

# PUYALLUP WATERSHED

## Summary of 2020 Small Grant Awardee Projects

*Eight grants were awarded for a total of \$20,000 to implement projects in the watershed thanks to matching contributions from the Puyallup Watershed Initiative's Stormwater COI and Pierce County.*

### Chief Leschi Schools: Make Lake Leschi Accessible To All

\$2,497.62

Students and teachers from Chief Leschi Schools, located in Puyallup, WA, plan to restore the area around Lake Leschi, a wetland connected to Clear Creek, by removing invasive species and planting native species. The project aims to improve the Puyallup-White watershed while creating opportunities for students to engage and learn about their local ecosystem. Chief Leschi Schools is the Puyallup Tribe's school for all Puyallup Tribe registered pre-kindergarten to 12th Grade Native American aged children as well as other registered children from Alaskan or American Indian tribes. In this project, there will be about 75, 7-11th grade students and five science and culture teachers involved in the planting of native species. The outcomes of this project are to increase the water quality of Clear Creek and the Puyallup-White watershed as well as teach the students of Chief Leschi Schools about a wetland ecosystem.

### Citizens for a Healthy Bay: Commencement Bay Pollution Patrol

\$2,500.00

Commencement Bay Pollution Patrol project will be a community outreach and water quality stewardship project that gets Tacoma's community members out on the water, connecting them with real-world issues that impact the water quality of Commencement Bay. CHB will conduct over 100 Bay Patrols during the grant period, covering the Port of Tacoma to Brown's Point and Point Defiance. CHB will engage interested community members, community groups, and school groups to "ride along" with our Bay Patrol team. Funding from the Puyallup Watershed Small Grant would be used to purchase fuel for CHB's patrol vessel.

### PCC Farmland Trust: Dropstone Farm Riparian Buffer

\$2,500.00

Dropstone Farms is located in the Orting Valley in Pierce County. The 95-acre farm is part of an important agricultural corridor. Over the last eight years, PCC Farmland Trust has protected more than 230 acres of neighboring farms in the Orting Valley. Our strategy of conserving farmland in concentration supports farmers, enhances water conservation and habitat for native wildlife, and benefits the rural economy. Funding for ongoing maintenance will ensure the continued success of the young plants as they reach maturity. With modest financial resources, we will be able to hire a skilled conservation crew for some critical maintenance not

appropriate for our dedicated volunteers. In addition to the crew time, we plan to host two volunteer events to keep invasive species at bay, and provide an avenue for the local community to engage and learn about farmland conservation and salmon recovery in our watershed.

Pierce Conservation District: Restoring Silver Creek with Maple Heights HOA  
\$2,500.00

To support the Restoring Silver Creek with Maple Heights HOA project, we seek funding for two days of Washington Conservation Corps crew time and native plants. The WCC crew will spend two days removing invasive vegetation to make way for the installation of native trees and shrubs by local community members. The restoration of this site has already started with the new Habitat Stewards, clearing blackberry and planning future work. If funded, the timeline for this project is continued blackberry removal from the Habitat Stewards and neighbors over spring/summer 2020 with two WCC crew days in the fall/winter to complete a quality control sweep and additional clearing in preparation for a planting. Following site prep, the Habitat Stewards will complete a bare-root planting in spring 2021 using plant material from PCD's Native Plant Sale. Once complete, the Habitat Stewards will provide ongoing maintenance, including invasive monitoring and plant care.

Pierce County AIDS Foundation for Latinx Unidos of the South Sound (LUSS):  
**2020 Latinx Festival, \$2,500.00**

This funding would support adding tailored art activities for children during the event. These would be a "papel picado," paper flower-making, poetry (Rimas y Canciones) workshop; an environmental art workshop (we hope to be led by a Native and Eastside community-resident); and an instrument petting zoo. The idea is to involve children in art-making activities during the festival. The music and dance from the festival would be live-streamed to the room within the Eastside Community Center where children and their parents can enjoy both (workshop and show) at the same time. These funds would allow us to recruit the artists that will deliver the workshop, pay for the additional space fee and purchase the materials for the workshop. This event will benefit youth that live in the Puyallup Watershed, in particular Latinx and immigrant youth that live in or near Tacoma's Eastside.

Puyallup Watershed Initiative: Herbal Care at the Eastside Family Support Center  
\$2,500.00

Serve eastside residents through a partnership with the Eastside Family Center, to deliver herbal education and traditional medicine. The funds will help to buy materials to create an Apothecary to sustain one-day-a-week herbal care one-on-one session and seasonal medicine making classes. This work will serve as an access point for alternative and highly potent plant based medicine in a community that could benefit from the extra support when many may be

without full healthcare coverage, or missing the mainstay of plant medicines that are apart of many of the diverse cultures of people living in the Eastside. This project is separate from, but can be related to, the Food Security For People of Color project and has been a request in the community. It is also directly connected to an immediate need of plant (or food) based immune support in communities with the highest inequity and comorbidity rates during the Covid-19 epidemic, especially elders.

**Tacoma Tree Foundation: Eastside Tacoma Multilingual Tree Training and Tree Giveaway**  
\$2,500.00

The Eastside Multilingual Tree Training and Tree Giveaway will involve a one-hour training on tree planting and care best practices followed by a free plant giveaway. The training will be offered in English and in Spanish with a translator providing Vietnamese translations of content. Participants will learn basic tree planting techniques, guidance on how often and how much to water trees, basics of pruning young trees, and things to consider when deciding where to plant a tree. It is anticipated that about 25 people will participate in the training. This training will be provided at no cost as will the plants that will be distributed after the training.

**Sunrise Tacoma: Summer Water Fellowship**  
\$2,500.00

Sunrise Tacoma will bring on two fellows over the summer and into the early fall who will engage in grassroots organizing and water advocacy-based education to raise the public profile of water rights in the climate justice movement and beyond. Fellows will engage in three to eight hours a week to build their skills and knowledge to be better advocates for the water and watersheds that nourish our lands and communities. After spending the first several weeks of their fellowship researching and becoming competent on the waters that feed this land, they'll transition to building local consensus and uplifting leadership among the young and the "young at heart" to build political power for the water champions we desperately need at every level of community and government. Our fellows will begin with three-week intensive water crash course skill building educational sessions starting the first week of June. After this is completed, fellows will transition into planning and implementing their three events over July, August and early September. Fellows will be wrapping up their fellowship by mid-September to coincide with the school year. Fellows will be required to complete their water restoration work session at the community partners discretion, but ideally after their trainings and before the culminating event in September.

*You can learn more about the Watersheds Small Grants Program by visiting:  
[www.piercecountywa.org/sqp](http://www.piercecountywa.org/sqp) or by calling 253-798-2485*