



Partners in Nature

Potential Partners

2016

1. **Africa House**-IRCO is an African immigrant/refuge community that wants to find and connect with natural spaces. Barriers include: transportation, language, gang involvement, and a lack of culturally appropriate tools. Partnership ideas include: career pipelines, field programs, and family picnics.
2. **African Youth and Community Organization** serves East African immigrants. By learning about nature, the community can become strong advocates for conservation. Barriers include: lack of knowledge, transportation, and direct, in-person outreach. Partnership ideas include: building outreach in the Somali/East African community, creating career pipelines and recycling.
3. **Ahiska Turkish Community Center** of Portland supports Turkish immigrants. Nature is part of community values and important for future generations. Work requirements prevent parents from connecting their children with nature. Partnership ideas include: nature programming with weekly Sunday School.
4. **Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon** unites around social justice. Connection to nature promotes health, heals from trauma, and offers climate justice. Barriers include: lack of greenspace, transportation, training, and cultural norms. Partnership ideas include: reaching API groups outside of Portland.
5. **Asian Family Center**-IRCO represents vulnerable API populations. Greenspaces are a part of families' cultural history and lifestyle, but are isolated from the community. Barriers include: transportation, language, and culturally appropriate resources. Partnership ideas include: creating a culturally specific extended day program for youth.
6. **Centro Cultural** serves suburban/rural Latino community of Washington County. Connection to nature will improve the health of this high poverty community. Barriers include lack of security and knowledge of resources. Partnership ideas include: training Latino outreach advocates and youth naturalists.
7. **El Program Hispano Católico** serves Latinos in the tri-county area. Connection to nature is important for physical and psychological well-being. Partnership ideas include: a multi-generational program to connect school-based youth with seniors programming.
8. **Environmental Professionals of Color** is comprised of leaders of color across the region. EPOC works to remove barriers that people of color find within natural spaces. Partnership ideas include: field trips to metro sites, lunch and learn for Metro employees of color, and support for youth exposure to careers and environmental professionals of color.

9. **The Holla Foundation** serves communities of color in East County. Parks are central to cultural and recreational lives. Due to gentrification families are in areas without access to familiar parks. Partnership ideas include: fostering leadership development of young people and a gap analysis of parks and natural areas.
10. **KairosPDX** uses trauma informed approaches to eliminate racial opportunity gaps for N/NE Portland's African American community. Connection to nature can increase career pathways in conservation. Partnership ideas include: building off garden program to connect families and youth with natural areas.
11. **Momentum Alliance** youth are in desperate need for the benefits of nature and careers. Obstacles include not feeling welcome and not having gear and transportation. Partnership ideas include: providing training for Metro staff, expanding a successful pilot and a public awareness campaign.
12. **National Indian Parent Information Center** represents American Indian/Alaskan Native communities including those with disabilities. Relocation, assimilation, and economic difficulties have damaged their connection with nature. Partnership ideas include: educational and service-learning opportunities.
13. **Native American Youth and Family Center** serves self-identified American Indians and Alaska Natives. Through extermination, assimilation, termination, and relocation, many native peoples are removed from ancestral lands. Partnership ideas include: potential sites for Intertribal Gathering Gardens in the Metro region.
14. **Northwest Somali Community Organization** seeks to engage a multicultural collaboration of Somali, Bhutanese, and Zomi immigrants with nature. Many newcomers fear for safety in natural places. Partnership ideas include: bike rides, fishing, canoeing and other outdoor excursions and training for Metro staff.
15. **OPAL Environmental Justice Group** works at the intersection of transportation, housing, land use and climate policy. Residents of color and those living in poverty experience high exposure to toxic emissions. Partnership ideas include: joining a broad coalition to green the JADE district and east Portland.
16. **Oregon Somali Family Education Center** serves Somali immigrant populations in Washington County. After an introduction through the CIO partnership, families have begun to visit local parks. Partnership ideas include: to deepen engagement with natural spaces in Washington County.
17. **PFLAG Portland Black Chapter/Black Lives Matter PDX** represents folks with multiple marginalized identities who lack the time and resources to access the healing virtues of nature. Partnership ideas include: providing access for hikes and healing retreats focusing on health and self care.
18. **REAP** invests in the leaders of tomorrow by elevating student voice and empowering students to become global leaders. Transportation, time and safety are barriers to connecting with nature. Partnerships ideas include: exploring parks, learning about land conservation, holding family picnics, and hosting career days.

19. **Rose CDC** is an affordable housing organization in the heart of outer SE Portland. Transportation, time, awareness and money are barriers to connecting with natural areas. Partnership ideas include: youth outdoor photography trips.
20. **School Assistance for Refugee Newcomers** (SAFRN) supports services for newly arrived refugee school-aged children. Language, transportation, and finances prevent these families from connecting with natural areas. Partnership ideas include: guided walks and stewardship opportunities for students and their families.
21. **Sista Sistah** is founded and operated by people of African descent supporting girls from 8-18. They empower young women. There are numerous difficulties connecting with natural areas. Partnership ideas include: indoor/outdoor overnight camping trips with take home nature packs and a culturally specific run, bike, walk event with access to health awareness.
22. **Slavic Network of Oregon** represents Slavic families. Parks and natural spaces were core to family routines in home countries. Barriers include: lack of local knowledge, translated materials, and transportation. Partnership ideas include: reaching families, creating career pipelines, and engaging youth voice in decision-making.
23. **Wisdom of the Elders** serves Portland's Native American community. Nature is a powerful environment for healing, but there is fear and disconnect within some Native American youth. Partnership ideas include: a career path way to build networks with collaborative partners.