

# Community

## Watershed Stewardship Program

### 2018-2019 Full Application Form

PLEASE READ THE PROGRAM GUIDE before completing this Application Form. This Application Form must be completed in full and submitted with all required supporting documentation. See [Grant Application Guide](#) for more details.

Application deadline is 4 p.m. Friday April 20, 2018.

If you require further assistance, please contact:

Phone: (503) 823-7917 Fax: (503) 823-6995

Email: [CommunityStewardship@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:CommunityStewardship@portlandoregon.gov)

For Administrative Use Only:

#### A. Applicant Information

<b>Section I: Project Coordinator</b>			
Project Coordinator Name:	Nestor Campos		
Organization:	Verde		
Mailing Address:	6899 NE Columbia Blvd.		
Phone Number:	(503) 803-0215	E-mail:	nestor@verdenw.org
<b>Section II: Fiscal Agent</b>			
Fiscal Agent Contact Person:			
Fiscal Agent Organization:			
Mailing Address:			
Phone:	( )	E-mail:	

#### B. Project Information

Project Name: Cully Youth Rain Garden Program	
Project Location (address or closest street and cross street): Multiple locations in the Cully neighborhood	
Estimated CWSP grant request (\$10,000 maximum): \$10,000	
<p>Please check the watershed(s) the project is located in.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fanno Creek</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tryon Creek</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Johnson Creek</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Columbia Slough</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Willamette River</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Columbia River</p>	<p>Project Categories (please select all that apply):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pavement Removal and Urban Restoration</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup Projects</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Natural Area Restoration</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Education and Art</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rain Gardens and Stormwater Management</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youth Leadership</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Community Garden</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</p>



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
CITY OF PORTLAND  
working for clean rivers



Portland State  
UNIVERSITY

**B1. Briefly describe your organization.**

Verde serves communities by building environmental wealth through social enterprise, outreach, and advocacy. Our theory of change is that sustainability can be reinterpreted as an anti-poverty strategy. Since 2005, Verde has brought environmental infrastructure to low-income neighborhoods, engaged residents to design and implement these projects, and ensured that environmental investments contribute to community well-being.

Verde is led by its constituents. Verde has one of the most diverse boards of any Portland-based environmental organization. Our 9-member board includes 6 people of color and 2 graduates from our Lideres Verdes program, an educator who serves low-income students of color, public sector equity staff, farmworker housing advocates, and a service provider. Board meetings and materials are fully bilingual (English—Spanish). Furthermore, 85% of Verde's staff are people of color. Community members are encouraged to get involved in our Lideres Verdes leadership program, which serves as a pipeline for input in and participation on our leadership boards and committees.

**B2. Describe the specific project you wish to undertake with stewardship funds.**

The Cully Community Rain Garden Project provides the resources and education for low-income residents and residents of color in the Cully neighborhood to plan, develop, install, and maintain rain gardens on their private properties. Over the past year, we have installed six rain gardens; this year, we would like to increase the amount of rain gardens we install to nine. For that reason, Verde requests a grant award of \$10,000 this funding period.

Verde is currently responsible for leading this project with support from CSWC and labor from the Multnomah Youth Cooperative (MYC). Verde and Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East identify and conduct outreach to the residents and secure landowner agreements as the first phase of the project. Properties will be selected for rain gardens, and Verde will conduct percolation tests to determine site suitability and design considerations.

Each rain garden recipient will be contacted for a site visit and receive a two-hour educational workshop on the theory, design, and installation of rain gardens and their benefits to the watershed. The landowner will also be involved in the co-design of the garden and the development of appropriate native plants to integrate into the design.

During the installation, a group of youth crew members from the MYC—an alternative learning academy in the Reynolds School District which provides workforce development skills to youth while they complete their high school diploma—will learn from environmental professionals (Verde staff) about the rain garden construction and installation process while actively participating in the work. The first installation will provide the bulk of the instruction, with the second and third installations reinforcing the concepts through practical applications and follow-up instruction. Youth will learn about surface water management tools and the impact of storm water management on the environment and their own communities.

Over the past year and a half, we have installed 15 rain gardens, including one at the June-Key Delta Community Center. The projects have been immensely successful and have also boosted community involvement and a greater sense of purpose for residents, the landscape crew, and the youth volunteers. We are in the process of developing a walking/biking neighborhood tour of past installations that showcase community members who have participated and shared experiences. The positive benefits have led Verde to seek additional funding to continue to expand and extend the project.

This year, we would also like to engage the Native American community in protecting the watershed that is of cultural importance to Chinook people by offering stipends to Native community members to conduct rain garden blessings. We have a current partnership with the Native American Youth & Family Center (NAYA) that results in blessing ceremonies for other projects, like Cully Park, and would be able to access elders (to conduct blessing ceremonies), drum groups, dancers, and other ceremonial leaders.

**B3. Describe what has been done on the project since submitting the pre-application materials.**

Since submitting the pre-application materials, we have received a grant from the Gray Family Foundation to develop a culturally specific rain garden program curriculum for use with youth of color. We plan to implement the curriculum with three groups of school-aged youth in Hacienda CDC's Expresiones youth program. The youth will participate in a series of educational workshops and field work, including maintenance on two existing rain garden sites and the development of a rain garden from start to completion. The resulting rain garden is included in our total of nine rain gardens for the coming year. We are very excited to take our existing program model, expand it, and adapt it to directly benefit a culturally specific youth program in the Cully neighborhood. Depending on the success of this pilot project, we may choose to implement more of our future rain garden work using this design.

We have also hired a new development director, who has worked to strengthen our partnership with the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. We've improved our communications and our financial reporting between organizations on this project, and we have started working on other projects together, expanding our partnership to include our Verde Landscape social enterprise. We are excited for the future of our work together and look forward to engaging communities of color and low-income communities more in neighborhood-area environmental improvements.

Finally, we've reached out to Habitat for Humanity and the Multnomah Youth Cooperative to ensure their commitment to the project for the coming year and have requested letters of support for this application.

**B4. Describe the current and proposed role of project coordinator(s).**

Nestor Campos is the project coordinator. He has led the development of the program and all aspects of the on-the-ground work for the past year. He has done a fabulous job and will continue in this role in the coming year.

Nestor's supervisor, Anna Gordon, is the Community Programs Manager at Verde and has primary oversight of all aspects of the outreach budget, including the rain garden program. Anna and Verde's finance team will ensure accurate reporting and financial management.

Leah Altman is Verde's new development director and oversees all grant reporting and proposal development.

**B5. Describe your plan for long-term maintenance and continued community involvement. Who will be responsible for monitoring the project site or assessing the needs of the project after the funding period has ended?**

Following installation, Verde staff will conduct two post-installation monitoring efforts (at 3 months and 6 months) for maintenance. Property owners will also be instructed on proper long-term maintenance of the gardens. We work with the Audubon Society of Portland to certify each rain garden as a micro habitat through their Backyard Habitat Certification Program.

**C. Project Benefits (based on grant selection criteria - [See Grant Guide](#))**

**Section I: Watershed Benefits**

**C1. Describe the watershed health benefits expected from this project.**

When rain falls on streets, parking lots, rooftops, and other paved surfaces, it flows as runoff, also known as stormwater. Runoff from these surfaces can carry pollutants like oil, debris, pesticides, metals, and bacteria into nearby waterways. Even small amounts of pollutants can add up to have a large impact on water quality.

The Cully neighborhood encompasses Multnomah County Drainage District 1, which runs along the Columbia Slough and the lower Columbia River and encompasses more than 12,000 acres of land. The drainage district operates and maintains stormwater and flood management systems, including levees, pump stations, ditches, sloughs, streams, and culverts. All of these systems are essential to ensure the health of both the river and the safety of the nearby inhabitants.

Toxins in our river and in our community impact plants, animals, our families, the economy, and the quality of life of everyone in our community. Toxins can accumulate up the food chain and pose health risks. Verde works on many different levels to address climate change, while also connecting low-income and people of color communities to

solutions that address both environmental and economic barriers. Therefore, it is essential to our work that we join the effort to protect the Columbia Slough from toxins in our neighborhood.

One way we can do this is through storm water management, and one of the most effective ways to get Cully residents to participate is through rain garden development in their own yards. However, low-income communities and people of color are often unable to access the education and resources necessary to plan, develop, and maintain their own rain gardens.

Stormwater runoff can impact water quality in rivers and streams. Natural resources, like urban streams, forests, and wetlands manage stormwater naturally to protect water quality, public health, and the environment. Green infrastructure reduces flooding and erosion, allows for surface water to recharge into the ground, and adds wildlife habitat and urban green space for healthier watersheds. A rain garden acts like a native forest by collecting, absorbing, and filtering storm water runoff from roof tops, driveways, patios, and other areas that don't allow the water to soak in. Rain gardens increase the amount of water that soaks into the ground to recharge local groundwater and provide habitat for beneficial insects and birds.

Natural landscaping also improves the aesthetics of properties participating in the project, thereby increasing property value. If installations occur in the front yards of properties, this can increase the aesthetics of the neighborhood. Homeowners can also educate and connect with community partners, increasing social capital.

**C2. Describe the educational elements of this proposal, including what people involved will learn about watershed health and stewardship.**

Low-income residents and residents of color in the Cully neighborhood will develop the knowledge and skills to develop, install, and maintain their own rain gardens. Each participant will engage in a site visit and two-hour educational workshop on the theory, design, and installation of rain gardens and their benefits to the watershed. Property owners will be instructed on proper long-term maintenance, and Verde staff will conduct two post-installation monitoring efforts (at 3 months and 6 months) for maintenance.

Youth will learn about surface water management tools and the impact of storm water management on the environment and their own communities. They will participate in rain garden installations, exposing them to environmental workforce development skills. We will mobilize 8–10 youth volunteers through MYC (or similar group or organization) in rain garden installations, for a total of nine properties from January 2018 to December 2018.

Low-income people and people of color are engaged in the project via green jobs that protect the environment and the watershed. Verde's landscape crew helps install the rain garden, while mentoring youth. This arrangement provides the opportunity for landscape crew members to learn more about stormwater management and learn new on-the-job skills, while also sharing what they've learned with youth.

**Section II: Community Involvement and Partnerships**

**C3. Describe the community benefits expected from this project. How will the neighborhood/community and individuals involved in the project benefit?**

The Cully Community Rain Garden Project provides sustainable, triple-bottom-line benefits for the low-income and people of color communities in the Cully neighborhood, supporting environmental, economic, and social aspects of the community. It provides important stormwater management for a healthier watershed, new micro habitat, green jobs, on-the-job education and training for youth volunteers, environmental education and organizing for both youth volunteers and residents, neighborhood engagement, and a connection between the Cully community (a disadvantaged community that is commonly disenfranchised from the movement in sustainability) and the environmental movement.

**C4. List the groups that have committed to working on your project and describe how they will be involved (volunteer labor, in-kind donations, etc.). Be sure to provide letters of support from these groups, and account for their contributions in the project budget.**

Verde leads the project, including program management and development, financial management, fundraising, education, and Verde Landscape crew members.

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council serves in an advisory role and provides access to educational material and partnership opportunities through their environmental connections. For this coming year, CSWC will also provide match funding of \$5,000+.

Habitat for Humanity helps identify low-income homeowners eligible for the program and assists in connecting with those homeowners.

The Multnomah Youth Cooperative provides youth groups for educational workshops and crew labor.

**Section III: Equity and Leadership of Underrepresented Communities**

**C5. Explain how your project helps CWSP meet its goal of promoting equity and the leadership of underrepresented communities, as described in Section 5 of the Grant Guide.**

A Portland neighborhood is defined by its environmental assets. Portland's renowned sustainability movement (Portland was the first U.S. city to create a local action plan for cutting carbon) makes purposeful investments in targeted places, people, businesses, and institutions, creating healthy, vibrant, and resilient communities that are accessible to only a select demographic—only one in five American adults. Unfortunately, the sustainability movement has not prioritized equity or built environmental wealth in low-income people and people of color, their neighborhoods, or their businesses and institutions. Low-income people and people of color live in neighborhoods with clear environmental, economic, and racial disparities—like NE Portland's Cully neighborhood.

Verde manifests an anti-poverty model of climate investment. Home to roughly 13,000 people, Cully is the most diverse neighborhood in the state of Oregon, and it is significantly more diverse than Portland as a whole. Latino residents account for almost a quarter of Cully's population, followed by Black (16%) and Native American (9%) residents. Nearly one-fifth of residents are foreign-born, and the primary language for 31% of the population is non-English. Almost 9 in 10 students qualify for free/reduced lunch; 26% of residents live in poverty.

The Cully Community Rain Garden Project benefits low-income residents and residents of color in Cully by providing education, training, resources, volunteers, and labor (through our Verde Landscape crew members and MYC youth crew) to design, install, and maintain their own rain gardens. Residents are able to participate in the larger environmental movement and protect their local watersheds, rather than being disenfranchised due to lack of financial resources and/or knowledge and skillsets.

## D. Project Timeline

Fill in the project timeline provided. Include project tasks such as applying for permits, work parties, outreach activities, major project phases, and estimated completion date.

Month/Year	Tasks to be Completed	Parties Responsible
July – August 2018	Work with Habitat for Humanity to identify eligible low-income homeowners for outreach; secure agreements with homeowners	Verde; Habitat for Humanity
August – November 2018	Complete site evaluations, percolation tests, co-design planting plans with homeowner and provide rain garden education	Verde
September – October 2018	Finalize and order native plant lists	Verde
November 2018 – April 2019	Teach and install rain gardens with Multnomah Youth Cooperative	Verde; Multnomah Youth Cooperative; CWSC
February – June 2019	Two post-installation monitoring (3 and 6 months) visits to evaluate survivorship and functionality	Verde
May – June 2019	Final report writing and submission	Verde

## E. Project Budget

Project Name: Cully Community Rain Garden Project

Activity/ Expense	CWSP Funds	In-kind donations and other funding	Source of Match	Comments	Totals
<b>Materials and Supplies</b>					
Plants	\$ 2000	\$ 1000	Gray Family Fdn		\$ 3,000
Construction Material (Mulch, river rock, Flo well, pipes, etc)	\$ 3560	\$ 1300	Gray & Timbers		\$ 4,860
Tools	\$	\$ 1000	Timbers	Tool acquisition for sustainability	\$ 1,000
Other (specify)	\$ 240	\$ 30	Timbers	Dumping	\$ 270
<b>Refreshments (\$200 max)</b>					
Work Party/Workshop Snacks	\$ 200	\$ 2000	Gray & Timbers	Food	\$ 2,200
<b>Staff/Professional Services</b>	<b>\$3,000 maximum on services, fees, and compensation. Youth compensation may comprise some or all of the \$3,000 Services, Fees, and Compensation Limit. An additional \$2,000 beyond that limit may be spent on youth participant compensation.</b>				
Project Coordinator	\$ 1120	\$ 9950	Gray & CSWC		\$ 11,070
Contracted Services	\$ 1500	\$ 5000	Gray Family Fdn & Timbers	Youth & Native stipends; Verde Landscape crew	\$ 6,500
Administrative Fees	\$ 1000	\$ 1786	Gray & Timbers		\$ 2,786
Insurance	\$ 100	\$ 200	Gray Family Fdn		\$ 300
Permits	\$ 280	\$ 35	Gray Family Fdn	Rain Garden Cert.	\$ 315
Other: Oversight, taxes & benefits, professional training, mileage, and printing	\$	\$ 8577	Gray & Timbers	Includes 0.1 FTE of Community Program Manager for oversight	\$ 8,577
<b>Volunteer Labor</b>		<b>Hours (estimate)</b>	<b>Estimated Value Per hour</b>	<b>Comments</b>	
Student Volunteers			\$9		\$
Adult Volunteers			\$21		\$
Professional Volunteers			\$25		\$
Volunteer Project Coordinator			\$25		\$
<b>Total for Grant Project</b>	<b>CWSP Total</b>	<b>Matching Total</b>			<b>Project Total</b>
	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,548			\$29,548

Note: Suggested line items are provided here. These may be amended for your particular project, but please retain the blue category labels. Total CWSP budget may not exceed \$10,000.

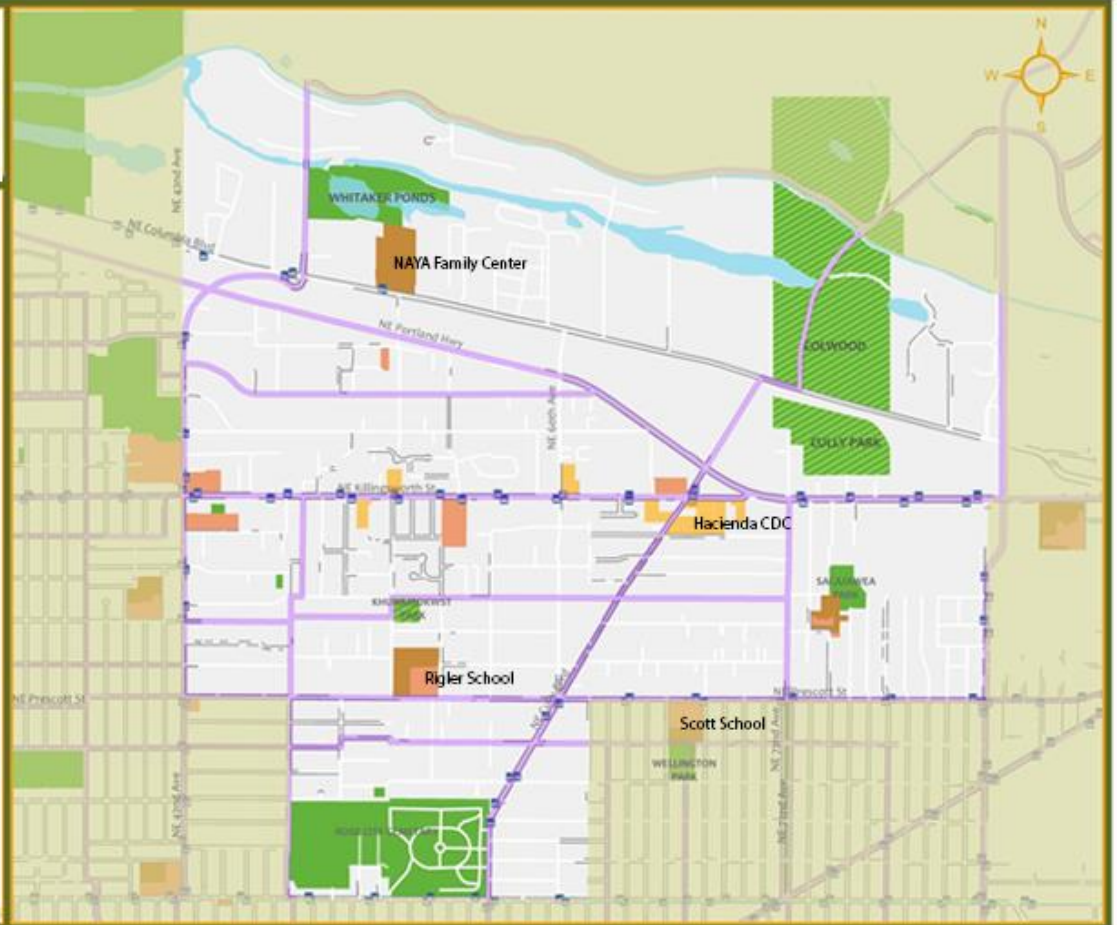


## Cully Neighborhood Map

### Legend

- Bike Routes
- Sidewalks
- Bus stops
- Streets
- Columbia Slough / Cenegal
- Schools
- Parks\_Metro

0 0.25 0.5 Miles













4/5/18

Dear CWSP Committee:

This letter is in support of Verde's Community Watershed Stewardship Program (CWSP) grant application to install rain gardens in the Cully Neighborhood of Northeast Portland. The Columbia Slough Watershed Council (CSWC) partnered with Verde in 2017-18 to install rain gardens with community groups on low income private residential properties. This project was a huge success. In addition to directly increasing native habitat and storm water filtration, it brought multiple organizations together to enhance watershed health, provided environmental workforce skills development to underserved youth, and educated residents on the impacts of urban development.

CSWC will offer match in support of this project. We have secured DEQ grant funds for \$3000 in contract services and \$2400 in supplies and materials. This is in addition to related work that we have done to help plan, build partnerships and install current rain gardens.

Verde's rain garden program, through the hard work and leadership of Nestor Campos, is a real asset to the community and the Council would like to see it expand its reach to new sites. Nestor's approach is holistic and is intentional in including communities of color in ways that play to their strengths and knowledge. The Columbia Slough Watershed Council wholeheartedly supports this kind of social and environmental justice work in our watershed and we strongly encourage the committee to approve Verde's application for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corrina Chase".

Corrina Chase  
Executive Director  
Columbia Slough Watershed Council

*The Columbia Slough Watershed Council, a non-profit-tax exempt organization, is a diverse group of stakeholders working to restore and enhance the 60 miles of waterways known as the Columbia Slough, located in Portland, Gresham, and Fairview.*

*All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Our IRS Tax Identification number is 03-0456181.*

*For more information you can visit our website at [www.columbiaslough.org](http://www.columbiaslough.org).*





P.O. Box 11527  
1478 NE Killingsworth St.  
Portland, Oregon 97211  
tel: 503.287.9529 fax: 503.287.4649  
CCB #100310  
habitatportlandmetro.org

April 18, 2018

Community Watershed Stewardship Program  
Environmental Services  
1120 SW 5th Avenue; Room 1000  
Portland, Oregon 97204

RE: Verde proposal

Dear CWSP Grant Review Committee,

Habitat for Humanity supports Verde's application for Community Watershed Stewardship Program grant funds for their rain garden program.

The Cully Community Rain Gardens Project adapts a triple-bottom-line framework to protect the Columbia River and Columbia Slough by connecting low-income residents and residents of color in Cully to the resources, education, and support to install and maintain their own rain gardens.

This project provides important storm water management for a healthier watershed, new micro habitat, green jobs, on-the-job education and training for youth volunteers, environmental education and organizing for both youth volunteers and residents, neighborhood engagement, and a connection between the Cully community (a disadvantaged community that is commonly disenfranchised from the movement in sustainability) and the environmental movement.

Habitat for Humanity and Verde have been long-time partners on this project. As part of Habitat for Humanity's Neighborhood Revitalization efforts in Cully, since 2013, Habitat has worked with low-income Cully homeowners to access financing, project management, and volunteer support to get much needed home repair and yard maintenance work completed. There has been extraordinarily positive response from the families we work with for the rain-gardens. For example, a homeowner was so inspired by the rain-garden project that she has worked hard over the years so that her yard is now platinum certified by the Backyard Habitat Program and has become an official Green Street Steward.

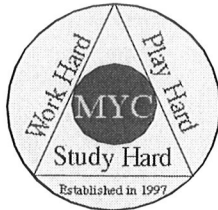
We hope that you will consider funding this project at the maximum funding amount so that we can continue this exceptional and unique program and partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Taren Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Taren Evans**

Neighborhood Revitalization Manager | Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East  
1478 NE Killingsworth St. | P.O. Box 11527 | Portland, Oregon 97211  
503.287.9529 ext. 30 | taren@habitatportlandmetro.org



Multnomah Youth Cooperative  
Reynolds Learning Academy  
20234 NE Halsey  
Fairview, Oregon 97024-2499  
(503) 667-4673 FAX (503) 667-0530

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STRESSING THE ABCS: ACADEMICS, BASICS, CREATIVITY

April 13, 2018

Community Watershed  
Stewardship Program  
Environmental Services  
1120 SW 5th Avenue  
Room 1000  
Portland, Oregon 97204

RE: Verde proposal

Dear CWSP Grant Review Committee,

Multnomah Youth Cooperative (MYC) supports Verde's application for Community Watershed Stewardship Program grant funds for their rain garden program.

The Cully Community Rain Gardens Project adapts a triple-bottom-line framework to protect the Columbia River and Columbia Slough by connecting low-income residents and residents of color in Cully to the resources, education, and support to install and maintain their own rain gardens. Youth volunteers from the Multnomah Youth Cooperative are paired with Verde Landscape crew members (made up of low-income people of color and women who also live in Cully) to help homeowners develop and install the rain gardens. Through this project, low-income residents and residents of color are able to connect with the local movement in sustainability, when they are normally disenfranchised from it.

This project provides important storm water management for a healthier watershed, new micro habitat, green jobs, on-the-job education and training for youth volunteers, environmental education and organizing for both youth volunteers and residents, neighborhood engagement, and a connection between the Cully community (a disadvantaged community that is commonly disenfranchised from the movement in sustainability) and the environmental movement.

Multnomah Youth Cooperative (MYC) and Verde have been long-time partners on this project. MYC students are working towards a high school diploma at the Reynolds Learning Academy in East Multnomah County. As part of their education, students spend half of their time working in their local communities to learn valuable skills through hands-on projects. The Cully Rain Garden project is highly valuable to our students as they learn about math, science, engineering, sustainability and civic engagement through their projects. With continued support for this project, students will graduate high school with real life experience and skills necessary to transition into adulthood.

We hope that you will consider funding this project at the maximum funding amount so that we can continue this exceptional and unique program and partnership.

Sincerely,

Rose Sandy  
MYC Program Coordinator  
Reynolds School District  
503.320.2510  
rsandy@rsd7.net

Your Public Schools....there's no better place to learn.