



Small Grant Recipients

Fall 2023



presented and celebrated by:

Portland Parks Foundation

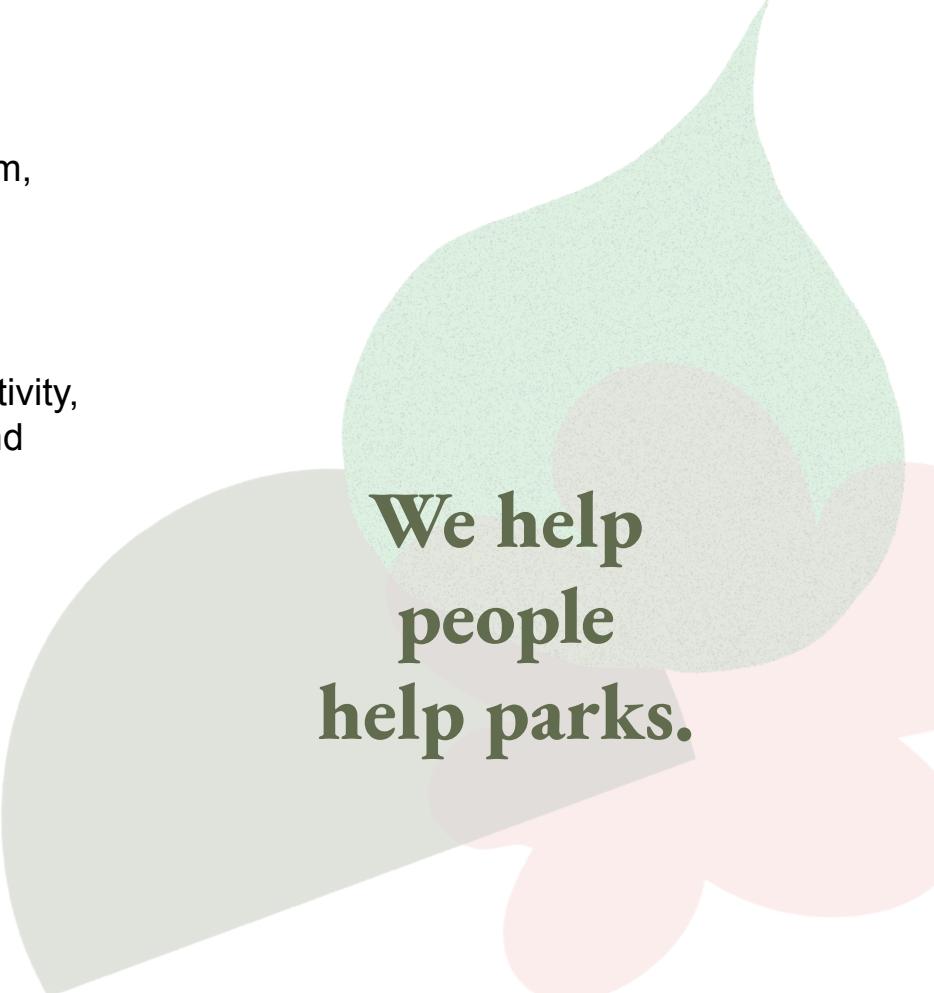
**The Portland Parks Foundation
mobilizes support to improve
Portland's system of parks,
natural areas, and public spaces.**

We believe in the power of these places to strengthen communities, address historic inequities, and create a sense of belonging for everyone in Portland.

We seek transformational change by listening to communities and rally resources and opportunities to help realize their vision.

We collaborate with individuals, community groups, organizations, and institutions to develop long-term, sustainable improvements to the livability and beauty of our city.

We work to create the broadest possible access to recreation, creativity, education, and play in our parks and open spaces.



**We help
people
help parks.**

PPF's Small Grants Fall Cycle

This fall, PPF received over 20 applications for our Small Grants, a grant program aimed at benefiting programs, projects, and general operations of local organizations who foster equitable access to our urban parks, natural areas, community gardens and community recreation centers. A community-based review committee awarded \$2,000 grants to 13 of these organizations thanks to partial funding from Portland Parks & Recreation's Community Partnership Program and a generous bequest from Nancy Hebb Freeman.

Work within each of these applications spans the city and creatively addresses various gaps in current programming and services found in our communities. Our grantees show us diverse approaches to making Portland thrive. You will see our partners throughout Portland—from neighborhood parks to community gardens, from serene trails to active gymnasiums—connecting, sharing, growing.

Congratulations to all of our recipients!

We're excited to partner with you and make Portland's parks and green spaces more accessible, more exciting, and more deeply appreciated.

To learn more about
PPF's Small Grants
Program [click here.](#)

**Friends of
Columbia Park**

**Friends of Portland
Community Gardens**

Green Lents

**HAKI Community
Organization**

**Impact NW + Whitman
SUN School**

**Latino Network
Latino Outdoors**

**Portland Community
Football Club**

**Portland Fruit Tree
Project**

**Scott Goldenball
Program**

SOLVE

**We Belong PDX
Wild Diversity**

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Friends of Columbia Park

Program: Mobilizing Support: Community Engagement at Columbia Park

Friends of Columbia Park (FOCP) was formed in 1991 by a dedicated group of community leaders with the mission to “ensure Columbia Park is Portland’s cherished outdoor hub for the well-being of current and future generations through advocacy, stewardship, and programming.”

Like many small organizations, FOCP struggled to keep its footing in the past few years. Demoralized by the loss of Columbia pool, hammered by the pandemic, and disconnected from the community, the organization nearly collapsed in Summer 2023. If not for the recruitment of a completely new board of directors, the organization would have dissolved.

PPF grant funds support a broad community engagement campaign mobilizing support to improve future programming and stewardship of Columbia Park.

To learn more and support their work
[click here.](#)

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Friends of Portland Community Gardens Program: Produce for People Support

Friends of Portland Community Gardens (FPCG) is a volunteer-run organization whose mission is to support community gardening opportunities for all Portland-area residents to grow healthy food and build community through gardening.

Produce for People is a program of Portland Parks & Rec Community Gardens. In approximately 42 of the 60 community gardens in the program, gardeners use plots to grow produce that they donate to food banks, shelters, school service points, and other food distribution centers. The participating gardens deliver over 25,000 pounds of fresh, organic produce to distribution centers serving food insufficient to Portlanders.

PPF grant funds support FPCG's purchase of plant starts and soil amendments, which help ensure a stable crop and food distribution for next year.



To learn more and
support their work
[click here.](#)

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Green Lents General Operating Support



Green Lents' mission is to cultivate a thriving, resilient, and environmentally just Lents community through engagement, education and collective action. They began as a community group in 2009, became a nonprofit in 2012, and have since been dedicated to providing opportunities for leadership development, community building, organizing, education, placemaking, urban habitat restoration, and stewardship in and around the Lents neighborhood.

Their programming aims to engage the diversity of their community, ensure accessibility to all, and develop a model for neighborhood resiliency that builds power and does not leave our most vulnerable community members behind. Green Lents is working to build resilience in the greater Lents area through extensive community outreach, engagement, education, and resource sharing.

PPF's grant supports Green Lents' plans to extend tree canopy, support pollinator habitats, and gather with their community members in events, educational endeavors, and outreach efforts.

To learn more and support their work [click here.](#)

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HAKI
Community Organization
Humanity | Assistance | Kindness | Interculturalism



HAKI Community Organization Program: HAKI Youth Engagement Series

HAKI Community Organization was established in 2018 as a resource of advocacy, education, and empowerment for Swahili-speaking East Africans immigrants and refugees. “Haki” in Swahili means rights: the individual right from birth to food, clothing, shelter, and life’s basic necessities. HAKI has served this community by providing direct assistance to food, transportation, housing and utilities access.

HAKI’s vision is for a livable, affordable, economically thriving, safe community. HAKI is at the center of urban planning discussions that include anti-displacement and affordable housing projects, new green and recreational spaces for families, and safe pedestrian routes to schools, grocery stores, libraries, and other basic services. HAKI’s work is grounded in supporting multi-generational families, and ensuring that community members of all ages have the resources to not just survive, but to thrive.

The grant from PPF supports HAKI’s Youth Engagement Series at the SW Community Center in Gabriel Park. These events will empower community members to learn more about and enjoy the parks and recreation amenities, including basketball courts and pools. During these events they share a culturally appropriate meal together, and create a greater sense of belonging.

To learn more and support their work [click here](#).

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Impact NW + Whitman SUN School Program: Fishing with Black Excellence

Impact NW works to prevent homelessness by partnering with people navigating their journey to stability and opportunity. They serve as a community of care in challenging times to help people dream big, find financial stability and live a beautiful life. Founded in 1966, they serve more than 30,000 people a year in the Portland-Vancouver area through programs that stabilize and strengthen.

As partners, Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN) Community Schools are full-service neighborhood hubs where the school and partners from across the community come together to make sure kids and families have what they need to be successful—in school and in life. SUN Community Schools mobilize and strategically organize community resources to provide a strong core instructional program, educational support, enrichment and recreational activities, family engagement, social, mental, and physical health resources, and family and community events.

PPF's grant helps support a partnership experience with the Black Excellence student group and Get Hooked! fishing organization. Through this program, students will get hands-on fishing and outdoors skills experience, right in their community.

To learn more and support their work [click here](#).

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Latino Network



LatinoNetwork



Program: Artistic Inspiration through Nature Workshop for Cesar Chavez students at Columbia Park

Latino Network is a Latino-led education organization, grounded in culturally-specific practices and services, that lifts up youth and families to reach their full potential. Their work springs from the core belief in Latino community self-determination—that is, the ability of community members to participate meaningfully in the decisions that affect their lives and the lives of their families.

Latino Networks' Studio Latino is an arts-based education program affiliated with Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN), which offers visual art opportunities within the community. Studio Latino's mission is to develop and offer culturally specific arts programming to public schools featuring Latino Artists as instructors, where students can explore their roots and heritage to find their own Identity.

PPF's grant funds support Studio Latino's workshop "Artistic Inspiration through Nature" offered to Cesar Chavez School SUN students. With this project, artist Mia Arvizu will lead a workshop over several weeks supporting students in exploring nature, native plants, trees, and other parts of Columbia Park as inspiration for multimedia projects.

To learn more and
support their work
[click here.](#)

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Latino Outdoors General Operating Support

Latino Outdoors works to inspire, connect, and engage Latino communities in the outdoors and embrace *cultura y familia* as part of the outdoor narrative, ensuring Latino history, heritage, and leadership are valued and represented. They are pursuing a world where all Latino communities enjoy nature as a safe, inclusive, and welcoming place—a world where the outdoors is a place to share and celebrate stories, knowledge, and culture, while growing leadership and an active community of Latino outdoor users, mentors, and stewards.

PPF's grant supports Latino Outdoors' Portland chapter to organize transportation for community outings, support a broader array of activities and locations to provide for the youth, and expand opportunities to reach more people and help them get more involved with the organization and Portland's parks.

To learn more and
support their work
[click here.](#)

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Portland Community Football Club General Operating Support

Portland Community Football Club (PCFC) believes that soccer can bring people from different backgrounds together to create a sense of unity and belonging. Founded in 2013, Portland Community Football Club (PCFC) provides access to high-quality, affordable club soccer for low-income and marginalized youth. They serve youth ages 5-18 with a focus on LGBTQIA+, Black, Brown, Latinx, immigrants, and refugees.

In addition to providing competitive athletic training, PCFC offers wraparound services that focus on emotional, psychological, and social well-being, including nutritional provisions, mentorship, academic support, and community referrals. PCFC helps youth and their families stay healthy, build confidence, and experience belonging.

In early 2021, PCFC launched the Family Services Program (FSP) in response to heightened needs among families who were affected by the pandemic. The purpose of the FSP is to provide food, social emotional support, and connection to wraparound services for young athletes and their families. PPF's grant funds support these wraparound services.

To learn more and
support their work
[click here.](#)

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Portland Fruit Tree Project

Program: Fruit Tree Care and Integrated Pest Management at Community Gardens and Orchards

The Portland Fruit Tree Project (PFTP) envisions joyful communities that see every fruit tree as an abundant resource which contributes to a just food system and enhances the well-being of people, community networks, habitat, and our changing climate. Over the last 17 years, PFTP has had over 860 harvest events; founded six community orchards; planted 163 culturally meaningful fruit trees in low canopy and low income neighborhoods; created infrastructure to track and maintain trees for climate resilience; and built a workforce development program for young people of color interested in working with fruit producing trees, bushes, and vines.

By empowering neighbors to share in the harvest and care of urban fruit trees, PFTP's work is preventing waste, building community knowledge and resources, and creating sustainable ways to obtain healthy, locally-grown food. One of PFTP's main goals is to get food into the hands of those who need it most. The fruit they harvest (surplus from what orchard/garden communities want to use) is redistributed through partner organizations.

PPF's grant supports PFTP's management of the Sabin Community Garden, fruit tree pruning skills development, and further volunteer and gardener training.

To learn more and support their work
[click here.](#)

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Scott Goldenball Program General Operating Support

The purpose of Portland Parks & Recreation's Goldenball youth basketball program is to encourage our youth, regardless of ability, to learn the fundamentals of the game, develop a sense of fair play and good sportsmanship, experience the satisfaction of team play and individual cooperation, and to have fun and enjoy playing the game of basketball. Goldenball is a recreation program based on good sportsmanship and the development of basketball fundamentals.

Scott School hosts 8-9 Goldenball teams every year, using basketball to create a positive after-school environment to develop physical and social skills, and self-esteem for children. Scott School is located in the Cully neighborhood and has a large population of low-income and students of color. The program is volunteer-run, however, there are costs associated with league fees, uniforms and equipment.

The goal of the program is not to win games but to ensure all students are included—developing team cooperation and individual growth. PPF's grant helps the program defer registration fees and equipment costs for children, decreasing barriers to participation.

To learn more and
support their work
[click here.](#)

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SOLVE General Operating Support

Founded in 1969, SOLVE's mission is to bring Oregonians together to improve the environment and build a legacy of stewardship. SOLVE restores and preserves Oregon's environment by mobilizing the power of volunteers and partners.

SOLVE's local Portland work includes litter cleanups to keep neighborhoods safe and healthy and to reduce impacts on waterways, planting native trees and shrubs and removing invasive species to help Portland's habitats stay healthy, and community outreach to support vulnerable members of our communities and ensure our cleanups and restoration projects include all voices. A newer initiative, Growing a Greener Generation (GGG), seeks to get youth involved early with environmental stewardship; raising their consciousness and inspiring an early understanding of the impact of their actions.

PPF's grant supports larger scale contract cleanups in Portland, special cleanups in Portland parks following July 4 festivities, and Growing a Greener Generation - including transportation, educational materials, and costs of supplies and services involved in cleanup programs.



To learn more and
support their work
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We Belong PDX

Program: Summer Adventure Outings

We Belong PDX supports kids' mental health through year-round programs in the Centennial neighborhood that give children access to trusted relationships and strategies to live healthier. Their program has five key parts: Group Mentors, Healthy Foods, Adventure Outings, Creative Time, and Program Leaders. Each part contributes to better mental health outcomes for children based on the latest research.

By taking part in their Adventure Outings, children will have experiential learning opportunities in a safe environment so they can form a healthy confidence, be exposed to potential new interests and/or career paths, and further develop trusted relationships within the group.

This PPF grant supports We Belong PDX's Summer Adventure Outings in 2024. These outings include taking 40 children to the Sellwood Pool and to the Oregon Zoo. Many of the kids they serve have not had the opportunity to go to the zoo and rarely get the opportunity to swim in a pool.

To learn more and support their work
[click here.](#)

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Wild Diversity General Operating Support

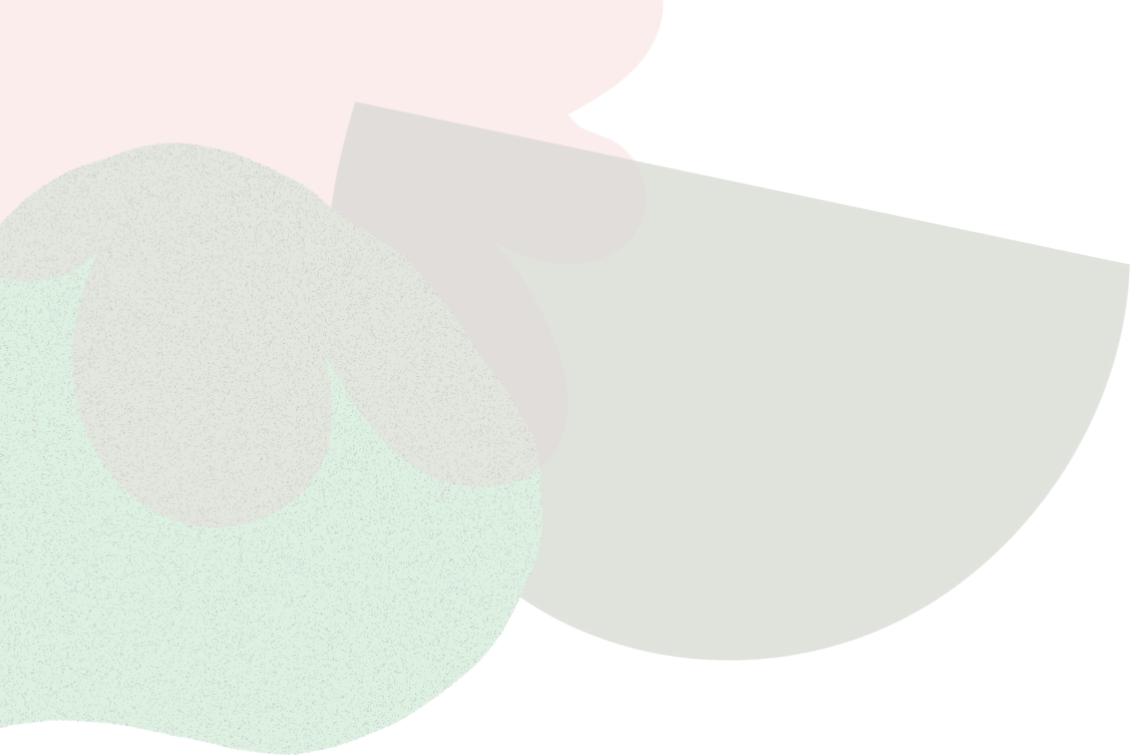
Wild Diversity believes that everyone deserves the healing and joy that nature offers. Their mission is to help create a personal connection to the outdoors for Black, Indigenous, and all people of color (BIPOC) and LGBTQ+ communities through outdoor adventures and education.

Through their programs, Wild Diversity is increasing the number of BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth and adults who can feel comfortable and thrive in the outdoors. Participants have the opportunity to find their love language with nature through opportunities to hike, camp, backpack, kayak, swim, bird and more—all while in community.

PPF's grant supports general operating costs needed to implement Wild Diversity's array of programming.



To learn more and support their work [click here.](#)



Portland Parks Foundation

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learn more at portlandpf.org.