



2014 Outcomes Summary

Metro Central Enhancement Grants

May 2015

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 approximately \$3.4 million in more than 350 local improvement projects in Northwest Portland and the area of North Portland near the St. John's Bridge.

To be considered for funding, projects must directly benefit the Metro Central enhancement target area. The boundary generally encompasses the neighborhoods of Forest Park, Cathedral Park, Linnton, Northwest District Association and the Northwest Industrial area. The following funding priorities were considered by the Central Enhancement Committee in selecting the 2014 grants:

- Rehabilitate 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*
- Jason Joy, *Northwest Industrial Neighborhood Association*
- Haze Moss, *Linnton Neighborhood Association*
- Caroline Skinner, *Northwest District Association*
- Mary Peveto, *Environmental community*

The 2014 funding cycle marked the 20th year of the Metro Central grant awards. The committee awarded a total of \$72,000 to 10 projects. A brief description of how the funds were spent is included below.

2014 GRANT AWARD OUTCOMES

Forest Park Conservancy

Award: \$20,000

In partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation and the Bureau of Environmental Services the Forest Park Conservancy treated invasive weed species on more than 30 acres within Forest Park and provided education to adjacent landowners as part of the Greater Forest Park Conservation Initiative.

Golden Harvesters

Award: \$6,200

Golden Harvesters has provided assistance with food, clothing and household supplies to people in need since 1988 and moved into a larger location in 2013 to better serve growing numbers.. This grant provided a mini-split heat and air conditioning unit to be installed at the facility. On line the first week of June, the “store” had A/C just in time for summer. The improved climate control extends the shelf life of some food items, saves time for volunteers and improved the experience for all those they serve.

Linnton Community Center

Award: \$10,000

The Linnton Community Center received a grant this year to improve their playground by regrading the site, removing a steep slope that was a safety hazard and prevented children from riding trikes and wheeled toys. Staff time monitoring the playground during facility rentals has decreased, rentals and revenues have increased and injuries reduced. Three native trees, plus shrubs and plants were added to the area, a permeable area created to capture



rainwater runoff and improve water quality and a children’s garden installed providing a place for kids to work the soil, plant and harvest seasonal vegetables.

Northwest Industrial Neighborhood Association

Award: \$7,000

This grant was intended to create a “linear park” at the highly visible corner of Northwest Nicolai Street and Northwest Yeon Avenue. Difficulty securing approvals from the property owner and the departure of the project manager resulted in the improvements never getting off the ground. No funds were expended on this project.

Portland Festival Symphony

Award: \$6,000

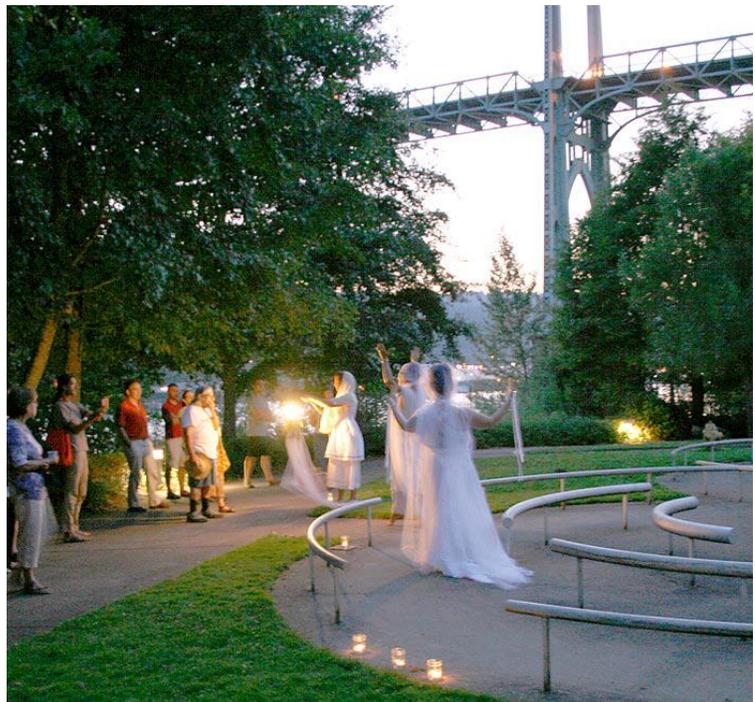
A perennial favorite with Cathedral Park residents, the Portland Festival Symphony opened their 34th season in St. Johns again this year with a free evening concert in the park funded, in part, by the grant program. On July 26th the park filled with approximately 2,000 people to listen to Sousa, Bizet, Liszt and Sibelius – a combination of well-known and less familiar 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”.



Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group

Award: \$3,500

The mission of the Willamette Speaks Oral History project is to reconnect north and northwest Portland community members with the lower Willamette River by collecting stories from those who have worked, played or lived on the river and by sharing them through storytelling events and video. The live storytelling events were organized within the ground boundary neighborhoods including St. John’s neighborhood (100+ attendees), Slabtown



Community Festival in Northwest Portland (20 attendees) and the Linnton Community Center (100 attendees). Additionally, the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group provided participants information the superfund and how they could get involved. A video compilation of the stories is being produced and shared via YouTube.

Rebuilding Together

Award: \$3,500

With the help of this grant Rebuilding Together volunteers were able to complete four large projects in the Metro Central Enhancement target area. More than 150 University of Portland student volunteers participated in the spring “Clean Sweep” project workday, March 22nd, and another 110+ students helped on October 4th with the fall “Clean Sweep” event. Two additional projects were supported in the target area with these funds providing much needed facility repairs and upgrades at the Linnton Community Center and the St. Vincent De Paul Food Bank in St. John’s North Portland neighborhood.

Sauvie Island Center

Award: \$4,540

The grant to the Sauvie Island Center provided funding for winter classroom lessons followed by spring farm field trips for students from James John and Chapman schools. Five classes of 3rd grade students participated in the grant activities, including approximately 58 students from James John and 86 students from Chapman. The long term partnerships between Metro and the Sauvie Island Organics farm make this program possible by allowing the Center to use Howell Territorial Park and the grounds of the farm for their educational



Store to Door

Award: \$5,000

Store to Door supports independent living for Portland area seniors and people with disabilities by providing a low-cost, volunteer-based grocery shopping and delivery service. Our goals are to help low-income, homebound people maintain their independence, increase their social supports, and access additional services that support aging-in-place. The grant from Metro was used to support deliveries and friendly visits to 56 individual clients in the Metro Central target area, making 914 deliveries.

Support from Metro also helps Store to Door meet their overall goals for the year.



Tsuga Community Commission

Award \$6,250

Neighborhood PLACE is a Tsuga Community Program engaging youth to activate underutilized open spaces for summer season educational and recreational purposes. PLACE teaches waste reduction, basic land use practices and community enhancement through experiential learning and site improvement service projects. PLACE encourages youth (and their families) to take individual stewardship roles after camp, fostering a greater sense of belonging and community ownership. Grant funding supported *Neighborhood PLACE: Parks Learning and Community Enhancement* at Cathedral Park serving 14 youth ages 7-12, from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

