from August 5th to 9th. They reached out to the neighborhood through several means and directly with the families already participating in Linnton Community Center programs. Eighteen youth ages 7 to 14 from diverse socio-economic backgrounds participated, building relationships while learning about their neighborhood. The curriculum focused on community exploration, community building and community enhancement. The youth identified and implemented a community service project in their neighborhood, choosing to work on Linnton Community Center. They painted planters, created furniture for an empty playhouse, weeded, and added to the community garden.