

2014 Awards
Community Stewardship Grant Program
Projects Summary

The Community Stewardship Grant Program has proposed seven projects for funding for the 2014 grant cycle. Fourteen applications were received, for a total funding request of \$51,955.

A total of \$24,250 in small grants will be awarded, as follows:

1. **Adams Point Neighborhood Group- \$1,000**
2. **Alameda Boys and Girls Club- \$5,000**
3. **Alameda Creek Alliance- \$1,450**
4. **EarthTeam- \$5,000**
5. **Friends of Leona Heights- \$5,000**
6. **Old Oakland Neighbors- \$2,700**
7. **The Watershed Project- \$4,100**

Project #1

Applicant: Adams Point Neighborhood Group
Project Title: Adams Point Mosaic Project
Project Director: Vivian Romero
adamspointneighborhood@gmail.com
Project Location: Oakland
Award Amount: \$1,000

Project Description:

The Adams Point Neighborhood Group formed in 2006 and is comprised of residents, merchants, and other stakeholders who are committed to caring for the Adams Point Neighborhood, which is located at the north end of Lake Merritt in Oakland. For the grant project they plan to design, construct and install a tile mosaic on a trash container in their neighborhood near the lake's walkway, which will feature images of wildlife native to Lake Merritt and Glen Echo Creek. The mosaic designer will work with the Lake Merritt Institute to select the flora and fauna to be featured in the design.

The group has already "adopted" the area through the City's Adopt a Spot program, and holds regular trash cleanups there. The purpose of the artfully decorated can is to entice pedestrians in the area to use the trash can instead of littering, and to improve the visual experience for them. The group plans to showcase the beautified trash can as a focal point in their annual Earth Day cleanups, and also on their Facebook site and in their many other outreach efforts and platforms. The can will be emptied and maintained by the group and the City of Oakland.

Project #2

Applicant: Alameda Boys and Girls Club
Project Title: Bio-retention Garden and Community Clean-up Project
Project Director: Kristen Getler
Kristen.getler@gmail.com
Project Location: Alameda
Award Amount: \$5,000

Project Description:

Founded in 1949, the Alameda Boys and Girls Club (ABGC) provides high-impact, affordable youth development programs and services, especially focusing on the low income and at-risk youth of Alameda. The ABGC currently has 1200 members. The project includes the installation of a bio-retention area which will treat runoff from the facility's parking lot in an area adjacent to and upslope of the facility's ¼ acre Community Garden. The garden program is integral to the ABGC, and supports hands-on food and ecology education and a seed-to-table learning experience for members. The bio-retention area will treat parking lot storm water runoff and minimize runoff entering the garden area. ABGC staff and youth will install approximately 400 linear feet of native plants in the bio-retention area, following a plan which has already been developed by a qualified landscape architecture firm. The project will form the core of an 8-week after-school program for middle and high school students that will introduce participants to all elements of the project, from soil and site considerations for bio-remediation, to plant selection and design, irrigation planning, and also a look at green job opportunities that draw on these types of skills. Participants will produce posters that raise awareness of ways to reduce the volume of contaminants coming from the parking lot.

In addition to maintaining a litter-free garden and bio-retention area, youth at the AGBC will participate in two litter removal projects in the neighborhood, and learn about the impacts of litter via the ABGC's own storm drain. They will also coordinate with visiting classes of science students from a nearby charter school who plan on utilizing the bio-retention area for study. There will be youth-led tours of the bio-retention area and garden as part of the member orientations, and community tours of the completed project. The project will be featured on the AGBC website and in other media. The expectation is that 500 youth and family members will be reached through education and outreach elements of the project as a whole.

Project #3

Applicant: Alameda Creek Alliance www.alamedacreek.org
Project Title: Lower Alameda Creek Stewardship Project
Project Director: Ralph Boniello, Volunteer and Restoration Coordinator, Alameda Creek Alliance
ralph@alamedacreek.org
Project Location: Fremont and Stonybrook Canyon
Award Amount: \$1,450

Project Description:

The Alameda Creek Alliance (ACA) is a non-profit community watershed group formed in 1997 with the goal of protecting and restoring wildlife and native steelhead trout runs in the watershed. The group has a current CSG underway to install a rainwater harvesting system, an enhanced wildlife habitat garden at Sunol Glen School and do creek cleanups. The 2014 grant project will include enhanced outreach and education efforts to Fremont high schools to attract additional volunteers for riparian habitat enhancements, which include trash cleanups and invasive plant removal at ACA's adopted spots

in the Alameda Creek watershed. ACA plans to develop closer relationships with teachers at Fremont's High Schools, an informational postcard, signage and a bookmark (handout for volunteers) which will describe the group's efforts to improve the health of Alameda Creek and give information on their stewardship workdays. The group plans at least eight workdays at their adopted spots located at Stonybrook Creek, and Alameda Creek at Niles Staging Area in Fremont. In addition, they will continue to table at local environment-focused festivals and events, and will utilize the printed materials as a way to widen their involvement in creek stewardship with the local community.

Project #4

Applicant: EarthTeam- in collaboration with San Lorenzo High School
Project Title: San Lorenzo High School's Campus Beautification Project
Project Director: Manuel Alonso
manuel@earthteam.net
Project location: San Lorenzo
Award Amount: \$5,000

Project Description:

EarthTeam's mission is to empower teens to become lifelong environmental stewards through experiential education, skills development and the building of community connections. Their CSG project will begin with the development of an afterschool program at San Lorenzo High School with ten motivated students who will meet at least ten times to design and plan two campus-wide beautification events. Previous to the events there will be widespread publicity led by the student group to a number of media outlets and to the wider student population. The student group will lead the two events at which native trees will be planted to shade classrooms and provide habitat, and a campus trash assessment and cleanup will be done. After the first beautification event, at which filming will be done, the students will create a video which explains the reasons for the tree planting and litter cleanup efforts. The video will be shown to the entire student body in order to encourage attendance at the 2nd beautification event. Next, an evaluation will be done, based on student surveys, to see to what extent the video viewing and/or attendance at the 1st event affected student awareness of the project objectives. Students will also share the results of the campus trash assessments from both event days.

Project #5

Applicant: Friends of Leona Heights
Project Title: Friends of Leona Heights and Laney Lagoon Pollution Abatement Project
Contact: Matthew Stavis and Christopher Cook
mstavis@perata.edu
Project location: Oakland
Award Amount: \$5,000

Project Description:

Friends of Leona Heights work to increase community involvement and investment in Leona Heights Park and its Lion Creek watershed with the goal of protecting the park and reducing the impact of pollution. The group has a current CSG grant project, which focuses on installation of trash cans and signage to reduce the amount of spray paint containers that end up in the creek below the graffiti wall near the Merritt College campus. The 2014 project will include the installation of additional steel trash cans along the graffiti wall, trail improvements to reduce erosion, native plant installation and bench, and trash cans next to existing benches, all in Leona Heights Park. There may be several lengths of

camouflage netting installed along the slope to catch cans before they roll down to the creek- if the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife approves the concept; if not, the funds for the netting material will be withdrawn from the amount awarded.

Downstream at Laney Lagoon, at the west end of Lake Merritt near Laney College, an educational project will be done in conjunction with students from several different colleges, including Laney; a water quality scale will be developed in accordance with the EPA water quality index, and water testing will be done. Trash will be collected at the Lagoon every month and put into cans in a heavy steel mesh box with a roof that will be designed and fabricated by Laney engineering students. The projects will include many community volunteer hours and wide involvement of local college students. Grant funds will be utilized for project materials and water testing kits. Project publicity will primarily be through the group's Facebook site, QR codes on signage, as well as flyers and publicity for Creeks to Bay Day and Earth Day cleanup events. The group's projects have been undertaken in coordination with the City of Oakland and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Project #6

Applicant: Old Oakland Neighbors www.oldoaklandneighbors.org
Project Title: Old Oakland Neighbors Litter Reduction and Trash Can Mosaics Project
Project Director: Tiffany Eng
hidekoeng@gmail.com
Project Location: Oakland
Award Amount: \$2,700

Project Description:

Old Oakland Neighbors is a neighborhood group that includes a wide range of interests, including park and storm drain stewardship, community- building events, merchant organizing, public safety, Earth Day cleanups and anti- littering campaigns. The grant will provide funds to purchase three new trash cans and create tile mosaics on a total of four cans in the Old Oakland neighborhood. The tile mosaics will be similar to the style of those created in the nearby Adams Point neighborhood, and will incorporate similar design elements. The group has mapped 17 trash cans in their target area that are candidates for tile mosaics. The group has an Adopt-A-Spot agreement with the City of Oakland, and the City has agreed to empty the cans and repair them as needed. Another litter problem that the group plans to tackle in conjunction with the City is the proliferation of nightclub postcards that are left on cars and dumped in bulk in the neighborhood.

The mosaics project will be developed in coordination with the members of the Old Oakland Neighbors Group, and discussed at their bi-monthly meetings; the group will be a source of volunteers for project implementation. Key milestones in the project will be publicized through social media and at the National Night Out in August. Outreach efforts will include translating flyers and anti-littering information into Chinese, and making efforts to engage with the diverse communities in the area and other homeowners associations.

The evaluation of project success will include an assessment of trash volumes on the sidewalks and gutters at selected spots before and after the cans are in place; counts will be maintained in a shared google document. The East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation is the fiscal sponsor for the group.

Project #7

Project Applicant: The Watershed Project www.thewatershedproject.org
Project Title: Green Champions: Pilot Program to Reduce Litter Generated at Sporting Fields
Project Director: Juliana Gonzalez
Project Location: Albany
Award Amount: \$2,770

Project Description:

In previous years The Watershed Project has received CSG funding for its Riparian Lab program in the Chinatown area of Oakland. The 2014 project will address the issue of single use bottles and snack food wrappers which end up as litter at sporting fields in the Albany-Berkeley area. The Green Champions program will include three consecutive visits by TWP staff to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade classes at Ocean View Elementary School in Albany, during which lessons on stormdrains, trash movement through watersheds to the ocean, trash components and decomposition timelines will be taught. The campaign will simultaneously target parents, sporting teams and leagues to discourage the use of single-use bottles and single serving packaged snacks, as a way for young athletes to be Green Champions. Students will make posters and postcards with the message that will be shared with the sports leagues. To reinforce the concepts in a novel way, students will also collect trash from sporting fields and create a “trash monster” that will be widely publicized and displayed at a sports field in Albany/Berkeley. As an evaluation component the number of juice boxes found in and around a sporting field will be counted, both pre- and post- program, to determine the program’s effectiveness. The students will also sign pledges to reduce use of single serving and single use products.