



2020 Metro Central Community Enhancement Grants make a difference

Funded by a \$1 surcharge on each ton of waste processed at the Metro Central Transfer Station in Northwest Portland, this grant program benefits the neighborhoods of Forest Park, Cathedral Park and Linnton; the Northwest District Association and the Northwest Industrial Area; and an area directly adjacent to the St. Johns Bridge. A committee of local residents annually reviews applications and selects projects to fund. The Metro Central Community Enhancement Committee approved funding for 15 projects in the 2020 grant cycle, awarding a total of \$321,612.

Project duration is one year unless otherwise noted.

- [PPS Chapman Elementary School](#): \$22,000 to support [Reading Results](#), a program which provides a proven reading intervention program to first, second and third grade students who are reading one to two grades below grade level.
- [Friendly House Inc.](#): \$40,000 for the [Community Services Senior Program](#) which supports older adults to live active, independent lives with dignity in the settings of their choice with an emphasis on serving low income and under-served populations, including LGBTQ people.
- [Friendly House Inc.](#): \$21,850 for enhancements to its [Community Recreation and Education Program](#), a program that creates a thriving community by connecting people of all ages and backgrounds through quality educational, recreational and other life-sustaining services with the goal of positively impacting the sense of community among all Friendly House members and visitors.
- [Jazz Society of Oregon](#): \$2,500 to sponsor the 2020 Cathedral Park Jazz Festival, a free three-day concert held Friday, July 17, to Sunday, July 19, 2020 at the base of the St. Johns Bridge in Portland's Cathedral Park neighborhood.
- [Linnton Community Center](#): \$21,255 for [Hungry Families](#), a program that will complete the construction of Linnton Community Center's community teaching kitchen. The kitchen will provide space for nutrition education to youth, families and hungry people in the communities surrounding Linnton, while also providing meaningful volunteer opportunities at the Linnton Community Center.
- [Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership](#): \$15,497 for the NW Portland On-River Recreation project, a program that will provide recreation opportunities, access to nature and on-river environmental education for 120 to 144 residents within the Metro Central target area boundary area. With a priority on participation of low-income youth and adults, funds will support a series of tailored on-river trips on the Partnership's two 29-foot canoes.
- [Meals on Wheels People](#): \$10,000 for North Portland Meals on Wheels to provide hot, nutritious meals to seniors in need. Meals originate from the Elm Court Center, which serves approximately 100,000 meals annually and provides delivery services to residents in isolated locations near Skyline Boulevard and Cornell Road in homes nestled in trees and away from the road or living in residential hotels without access to cooking facilities

- [Neighbors for Clean Air](#): \$35,000 for the Deconstructing Diesel Community Action Plan, an 18-month education and planning effort. Combining science, policy and grassroots organizing, the project will educate NW Portland residents about the most dangerous sources and health and environmental risks of air pollution. The resulting plan will identify key priorities and actions to improve air quality, protect the health of vulnerable populations and address the urgent climate threats posed by older diesel engines, which are widely used in the project area.
- [Portland Audubon](#): \$25,000 to develop the Portland Audubon ADA Path. This two-year project will build an accessible pathway at Portland Audubon's Cornell Road [Wildlife Sanctuary](#), expanding access for viewing Portland Audubon's education birds and ensuring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Accessibility and Trail Accessibility Guidelines.
- [Portland Harbor Community Coalition](#): \$25,000 for Portland Harbor Community Outreach, a program that coordinates with Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group to educate and elevate the voices of impacted communities and area residents in the Portland Harbor cleanup process. The program will simultaneously provide cultural and personal growth opportunities for people to access nature and connect to the Willamette River at Cathedral Park.
- [Portland United Against Hate](#): \$25,000 for Making Metro Central a Hate Free Zone, a program to foster safety, inclusivity and livability in the Metro Central grant area in partnership with residents, businesses, community organizations and municipal bodies. The program will gather information and community input, create an intervention plan to address the most urgent needs, and identify ways to prevent hate and bias incidents in the grant focus area.
- [Rebuilding Together Portland](#): \$4,000 for the St. Johns Revitalization project, an annual cleanup of St. John's Community Garden and Pier Park. Activities will include repairing garden retaining walls, cleaning the park's baseball fields, removing invasive species and graffiti, and much more. This annual effort keeps the garden and park clean and hospitable and connects University of Portland students with the surrounding neighborhoods.
- [SOLVE](#): \$18,401 to support Communities Working Together, which will coordinate 12 litter cleanup events that remove barriers and offer safe and supported ways for underserved communities to care for their environment. Approximately 240 community volunteers will remove more than 1,200 pounds of trash at these cleanup events.
- [St. Johns Center for Opportunity](#): \$30,000 for Strengthening our Neighborhood Placemaking Programs. Funds will be used to increase the Center's promotional and outreach efforts, with an emphasis on equity and inclusion, and to support participation of more the vendors, artists, and musicians who engage in Center programs, such as the [St. Johns Farmers Market](#), St. Johns Summer Concert Series, Loteria in the Park and St. Johns Art Walk.
- [The Forest Park Conservancy](#): \$23,609 for [Youth Discovery Hikes](#), a program that collaborates with partner organizations to engage youth of color and other underserved communities to develop the next generation of stewards for Forest Park.