



Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Success Stories from the 2020 Grant Projects



COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
RESTORATION PROGRAM

ABOUT THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION FUNDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Congress amended the Clean Water Act in 2016, which required EPA to establish a Columbia River Basin Restoration Program. EPA was directed to develop a voluntary, competitive grant program for eligible entities to fund environmental protection and restoration programs throughout the Basin. Eligible entities include state, Tribal, and local governments; regional water pollution control organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and soil and water conservation districts. Funded work must be for the purpose of environmental protection and restoration activities within the Columbia River Basin; and may include programs, projects, and studies. EPA funded 14 projects in the 2020, inaugural round of grants that address the following four priorities:

- 1. Increase monitoring and access data from monitoring.*
- 2. Reduce stormwater and agricultural runoff.*
- 3. Reduce toxics through small scale cleanup of non-CERCLA (also known as Superfund) contaminated sites.*
- 4. Promote citizen engagement, education, and involvement to increase pollution prevention actions.*

In September of 2020, EPA was able to provide the full amount requested by successful grantees for a total of \$2,053,903 in FY19 and FY20 grant funding. These are their stories of progress made to date.

UPPER WILLAMETTE URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRAM EXPANSION (OR)

EPA awarded \$199,999 to **Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development (CPRCD)**, a non-profit that serves as a hub for numerous partnerships and provides fiscal sponsorship and management services for groups, agencies, organizations, and other non-profits. Cascade worked with the **Long Tom Watershed Council** and three other watershed councils, the Cities of **Eugene** and **Springfield, Lane County**, the **University of Oregon**, two publicly owned water and electric utilities, and local businesses to form the Urban Waters & Wildlife Partnership (UWWP). Together they are working to install green stormwater infrastructure retrofits and develop a monitoring framework to identify trends and monitor the performance of stormwater retention projects. Stormwater or stormwater runoff occurs when rain flows across the land after a storm and often carries pollution and toxins with it. Stormwater infrastructure and retention projects aim to reduce the impact of this pollution on local watersheds. The UWWP project addresses all four grant program priorities.

The project addresses multiple pollutants found in urban stormwater, including heavy metals, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), and multiple pesticides. The project also works to reduce peak stormwater runoff volumes within the Upper Willamette Metro Area. UWWP works with businesses to install stormwater infrastructure and manage toxins to reduce pollution and runoff, improve water quality, and protect habitat while promoting citizen engagement and knowledge. The project has also refined the program objectives of the newly expanded partnership base, extended the area of work, expanded monitoring and evaluation processes, and engages the community through collaborative training.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

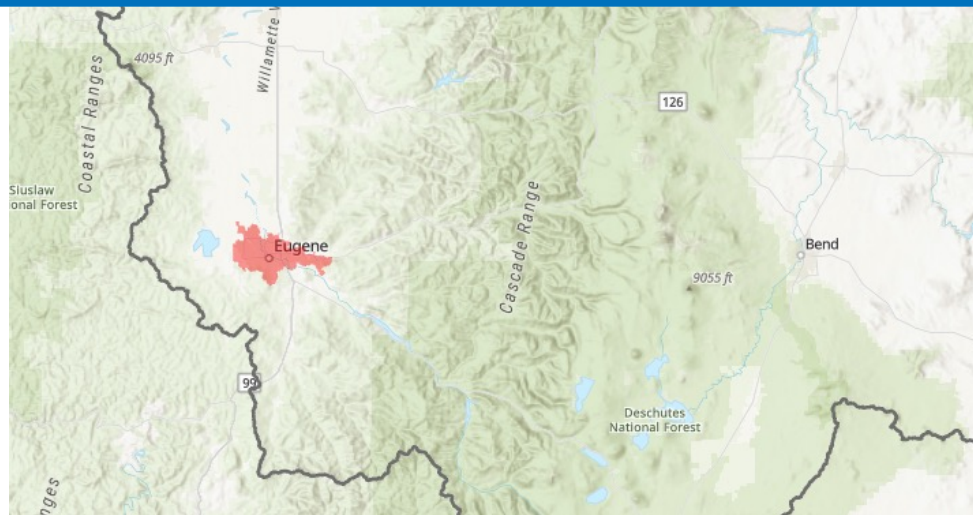
- Established the Urban Waters & Wildlife Partnership (UWWP) framework and a mutually agreed upon programmatic model that outlines each step of project development and highlights key points for partner involvement.
- Developed a brand and marketing strategy including name, vision, and mission, a website domain, and how to market the program to voluntary & non-compliant (fee for service) participants.
- Added 70 new businesses to the Stormwater Retrofit Project pipeline as of February 2021, which has exceeded their goal of 20 new businesses added.
- Carried out five business site visits to begin their project feasibility study. These businesses include NAACP Mims House, EWEB Drinking Water Filtration Plant, Oregon Industrial Lumber, The Child Center, and Hayden Bridge Boat Landing.



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“Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD) is happy to contribute to such a dynamic, diverse, and interesting partnership of over twelve members striving to lift all boats on the rising tide of this good work. We are working to build a regional approach to urban restoration and stormwater management through coordinating partners’ efforts in collaborative planning, outreach to local businesses and community organizations, designing and implementing green infrastructure solutions, and monitoring water quality impacts at the site-specific and regional levels.”

– Kirk Shimeall, Executive Director, Fiscal Sponsorship & Stewardship Coordinator

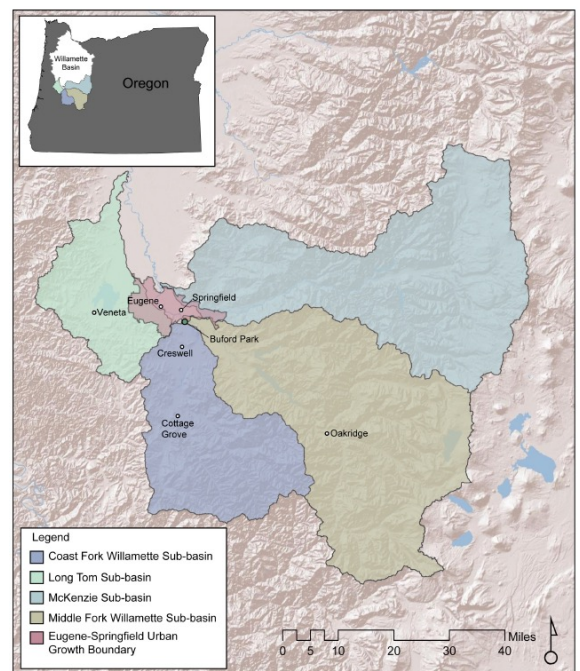


Upper Willamette Project Area

- Developed a partnership with Homes for Good, a non-profit, that provides low-income individuals with housing. UWWP will provide green jobs training related to landscaping across 33 multi-family housing developments in Lane County.

WHAT’S NEXT? WHERE DO THEY GO FROM HERE?

- A series of short Bilingual Green Stormwater Facility training videos will be developed as well as a refresher course for previous cohorts of trainees.
- A new list of potential outreach participants and trainees will be developed, including the NAACP, low income, and unhoused populations, in addition to long-standing landscape contractors and Latinx-owned landscaping businesses who have previously worked with the partnership.
- A Monitoring & Evaluation Framework will be developed and implemented for the UWWP Partnership and Program.
- A new fiscal model is being developed to support all of the UWWP partners.



To Learn more, visit the [Long Tom Watershed Council Urban Waters & Wildlife Partnership webpage](https://www.longtom.org/science-projects/amazoncreek/): <https://www.longtom.org/science-projects/amazoncreek/>.