



**OREGON  
CITY**



**Metro**

**Enhancement Grant Program Application**

*Title of Project:* Oregon City On-River Recreation Project

*Organization:* Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (Estuary Partnership)

*Is this a Non-Profit Organization?* Yes ☒ No ☐

*Non-Profit Federal tax-exempt ID Number:* 93-1249298

*Address:* 811 SW Naito Pkwy, Suite 410

*City, State, Zip:* Portland, OR 97204-3334

*Project Coordinator:* Debrah Marriott

*Phone:* 503-226-1565 ext. 227

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*Chairperson of Governing Board (if applicable):* Elaine Placido

*Phone:* 503-226-1565

*Signature:* Debrah Marriott

*The person authorized to represent the organization must sign the application with a digital signature or actual signature on a hard copy.*

<b>Grant Amount Requested:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,799.66</b>
<b>+ Matching Funds (Cash):</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>720</b>
<b>+ Matching Funds (In-Kind):</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,476.16</b>
<b>= Total Cost of Project:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>19,995.82</b>

## Proposal Information

1. *Is this your first grant application to the Enhancement Grant Committee?*

No ☒

2. *Have you received an Enhancement Grant in the last 3 years? (Include past Metro Enhancement Grants)*

Yes ☒ (If yes, describe the projects/programs for which you received funding.)

In 2017, the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (Estuary Partnership) received Metro Central Community Enhancement Program funding for our *NW Portland On-River Recreation & Training Project*. The project provided 168 people with a 2-3-hour paddle on the Willamette River that highlighted the Metro Central shoreline from Cathedral Park to Fred's Marina in Multnomah Channel. Paddles took place on the Estuary Partnership's two, 29-foot, 12 passenger Big Canoes. The Big Canoes provide a safe, social, intimate on-water experience that allows people of all ages and paddling abilities access to the water. Major project highlights included:

- Collaborated with three community partners from the Metro Central region (Friendly House, Linnton Neighborhood Association, and the Linnton Community Center.)
- Hired two Environmental Education interns as part of the project. Both interns identified as People of Color and one lived in the Metro Central region.
- Engaged 168 youth and adults on seven Willamette River Big Canoe trips through the Metro Central region.
- Provided a unique, fun, and rewarding recreational opportunity on a relatively inaccessible and unappreciated section of the Willamette River.
- Expanded the paddling community for historically marginalized populations.

3. *If you received an Enhancement Grant last year, what is the status of the project?*

Our project was completed on time, all funds were expended, and final reports were submitted.

4. *Will this grant-funding request be used for the first phase of a project, with possible grant requests for future phases?* No ☒

5. *Briefly describe the project for which you are requesting funds.*

The *Oregon City On-River Recreation Project* will provide approximately 144 Oregon City residents with a 2-3-hour, Willamette River and Willamette Falls paddle in the Estuary Partnership's two, 29-foot, 12 passenger Big Canoes. The Estuary Partnership will conduct six Big Canoe trips. (Each trip will include two boats. Each boat holds 14 people – two Estuary Partnership staff and 12 passengers. Though most Estuary Partnership Big Canoe trips are full, we say approximately to account for occasional last-minute no-shows.)

Three trips will take place in early September with 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Holcomb School in Oregon City. One trip will be with seniors from the Pioneer Community Center. Two

additional trips will focus on Oregon City community groups that serve seniors, low-income people, and/or underserved populations. (See Letters of Support from Holcomb Elementary and the Pioneer Community Center.)

We expect each trip will start and end at Jon Storm Park. We expect most trips will head up river, underneath the HWY 43 bridge to a close, but safe viewing of Willamette River Falls; coast back downriver past the Oregon City waterfront; include a quick exploration of Goat Island; nose into the Clackamas River; and include some river clean-up on the shoreline of either Goat Island or Clackamette Park.

The Oregon City On-River Recreation Project will increase recreation opportunities for Oregon City residents; improve public awareness of and access to the Willamette River and Willamette Falls; enhance natural resources and improve the cleanliness and attractiveness of the Oregon City shoreline through cleanup efforts; and engage students, seniors, low income people and underserved populations – those with limited access to the Willamette River – in a memorable and meaningful Willamette River experience. Finally, to further engage participants, project partner eNRG Kayaking (located on the Willamette River in Oregon City) will provide each participant with a \$5 coupon good for a future eNRG paddle.

*6. Describe why this project was selected and the community need(s) to which it will respond.*

The Oregon City On-River Recreation Project responds to multiple community needs.

Lack of Willamette River and Willamette Fall Access: The Willamette River and Willamette Falls are arguably Oregon City's most important features, yet for many reasons (safety, costs, boat access, etc.) few Oregon City residents have opportunities to view and experience them from an on-water perspective. Residents need and want to experience Willamette River and Willamette Falls in a safe yet intimate way.

Lack of Willamette River Stewardship Opportunities: Though there are often Clackamas River clean-up events there are fewer opportunities for people to participate in Willamette River clean-ups in Oregon City. In our experience, paddles that integrate a litter pick-up component are more popular and more memorable than paddles that don't. People need and want opportunities to give back to their community.

Affordable Recreation Opportunities: Boating, even non-motorized boating can be prohibitively expensive. It can also be intimidating from a skills and experience perspective – particularly on the Willamette River near Oregon City where the Willamette can be particularly fast moving. Oregon City residents need inexpensive, safe, easy ways to experience the Willamette River and Willamette Falls. Our trips are free, include all necessary gear and equipment, and include training so all participants learn how to safely and confidently paddle in our canoes and on future paddles.

Each need outlined above is particularly acute for the project's target audience of students, seniors, low-income persons, and underserved communities.

The Estuary Partnership developed the project based on requests and feedback from Oregon City Schools who have previously requested Big Canoe trips; in response to feedback with Jessica Spencer, Recreation Programmer with the Pioneer Community Center and Phil Lewis, Director of Oregon City Community Services; in response to the needs identified above; and based on the success and feedback from our Metro Central project.

*7a. Identify and describe how this proposal meets one or more of the goals for funding within the enhancement area boundaries (check those below that apply and describe by item number below).*

- ✓ 6. Preserve or increase recreational areas and programs within the City.
- ✓ 9. Provide work or training opportunities to benefit youth, seniors and low-income persons or underserved population.

*7b. List by item number from 7a and describe how the project meets each goal.*

**Goal #6.** The Oregon City On-River Recreation Project will increase recreational access and programs in Oregon City by providing a unique, on-water recreation program for Oregon City residents. The project's six, Willamette River/Willamette Falls paddles will engage approximately 144 people from Holcomb School, Pioneer Community Center, and community groups. Free, easy, safe, low impact, and social/communal ways to get up close to the Willamette River and Willamette Falls do not exist in Oregon City. This project will fill a major recreation gap and meet the grant programs goal of preserving or increasing recreational areas and programs within Oregon City.

**Goal #9.** The Oregon City On-River Recreation Project will target youth, seniors, low income persons, and underserved populations to participate in the program. These populations typically have less access to on-water recreation – like paddling on the Willamette River – because of costs, access to equipment, logistical challenges, lack of paddling experience, and other reasons. All participants will learn how to paddle, gain valuable on-water paddling experience, be exposed to and learn from professional Environmental Educators, and accrue the confidence and health benefits that come from interacting with nature.

8. Project Period: 4 months

Beginning Date: July 2019

Ending Date: October 2019

*9. What is the geographic area of Oregon City where the project will take place?*

The Oregon City On-River Recreation Project will take place on the stretch of the Willamette River between Willamette Falls and (generally) the mouth of the Clackamas River. Paddlers will be able to see Willamette Falls, the former Blue Heron paper mill, the Willamette River

navigation locks, McLoughlin Blvd., the Oregon City shoreline, Jon Storm Park, Clackamette Park, and the mouth of the Clackamas River.

*10. How will the community benefit by your project? What is the estimated number of people affected and anticipated outcome(s)?*

The *Oregon City On-River Recreation Project* benefit the community by providing a unique, intimate, on-river paddling experience to 144 youth and adults within Oregon City who would otherwise be unable to access the river due to barriers mentioned above. We will prioritize youth, seniors, people who live with lower incomes, and underserved communities. Two confirmed groups are the Pioneer Community Center and Holcomb School.

The Pioneer Community Center is just a few blocks from the Willamette River. The Center offers recreational opportunities to help seniors stay safe, healthy and active. The Pioneer Paddle will address the barriers mentioned above while offering seniors a unique perspective of the river. They will be able to touch and smell the water and feel the waves and current moving beneath them. This kind of intimate experience is generally unavailable on larger boats but is an integral part of the Big Canoe experience.

Holcomb School is a student-centered school in the Oregon City School District where students create a safe, inclusive, welcoming, and equitable community for all learners. Twenty percent of Holcomb students are people of color and 45% are eligible for free or reduced lunch. The Estuary Partnership has provided Holcomb students with a variety of classroom and field programs over the years and the school is excited to add Big Canoe paddles on the Willamette River to their educational mix.

The Oregon City On-River Recreation Project will have the following outcomes:

- Collaborate Holcomb School and with three Oregon City community partners to engage approximately 144 paddlers.
- Guide six (6) two-hour Big Canoe trips, creating a welcoming environment for all.
- Address and reduce barriers for participants (cost, experience/skill, and lack of diversity within paddling community).
- Increase participants' understanding of water quality issues, local wildlife, and local rivers as a recreational resource.

Additionally, we will ask participants to complete simple pre and post-trip surveys about their background, their familiarity with the Willamette River, their access to it, and their perspectives of the river prior to and after each trip. This qualitative data is critical in learning how to adapt our paddling programs to meet the needs and goals of the communities we serve.

*11. What community resources will be used as support for this project (i.e. community, city-owned property, city departments, transportation services or other civic groups)?*

The *Oregon City On-River Recreation Project* will utilize Jon Storm Park as the project's primary paddler access point. However, because each 29-foot canoe weighs around 500 lbs. the Estuary

Partnership will use the Sportcraft Boat Ramp to launch the canoes. We have extensive launching and loading experience and it does not take much time to move the canoes from the trailer to the water and back. When boarding people onto the canoes at Jon Storm, we will stage passengers and gear away from the transient dock, walk down in a group, and board people quickly. We are respectful of other boat ramp and dock users and have never had any conflicts. No other community resources are necessary to complete the project. Phil Lewis, Oregon City Community Services Director acknowledges and supports the project.

**12. Briefly describe prior experience managing similar projects, including any past enhancement projects.**

The Estuary Partnership is a 24-year old, bi-state, non-profit, National Estuary Program with a staff of 21 people dedicated to protecting and restoring the lower Columbia River and its tributaries. We have a strong and experienced leadership team – our Executive Director has led the organization from the start – with extensive experience managing and implementing small and large grants and projects.

Our Education Team has delivered on-river trips in Big Canoes since 2008 and over that time, we’ve provided over 25,000 youth and adults with unique on-water recreational opportunities to learn about and experience their local rivers. Our six-person Education Team has a combined 73 years of experience providing environmental education in the classroom, in the field, and on the water. Each educator brings hundreds of hours of paddling and on-water teaching experience on board our Big Canoes. They are trained to notice and identify the osprey overhead, the otter on the shoreline, and the sea lion in the distance. Educators go through an extensive on-water Big Canoe safety training annually. They have experience leading trips for all ages and abilities; and the skills and attitude necessary to make all participants feel safe. Our summer on-water program targets populations who traditionally lack access to our region’s rivers, particularly students from low income areas, seniors, and communities of color and our Educators have experience working with these communities.

The Estuary Partnership successfully implemented a similar *Metro Central Enhancement* project in 2017-2018. The success of that project, the number of people reached, the lack of river access by the target audience, participants enthusiasm for paddling, and positive feedback from community partners convinced us that the project was needed, necessary, and replicable in other areas of the Willamette River.

**13. List anticipated project milestones and dates.**

Goal	Activity	Completed by
Recruit community groups.	Reach out to community groups serving youth, seniors, low-income people, and underserved communities.	July 2019
Coordinate with Holcomb School and Pioneer Community Center.	Reach out to Holcomb School and Pioneer Community Center contacts.	July – August 2019

Goal	Activity	Completed by
Schedule paddles dates.	Schedule paddle dates with school and community groups.	July – August 2019
Develop specific paddle itinerary. Plan exact paddle route and location of clean-up activities.	Discuss priorities with school and community contacts. Confirm paddle itinerary.	August 2019
Deliver Willamette River paddles. Conduct pre-trip surveys. Conduct post-trip survey. Deliver eNRG coupons for future paddle trips.	Lead six, 2-3-hour paddles on the Willamette River. Get pre-trip survey information. Get post-trip survey information. Hand out coupons for future paddle trips.	August – October 2019
Develop and submit exit report.	Submit exit report, photos, survey information and all final project invoicing, etc.	October – November 2019

14. Describe the measurements you will use to assess the program/project effectiveness.

**Goal 1:** Engage approximately 144 paddlers from Oregon City with a focus on youth, seniors, low-income populations, and underserved communities.

**Measurement:** Partner with Holcomb School, the Pioneer Community Center, and two other community groups.

**Measurement:** Create a registration sign-in sheet that includes participant demographics (e.g. age, address, racial/ethnic identity).

**Goal 2:** Lead six 2-3-hour paddles on the Willamette River.

**Measurement:** The number of Willamette River trips completed. The number of paddlers engaged.

**Goal 3:** Offer participants a meaningful experience that showcases the Willamette River and Willamette Falls, is safe and fun, and reduces barriers to accessing the Willamette River.

**Measurement:** Get project feedback via informal conversations and formal pre-post project surveys from at least 50% of participants.

**Goal 4:** Increase our ability to lead culturally responsive environmental education.

**Measurement:** Develop at least 2 culturally responsive environmental education activities.

15. List sources of support for in-kind matching support (e.g. volunteer hours and donations)

Item	Source of Support	Estimated Value (\$)
Personnel Time	In kind match (volunteer hours)	\$3,476.16
\$5.00 eNRG Coupons	Matching funds (cash)	\$720.00



16. List all grants applied for in support of this project and commitments confirmed to date.

No other grants are available to support the *Oregon City On-River Recreation Project*. As such the Estuary Partnership is unable to apply for other grants in support of the project.

17. What is the percentage of Enhancement will be used for personnel services or administrative costs? 80%

18. Will the administrator be a paid position? Yes X

19. Proposed Budget—on the following page please complete the proposed budget. Modify line items as needed to reflect proposed expenses.

Suggested List (not inclusive)	(A) Grant Dollars Requested	(B) Matching Funds (Cash)	(C) Matching Support In-Kind	(D) Total
Personnel Services (salaries, administration)	\$15,574.66		\$3,476.16	\$19,995.82
Project Administration costs (clerical, advertising, graphics, printing, postage)				
eNRG Kayaking coupons		\$720.00		
Materials				
Equipment/Supplies				
Construction Costs				
Event Costs				
Transportation Costs	\$225.00			\$225.00
Insurance Costs (if needed)				
Totals	\$15,799.66	\$720.00	\$3,476.16	\$19,995.82