2021 Small Environmental Grants
Deadline Extended to July 7

BY CARRIE HERNANDEZ, PRWC BOARD MEMBER

Congratulations to our first two grantees of the year, each receiving $2,500 to support their projects:
1) Citizens for a Healthy Bay - Environmental Justice Camp
2) Tacoma Tree Foundation - Hilltop Tree Giveaway and Plantings

Don't miss this opportunity! Due to low application numbers, we've re-opened the 2021 grant round. There is $17,500 available in the second grant round for projects of up to $2,500.

Application materials, videos, past grant awards and instructions are available online at: www.piercecountywa.gov/sgp

Due to Covid-19 impacts and health and racial inequities that are ongoing, there are still challenges and barriers to community engagement, education, and water quality projects throughout our watershed. We hope that by providing a longer timeframe for our community members to apply for these funds, and by doing more targeted outreach that we can support the people and groups who steward these lands and water.

We were happy to receive the projects that were submitted to our small grant program earlier this year and look forward to seeing the exciting projects that people are putting together for our July 7th application deadline.
Toward Ecosystem Recovery in the Puyallup Watershed

BY ALLAN WARREN, PWR-LIO CHAIR AND PRWC BOARD MEMBER

After almost 5 years of work with dozens of partners to get the PWR LIO created and then develop our Ecosystem Recovery Plan, I'm really excited to finalize our initial plan and begin transitioning to on-the-ground work. Now the fun part starts. As the National Estuary Program funding cycle begins anew in 2022, we get to see all this work start to take shape with partners across the watershed submitting proposals, and as some of those get funded, projects get underway that can really help accelerate restoration efforts. The strategies and actions we’ve laid out with this plan are going to lead to better conditions for salmon, orca, and other wildlife, but even more importantly, the people of our community. I want to congratulate and thank everyone who has put so much work into our plan and coordinated recovery efforts, now let’s go put it into action!

It’s not too late to get involved! There are two great opportunities coming up in June to get involved: the PWR-LIO meets on June 10th to discuss the complete draft, and the PRWC board will have a presentation on the final draft plan at the June 24 board meeting. The Zoom meeting links are on page 1. Join us and be a part of recovering our precious watershed!
Board Member Spotlight

LINDA BURGESS, 2001-PRESENT

Linda is the longest serving board member of PRWC, starting in 2001 when she was appointed to the PRWC as a city councilmember with the City of Edgewood. Get to know Linda!

Favorite Watershed Spot:
Anywhere in Mt. Rainier National Park to see the vistas of Mt. Rainier and the Cascades. But I actually love spending time in my own yard where because I have a small stand (29) of Douglas-fir trees, one cedar tree and several fruit trees, many different birds and critters visit. If you sit quietly, the fountain, fruit trees and flowers attract rufous, Anna’s, cedar waxwings, western tanagers, to several varieties of woodpeckers including pileated and everything in-between. I have seen three families of flickers hatch from our bird boxes and an olive sided flycatcher coax her babies to leave the nest built precariously in the eaves of my gazebo. I even had a wren build and lay eggs in the coils of a flower watering wand and watched the fledglings leave the nest one by one. Tree frogs hang out in my hanging baskets and dark-eyed juncos build nests in my flower pots. I could go on.... there is never a dull moment.

Favorite native plant:
Flowering currant. I love to see the deep pink flowers in spring. They are especially beautiful if they are clustered in multiple plantings to make an impact. I also love that they are easy to maintain and very easy to propagate from cuttings. Also, the berries provide food for and attract birds whose droppings help to propagate more plants which you can dig up and place where you want.

Most excited about in 2021:
Definitely completing our watershed ecosystem recovery plan. The process will help gather support and participation from all watershed stakeholders to set priorities, to focus efforts on projects to implement and make progress to restore ecosystem health. It will also help us track our efforts and measure progress. I believe this is one of the most important functions of a watershed council.

If she could solve one problem tomorrow it would be:
Restoring habitat which is seriously reducing biodiversity species.