

MAKING A
GREAT
PLACE



2015 Outcomes Summary

Metro Central Enhancement Grants

May 2016

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 2015 round of grants was funded through a 50-cent surcharge (now \$1 surcharge) collected for each ton of garbage brought to the transfer station. To date, the Metro Central enhancement grants have invested approximately \$3.5 million in more than 370 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 2015 grants:

- Rehabilitate or upgrade a nonprofit'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. Metro Councilor Sam Chase, District 5, serves as chair. The following committee members volunteered their time to evaluate applications and award the grants:

- Jennifer Jako, *Forest Park Neighborhood Association*
- Andrew De Veux, *Friends of Cathedral Park Neighborhood Association*
- Austin Peterson, *Northwest Industrial Neighborhood Association*
- Art Wagner, *Linnton Neighborhood Association*
- Brad Houle, *Northwest District Association*
- Mary Peveto, *Environmental community*

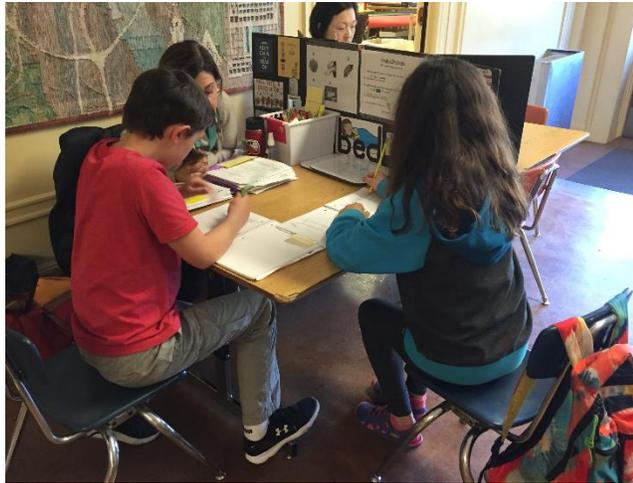
The committee awarded a total of \$114,787 to 10 projects in the 2015 grant cycle. A brief description of how the funds were spent is included below.

2015 GRANT AWARD OUTCOMES

Chapman Elementary School

Award: \$19,000

Reading Results provided tutoring for 38 students in first through third grades at Chapman Elementary School during 2015. Retired teachers and trained parents are paired with students and spent the school year working face-to-face on improving reading skills. Students received tutoring for 30 weeks during the school year for a total of 1,797 individual tutoring sessions. This project served Chapman Elementary School students in first through third grades who read at one or two grade levels below theirs. Of the 38 students served by this program, 10 were students of color, five participated in Special Education programs; 27 boys and 11 girls participated in the program. Students who completed the tutoring program increased their reading skill grade-level by an average of 15 months (more than one grade level). The Chapman reading program also includes a school-wide literacy event called “Battle of the Books,” a 6-week team reading competition.



Students at Chapman Elementary School get a literacy boost through the Reading Results tutoring program.

Forest Park Conservancy

Award: \$20,000

The Forest Park Recreation Enhancement project addressed the effects that off-leash dogs have on wildlife, native habitat, water quality and trail erosion. Forest Park Conservancy talked with dog owners visiting the park to educate them on the importance of keeping their dog on a leash while in the park. The project tested a non-regulatory approach by promoting a “Doggie Pledge” for dog owners to use a leash while in the park. 180 dog owners took the pledge. Grant funding was also used to repair and revegetate sections of the Wildwood Trail known as the “ditch trail” from mile point 7.75 to 8.5 to reduce sediment and erosion. Challenges of this project included the limitations of changing behavior voluntarily within the one-year grant project timeframe.



Friendly House

Award: \$16,237.50

A Health and Wellness Initiative launched in March 2015 with funding from this grant. The goal of the program was to provide health assessments, orientations to the Friendly House fitness center and free exercise clothing for 50 low-income community members and scholarships to 15 individuals for health classes. Friendly House also partnered with Oregon Food Bank to offer a cooking and nutrition class for a small group of participants. Of the 72 people who participated in the program, 56% reported health improvements; 75% reported feeling better as a result of exercising at Friendly House and 35% of participants reported they made at least one new friend at Friendly House. OHSU provided 48 intern hours for the health assessment phase.

Jazz Society of Oregon, Cathedral Park Jazz Festival

Award: \$9,050

95 musicians performed in the free Cathedral Park Jazz Festival on July 17-19, 2015. 15,000 people attended the three-day event. With grant funding, the Jazz Society increased their outreach through web and social media, and the event was live-streamed on local radio stations KMHD and KBOO. Challenges included the abrupt departure of the Festival's manager in June, one month before the event. Many local businesses donated materials and services and 35 volunteers who contributed 292 hours of time to the event.

Lift Urban Portland

Award: \$8,000 (spent: \$7,527)

Funding supported improvements to the community garden at the Salvation Army White Shield Center, including equipment upgrades, installation of deer-resistant fencing and planting fruit trees and herbs. The gardens produced healthy, organic fruits and vegetables for residents at the White Shield Center and for low-income NW Portland residents who visit Lift UP's emergency food pantry. Samples of healthy dishes prepared with items from the gardens were provided to food pantry clients, as well as meal kits with recipes and pre-measured ingredients so pantry guests could sample a meal, pick up a meal kit, and recreate the healthy meal at home. A new Supper Club helped strengthen community support networks in local low-income apartment buildings. Lift UP notes challenges to the project due to staffing changes and availability. Despite this, they produced approximately 300 pounds of fresh food for food pantry clients during the growing season. Volunteer work parties with participating business partners included 115 volunteers who contributed 340 hours of time to the project.



Linnton Community Center

Award: \$20,000

The Critical Roof Repair project successfully repaired two roof structures at the Linnton Community Center. These included roof areas over external stairways and the roof covering the Community Meeting Hall. Matching funds supported expanding the new roof to include the area over the center's emergency food pantry. Storm water was strategically redirected to an area where it can be used for summer irrigation use.

Meals on Wheels People

Award: \$5,000

The Supplemental Meals for seniors in Northwest Portland project goal was to provide hot meals to every senior who requested one in the enhancement grant program service area, including on weekends. The project succeeded in doing so, serving 1,442 seniors at the Elm Court Center in downtown Portland. Of those, 377 received Meals on Wheels delivery and 1,065 at the Elm Court Center. Of those that dined at the center, 75 received supplemental take-home meals. The Elm Court Center relied on 542 volunteers in fiscal year 2015 and received food donations from several partners, including Oregon Food Bank.



Meals on Wheels Elm Court Center in downtown Portland

Portland Festival Symphony

Award: \$7,500

On July 25, 2015 the Portland Festival Symphony played a concert to an audience of 250 neighbors in North Portland's Cathedral Park. A summer rain storm did not deter the symphony from playing classics from Beethoven to Dvorak. The event also included an "instrument petting zoo" where children interacted with classical instruments up close.



Portland Festival Symphony concert in Cathedral Park

Rebuilding Together Portland

Award: \$5,000

The goal of Rebuilding Together Portland is to improve and enhance the quality of life within Portland neighborhoods through repair and rehabilitation of owner occupied housing. More than 130 University of Portland student volunteers participated in “Spring Clean Sweep” event on March 21st, and more than 140 students volunteered in the “Fall Clean Sweep” event on October 10, 2015. Both events were co-sponsored by St. Johns Main Street and took place in various areas around the St. Johns neighborhood.

Though a goal of the project was to provide repairs for two homes within the Metro Central Enhancement Program target area, Rebuilding Together Portland was not able to complete repairs at these homes. They did, however, assist 46 homeowners with needed home repairs throughout other areas of North Portland in 2015.



A ReBuilding Together Portland volunteer from University of Portland helps with a neighborhood cleanup event.

Store to Door

Award: \$5,000

In 2015, Store to Door provided low-cost, volunteer-based grocery shopping and delivery service to 62 clients in the Metro Central Community Enhancement target area, making 1,179 deliveries. This service supports their goal to help low-income, homebound people maintain their independence, increase their social supports, and access additional services that support aging-in-place. Volunteers from sponsoring organizations and businesses provide direct client assistance as order-takers, shoppers, and delivery drivers. One advocacy call was made on behalf of a client in the Metro Central target area in 2015. He indicated to his Store to Door order taker that he wasn't doing well and reported falls at home. Store to Door called his case manager at Friendly House to schedule a home medical visit.



Store to Door volunteer "shoppers" from sponsor Banana Republic.