

2016 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:

The six selected grantees and their requested funding amounts are:

1. Clean Water Fund \$5,000
2. EarthTeam- \$4,100
3. Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC) - \$5,000
4. Golden Gate Audubon- \$5,000
5. St Paul's Elementary School- \$5,000
6. Trybe, Inc.- \$3,300

Total: \$27,400

Project #1

Applicant: Clean Water Fund
Project Title: ReThink Disposable: Reducing Food and Beverage Packaging Trash in Stormwater
Project Director: Samantha Sommer ssommer@cleanwater.org
Project location: Oakland
Proposed Award Amount: \$5,000

Project Description:

Clean Water Fund has identified an area around Laney College, in the Peralta Creek watershed, as a high trash generating area, along with a trash "hot spot" nearby on Peralta Creek. The project will engage Laney College students and the campus community in learning about the impacts of take-out packaging litter in the environment, and supporting them in identifying personal behavior changes and solutions that can be implemented on the college campus to reduce litter that pollutes Peralta Creek and San Leandro Bay. The project will be implemented in three phases: the first is to train a group of about 30 students and provide necessary materials for a litter study on and around the campus, resulting in a report on the litter problem. For the second phase the Clean Water Fund staff will organize a Plastic Pollution Summit at the college so students can hear about what has been done on other college campuses, learn about health and environmental impacts of fast food and packaging, and have access to CWF displays and literature, including a new fact sheet created to compliment the education efforts. Students can also participate in a workshop at the Summit to develop actions to reduce litter. It is expected that 250-1000 students will be reached through the project. Phase three is to engage students in developing a written Action Plan for Reducing Trash at the Peralta Community Colleges, which will draw from the workshop-generated ideas for personal behavior changes and campus-based initiatives that will help to reduce trash generation. Clean Water Fund received a 2014 CSG for initial outreach for ReThink Disposables.

Project #2

Applicant: EarthTeam
Project Title: Sustainable Youth Watershed Internships: Research, Restoration and Litter Reduction at Springtown Preserve with Granada High School
Project Director: Manuel Alonso manuel@earthteam.net
Project location: Livermore
Proposed Award Amount: \$4,100

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 Sustainable Youth Watershed Internships program is an intensive stewardship and leadership project for urban teens focusing on watershed research, restoration action, and peer-to-peer and public education. EarthTeam was funded in the 2014 and 2015 CSG cycles for the development of the afterschool internship program at San Lorenzo High School focusing on campus-wide litter reduction efforts. The 2016 project will continue the internship program with 14 students, as well as the Zero Litter outreach and education campaign on campus, but at Granada High School in Livermore. The project will include collaborating with several science teachers at the high school in planning and conducting litter assessments and clean ups on campus. Interns will create a short video for the school community, and staff outreach tables at school functions. The project will also include research on litter problems and restoration/invasive plant removal opportunities in the Springtown Preserve area of north Livermore, which has unique soils and plant communities. There will be four trips to Springtown with project partners to learn about the ecosystem and to do research, cleanups and restoration at pre-arranged, permitted sites. As a concluding element to the overall project, the interns will make a presentation at a Livermore City Council meeting on the results of their litter assessments. Note; EarthTeam's application budget showed \$800 for computer tablets, which cannot be covered by grant funds, so their budget was reduced from \$4,900 to \$4,100.)

Project #3

Applicant: Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC)
Project Title: Partners for Clean Water: Improving Water Quality in Sausal Creek Through Stormwater Pollution Prevention Education and Outreach
Project Director: Kimra McAfee coordinator@sausalcreek.org
Project location: Oakland
Award Amount: \$5,000

Project Description:

The Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC) CSG project will be multi-faceted, and include a number of stewardship activities and educational outreach efforts. The primary activity that will be directly supported by CSG funding is the professional design and fabrication of a porcelain (graffiti-proof) interpretive sign at the trail head of Diamond Canyon Park, an area adopted by FOSC, which will provide tips to prevent stormwater pollution (especially in regard to pet waste) and highlighting the presence of wild rainbow trout in the creek and their need for clean water. It will also provide contact information on FOSC, to encourage active community participation in the organization's stewardship efforts. The many trail users come from the surrounding neighborhoods and other parts of Oakland as well and the sign will provide guidance for a wide array of park users. The City of Oakland Public Works will install the sign pro bono. Additional related FOSC stewardship activities include field trips with local students to install erosion control fabric and native plants, dog waste collection and educational outreach about the

problem, creek cleanups with Team Oakland youth employment participants in the summer, citizen-led water quality monitoring and reporting, and community volunteer workdays. Earth Team interns from Oakland Technical high School will conduct the project evaluation. FOSC will publicize the new interpretive sign and other stewardship activities in its e-newsletter and other outlets. FOSC was funded via a 2015 CSG for numerous creek cleanups and stewardship activities which were being expanded in the lower watershed in the Fruitvale area.

Project #4

Applicant: Golden Gate Audubon Society
Project Title: Wildlife Inspires Ecological Stewardship
Project Director: Cindy Margulis cmargulis@goldengateaudubon.org
Project location: Alameda and Oakland
Award Amount: \$5,000

Project Description:

The award-winning Eco-Oakland Program was created in 1999 to provide East Oakland students and their family members with high-quality environmental education opportunities via a year-long classroom watershed curriculum and creek/ shoreline field trips for Title 1 (federally assisted) schools. The organization received a CSG last year to support the program, but this year the project will consist of the development of engaging digital media educational materials for use (via streaming technologies) in their classroom programs and for other educations in Alameda and Oakland in partnership with the Alameda County Office of Education; they plan to reach 1200 students and teachers directly and many more via online access in the county. A 10-12 minute live action video will be produced that depicts local wildlife, the storm drain system, and the impacts of trash and other pollutants such as fishing line on those animals and their habitat. In addition, a set of six short 10 minute videos will be produced, each focusing on a charismatic bird/duck which lives locally in the bay or bay shoreline, and again depicting the impacts of trash and encouraging preventative actions. A post-viewing evaluation will also be provided to teachers and other viewers so the grantee can gage the effectiveness of the materials in in the classroom and how the information has inspired subsequent stewardship activities.

Project #5

Applicant: St Paul's Elementary School
Project Title: This Is Our Lake: St Paul's 6th Graders Keeping It Healthy
Project Director: Susan Porter sporter@spes.org
Project location: Oakland
Award Amount: \$5,000

Project Description:

St Paul's Elementary School teachers and students will utilize the grant funding to purchase waders (tall waterproof boots) for the students to assist with their ongoing litter clean ups of their adopted reach of shoreline at the north end of Lake Merritt. Students will coordinate with the Lake Merritt Institute in regard to clean up protocols, equipment loans and information on access and lake conditions. In fall 2016 students will learn about the history, hydrology and biology of Lake Merritt and Glen Echo Creek, and the issue of urban runoff as it impacts the health of the lake and resident wildlife. Students will create short videos on problems and solutions in regard to urban runoff impacts, which will then be shown to other classes at the school and students' families at a special showing at the Parkway Theater

in Oakland. Students will determine additional other outlets for showing the films to a broader audience and as public service announcements. Grant funds will be utilized for the waders and theater rental.

Project #6

Applicant: Trybe, Inc.
Project Title: Zero Waste Multi-Lingual Outreach
Project Director: Andrew Park oaklandtrybe@gmail.com
Project location: Oakland
Award Amount: \$3,300

Project Description:

Trybe, Inc. is a community-based nonprofit which facilitates and leads a range of after-school programs and skills-building experiences designed to develop youth leaders in East Oakland. They work to engage high-needs youth in their communities in positive ways, providing safe alternatives and opportunities. They encourage environmental stewardship, community service and leadership as part of their overall strategy for community engagement and youth development.

Their 2015 CSG project, which was only partially funded, included supporting youth “Zero Waste Ambassadors” internships through which high school students put on workshops and acted as mentors for the after school youth program at Bella Vista Elementary in Oakland. For the 2016 CSG project they will again support six Zero Waste Ambassador interns who will receive training and then put on educational workshops for elementary-age students at Bella Vista, lead neighborhood cleanups with the students, create packets of zero waste information in various languages (Spanish, Khmer, Vietnamese, Chinese and Arabic) for communicating with students’ families. A spring community celebration potluck event will be held in the neighborhood and include a litter cleanup element in the surrounding streets and the making of a tile mosaic in celebration of youth participation in neighborhood stewardship. This year they will partner with the East Bay Asian Youth Center in implementing the project.