

**Clean Water Program
Community Stewardship Grants
2017 Awards**

A total of \$23,675 in small grant were awarded as follows:

- 1. Earth Team - \$5,000**
- 2. Regional Parks Foundation - \$4,350**
- 3. Cycles of Change - \$4,325**
- 4. Albany Landfill Dog Owners Group and Friends (ALDOG) - \$5,000**
- 5. Eden Area Regional Occupational Program (EAROP) - \$5,000**

Applicant: EarthTeam

Project Title: Preventing Pet Waste in Oakland Waterways

\$5,275 Requested; \$5,000 Proposed Grant Award

EarthTeam, a non-profit organization that works with high school students to enhance their leadership skills through developing stewardship projects in the East Bay, will be recruiting and hiring 14 after-school interns from Oakland Tech High School and Oakland R&D Leadership Public School. The interns will be educated by EarthTeam staff in watershed pollution concepts, how to use science to document a problem, formulate actions to mitigate it, and communicate the results to the community. The interns will focus on the problem of pet waste that accumulates in the dog walking areas in the Sausal Creek watershed, including Dimond Park, and also at the Berkeley Marina. Teams of interns will conduct pre (and post project) surveys of dog walkers, collect and then get professional analysis of pet waste samples, then produce a report with data analysis and impacts on water quality. Other products to be developed by the interns include an informative brochure and signage for the dog-walking public to achieve both attitude and behavior changes, a PowerPoint presentation for Oakland officials, and a Pet Waste Cleanup Day for dog walkers at Sausal Creek. EarthTeam will coordinate with the city of Oakland to secure approval for the interpretive sign to be installed at Dimond Park.

Applicant: Regional Parks Foundation

Project Title: "Fish Friends" Program

\$5,000 Requested; \$4,350 Proposed Grant Award

The grant will support the East Bay Regional Park District's "Fish Friends" Program in Alameda County Schools. The aim of Fish Friends is to teach elementary school age students that the litter they see on the ground, if not picked up, can impact our waterways, marine life and ultimately our health. Specifically, the grant funds will provide bus vouchers for class trips to EBRPD shoreline parks to engage in litter cleanups and habitat enhancement planting for classes who participate in the year-long Fish Friends Program. Grant funds will also be used to provide a stipend to each of the Fish Friends classes to support a school stewardship project, which includes campus litter cleanups. Included as part of the Fish Friends Program is a school-wide assembly day at which the EBRPD Mobile Fish Exhibit (freshwater aquarium) visits, which serves to reinforce the theme of healthy habitats for fish and humans. Any elementary school in the county can apply to the Fish Friends program; an average of 42% of the students in the county qualify for free and reduced price lunches.

Note: The applicant had requested \$5,000 in grant funds, but the project will be awarded \$4,350 due to a more limited number of schools being reached since funding is restricted to Alameda County schools only.

The Regional Parks Foundation was established to encourage private contributions in support of the EBRPD mission. One of the RPF's core beliefs is that connections with nature are critical for leading a healthy and balanced life, and that residents from all walks of life have equal access.

Applicant: Cycles of Change

Project Title: Watershed Ambassadors

\$4,315 Requested; \$4,325 Proposed Grant Award

Grant funding will support the Watershed Ambassadors program with the afterschool Bike Club at Bret Harte Middle School, a Title 1 school in Oakland. The Cycles of Change watershed educator will lead a series of four-five watershed education lessons, which will be conducted in both fall 2017 and repeated in spring 2018. A club bike ride will be made to Sausal Creek to administer water testing and do an aquatic insect study in conjunction with Friends of Sausal Creek. A second ride will take club members to Arrowhead Marsh, where they will learn from leaders with Golden Gate Audubon. Next, fall bike club members will act as Watershed Ambassadors, and visit the neighborhood's small businesses and inform them of ways to avoid causing stormwater pollution, and to ask them to make commitments towards better practices. The spring 2018 group will engage in habitat restoration planting in conjunction with Friends of Sausal Creek at Sausal Creek, and members' families will be invited to participate. A strategy for the long term maintenance of the habitat plantings will be addressed.

Bike Club leaders will also be trained in the watershed education lessons, so that they can continue to reinforce stewardship goals in subsequent years. Grant funds will cover Cycles of Change watershed educator hours, fieldtrip costs, native plants, bus fare, and other expenses.

Applicant: Albany Landfill Dog Owners Group and Friends (ALDOG)

Project Title: Removing Toxic Microplastics from Albany Beach

\$5,000 Requested; \$5,000 Proposed Grant Award

Albany Landfill Dog Owners Group and Friends (ALDOG) is a grassroots, volunteer community group that encourages stewardship at the Albany waterfront. The group adopted Albany Beach from the CA Coastal Commission, and organizes at least three beach cleanups a year. The beach is a depositional area for plastics and other debris from Bay waters; there has been documentation of the micro plastics by several entities and researchers. ALDOG plans to conduct a systematic cleanup of the microplastics from Albany Beach sand utilizing an innovative, patented static charge filtration screen- see <https://tinyurl.com/zycc4j5> . The one-day event, at which 40-60 community volunteers would be utilized, will clean the entire beach in one day in September, with support from EBRPD. Grant funds would cover the cost of five static screens for the project, other beach cleanup equipment, and the costs of bringing the originator of the system to the workday to demonstrate the use of the screen system and to oversee the training of volunteers. A short video will be filmed by a videographer on the day of the beach sifting, to document the technique and the systematic cleaning of the beach, and to explain the impact of plastic contamination to the public. The video will be available for viewing online, and made available to groups involved in the project. A demonstration area will be set up for the public during the beach sifting event, with signage provided by EBRPD. Pounds of plastics collected will be tracked, as well as the number of volunteers and organizations that participate to complete the day-long effort.

Note: Fiscal sponsor for ALDOG is the Point Isabel Dog Owners and Friends, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit.

Applicant: Eden Area Regional Occupational Program (EAROP)

Project Title: Learning and Giving Back, a Partnership for the Hayward Shoreline

\$5,000 Requested; \$5,000 Proposed Grant Award

The Eden Area Regional Occupational Program (ROP), which serves Hayward, Castro Valley, San Leandro and San Lorenzo, has partnered with Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center to develop a project to make improvements to facilitate the reduction in trash and debris that is continually dumped along the entrance road to the Interpretive Center and to build waste/recycling/compost receptacles for three locations at the Interpretive Center. Students from the ROP Construction Technology classes typically do a number of community benefit volunteer projects each year. For the grant project students will greatly reduce the height of nearly 30 overgrown, non-native shrubs along Breakwater Drive in order to visually open up the area with the goal of reducing the dumping in the area that impacts the adjacent marsh and tidal slough. Student crews will first be introduced to the shoreline ecosystem and trash impacts via a naturalist who will visit the ROP classrooms. Students will then learn about the non-native shrubs via a talk from a Master Gardener, then learn tool safety, then will engage in the shrub pruning over a period of 2-3 days, in coordination with Interpretive Center staff. Students will install signage to alert potential trash dumpers to the environmental sensitivity of the spot. Students will also construct the three, heavy duty refuse housing units at the ROP center, then transport to the Interpretive Center where they will be installed along with the necessary signage to encourage proper use.

The project will be done in coordination with HARD, the City of Hayward and EBRPD; all adjacent landowners or entities with jurisdiction in the vicinity of the Interpretive Center. Project publicity will be via involved entities' websites and press releases and social media. Upon completion of the projects an event will be held at the Interpretive Center with involved project participants being invited to celebrate the ROP students' work.