

PUYALLUP WATERSHED

Summary of 2019 Small Grant Awardee Projects

Ten grants were awarded for a total of \$20,000 to implement projects in the watershed.

Puyallup Library Rainwater and Pollinator Garden, Puyallup Library, \$2,500

Convert an underutilized space near Pioneer Park into a sustainable garden in which the community can gather, learn, create and be inspired. It will introduce property owners to the idea of installing a rain garden and the use of native and pollinator friendly plants, in support of the City of Puyallup's "Bee City" designation.

Food Security for People of Color, Puyallup Watershed Initiative's Just and Healthy Foods COI, \$2,490

Canning and preservation equipment purchased to support of people of color. Classes will be held at Centro Latino, in Hilltop Tacoma, and will be an inclusive space where people of color can freely engage with Native Food, plant and medicinal knowledge, but specifically how to preserve it for long-term storage, use, and emergency situations.

Riparian Habitat Restoration of Lake Kapowsin, Friends of Lake Kapowsin, \$2,500

A shoreline restoration project will increase shading and tree cover along the shoreline of Lake Kapowsin to benefit salmonid species, amphibians, and nesting and perching birds. The existing native trees and shrubs will be released from invasive species, and new trees and native shrubs will be planted where appropriate. Ecological threats that will be reduced include trash dumping, damage to native plants, and invasive species, which will be controlled through stewardship quarterly work parties. A strong community stewardship ethic will be built engaging students, families and community members in stewardship activities including maintenance of the plantings and access trail.

Hilltop Tree Planting and Distribution, Tacoma Tree Foundation, \$2,500 Tacoma Tree Foundation

A tree distribution event in the Hilltop neighborhood in Tacoma to increase the urban tree canopy, reducing urban heat island effect, and reducing stormwater runoff. By engaging community members through a tree distribution event, we have an opportunity to answer questions, provide technical assistance about tree species and planting, and invite a sense of curiosity related to greening. We will distribute at least 100 trees to community members and educate at least 200 people.

Native Sharing Garden, Puyallup Watershed Initiative's Just and Healthy Foods COI, \$2,000

A smokehouse for the Native Sharing Garden at Wild Hearts Farm will be purchased. The garden is a 5-acre farm in Southeast Tacoma. It's being restored as a space for Native plants (medicinal and edible), to both heal the land and the people stewarding it. The smokehouse helps build a full farm system that accounts for all aspects of traditional food and medicine knowledge that families would have access to when visiting and working on the farm.

Environmental Justice Camp for Girls, Citizens for a Healthy Bay, \$2,500

Supports three two-day environmental justice camps in the summer of 2020 for up to 15 girls (each camp) in middle and high school. Campers will participate in field and classroom activities like drafting a letter to the editor on environmental issues important to them, a Commencement Bay boat tour, beach cleanup, tidepooling, an equity mapping exercise, a tour of the Tacoma wastewater treatment plant and a microplastics lab. The camps are free for youth to attend, and recruitment will be focused on young women of color across Pierce County. This camp is organized in partnership with the Tacoma Urban League.

Puyallup Watershed Beaver Restoration, South Sound Beaver Cooperative, \$2,500

Formation of a North American Beaver (*Castor Canadensis*) restoration, education and outreach organization in the Puyallup River Watershed. This project will address the growing need to find new ways to store water in our watershed for climate resilience, while also improving and creating new riparian habitat for salmonids and other aquatic and terrestrial life. The group will respond to beaver-related conflicts from landowners in the Puyallup watershed through education, non-lethal preventative measures, and relocation when necessary.

Puyallup Fresh Water Microplastics Sampling, Ikkatsu Project, \$2,000

Supporting expansion of a program to middle and elementary schools in the watershed. In this hands-on four-day experiential learning curriculum, students take water and sediment samples along the Puyallup and White Rivers and analyze them to determine microplastic levels. Students will create field reports, learn lab procedures, and develop possible solutions to the problem of microplastic pollution. Funds will help purchase sampling equipment and a portion of the instructional time.

Puyallup River Salmon Education Signage, Puyallup Tribe, \$478

Sign installation at the trailhead of the Puyallup Riverwalk that describes the Puyallup River Juvenile Salmon Production Assessment Project activities, the larger “why” we collect this information, and a short history of Puyallup River salmon and the salmon life cycle.

Orca Room, Puyallup Historical Hatchery Foundation, \$532

Creation of an “Orca Room” inside the Educational Center at the Puyallup Fish Hatchery. The Orca Room will feel like you have entered the ocean with floor to ceiling underwater-like wall graphics, lights and sounds. The story of our Orcas plight will be presented in beautiful stand-out wall displays and with videos covering their challenges and ways we humans can help save them.