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Metro  
Parks and Nature  
**2016 Nature in Neighborhoods restoration and community stewardships grants - Pre-application Open**  
5/16/2016 deadline

## ROSE Community Development Lents Conservation Partnership

**\$ 35,000** Requested  
\$ 40,000 Estimated Match

Submitted: 5/16/2016 3:55:45 PM (Pacific)

### Project Contact

[Redacted]

### Additional Contacts

none entered

### ROSE Community Development

5215 SE Duke St  
Portland, OR, 97206

### Executive Director

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### Application Questions

#### Pre-Application Questions

##### 1. Project summary (one paragraph, 255 characters)

Provide a brief summary that describes your program.

The Lents Conservation Partnership expands & enhances pollinator habitat restoration & connectivity in the Lents portion of Johnson Creek watershed through youth engagement & community stewardship with existing conservation projects.

##### 2. Fiscal agent

If different than the lead organization. If no fiscal agent, please write "not applicable".

Not applicable

##### 3. Project partners

Committed partner organizations.

Green Lents, Portland Parks and Recreation's Stewardship Program, Portland State University, OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon

##### 4. Potential partners

Potential partner organizations.

Zenger Farm, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Audubon TALON Program, Lents and Brentwood Darlington Neighborhood Associations, Leach Botanical Garden

##### 5. Project length

Select only one.

- One year
- Two years

##### 6. Habitat type(s)

Select one of the following priority habitat types from Federal Listings and Recovery Plans, the Oregon Conservation Strategy and the Intertwine Alliance Regional Conservation Strategy for the Greater Portland Vancouver Metropolitan Area.

- Riverine/ Instream projects: Projects that are designed to improve habitat conditions below the ordinary high water mark, such as large wood or boulder placement, side-channel reconnection and alcove enhancement.
- Riparian Habitat: Projects above the ordinary high water mark of the stream and within up to 200' of the waterline, depending on conditions.
- Oak habitat: Projects that address Oregon white oak habitats including savanna, woodland and mixed oak conifer forest; typically involving oak release, oak planting or invasive species control and native species enhancement.
- Prairie (wet and upland): Projects designed to enhance structure or native component of non wetland habitats dominated by grass like plants and forbs.

- e Upland conifer/deciduous forest: Enhancement projects implemented in forests outside the floodplain or riparian zone.
- ✓ Floodplain forests and wetlands (ponds): Projects addressing any of the full range of wetland habitat types, including floodplain bottom hardwood forests.
- e Other:

## 7. Acres

*Number of acres the project will restore or protect.*

Several small urban sites totaling approximately 2 acres.

## 8. Location

*What is the location of your project? Please list the address or nearest intersection.*

Multiple sites in Lents and adjoining neighborhoods, most within the 97266 zipcode.

## 9. Social media

*If applicable, what are your organization's social media addresses (e.g. twitter, instagram, facebook)?*

[www.facebook.com/LentsYouthInitiative](http://www.facebook.com/LentsYouthInitiative) [@Greenlentsnow](https://www.facebook.com/green.lents)

<https://www.facebook.com/rosecommunitydevelopment/> Instagram: rosecdcpdx

## 10. Program narrative (one page, 4000 characters)

*Provide a narrative that describes the project. Explain why the project is important for your organization and community, such as how it fits your organization's strategic plan or mission.*

The Lents Conservation Partnership builds community stewardship & improves pollinator habitat connectivity in southeast Portland using strategies including restoration & enhancement of sites, documentation of abundance and monitoring methods. This is done by engaging youth interns who work on monitoring & connectivity at restoration sites managed by partners and increase engagement capacities of partner organizations.

The Lents area is characterized by a variety of habitat types surrounding Johnson Creek and its floodplain including seasonal wetland areas, forested riparian, mixed upland forest and in-stream habitat. Restoration at Foster Floodplain restored habitat for amphibian species like red-legged frog and many other wildlife species and salmon are returning to the area. There are several parks and natural areas in the vicinity including Beggars Tick and the wetlands at Zenger Farm. The need here is for connectivity - both for wildlife and people. To create active stewardship of our natural areas enhances habitat for the wildlife but also creates long-term community stewards.

Lents is a keystone neighborhood in historically underserved outer southeast Portland, disproportionately affected by adverse impacts of the Foster Floodplain and I-205 which bisects the area. Communities of color have increased dramatically over the last 15 years while average rents have climbed sharply putting low-income households at high risk of displacement. The youth constituency is very diverse, yet youth voice and participation, along with diverse leadership, have been missing or tokenized. These factors make Lents an ideal place to cultivate community stewardship, social capital, civic engagement, and environmental justice leadership.

The Lents Youth Initiative equips local youth to become conservation leaders using three main goals; offer hands-on leadership, education, and career development opportunities for underserved youth, increase the capacity of local organizations to complete projects that address issues of ecological and human health, and increase eco-social capital in the neighborhood through LYI partnerships. A key feature of this project is engaging low-income and youth of color in environmental justice, sustainability education and service learning, including a training series and paid summer internship program. This furthers ROSE's mission to Revitalize Outer Southeast Portland by providing leadership, career, and economic development opportunities to diverse, underserved local youth through environmental projects.

LYI contributes youth interns and resources to support the Green Lents Pollinator Habitat project which has created a model for development of pollinator habitat in urban green infrastructure, providing diverse forage and bloom times with attention to micro-climates at the site for optimal plant success. Diverse components enhance habitat structure including bare ground, rocks, logs, litter and dieback of vegetation without maintenance to maximize use without harm. This is followed-up with monitoring for plant success and pollinator use to optimize effectiveness and adaptive management on site. Pilot sites have documented a diversity of pollinator use in a small area (less than 2000 sq ft) - both nesting AND foraging - honeybees, other native bees such as bumblebees and solitary bees, hummingbirds, and many ground invertebrates like beetles and ants that contribute to the overall health of the habitat.

LYI's partnership with the Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R) Stewardship Program compliments Green Lents work. LYI contributes youth interns who increase PP&R's capacity to care for its restoration sites in the Lents area. Interns also serve as volunteer crew leaders, increasing PP&R's capacity to engage community and school groups that support restoration efforts.

## 11. Goals (one page, 4000 characters)

*Describe how the program addresses the Nature in Neighborhood restoration grant's purpose, category and goals, including how the project supports regional and local initiatives.*

The Lents Conservation Partnership addresses needs outlined in several local, regional and national plans. In 2015, the White House released a "National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators" whose overarching goals include: "Pollinator Habitat Acreage: Restore or enhance 7 million acres of land for pollinators over the next 5 years through Federal actions and public/private partnerships" (Pollinator Health Taskforce). The Johnson Creek Watershed Council 2015-2015 Action Plan notes the efforts to connect the creek to its natural floodplain, remove invasive species and plant native plants in the watershed. Urban environments are characterized by developed land and infrastructure that breaks up habitat. Restoration and habitat enhancement projects may counteract many impacts of climate change, making our urban natural areas and the wildlife that depend on them more resilient. Regional Conservation Strategy cites the need for biodiversity corridors, specifically strategic actions for planning for connectivity, and "raising awareness and building relationships" including stewardship programs, outreach, targeted messaging, signage, and educational activities. The Oregon Conservation Strategy also highlights the need for connectivity, monitoring for change, integrating natural features into the urban landscape and involvement of diverse stakeholders in decision-making as important conservation approaches.

All of these actions are integral to the Lents Conservation Partnership which will: enhance habitat connectivity & biodiversity for pollinators, monitor sites for success, provide multi-tiered education & training to support stewardship among youth & community members, follow a triple-bottom line approach including social, economic, and environmental benefits of connectivity.

The Partnership addresses Goals 1 & 2 of the METRO NIN application. Project deliverables include:

Monitor, enhance & expand pollinator habitat & connectivity among ROSE & Green Lents sites in the 97266 zipcode

Work with PP&R to maintain existing restoration sites, including monitoring, invasive removal & community service engagement at 2-4 key stewardship sites

Conduct a neighborhood conservation planning survey using current sites & data, maps and ground-truthing to assess the state of pollinator habitat availability and potential. This will include recommendations for sites in partnership with PSU

Additionally, 20 LYI participants will engage in service-learning projects with Green Lents, PP&R and Johnson Creek Watershed Council that include

#### restoration activities & stewardship components

LYI will train and place 4-6 youth interns with Green Lents and PP&R in the summer of 2017. Interns will design native pollinator in-fill at existing landscaping at three ROSE properties, work with residents of ROSE single family homes to create Backyard Habitat and improve stormwater management on site. Site assessment and coordinated community engagement at affordable housing properties will significantly increase pollinator-friendly habitat while cultivating tenant stewardship of projects. ROSE will work with contracted landscapers at those sites to discuss pesticide & herbicide alternatives & educate them on the impacts of pesticide use.

Plant selection for habitat expansion will be based on plant health data collected by monitoring at Green Lents pollinator sites by 2016 LYI interns. Youth interns will monitor and evaluate plant health and pollinator diversity at Beyer Court Rain Garden (9305 SE Harold St), Green Street Swales (103rd & Yukon), Malden Court Community Orchard (SE 87th & Flavel) and at Lents Village a ROSE 55+ housing property (10325 SE Holgate). By installing habitat within a focused geographical area, we are both enhancing watershed health by improving soil health and reducing pesticide and water use in the area, and working towards habitat connectivity between natural areas within Johnson Creek Watershed

### **12. Organizational preparedness (one page, 4000 characters)**

*Explain why your organization and partners have the experience and capacity to conduct the project, including identification of key personnel, their roles in the program and their qualifications.*

ROSE Community Development (ROSE) has a mission of connecting communities in outer SE Portland to build good homes, healthy families and neighborhood opportunities. ROSE has built a strong network of local sustainability, housing and grassroots organizations with whom we collaborate closely. Three of our strongest partnering organizations are OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon, Green Lents and Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R) Stewardship Program. Our partnership with OPAL establishes a strong foundation in environmental justice, organizing, and training. Green Lents brings scientific expertise and a strong volunteer and partner base, increasing our capacity to conduct sustainability education and manage projects that improve watershed health. PP&R Stewardship Program connects youth to hands-on restoration, leadership, and education opportunities within their own neighborhood and provides access to local restoration sites.

For decades, ROSE has built affordable housing, led youth and family programs, and implemented sustainability projects such as green building, open space, community gardens, and environmental restoration. The organization's name reflects its work: for 24 years, ROSE has worked to "Revitalize Outer South East." ROSE was created by a group of neighborhood leaders who sought to revitalize a part of town that prosperity left behind. In order to assure that ROSE stays connected to our community, the majority of our board members must be residents of the neighborhoods that we serve. Since 1992, ROSE has developed over 430 affordable housing units, built the first green, affordable housing development in Oregon, and built two parks. As a stable, long-term neighborhood based organization, ROSE has a unique ability to support and build upon other grassroots efforts. Through LYI, ROSE has created new opportunities for teen youth by providing an avenue for career development, summer employment, environmental justice, and community building.

ROSE is led by its founding Executive Director, [REDACTED] who has held that position since 1992. ROSE has staff expertise in affordable housing development and management, program development, resident services and human development. In addition, our LYI Project Manager [REDACTED] has extensive experience in youth development. [REDACTED] is supported by Youth Organizer [REDACTED], who is a graduate of David Douglas High School and served on the Multnomah Youth Commission for four years.

Our partnering organizations and their staff also have extensive experience in conservation practices. Green Lents is led by [REDACTED], the Green Lents Board Chair, who has a Master's degree in Environmental Management focused on habitat connectivity from Portland State University. [REDACTED] also owns and operates Littlejohn Environmental Assessment & Planning. Partners work closely with ROSE and LYI youth leaders to help train, mentor, and lead restoration activities. In addition, [REDACTED], OPAL's Deputy Director, specializes in community and youth engagement. LYI is integrating youth into the program and project planning processes and preparing them to step into Team Leader and Organizer positions.

### **13. Partnerships (one page, 4000 characters)**

*Show how partnerships and collaboration with other individuals, organizations and groups in your community will be formed, strengthened and extended through this project.*

LYI works at the nexus of three main areas - youth, community, and environment - and creates positive outcomes in those key areas. Through work on local environmental projects, such as habitat restoration, bioswale construction, active transportation promotion and sustainable food projects, LYI has provided youth leadership to enhance grassroots environmental momentum in Lents. By creating a vehicle for community groups to collaborate on projects and attracting youth to support those projects, LYI acts to focus, amplify and catalyze existing community improvement work while cultivating a new generation of environmental justice leaders in East Portland. In 2015, LYI worked with seven local organizations on watershed health, environmental restoration, food security, urban agriculture, tree health and community building. Going into its second year, LYI continues to engage youth participants in program leadership and planning, increasing the number of projects that are youth-led, and coordinating broader outreach.

ROSE and Green Lents are key partners in developing the Lents Green Ring, a collaborative project that links the environmental and active transit assets in the Lents portion of the Johnson Creek watershed and improves safety, mobility and access to the Lents Town Center, parks and schools. Lents Green Ring also serves to connect sustainability efforts in the area and address structural issues that prevent communities from connecting to nature close to home.

Green Lents will host LYI youth interns and manage projects that improve watershed health through maintenance, monitoring and expansion of pollinator habitat sites, and increased community education and outreach activities including developing existing sites into demonstration sites for community engagement and citizen scientist research. Additionally, LYI will partner with PP&R's Stewardship Program to train youth to lead volunteer crews and conduct invasive species removal and native plant maintenance while practicing the fundamentals of conservation ecology. These partnerships will both provide expertise in conservation and research practices, and connect youth to local restoration sites.

ROSE, Green Lents and LYI partner actively with Portland State University in a variety of ways, including with the Institute for Sustainable Solutions, the Learning Gardens Lab, Student Leaders for Service and individual classes. Through this partnership, LYI youth receive expert training and exposure the college environment, and we create opportunities for PSU students to engage with East Portland projects through service, design, and research, all while supporting community initiatives. LYI youth also build connections with college students and professors, helping to pave their pathway to higher education.

Other likely partnerships include Zenger Farm, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Audubon TALON Program, Lents and Brentwood Darlington Neighborhood Associations and Leach Botanical Garden.

Through the Lents Conservation Partnership, youth from underserved communities will become the next generation of conservation leaders as they participate in the revitalization of their community, restore pollinator habitat, and increase community stewardship in their neighborhood!

## Uploads

### Documents Requested \*

Location and program reach (two pages): Provide a location map that shows where the project and/or participating communities are located within the region. Please include existing stream and wildlife corridors, parks, trails and/or natural areas.

Please download and fill out the 2015 NIN restoration demographic form. The demographic information you provide on this form will not be used for the review of your grant application.

[download template](#)

### Required? Attached Documents \*



[Area maps](#)



[LYI Demographics](#)

\* ZoomGrants™ is not responsible for the content of uploaded documents.

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# ROSE CDC Area Map

 Primary Service Area

 ROSE CDC Residences

 Area High Schools

 Lents Green Ring (approx.)

 Lents Town Center

