

PRE-APPLICATION FORM

Organization, program and contact information (one page maximum)

Please complete the organization, program and contact information below using no more than one page.

Date of application	January 10, 2014
Organization name	Columbia Slough Watershed Council
Organization address and website	[REDACTED]
Program contact Name, title, phone, email	Sheilagh Diez Education Director [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Program title	Slough School Community Engagement Project
Program summary Provide a 20-45-word summary that describes your program.	The Slough School Community Engagement Project prepares the next generation of watershed stewards through hands-on ecological programming for elementary through college students in North and Northeast Portland, North Gresham, and Fairview while also connecting citizens to their local natural areas through community-based stewardship projects.
Category Under which program category does your program best fit? (Select all that apply).	Community Partnerships *** Environmental Literacy *** Develop Conservation Leaders *
Estimated funding	Estimated amount requested: \$ 66,960 Estimated match funds: \$ 180,445 Estimated in-kind match: \$ 15,168 Estimated total program budget: \$ 262,573

Organizational preparedness (one page maximum)

Organizational preparedness	<p>Organizational Background: The Columbia Slough Watershed Council (Council) is a community-based organization that brings together multiple stakeholders interested in the well being of the Slough and its watershed. Beginning as a grassroots effort around watershed health, the Council emerged as a formal group of neighbors, businesses, recreation advocates, property owners, environmental groups, and government agencies with the mission “to foster action to protect, enhance, restore, and revitalize the Slough and its watershed.” Over the years, monitoring water quality of the Slough, supporting cleanup efforts, and securing areas for recreation, open space, and habitat evolved into Columbia Slough Watershed Action Plan (Plan). It includes over one hundred projects and programs throughout the watershed including the highly successful Slough School Education Program. The Council brings this history of on-the-ground projects across the watershed and extensive existing partnerships to aid the success of the Slough School Community Engagement Project (SSCEP).</p> <p>Key Personnel: <u>Sheilagh Diez (Education Director)</u>: SSCEP Project Manager. Ms. Diez will be leading student education, intern and volunteer programs. Ms. Diez has taught science education for over fifteen years, developing programs, conducting evaluations, and working with teachers. She has strong partnerships with key school employees developed over her six years guiding the Slough School Education Program. Ms. Diez has a degree in Educational Leadership with a focus on building classroom and informal educator partnerships and place-based education. Ms. Diez’s bicultural background and diverse experiences living in Latin America give her strong Spanish language skills and a high degree of cultural competency working with Latino students. She is active with the Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan, the Intertwine Alliance and the Pacific Northwest Place-Based Education Network.</p> <p><u>Adam Thompson (Stewardship Director)</u> will be leading community stewardship events. He will also work with community partners to prepare and maintain restoration sites. Mr. Thompson has two degrees studying natural resources management and over five years of experience planning and implementing projects in the outdoors. Mr. Thompson will draw upon the Council’s strong current and future community partnerships and protocols to contribute to the success of this project.</p> <p><u>Penny Beckwith (Outreach Director)</u> will be leading community outreach efforts. She will initiate and formalize partnerships with local community groups to better engage them in stewardship and outreach events. Ms. Beckwith brings over 7 years of experience with program coordination and volunteer management and has worked with a variety of populations.</p> <p>Staff received approval from the Council Executive Committee to submit this proposal. Portland Parks and Recreation has approved the use of Parks’ sites for this project. In addition, Parks staff has been integral to the planning of this project.</p>
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Program description (two pages maximum)

<p>Program narrative</p>	<p>For over ten years, the Slough School Education Program has delivered hands-on, high quality science education to residents of the Columbia Slough Watershed. We work with culturally diverse students in Portland’s most urban core, introducing children who often have no existing relationship with local ecology to natural areas in their own backyards. Through discussions with local property owners and community partners, we have discovered a desire and need to better connect communities to local natural areas as well as establish a system for providing on-going maintenance at those sites.</p> <p>Through the Slough School Community Engagement Project (SSCEP), we will continue our successful school-based programs, but also build on these school and neighborhood relationships to involve the larger community in public restoration events. SSCEP will support elementary through college students across the watershed through hands-on, place-based educational programs while pursuing greater community involvement in three pilot natural spaces. Potential sites include: Wilkes Park in East Portland, the Peninsula Crossing Trail, Columbia Children’s Arboretum, Whitaker Ponds Nature Park, and Johnson Lake in NE Portland, and Kelly Point Park in N Portland. We are requesting three years of support from Metro in order to strategically improve our school-based programs, cultivate partnerships with community groups, and establish a protocol for school and community-based natural area maintenance programs.</p> <p>Strong partnerships between local schools and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council (CSWC) lie at the core of SSCEP. These partnerships emerged from the Slough School Education Program (a high priority item in the Plan). Through SSCEP, CSWC educators will provide 1-3 outdoor field programs (1.5-3 hours each), classroom introductions, and teacher support for over 25 participating classes. Targeting elementary and middle schools, we will work with local teachers to assess our existing programming and ensure correlation to the Next Generation Science Standards at each grade level. In addition, CSWC will develop conservation leaders by preparing local 15-30 high school mentors and hiring aspiring young educators through our Education Intern Program.</p> <p>As a community-based organization, CSWC has worked to connect local residents with their watershed for over 20 years. Building upon core school/CSWC partnerships, SSCEP will seek new community partners and cultivate existing partner relationships to grow a cadre of community volunteers committed to urban natural area stewardship.</p> <p>Once partnerships are established, each year CSWC will guide on-the-ground community stewardship events (1-3 per year, per site, depending on assessed need) at each of the three pilot sites. These events will be timed after school-based restoration activities, targeting students and their families as well as local community members to help complete the students’ work. By year two, CSWC staff will work with neighborhood associations and community groups alongside landowners to develop site-specific restoration and on-going maintenance plans for each site. Relationships developed through these events will allow CSWC outreach staff to better determine overarching</p>
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	needs for connecting these communities to their local watershed.
Goals	<p>The SSCEP addresses all of the stated grant program goals.</p> <p><u>Community Partnerships:</u> SSCEP will engage some of Metro’s most diverse neighborhoods in stewardship of their local natural areas. Building these relationships, SSCEP will increase the capacity of CSWC to provide culturally relevant programming while supporting region-wide conservation initiatives.</p> <p><u>Environmental Literacy:</u> SSCEP offers a unique watershed-based educational opportunity for some of the region’s highest poverty schools and communities connecting students and residents to their place through hands-on, field-based science and restoration programs.</p> <p><u>Develop Conservation Leaders:</u> By offering internship and volunteer opportunities, SSCEP provides avenues for local citizens to learn the skills and knowledge to become active proponents of conservation. Our high school mentor program offers a chance to learn on-the-ground skills as educators and restoration practitioners.</p> <p>Our <u>objectives</u> for this program are: to reach 9,300 student contacts, to lead 15 community stewardship events, to establish 5 new community partnerships, and to plant 4,500 native plants. Program objectives will be <u>evaluated</u> by: recording numbers of participants and plants planted, pre-post assessments for school programs, survivorship monitoring for plantings, informal interviews with community partners, and video interviews discussing connection to the watershed.</p> <p>The <u>expected outcomes</u> of this program are that participating students will increase their knowledge of local ecology, community members will increase their involvement in watershed-related activities, and community members will increase their knowledge of their local watershed. We expect to reach these outcomes because activities directly engage students and other community members in restoring local natural areas.</p>
Partnerships	<p>Through SSCEP, we will strengthen existing and create new partnerships by: working with school staff and Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) to teach students and better inform parents of opportunities to be engaged in their community; work with local neighborhood associations, church groups and other community-based organizations to establish key partnerships; and working closely with land owners to create restoration and maintenance plans. We have existing relationships with the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (providing educational staff and technical support); Portland Parks and Recreation Department (providing staff, technical support, and locations); the Kenton Neighborhood Association (providing outreach); Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, Multnomah Youth Cooperative, and Meek High School (providing high school mentors); staff at least eight schools; and more. During the grant period initial outreach and maintenance plans will have been completed, reducing overall project costs. On-going funding will come from increased private donations (due to greater community engagement), private foundations and other grant sources.</p>

Location and program reach (two pages maximum)

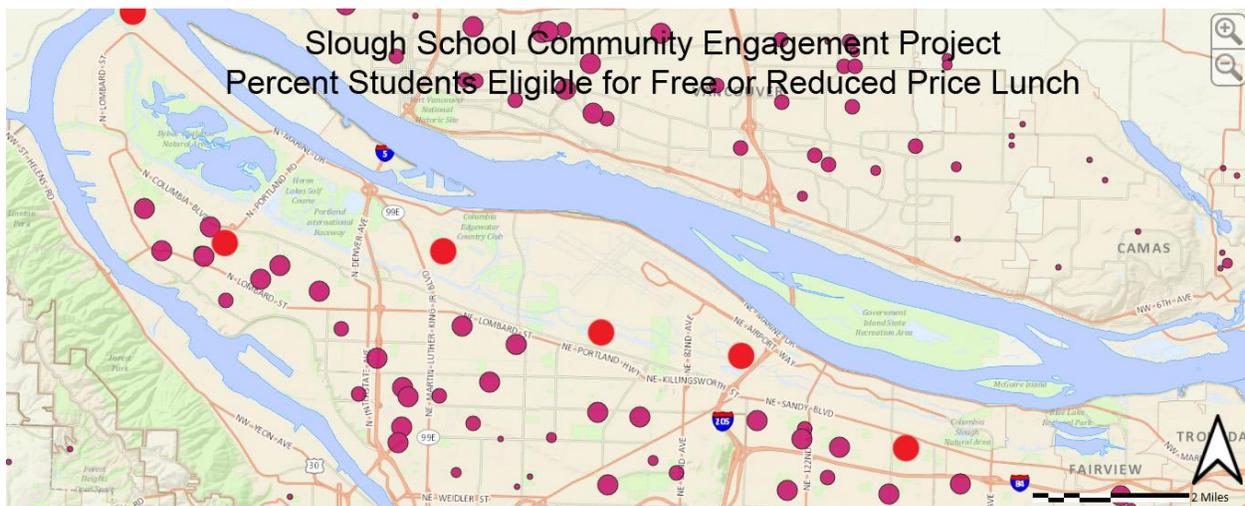
Attached are three maps.

Dark red circles indicate potential sites (in order from the West: Kelly Point Park, Peninsula Crossing Trail, Columbia Children's Arboretum, Whitaker Ponds Nature Park, Johnson Lake, and Wilkes Park.)

The Neighborhoods Map notes the various neighborhood groups in the area. We anticipate working with up to 11 neighborhood associations including: St. John's, Kenton, Portsmouth, University Park, East Columbia, Cully, Concordia, Sumner, Parkrose, and Wilkes.



The Poverty Map notes the rate of free and reduced lunch at each school in the area. We anticipate working with up to 14 schools including: Sitton, Peninsula, Cesar Chavez, Rosa Parks, Astor, Woodlawn, Scott, Rigler, Faubion, Shaver, Russell, Prescott, Margret Scott, and Wilkes.



The School Districts Map notes what school districts we will be working with. We anticipate working with three school districts: Portland Public, Parkrose, and Reynolds.

