APPLICATION FORM

Organization, program and contact information

Date of application	**March 14, 2014**
Organization name	**Columbia Slough Watershed Council**
Organization address and website	[redacted]
Organization website	**www.columbiaslough.org**
Program contact Name	[redacted]
Title	[redacted]
Phone	[redacted]
Email	[redacted]
Program partners List all committed partner organizations.	Portland Parks and Recreation, City of Portland BES Clean Rivers Education Program, Rosemary Anderson POIC, Meek HS, Shaver Elementary School, Peninsula K-8 school, Kenton Neighborhood Association, East Columbia Neighborhood Association
Potential partners List all potential partner organizations.	Reynolds Learning Academy, NAYA (Early College Academy and Community), Sumner, Portsmouth, University Park, Cully, Concordia, and Parkrose Neighborhood Associations, Wilkes Community Group, and schools including: Astor, Rosa Parks, Rigler, Faubion, Woodlawn, César Chavez, Scott, Prescott, Russell Academy, Margret Scott, Reynolds Middle School, Hartley, HB Lee Middle School, Clear Creek Middle School, and Woodland. Additional churches and community groups not yet identified.
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 project best fit? (Select one only).	☐Community Partnerships ☑ Environmental Literacy ☐Develop Conservation Leaders

Estimated funding	Amount requested: $ 66,963 Match funds: $ 184,383 (currently secured for first year: $28,884) In-kind match: $29,604 Total program budget: $ 281,449

Organizational preparedness

Organizational Background: The Columbia Slough Watershed Council (CSWC) 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, CSWC 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. It includes over one hundred projects and programs throughout the watershed including the highly successful Slough School Education Program. CSWC brings this history of on-the-ground projects across the watershed and extensive existing partnerships to ensure the success of the Slough School Community Engagement Project (SSCEP).

Key Personnel: Sheilagh Diez (Education Director): 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. She is also a trained facilitator for teacher professional development. 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.

Adam Thompson (Stewardship Director) 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.

Penny Beckwith (Outreach Director) 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.

Staff received approval from the Council Executive Committee to submit this proposal.

Portland Parks and Recreation staff has been integral to the planning of this project and have approved the use of Parks' sites for this project.

Program Narrative

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 near where they live. 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. Through the **Slough School Community Engagement Project (SSCEP),** we will continue our successful school-based programs, but also enhance neighborhood partnerships to involve the larger community in public restoration events. These events will directly connect the work of Slough School to the broader community surrounding the school. SSCEP will support elementary through college students across the watershed through hands-on, place-based educational programs while pursuing greater community involvement in at various natural spaces. Initial sites include: the Peninsula Crossing Trail, Columbia Children's Arboretum, Whitaker Ponds Nature Park, and Johnson Lake in NE Portland, with plans to expand to Wilkes Park, Wilkes Headwaters, and Nadaka Park (time included in partner grant proposal) and the new Parkrose Middle School grounds and other sites in the future. 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 to protect our on-going investment in natural spaces.

Strong partnerships between local schools and CSWC lie at the core of SSCEP. These partnerships have emerged from over ten years of programming through the Slough School Education Program. During SSCEP, each participating class will receive 1-3 outdoor field programs (1.5-3 hours each), 1-3 classroom presentations (1 hr each), and on-going teacher support. Select classes will also play a role in designing restoration projects through our Students Engaged in Restoring Vital Ecosystems program. Up to 150 classes will participate over the course of three years. In order to ensure program efficacy, we will work with local elementary and middle school teachers to assess our existing programming and ensure alignment to the Environmental Literacy Plan and Next Generation Science Standards as well as promote STEM correlations at each grade level. For 15-45 high school students, CSWC will provide direct educational programming, but also offer training and opportunities to act as mentors for younger students during field programs. Finally, through our Education Intern program, we will hire aspiring educators to learn best practices in Environmental Education in both classroom and field programs.

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.

Once partnerships are established, CSWC will guide on-the-ground community stewardship events (1-3 per year, per site, depending on assessed need) at each site. These events will be timed to follow school-based restoration activities, working with community partners to target 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 needs for connecting these communities to their local watershed.

Program Goals

The SSCEP addresses all of the stated grant program goals.

Environmental Literacy: 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.

Community Partnerships: 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 such as Intertwine Alliance, Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan, and Portland Metro STEM Partnership.

Develop Conservation Leaders: 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 and education intern programs offer a chance to learn on-the-ground skills as educators and restoration practitioners.

Our **objectives** for this program are: to reach 10,500 student contacts, to lead 15 community stewardship events, to establish 5 new community partnerships, and to plant 3,000 native plants. Program objectives will be evaluated by: tracking sheets, pre-post assessments, student observation sheets, teacher and partner surveys, informal interviews, and anecdotes from participants.

The expected **outcomes** of this program are that participating students will increase their knowledge of and interest in the watershed, program offerings will be more closely tied to NGSS, OELP, and STEM, community members will highlight their connection to and knowledge of the watershed, and increased partnerships. We expect to reach these outcomes because activities directly engage students and other community members in restoring local natural areas.

Partnerships

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; working with local neighborhood associations, church groups and other community-based organizations to establish key partnerships to promote and populate community stewardship events; and working closely with land owners to create restoration and maintenance plans. We have existing relationships with the Portland Parks and Recreation Department (providing staff, technical support, and locations); City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (providing educational staff and technical support); the Kenton and East Columbia Neighborhood Associations (providing outreach); Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, Multnomah Youth Cooperative, and Meek High School (providing high school mentors); staff at Astor Elementary, Peninsula K-8, Rosa Parks Elementary, Rigler K-8, Faubion K-8, Cesar Chavez K-8, Shaver Elementary, Russell Academy, Clear Creek Middle School, Reynolds Middle School, and Woodland. We look forward to including additional schools and neighborhood groups during the next three years.

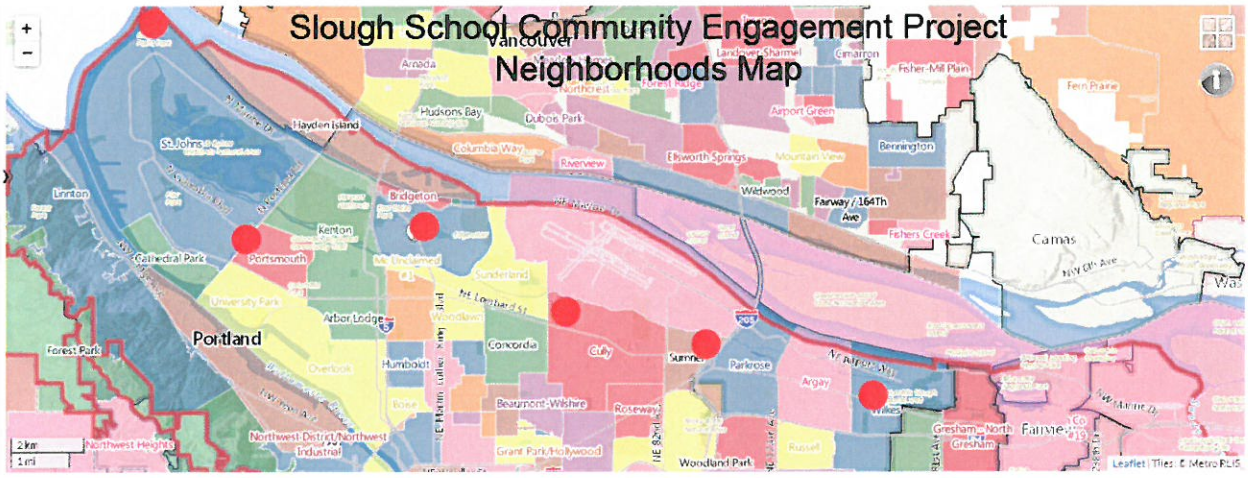
Project Funding

During the grant period, initial outreach and maintenance plans will be 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. Currently we have proposals to both the Gray Family Foundation and East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District's Partners in Conservation grants program. As an organization, we are actively pursuing increased individual and business support for our programs.

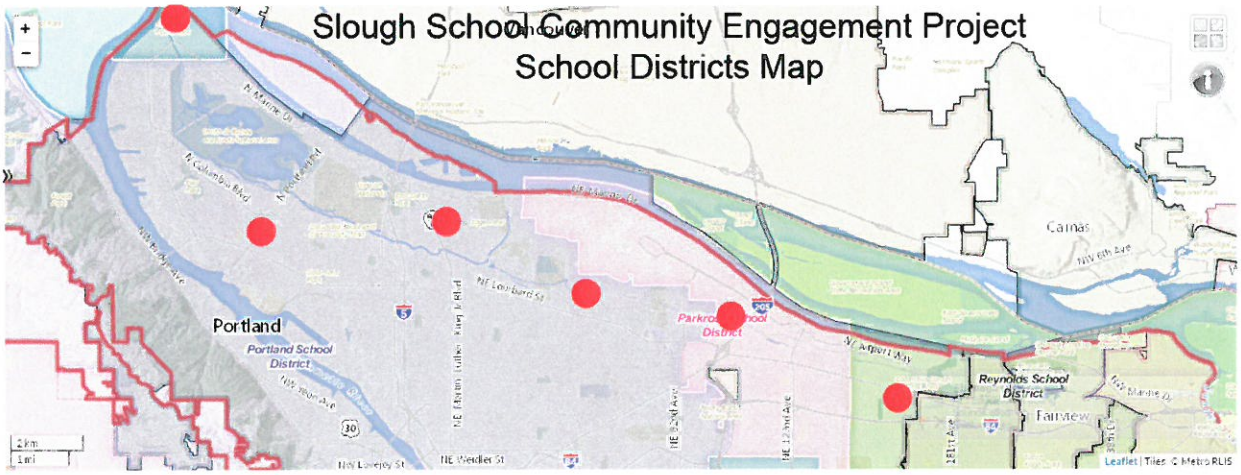
Location and program reach (two pages maximum)

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.) * no longer included in grant narrative because of distance from neighborhoods.

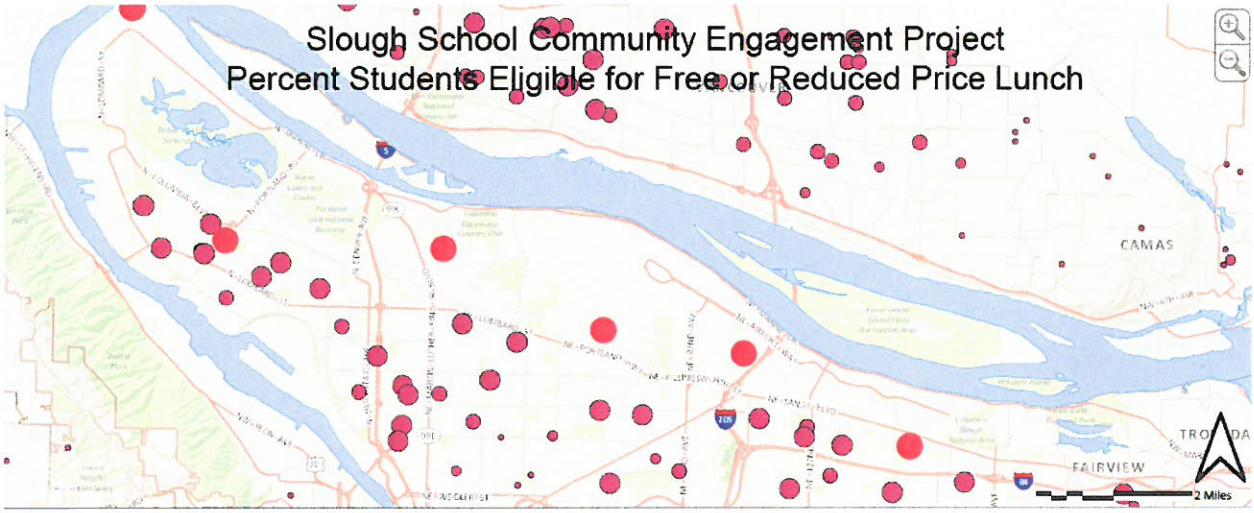
The Neighborhoods Map notes the various neighborhood groups in the area. We anticipate working with up to 10 neighborhood associations including: Kenton, Portsmouth, University Park, East Columbia, Cully, Concordia, Sumner, Parkrose, and Wilkes.

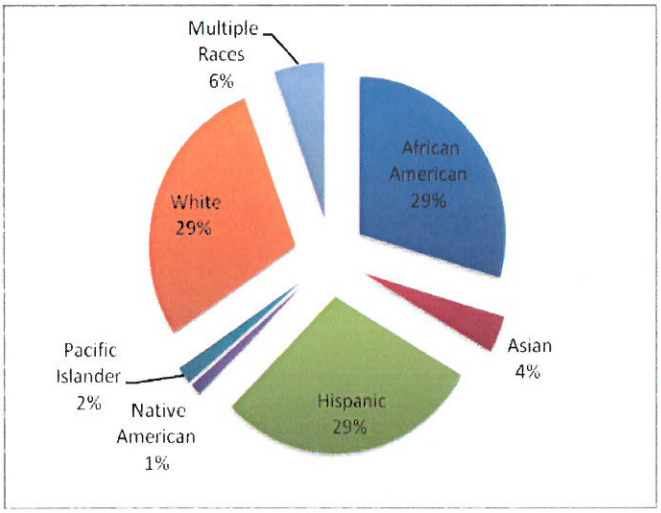


The School Districts Map notes what school districts we will be working with. We anticipate working with four school districts: Portland Public, Parkrose, Gresham-Barlow, and Reynolds.



The Poverty Map notes the rate of free and reduced lunch at each school in the area. We anticipate working with up to 18 schools including: Peninsula, César Chavez, Rosa Parks, Astor, Woodlawn, Scott, Rigler, Faubion, Shaver, Russell, Prescott, Margret Scott, Reynolds Middle School, Clear Creek Middle School, Woodland, HB Lee, Hartley, and Wilkes. Portland Public school located within the watershed boundaries have a Free and Reduced Lunch rate of 77.15% (versus 45% district wide), Reynolds school district has a rate of 75%, Parkrose is 75% and Gresham-Barlow is 53%.





This chart shows the cultural diversity of Portland Public schools served by the Slough School Education Program based on school data from 2012-13. Demographic data for other districts is not included.

Program Budget

Activity	Metro Funds			Secured Match	In-Kind Match	Total Budget
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	All 3 Years	All 3 Years
**CSWC Personal Services includes wages, taxes*, & benefits ** **						
Education Director **	$9,935	$12,935	$12,435	$14,679	$0	$149,205
Seasonal Educator *	$2,250	$2,280	$2,260	$0	$0	$11,390
Stewardship Director **	$265	$924	$924	$660	$660	$2,772
Outreach Director **	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,520	$2,520
Education Intern	$1,300	$1,800	$1,800	$1,900	$0	$15,000
Volunteer Labor						
Community Volunteers	$0	$0	$0	$0	$14,946	$14,946
Professional Services						
City of Portland BES Educator	$0	$0	$0	$0	$6,750	$6,750
Portland Parks Stewardship Coordinators	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,800	$1,800
Community Contractors	$600	$500	$500	$200	$0	$3,088
Materials and Supplies						
Educational Materials & Plants	$0	$0	$0	$8,500	$0	$25,500
Food for student groups	$0	$0	$0	$600	$0	$1,800
Use of Enviroscape model	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,928	$2,928
Printing & Postage & Film	$0	$0	$0	$300	$0	$950
Transportation Costs						
Slough School Mileage	$300	$325	$325	$295	$0	$3,400
Slough School Parking & Gas	$175	$175	$175	$0	$0	$1,125
Student Bus Transportation	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	$1,400	$0	$19,500
Trainings & Conferences	$200	$200	$200	$350	$0	$2,875
OTHER.						
SSCEP Program Liability, Property &Vehicle Insurance	$900	$900	$900	$0	$0	$8,100
SUBTOTALS	$17,925	$22,039	$21,519	$28,884	$29,604	$273,649
Indirect or overhead						
IT Support	$300	$295	$295	$0	$0	$2,600
Telephone- cell	$190	$100	$100	$0	$0	$1,000
Fiscal Administration	$1,200	$1,400	$1,600	$0	$0	$4,200
TOTALS	$19,615	$23,834	$23,514	$28,884	$29,604	$281,449

Budget Narrative

Education Director **	Salary, taxes, benefits @ [redacted]
Seasonal Educator *	270-285 hrs/year @ $[redacted]/hr
Stewardship Director **	40-42 hrs/year @[redacted]/hr with annual 2% cost of living increase.
Outreach Director **	30-32 hrs/year @ [redacted]/hr with annual 2% cost of living increase.
Education Intern	10 months/year @ $[redacted]/month stipend. Represents 1-3 interns/year.
Community Volunteers	5 community stewardship events/year. 15 volunteers per 3-hour event. Does not include additional school and community volunteers during school field programs.
CRE BES Educator	75 hours of teaching and curriculum support annually @$[redacted]/hr.
Portland Parks staff	5 community stewardship events/year. 4 hours/event @ $[redacted]/hr.
Community Contractors	Includes teachers working on program assessment and community partners who need financial support to conduct outreach. Up to 64 hours at $[redacted]/hr. Total hours may shift depending on cost per hour per individual contractor.
Materials & Plants	Includes $11,375 for plants (3,500 plants @ $3.25/plant) + ~ $4,700/yr in general program supplies including tools, raincoats/boots, water quality equipment, etc. based on past year.
Refreshments	Refreshments for student field programs and community stewardship events.
Enviroscape model	In-kind value of Enviroscape Watershed Model on loan from City of Gresham.
Printing and postage	Covers postage for pre/post assessments, printing of fliers for neighborhood events, etc.
SSCEP Mileage	Calculated at a $.56 rate. Totals based on previous years.
SSCEP Parking & Maintenance	Covers parking for partner meetings and on-going vehicle maintenance costs for CSWC vehicle necessary for stewardship events. @ $375/yr. based on past year costs.
Student Busses	Covers Trimet passes and school bus transportation to field sites. $6,500/yr based on past year amounts.
Trainings & Conferences	Covers conference registration fees and trainings related to SSCEP @ $950 a year with a slight increase the last year.
SSCEP Program Liability, Property &Vehicle Insurance	Covers program liability, property (for equipment), and vehicle (for CSWC stewardship vehicle) insurance. Partial cost of $2,700/yr based on current rates.
IT Support	Covers technical support for website, printer, computer technology. Portion of total last year rate. $800/yr.
Telephone	Covers field cell phone and portion of office phone costs. Based on last year rate. $400/yr.
Fiscal Administration	Covers bookkeeper and fiscal administration. Based on past usage. $1,400/yr.

Matching Funds

The Boeing Company (secured): $8,140	City of PDX BES (contract-anticipated): $1,470
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) (secured): $19,207.44	City of Portland Water Bureau (contract-anticipated): $22,060
EPA Urban Waters Grant Program (secured): $3,086.25	City of Gresham (contract-anticipated): $16,800
Gray Family Foundation (pending): $16,119	The Boeing Company 2015, 2016 (proposed): $18,280
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District Partners in Conservation (pending): $43,056	Gray Family Foundation 2015 (proposed): $10,599
Fee for Service (estimated on past earning): $4,800	OWEB 2015-16 (proposed): $16,589
Individual Donations (estimated on past): $4,875	Jubitz Family Foundation 2016 (proposed): $2,611)

Evaluation Measures and Outcomes Report

Please delete the instructions below and list here the quantitative and qualitative measures to be reported in the final outcomes report.

Goals

Our goals under the **Slough School Community Engagement Project** are to connect and teach students and community members about their watershed and watershed health by engaging them in hands-on restoration activities in their own communities, to integrate environmental education with formal, school-based learning that incorporates the Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan, and to create a framework for underserved communities to become stewards of natural areas in their own back yards. All of these goals relate back to our organization's commitment to connecting and teaching people about their watershed.

Evaluation Plan

Goals	Activities/Products	Target Audience(s)	Data Collection Tools	Evaluation Design	Outcomes
Community Engagement					
To connect and teach community members about their watershed and watershed health by engaging them in hands-on restoration activities in their own communities. Increased partnerships and commitment.	At least 15 three-hour stewardship events	150 community members from culturally diverse communities. *	Sign-in sheets	Participants sign a waiver at each event.	10 participants per 15 events = 150 people
			Anecdotes	Participants share a favorite moment at event closing. Staff records in tracking sheet.	Stories highlight participant connection to and knowledge of watershed.
			Partner Surveys	Surveys administered to partner groups at end of planting season.	75% of groups show commitment to future events.
			Donor records	Staff evaluates new donors.	5 new donors per year from community.
To create a framework for underserved communities to become stewards of natural areas in their own back yards.	At least 5 new partnerships	10 community groups from within watershed. **	Outreach records	New partners will be recorded in Sales Force	At least 5 new partnerships recorded.
	At least 3 new partnership agreements		Partnership agreements	Stewardship Director will keep agreements	At least 3 new partnership agreements

Environmental Education					
To connect and teach students about their watershed and watershed health by engaging them in hands-on restoration activities in their own communities.	60 Student Stewardship Programs	10,500 student contacts and 50 teachers from 15 schools within the watershed.	Education tracking sheet tallied at end of each program.	Slough School program staff will collect attendance data throughout the year.	100% of students and teachers participate in at least one program.
	120 Student Field-based Science Programs		Pre- and post-student knowledge assessment	Administered directly to randomly chosen classes at the beginning and end of each school year.	At least 70% of assessed students will show an increase in local watershed knowledge.
	240 Classroom Programs		Student Observation Sheet	A staff member will observe students during programs.	At least 70% of assessed students will indicate an interest in watershed issues.
To integrate environmental education with formal, school-based learning that incorporates the Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan.	Programing aligned to meet the OELP & NGSS.	Elementary and Middle School teachers and their students.	Teacher Surveys and informal interviews	Participating teachers will complete a survey after receiving a program to evaluate its efficacy in reaching the OELP.	90% of teachers will note that the curriculum reaches its goals.

* Neighborhood Demographics represented by school cultural diversity as shown under program reach section of main application.

** Community groups may include: neighborhood associations, churches, parent-teacher associations, and/or other community organizations.

PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION
Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

March 11, 2014

Crista Gardner
Metro, Natural Areas Program
Nature in Neighborhoods Conservation Education Grants
600 NE Grand Ave., Portland, OR 97232

Dear Grants Selection Committee:

On behalf of Portland Parks and Recreation, I am writing to show our support of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council's "Slough School Community Engagement Project." The Slough School Education Program has been an overwhelming success in providing educational opportunities to the schools in the Columbia Slough Watershed. This program improves students' knowledge of basic watershed principles and builds their connection with watershed ecology and the local community. For over ten years, this program has brought students outside to work on restoration projects as well as worked in the classroom to prepare those same students for their work. The continuation of Slough School can only be a benefit for students, the community and the environment along the Columbia Slough.

Staff members of Portland Parks & Recreation are strongly committed to the continuation of our partnership with the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. In addition to our general support of the Slough School Education Program, we are specifically interested in the Slough School Community Engagement Project. Through our partnership, we are able to engage with students in restoring and maintaining natural habitats within the urban ecosystem. We anticipate working with CSWC staff and local schools to implement maintenance plans for local sites. CSWC provides engaged students, active volunteers and skilled staff to amplify our stewardship efforts within the Columbia Slough Watershed. We look forward to leveraging this partnership to continue our work with the local community.

Portland Parks and Recreation supports this request for funding for the Slough School Community Engagement Project. As property owners, we give permission to use Portland Parks and Recreation sites for these activities. Working together as partners is the only way we can come closer to fulfilling the environmental and educational needs of our community. Please contact me at (503) 823-4404 or Lynn.Barlow@portlandoregon.gov if you need additional information on our commitment to this program.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

City Nature
1120 S.W. 5th Ave., Suite 1302
Portland, OR 97204
Tel: (503) 823-5396 Fax: (503) 823-5570

www.PortlandParks.org
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Mike Abbaté, Director

Sustaining a healthy park and recreation system to make Portland a great place to live, work and play.

— CITY OF PORTLAND —
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Room 1000, Portland, Oregon 97204 ▪ Nick Fish, Commissioner ▪ Dean Marriott, Director

March 7, 2014

Metro Nature in Neighborhoods Grant Program
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Grant Selection Committee:

I am writing to encourage your support of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council's Slough School Community Engagement Project (SSCEP) grant application. I have served as a community partner and member of the Slough School Advisory Committee for more than ten years, and I can attest to the overwhelming success of Slough School.

The classroom programs and field experiences of Slough School emphasize the educational goals of building awareness, increasing knowledge and gaining scientific skills. Through hands-on, standards-based science lessons, students enhance their awareness about their watershed and the natural world around them. Slough School units of study come to life because the context for students' science study is place-based. Through stewardship projects and mentoring programs, Slough School provides opportunities for students to build the skills needed to take action to protect their watershed and become active citizens in their communities.

The Community Engagement Project will create a continuum of learning across the community that supports watershed health. Students can be great teachers—and an inspiration to their elders. And, the community can support the next generation of environmental stewards, all while providing a sustainable approach to natural area restoration. Finally, providing diverse youth authentic job and leadership skills will have long term benefits for the watershed and the environmental field as a whole.

I find the Slough School program to be an excellent model of how watershed outreach education should be implemented. As a part of the City of Portland's Clean Rivers Education program staff, I am committed to continuing our partnership with the Slough School program. I strongly encourage you to support the Slough School Community Engagement Project proposal.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Shaver Elementary
3701 NE 131st Pl.
Portland, OR, 97230

Metro | 600 NE Grand Avenue | Portland, OR 97232
Attn: Crista M. Gardner
Grants Coordinator | Natural Areas Program

March 10, 2014

Dear Grant Review Committee:

In *Last Child in the Woods,* Richard Louv writes, "Passion is lifted from the earth itself by the muddy hands of the young; it travels along grass-stained sleeves to the heart. If we are going to save environmentalism and the environment, we must also save an endangered indicator species: the child in nature." Our students at Shaver Elementary need outdoor experiences that bring them close to nature and allow them to practice science skills. The great majority of our students receive free or reduced lunch, require specialized English language instruction, and many of them are not allowed to spend much time outside because their families are afraid of the crime that is too common in their community. Because of furlough days, students have lost so much instruction time over the last few years, that our fourth and fifth graders no longer have recess. How are we to overcome these odds?

One of the shining hopes for our students has been the Slough School Education Program of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. Over the last 6 or more years, they have engaged our students with hands-on classroom activities, as well as field trips that help connect students to their watershed. Students use chemistry and critter catches to determine how healthy and diverse a stream is. Students learn how their own choices have an effect on the environment. Students learn the importance of native plants in restoring watersheds. They develop the scientific skills of making observations, asking questions, collecting and analyzing data, and presenting their data and conclusions.

Our students are not only learning the different vocabulary, parts, and dynamics of a watershed, but they are becoming engaged citizens who have a positive impact on their community. Shaver students have been empowered to give something back by working with the Slough School to help restore natural areas around streams in Wilkes Park, Fairview, and at Whitaker Ponds. It allows them to connect with each other and the greater community, while learning stewardship.

The Slough School has helped develop lessons, and offers professional development increasing teacher ability to offer engaging environmental activities to our students both inside and outside of our own classrooms. They have also helped find partners to present at our first College/Career Day. Students are being exposed and inspired to study natural science.

This grant will allow the Slough School to continue what they do for us at Shaver, and build even more opportunities. We'll get our kids' hands muddy and immersed into their environment. I urge you to consider supporting the Slough School program. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Metro | 600 NE Grand Avenue | Portland, OR 97232
Attn: Crista M. Gardner
Grants Coordinator | Natural Areas Program

March 13, 2014

Dear Grant Review Committee:

We would like to inform you of our strong support for the Slough School Education Program of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. As experienced educators at Peninsula School, we appreciate the opportunities that this program provides for our students. Our students are not only engaged by invaluable learning experiences and connected substantively to their watershed, they are transformed as citizens.

Peninsula School has been involved with Slough School for the last three years. We have had classroom visits and field trips to a variety of parks in our area. We have particularly enjoyed being involved with the SERVE project in which our students have been able to help plan and implement restoration projects at Columbia Children's Arboretum and along the Peninsula Crossing Trail. It will be wonderful to keep returning to these sites with our students. Considering the demographics of our school's student population, we especially appreciate an opportunity for additional classroom and field trip science support at no charge to us.

Through this program, students get an opportunity to gain awareness of issues impacting watershed health, increase knowledge of ecological principles and gain skills around watershed stewardship. We believe that these experiences build ecological awareness and boost the connection that students have with each other and their community.

The Slough School program involves a wide variety of community partners and has clear objectives with measurable outcomes. We look forward to working with the Slough School Education Program in the future.

We encourage you to consider supporting the Slough School program. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Metro | 600 NE Grand Avenue | Portland, OR 97232
Attn: Crista M. Gardner
Grants Coordinator | Natural Areas Program

March 13, 2014

Peninsula K-8
8125 N Leonard St.
Portland, OR 97217
503-916-6275

Dear Grant Review Committee:

I would like to inform you of my strong support for the Slough School Education Program of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. As an experienced educator at Peninsula School, I appreciate the opportunities that this program provides for our students. Our students are not only engaged by invaluable learning experiences and connected substantively to their watershed, they are transformed as citizens.

Peninsula School has been involved with Slough School for the last three years. We have had classroom visits and field trips to a variety of parks in our area. The Slough School's staff is amazing with students and has a way of presenting environmental science curriculum across all modes of learning. The staff holds my students captivated and eager for more learning. We have particularly enjoyed being involved with the SERVE project in which our students have been able to help plan and implement restoration projects at Columbia Children's Arboretum and along the Peninsula Crossing Trail. This curriculum directly tied into our Rain Garden Project at Peninsula and helped to reinforce our environmental science curriculum. It will be wonderful to keep returning to these sites with our students so that they can watch how the restoration projects we've done have grown, but also to do some cross comparison work of urban to rural settings (parks vs. school courtyard). Considering the demographics of our school's student population (86% free and reduced lunch/low SES/Title 1 School), we especially appreciate an opportunity for additional classroom and field trip science support at no charge to us. The experience that Slough School has given my 5th grade student is invaluable and their favorite field trips of the school year.

Through this program, students get an opportunity to gain awareness of issues impacting watershed health, increase knowledge of ecological principles and gain skills around watershed stewardship. I believe that these experiences build ecological awareness and boost the connection that students have with each other and their community.

The Slough School program involves a wide variety of community partners and has clear objectives with measurable outcomes. I look forward to working with the Slough School Education Program in the future and hope you continue to fund this incredible project.

I encourage you to consider supporting the Slough School program. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

JOSEPH L. MEEK
PROFESSIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
(Formerly Vocational Village)
4039 NE Alberta Court / Portland, Oregon 97211
Telephone: (503) 916-5747 • FAX: 503-916-2680

A PPS Alliance High School • Principal: Lorna Fast Buffalo Horse • 503-916-5747

Metro | 600 NE Grand Avenue | Portland, OR 97232
Attn: Crista M. Gardner
Grants Coordinator | Natural Areas Program

March 12, 2014

Dear Grant Review Committee:

I would like to inform you of my strong support for the Slough School Education Program of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. As an experienced educator with Portland Public Schools District, I appreciate the opportunities that this program provides for our students. My students are not only engaged by invaluable learning experiences and connected substantively to their watershed, they are transformed as citizens.

I have been involved with Slough School for approximately ten years with my students. We have gathered water quality information at Whitaker Ponds on a quarterly basis for several years. Considering the demographics of our school's student population, I especially appreciate an opportunity for additional classroom and field trip science support at no charge to us. Slough school is close to our school and makes a wonderful field trip that gets them out in nature while close to school.

Through this program, students get an opportunity to gain awareness of issues impacting watershed health, increase knowledge of ecological principles and gain skills around watershed stewardship. As a certified teacher and experienced outdoor educator, I support the activities and programs conducted by the Slough School. I believe that these experiences build ecological awareness and boost the connection that students have with each other and their community.

This new grant proposal will also support me as an educator through workshops and other networking opportunities. I look forward to the opportunity to share with other educators from my region, learning about local ecology and also how to bring that knowledge into my classroom and our school yard.

The Slough School program involves a wide variety of community partners and has clear objectives with measurable outcomes. I look forward to working with the Slough School Education Program in the future.

I urge you to consider supporting the Slough School program. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Portland OIC Work Opportunity Training

717 N Killingsworth Court
Portland, OR 97217
503.797.7222
fax 503.285.4415
www.portlandoic.org

Metro | 600 NE Grand Avenue | Portland, OR 97232
Attn: Crista M. Gardner
Grants Coordinator | Natural Areas Program

March 11, 2014

Dear Grant Review Committee:

I would like to inform you of my strong support for the Slough School Education Program of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. As an experienced program manager and educator for Rosemary Anderson's Natural Resource Program, I appreciate the opportunities that this program provides for our students. Slough School provides a valuable real life work experience for our students, a unique learning and leadership opportunity, and allows students to work with a younger generation. Through Slough School RAHS students take pride in giving back to their community.

Through classes offered through this program, students get an opportunity to gain awareness of issues impacting watershed health, increase knowledge of ecological principles and gain skills around watershed stewardship. Upon completing classes our students will than impart what they've learned to younger students in the Metro area. As an experienced outdoor educator, I support the activities and programs conducted by the Slough School. I believe that these experiences build ecological awareness and boost the connection that students have with each other and their community.

This new grant proposal will also support me as an educator through workshops and other networking opportunities. I look forward to the opportunity to share with other natural resource educators, learning about local ecology and also how to bring that knowledge to my students.

I urge you to consider supporting the Slough School program. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

REWORKING LIFE STORIES

ECNA East Columbia Neighborhood Association

March 12, 2014

Crista Gardner
Metro, Natural Areas Program
Nature in Neighborhoods Conservation Education Grants
600 NE Grand Ave., Portland, OR 97232

Dear Grants Selection Committee:

The East Columbia Neighborhood Association strongly supports the Columbia Slough Watershed Council's "Slough School Community Engagement Project." Over the years we have partnered with the Columbia Slough Watershed Council on a number of events including our annual picnic and a Ludwigia study and education day. We look forward to working with their staff again.

The Columbia Children's Arboretum is in our neighborhood in NE Portland. Our neighbors care deeply about the arboretum and have for many years contributed countless volunteer hours to projects for its enhancement. We are actually in the process of creating a formal friends' group with Portland Parks and Recreation. Parks has told us they would like more support providing maintenance for the arboretum. We believe by partnering on the Slough School Community Engagement Project, we will gain the necessary skills and support to do just that!

The East Columbia Neighborhood Association supports this request for funding for the Slough School Community Engagement Project. We look forward to working together to restore and maintain the Columbia Children's Arboretum. We encourage you to fund this worthwhile project which will be of great benefit to the entire Portland community.

Please contact me at jamasu88@msn.com if you need additional information on our commitment to this program.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Dear Grant Selection Committee,

I am writing today to convey my support of the CSWC in their pursuit of funding for their work in Slough School Education. I was first acquainted with CSWC as an average citizen hoping to get in on some water recreation during the summer months. I was blown away by the resources, outreach, and facilitation that CSWC provides for residents of the Portland area. As a student of Public Health that has been pouring over volumes of data demonstrating a strong connection between outdoor recreation and positive health outcomes, the work of CSWC was especially impressive to me. In particular, the health outcomes of disadvantaged populations can be significantly improved through opportunities like those CSWC offers. Their work, to me, goes beyond environmental conservation and education. It is a valuable contribution toward the promotion of social justice and more equitable access to the recreational outlets that can equip people to manage stress better and lead healthier lives.

As a board member of the Kenton Neighborhood Association, I reached out to CSWC for advice and support of projects I've been hoping to undertake in my own neighborhood. I was inundated with support from staff members there. They provided me with materials, looked over my ideas and offered counsel, visited various board meetings prepared to present and discuss potential options for engaging residents in our neighborhood and connecting them to the resources of the CSWC. As a neighborhood association, we are volunteer-based with minimal funds and staffing. We are greatly looking forward to working with the Slough School program to promote activities for our students in Kenton as well as work on stewardship projects as a community. CSWC has happily and generously lent their time, energy, and infrastructure to help us create a stronger, healthier community. We simply could not have provided these opportunities to our residents without their help.

CSWC is an organization that has repeatedly responded to my queries as a resident, student, and board member with substantial assistance and contagious enthusiasm. I strongly urge the support of CSWC. They are quite simply a powerhouse of a non-profit: small but mighty, versatile, skilled, friendly, and providing a host of invaluable resources to our community with great efficiency and grace.

Thank you,