

East Multnomah Soil + Water Conservation District FY 23-24 Annual Report

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from our
ED

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Board

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to our
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Urban &
Built Env

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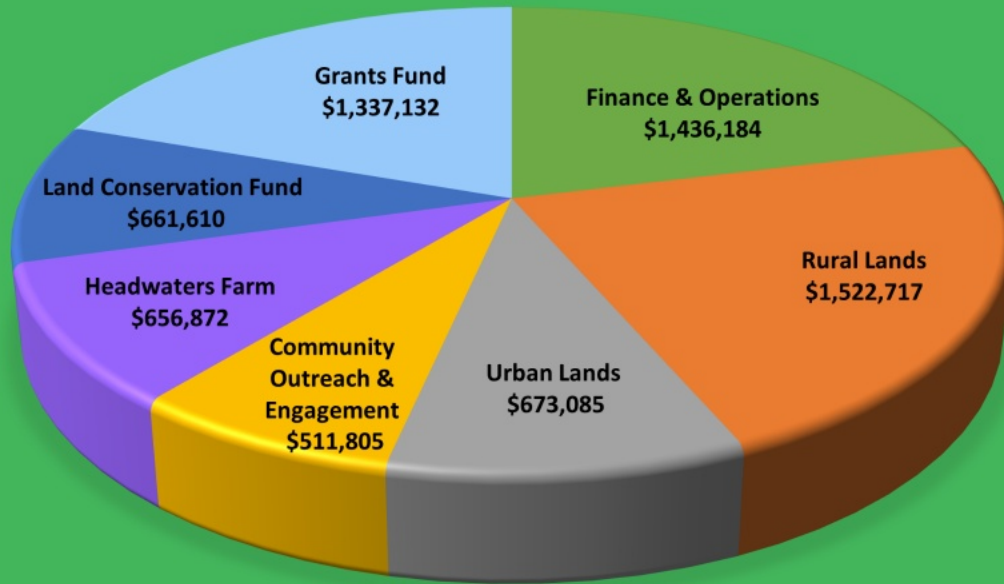
Last February I stepped into the role of EMSWCD's Executive Director. Just one week later, on a frosty Saturday morning, I gathered with district staff and partners from Wisdom of the Elders for the District's annual native plant sale. When the whistle blew and the sale opened, I watched waves of people pour into our parking lot to pick up plants. With the help of our community, more than ten thousand native trees and shrubs went out into the world to be planted by individuals who share our vision of creating healthy, flourishing natural areas for people and wildlife. As I watched people leave with smiles on their faces and bags full of red current, cascara, lupin, redwoods and sequoia, I knew I had landed in a special place.

Last year, EMSWCD adopted a strategic plan that centers soil and water health, climate action and equity. These three pillars inform and drive all of what we do, from stream restoration to granting millions of dollars to community organizations. We know the work of EMSWCD has never been more important and we are achieving our mission together with the community we serve. As you read the stories in this report you will see the hard work of volunteers, teachers, nonprofits, landowners, Tribes and businesses that are leaning in to care for our lands and waters. I am honored to serve this mission and look forward to the work ahead.

- Kelley Beamer



EMSWCD FY 2023-24 Budget



FY 2023-24 EMSWCD Expenditures by Program



In 2004, voters approved a tax base for EMSWCD of \$0.10 per \$1,000 of assessed value of property in Multnomah County, east of the Willamette River. This is paid directly by landowners, and indirectly by renters and businesses. In Fiscal Year 23-24, we received \$6,166,363 in property tax revenue.

The Total FY 23-24 Adopted EMSWCD Budget was \$17,295,168.

Our overall budget consists of general funds for programmatic work and contingency, as well as two special funds for grants, land easement, and acquisitions.

Staff & Board



Kelly Beamer



23-24 Board

Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky
Mike Guebert
Jim Carlson
Laura Masterson
Joe Rossi



Heather

Nelson Kent



Katie

Meckes



Jeremy

Baker



Julie

DiLeone



Isabel

Rojas



Rowan

Steele



Nick

Pfeil



Matt

Shipkey



Jon

Wagner



Chris

Aldassy



Whitney

Bailey



Kathy

Shearin



Monica

McAllister



Julia

Pacheco-Cole



Chelsea

White-Brainard



Katie

Meckes



Heather

Nelson Kent



Dan

Mitten



Sasha

Schwenk



Scot

Wood



Asianna

Fernandez



Alex

Woolery

**We'd like to thank our partners and
contractors for all the work they do to help us
stay true to our mission**



Partners



Contractors

FY 23-24 Partners

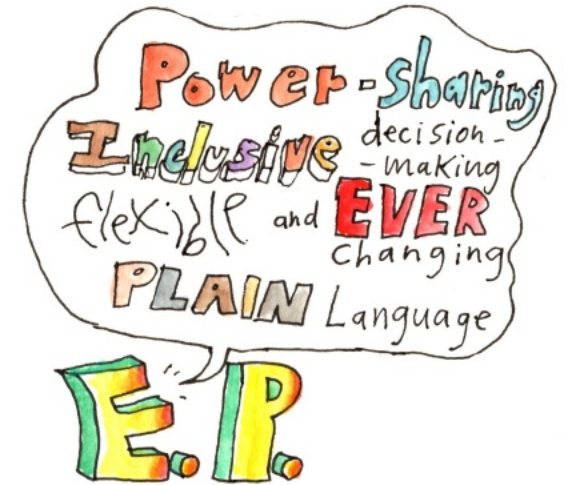
- Wisdom of the Elders
- Native American Youth and Family Association
- Native Gathering Garden
- NARA Healing Garden
- Beaver Creek Conservation Partners
- Mt Hood Community College
- 6-PPDq Working Group
- Voz
- OSU Master Gardeners
- City of Portland BES
- June Key Delta
- COLT & the Oregon Land Justice Project
- Confluence Project
- Brooklyn Community Garden
- Pleasant Valley Elementary School
- Nam Quang Buddhist Temple
- Aves Compartides
- Willamette-Laha Twinning Partnership
- Troutdale Elementary
- Alder Elementary Schools
- St. John's Center for Opportunity
- St. John's Farmer's Market
- East Gresham Park
- Pilgrim Lutheran Church
- City of Fairview
- City of Gresham
- Black Futures Farm
- Villa Garden Club
- KairosPDX
- Washington County Master Gardeners
- Special Districts Association of Oregon/
Special Districts Insurance Services
(SDAO/SDIS)
- Tax Supervising & Conservation
Commission (TSCC)
- Johnson Creek Watershed Council
- Beaver Creek Conservation Partnership
- Sandy River Basin Partners
- OSU Extension Small Farms Program
- Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed
Management Agency (CWMA)
- Johnson Creek Interjurisdictional
Committee
- USDA Natural Resource
Conservation Service (NRCS)
- US Forest Service Columbia River
Gorge National Scenic Area
- Multnomah County
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Clackamas SWCD
- Rogue Farm Corps
- Oregon Tilth
- Wy'East Resource Conservation
Development
- Forth
- Sustainable NW
- Zenger Farms

FY 23-24 Contractors

- Mt. Hood Community College
- Wisdom Of the Elders
- Radish Gardens (Lydia Cox)
- Design with Nature (Lora Price)
- Wild Rose Consulting Services LLC (Jacob Rose)
- Plan-it Earth Design (Amy Whitworth)
- United States Geological Survey (USGS)
- Metro
- Espousal Strategies
- ALSCO
- Arnold, Bruce & Doerfler
- Bratton Construction
- Cascade Building Services
- Compensation Connections, LLC
- Harka Architecture, LLC
- InfoStructure
- Miller Nash, LLP
- Motus Recruiting & Staffing, Inc
- New Theory Consulting
- NW Native Landscapes, LLC
- NW Local Government Legal Advisors
- Pacific HR
- Pacific Office Automation
- Pacific Point, Inc.
- NW Local Government Legal Advisors
- Pacific Office Automation
- Rich Winkel, Dougall Conradie, LLC
- Simple Security, Inc.
- Strategy Insurance NW
- TeamLogic, IT
- The Bookkeeping Collaborative, LLC
- Agrus Valuation
- Appraisal & Consulting Group
- Compass Land Surveyors
- ECONorthwest
- Garcia Landscaping
- Emma Browne Media
- Mosaic Ecology LLC
- JLM LLC
- Scholls Valley Native Nursery
- Champoeg Nursery
- HR Engineering
- Brooks Tree Farm
- Jen Aron, Blue Raven Farm
- Emily Cooper, Full Cellar Farms

Our 5-Year Equity Plan in Action

In 2022, we began implementing a five-year equity plan. Since then, we have completed 30 of the 67 items outlined in the action plan, while an additional eight are in progress. In the spirit of transparency and accountability, we would like to highlight for you a few of the Equity Action Plan items that staff members completed last year.



Cultural
Values

Demographics

Equity
Assessment

Staff
Training

Cultural Values

Action: Engage all staff in the development of cultural values

Our values inform the way we do our work. They play an important role in defining the culture of EMSWCD. Our intention is to create a workplace culture that moves away from white dominant culture and towards an inclusive one where everyone feels like they belong and are valued. The following values were developed through a collaborative process that involved all staff.

Our Values

Equity
Environment
Service
Relationship
Respect
Curiosity

Equity In Information

Action: Establish organization-wide demographic data collection guidelines

How can we know where we're headed if we don't know where we've been?

To ensure that we have consistent and comparable demographic data across all program areas of the organization, we developed a standard set of demographic questions to include in all external EMSWCD surveys.

The use of these guidelines will help EMSWCD identify who we are and are **not** reaching. Developed using data equity best management practices, these guidelines will hold us accountable, provide structure, and help us stay current on evolving demographic language and methods so that we collect consistent data over time.

The following data equity resources were referenced in the development of these questions and guidelines:

- Sexuality Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)
- Race, Ethnicity, Age, Language and Disability (REALD)
- Metro Regional Government (Oregon) Standardized Demographic Questions.
- US Census Bureau
- DEI Data Collection Guide
- Green 2.0 Guide to Best Practices in Demographic Data Collection
- PEAK Grantmaking - Demographic Data Collection Resources
- Coalition of Communities of Color - Analysis of EMSWCD's 2020 CELS Community Survey
- Multnomah County Data Analysis Expert

Equity Assessment

Action: Work with outside experts to assess our organization and implement recommendations

Since initiating our DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) work in 2016, EMSWCD has made strides in becoming a more equitable and inclusive organization. We created an Equity Team, provided ongoing and regular learning opportunities for staff members, and began shifting both resources and programming to benefit more diverse communities.

While we're proud of the changes we've made and the benefits to the communities we serve, we recognize that we still have a lot of work to do. We identified the need for an outside perspective to expose our blind spots and find growth opportunities. This year, we hired an equity consultant to reveal those things to us. She reviewed documents, talked one-on-one with all staff, and provided us with seven recommendations for moving our equity work forward. We are currently in the process of implementing the recommendations.

Non-Violent Communication

Action: Develop staff communication skills through “non-violent communication”

Through our equity work we have learned that difficult conversations are a part of the process, and something to lean into if we are serious about the work. But HOW you have those conversations is important. Because of that, this action item asks that we engage all staff in a training to help us better navigate conflict and difficult conversations in a productive and respectful way. The staff team dedicated to implementing this action item chose to hire a professional to take our entire staff through a training on non-violent communication in June of 2023.

Willamette River Water Quality

Human Access Project may be best known for its culture-changing work of getting people swimming in the Willamette River by hosting fun, goofy events like the Big Float. By creating new and safer public beaches and docks for swimming, they've also made the river more accessible.

Now, with funding from a grant from EMSWCD, **Human Access Project** (HAP) has also been working on improving the water quality in the Willamette by reducing the number of harmful algae blooms, which are deadly to pets and toxic to humans. They leveraged their grant from EMSWCD to secure other funding and began designing solutions to address algal blooms caused by water trapped within Ross Island Lagoon, a human-made island in the middle of the river adjacent to downtown Portland. The bloom eventually spills over into the larger river system where many people live and play in the water.

Today, HAP and partners are on their way to securing the support and funding necessary to build a channel to flush out the Ross Island Lagoon. With fresh water, flushing will prevent the lagoon from heating up and restore healthy water conditions.

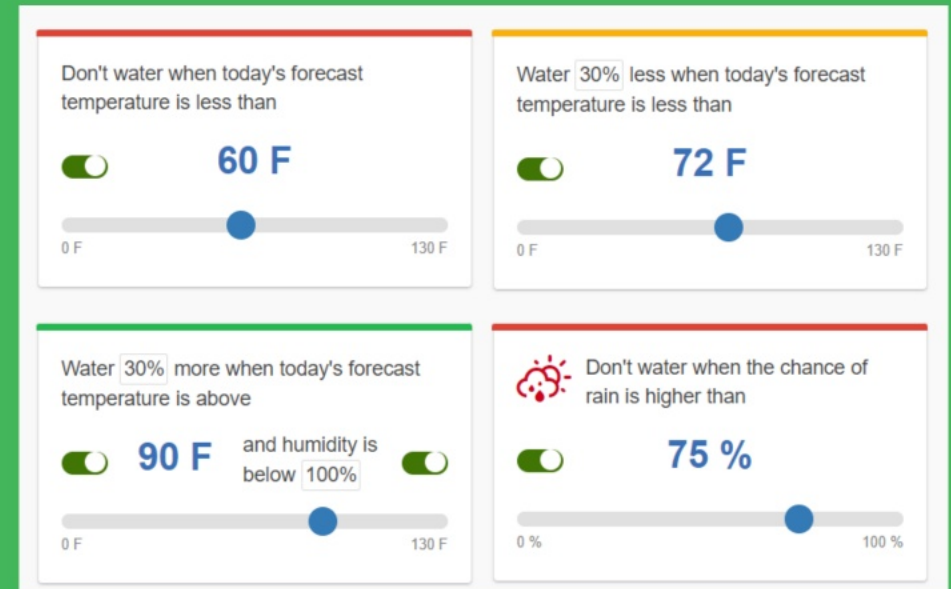
[Learn more.](#)



Smart watering system for office green roofs

At EMSWCD, we walk our talk! The EMSWCD office, on N. Williams Avenue, is affectionately known as the Conservation Corner and it is a living demonstration of the many sustainability practices we encourage. Green roofs are one of these numerous practices. The plants and soil on green roofs capture and clean stormwater, provide wildlife habitat, and cool the building.

In the spring of 2010, we installed green roofs on our building, including a semi-automated drip irrigation system to get it established and for supplemental watering during hot summer months. The heat domes during the pandemic hit the living roofs especially hard. Our system could only be run and adjusted manually, so during spring, we upgraded our green roof irrigation to a “smart” system. Our new Wi-Fi-enabled system uses predictive software and local weather data to automatically adjust when to water, plus it can be managed remotely. We save water and keep our green roof plants happier—a win all around!



Horeb Oromo Evangelical Church Gets a New Stormwater Raingarden

Our Happy Block (OHB) is a grassroots community coalition in the Mt.Scott-Arleta Neighborhood working to improve neighborhood livability through sustainability projects such as depaving, planting native trees and shrubs, and rain gardens. Much of their work has been done on the former Calvary Lutheran Church property, which recently became Horeb Oromo Evangelical Church.



When Horeb Oromo arrived, they were new property owners just beginning to learn about sustainable landscaping practices. OHB offered to help and connected them with us. We worked with OHB, Pastor Ahmed, and the Church elders to present a rain garden workshop to the Church community so they could learn about the many benefits of infiltrating stormwater using native plants. They learned about weed control, where to find native plants, best plants for their landscape, eco-friendly maintenance professionals, and more.

Soon afterwards, the Church hired an ecological landscaping company and implemented a large sheet-mulching project to suppress weeds in their gardens. OHB also applied for and was awarded three Xerces Pollinator Kits to be planted in Fall 2024. EMSWCD applauds their commitment to sustainability and looks forward to supporting this excellent community partnership in the future.

Removing Asphalt and Planting trees at Mt Hood Community College

When the rain hits Mount Hood Community College's large parking lots, the runoff picks up pollutants from cars, like 6PPD-q, a pollutant derived from car tires that negatively affects salmon and other wildlife health.

The MHCC campus is surrounded by important waterways that receive much of the rain runoff from our wet winters. To prevent harmful pollutants from dumping straight into those rivers and streams, EMSWCD has been partnering with the College, the City of Gresham, and many volunteers on the Campus Clean Water Retrofit Project. This project includes replacing their traditional asphalt parking lots with porous/pervious pavement, rain gardens, tree trenches, and more native plants and trees. With parking lots so big, that's a lot of trees to plant. Thankfully, EMSWCD staff and the MHCC community are up to the task!

On a rainy day in December, EMSWCD staff members and MHCC staff, faculty, and students got together and planted 38 trees within the tree trenches added to the college parking lot. These trenches capture water from the parking lots, allowing it to flow through the tree's root systems, filtering out pollutants before draining into the creek, all while creating shade for cooler water, a cooler community, and safer areas for wildlife to thrive!



Black Oregon Land Trust Partnership

In November 2023 the Black Oregon Land Trust (BOLT) purchased a 20-acre working farm from EMSWCD. This is the second land acquisition for BOLT and marks a major milestone in their efforts to ensure land access and agricultural opportunities for Black communities in Oregon. The land trust purchased the property subject to a working farmland easement – a legal agreement that permanently limits the land's uses to protect its conservation values.

The easement lowered the price for prospective buyers, which made the purchase more financially accessible to BOLT. Now home to Shantae Johnson and Arthur Shavers (pictured here), the Black farming family behind Mudbone Grown Farm, this purchase will allow Mudbone to continue its impactful work supporting food-insecure families across the Portland Metro Area through their nonprofit, Feed'em Freedom Foundation.

BOLT used a private loan facilitated by Lily and Jamie Copenagle, to make the purchase possible. "We believe deeply in BOLT's mission and were eager to leverage our access to capital," commented Copenagle. EMSWCD is preserving some of the most valuable farmland in East Multnomah County. Land available for farming in Oregon is declining and our work is essential to the long-term success and viability of agriculture in our District.



**"When our land is secure...
we can continue to grow
and deepen our impact in
the community."**

- Shantae Johnson

Soil Assessment Training

Healthy Soil is important. It supports life on earth. It anchors plant roots in the ground, holds water and stores nutrients. It filters rainwater, can prevent flooding, and buffers against pollutants. It's home to billions of species of organisms. And it's an important piece of the climate change puzzle. Soil is our largest store of carbon on land, holding more organic carbon than vegetation and about twice as much than is present in the atmosphere.

But how do you know if your soil is healthy? At Headwaters Farm, home to our farm business incubator, we have embarked on a journey to better understand our soil and make greatly needed improvements. To help us, we've brought in Jen Aron, a local farmer and soil health expert. Jen taught a soil health training in the spring for local farmers at Headwaters Farm. She walked participants through soil assessment techniques such as worm counts, root investigation, soil structure analysis, infiltration tests, and soil compaction tests. These techniques help farmers better understand their soil's health and how it can support healthier crops that are more resilient to a changing climate. Keep an eye out for future farmer training at Headwaters Farm.



Columbia River Water Quality

With support from a Partners in Conservation grant to Columbia Riverkeeper, EMSWCD is contributing to monitoring the Columbia River's water quality and making it safer for recreation. Through our grant, Riverkeeper made their Water Quality internship a paid position. "Our technicians, Heather Clegg and Theus Richards collected nine samples at popular swim and recreation locations in the EMSWCD service area twice monthly from June to September in 2022 and 2023. They also posted the results on Swim Guide, making real-time data publicly available as soon as possible."

Riverkeeper published results via social media and email and shared them with the Swim Guide app which continues to grow globally, reaching more than 1.5 million users each year. More than 132,000 users viewed the beaches monitored by Riverkeeper on the app over the grant term. The app puts resources and information directly into the hands of the people most impacted by the water quality of the Columbia River. Water quality data also gets shared with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), informing statewide water quality assessments.

Next time you're visiting a local river, lake, or beach, visit Swim Guide in your web browser or by downloading the app on your phone. Stay informed about the water quality of your rivers, including the Columbia!



Office Renovation at EMSWCD

In late 2023, EMSWCD began renovating our historic Williams Avenue office building. We selected Bratton Construction, a Black, woman-owned company, to carry out the projects. It was important to update the space to be more accessible while staying true to the original characteristics of the structure's historic past. The renovation allowed EMSWCD to move the break room and kitchen area downstairs to be more accessible to those with limited mobility, including visitors. Other work included reenvisioning our meeting rooms for staff and community partners, as well as safety improvements in the layout upstairs.

We worked with several local vendors and staff to put the final touches on the redesigned space, such as locally sourced Oregon oak tables from The Joinery and custom-built bookshelves and cabinets in our break room created by Facilities and Fleet Manager, Scot Wood. These changes make the space feel welcoming, authentic, and greatly improve accessibility for staff and visitors alike.



Native plant swap: connecting through social media

The Native Plant Swap Facebook Group offers opportunities for community members to trade and give away their surplus backyard plants to others. Members of the group also convene to share educational resources and advice with each other in their naturescaping journey.

Formed in 2019, the group has grown to 1,400 members strong and provides community members a pathway to achieve their personal gardening goals by providing free workshops, learning opportunities, and low-cost native plants for purchase at our annual Native Plant sale. When community members come together towards a common goal, our neighborhoods thrive!



Join the Fun



Play Grow Learn invests in community

Play Grow Learn is a Black-led organization working in East Portland and Gresham. With funding support from EMSWCD's Partners in Conservation grant program, **Play Grow Learn** hires youth to provide high-quality, culturally relevant, and community-based programming for kids and families at Gresham's Nadaka Nature Park. At their Urban Agricultural Training Center in East Portland, farmers from a variety of backgrounds are supported by Play Grow Learn mentors in growing food in a way that supports soil and water health. And they launched the People's Market at Rockwood, where folks in the area can purchase or receive locally and sustainably grown farm products with a focus on culturally important crops like collard greens.

Due to years of neglect and underinvestment, the Rockwood community is among Oregon's largest, under-resourced, and challenged communities. Using their paid training and mentorship model, the directors and staff at Play Grow Learn are expanding opportunities for low-income youth and adults and improving the overall health and economic position of families.



"Investing in agricultural education for the younger generation ensures a great future for both."
- Play Grow Learn

Sharing is Caring with Local Tool Libraries

One way people care for both land and water is by removing invasive plant species such as the Tree of Heaven. Young plants are much easier and less expensive to control than large, older ones because they can be pulled out by the roots. This is also better for the environment because it requires no chemicals. However, pulling can be difficult without the right tools, and tools can be expensive.

Local tool libraries provide shared access to tools for the community, including renters, those without disposable income or storage space, and those who simply wish to buy less. Several years ago, EMSWCD donated Weed Wrenches, also called “Puller Bears,” to all tool libraries in Portland, so everyone in our community could use these tools for free. In spring of 2024, we donated smaller, “Lite” versions, of Weed Wrenches to all Portland tool libraries that wanted one.

Controlling invasives does not have to be difficult or expensive. If you have a Tree of Heaven sprouting on your property, check out a Weed Wrench from your local tool library today!



[Find your Local Tool Library](#)

Dancing Roots a Farm Forever

We don't get many thank you letters but one we received from the former owners of Dancing Roots Farm, Shari Sirkin and her partner Bryan Dickerson, made our day. Following years of volunteering, apprenticing and partnering with other farmers, Shari started her first farm operation on rented land in Hillsboro. After years of searching and then months of negotiations with the landowner, Shari and Bryan purchased the 10-acre property in 2002 that would become Dancing Roots Farm in Corbett Oregon. They like to say that together they've "put 45 years of their life's energy" into making it a "fully functioning, turn-key and bountiful source of nutritious, chemical-free food for our community." We are fortunate that they entrusted EMSWCD to help structure a sale that would ensure **Dancing Roots Farm** as a "forever farm" through our farmland protection program.

Their letter shares their deep and personal relationship with the land and their hope that all their past efforts caring for and tending to this land continue into its next ownership. "We never thought of this place as an 'investment,'" they write. "We thought of it more as a family member and resource to be nurtured and cared for." We couldn't agree more. Stay tuned for an announcement about the new owners and the next chapter in this story of another "forever farm" created through our Working Farmland Protection Program.



This Tractor Runs on Sunlight

After years of waiting for the technology to be available, EMSWCD purchased an electric tractor for use on Headwaters Farm. Introducing the Monarch MK-V electric tractor, the next step in sustainable agriculture.

The Monarch is as powerful as a standard 50-horsepower diesel tractor but has zero emissions and uses zero fossil fuel. Charged by an array of solar panels on the barn's roof that generate electricity, our Monarch tractor runs on sunlight!

Headwaters Farm is in a good position to explore new and innovative technologies ahead of adoption by the larger farming community. In addition to being the home of the Headwaters Farm Business Incubator, which supports beginning farmers in launching their farm businesses, the farm is a demonstration hub for sustainable agriculture and the benefits of farm electrification.

According to new research, renewable energy accounted for more than 30% of the world's electricity for the first time last year. And solar was the fastest-growing source of electricity for the 19th consecutive year. This tractor is part of the climate solution. In 2021, farming activities accounted for 10.6% of greenhouse gas emissions in the US, but as we are showing at Headwaters Farm, there is a role for farming to actively lower emissions by sequestering carbon into the soil and shifting to renewable energy to produce our food. This tractor is a part of that climate solution.

[Learn more about Headwaters Farm.](#)



Garlic mustard: doing our part

Since 2008, EMSWCD has been taking steps to address the ongoing garlic mustard infestation in our county. Garlic mustard is a highly aggressive, invasive weed that threatens the biodiversity of our native species here in Multnomah County. If left unchecked, garlic mustard could easily overcome wild natural areas across the Columbia River Gorge and beyond.

Our rural conservationist team works diligently during peak garlic mustard season from April-June to prevent its spread. The team maintains garlic mustard disposal dumpsters in the Corbett area where the infestation is at its most severe, so that landowners can work together to safely discard the plant if it is found on their property. Through education and persistent management, EMSWCD helps ensure that our natural landscape remains protected. Over the last year, we controlled every known population of Garlic Mustard outside of the Corbett containment zone.

Help stop the spread of garlic mustard (or any high priority weed) by reporting it [here](#).



**Learn more about
garlic mustard.**

**Learn more about the
containment zone.**

What are Headwaters Grads Saying?

Nestled just outside of Portland's Urban Growth Boundary is Headwaters Farm, a 60-acre demonstration farm and home to the Headwaters Farm Business Incubator. The incubator provides a place for participants to grow their farm businesses, network with fellow farmers, and learn about farming methods that improve soil and water health. In a time when the cost of farmland in Multnomah County is at an all-time high, starting a farm business is harder than ever. Through the Headwaters Farm Business Incubator, EMSWCD seeks to provide support and resources to the farmers who are growing crops for our community so that they can develop successful business operations that endure.

**Fawn Lily
Farm**

**Gentle
Rain Farm**

**Full Cellar
Farm**



Click to see where
Headwaters graduates
are farming now.

"I farmed at Headwaters from 2017-2021. I can confidently say that my business would no longer exist if it were not for this program.

My participation in headwaters and the access to equipment, prop house space, etc. launched my business into the successful enterprise it is today. I am currently farming alongside two other graduates who are also running successful businesses."

- Lindsay Goldberg, Fawn Lily Farm



"I do not have a trust fund, family members who own farmland, or much financial support from outside, and had the added consideration of how to contribute to supporting my family of two children. When I learned about Headwaters, I immediately saw an open door to developing a farm business and accessing land.

I graduated in 2019, and while my farm business underwent major changes due to circumstances outside my control, I was still able to continue my farm business. Without the support of Headwaters program and staff, especially Rowan Steele, I would certainly have closed the farm."

- Sue Nackoney,
Gentle Rain Farm



“Before starting my farm at Headwaters, I had worked for six years on other farms, and had lots of experience but no savings to show for it. I come from a non-farming family, and had no access to inherited land or capital. I would never have been able to start my farm without Headwaters. The skills I learned there, and the peer network I developed while farming there, have led directly to where I am now.

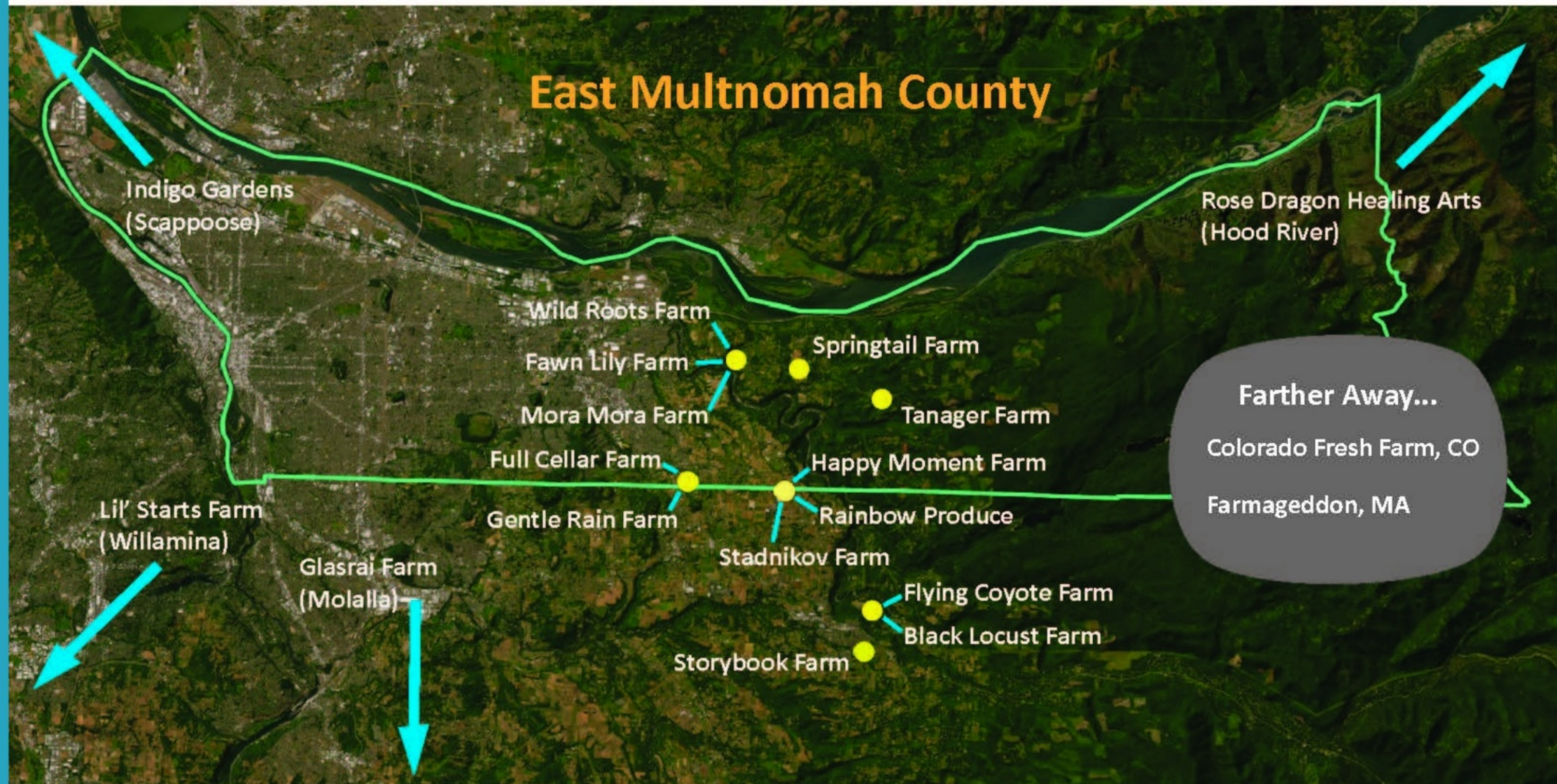
Headwaters is providing a valuable service to our community, giving beginning farmers like me a safe and low-risk place to start out, and over time increasing the sustainability and land stewardship ethic of farmers in East Multnomah County.”

-Emily Cooper, Full Cellar Farm



Headwaters Farm Business Incubator Program Graduates

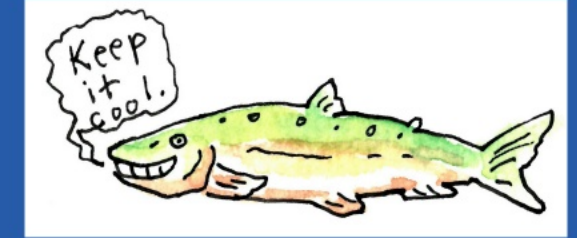
Where Are They Now?



Year in Numbers: Natural Spaces

During Fiscal Year 2023-24...

26,850 plants (more than double from last year!) were planted by our StreamCare team. 5.23 miles of streams, including more than **140 total acres**, make up our 40 StreamCare sites.



Our Weed Control team treated **409 acres** of land, including 281 different public and private sites, to eradicate the 13 high priority invasive weeds species trying to take over. This included 28 miles of trails, 42.5 miles of riverside, and 41 miles of right-of-way.

The high priority weed species that we tackled included "the big 5": garlic mustard, knotweed, ivy, clematis vitalba, false brome, spurge laurel. We also have added Tree of Heaven, Rush Skeletonweed, and shiny geranium to our list of priorities.



Together with our partners, our Land Legacy Program has protected a total of **972 acres** of land in seven Access to Nature projects, to date.

Year in Numbers: Ag & Working Lands

During Fiscal Year 2023-24...

Our Headwaters Incubator Farm program had **8 total farm business operating**. Of these, one was a first year farmer, two were 2nd year, three were 4th year, and two were 5th years. We were also proud to have one farm graduate from the program!



Our rural technical assistance staff attended **33 total site visits**. In partnership with the land owners, they worked on four conversion to drip irrigation projects, two farm road repair projects.

The Land Legacy Program completed three new transactions, **protecting 24 acres of working farms**, bringing us to 259 total acres of farmland protected.



A total of **30 farmers and land managers** attended **3 workshops** hosted by EMSWCD.

Year in Numbers: Urban & Built Environment

During Fiscal Year 2023-24...

1,737 participants attended **30 Workshops and Webinars** presented by our Urban Lands Team. We also led **3 workshops** with culturally specific partners for **22 participants**.



Our Urban Lands Team led **4 educational presentations** to a total of **85 participants** and hosted **6 educational tours** for a total of **50 participants**. We also attended **11 events** in our community, in which we had our own booth to share information and stories.

The team also attended **23 partnership building Community Events** in which they engaged with 31 new and existing community leaders/groups/organizations in priority areas.



We sold **10,378 native plants** to a total of **1,091 Plant Sale Customers** at our Annual Plant Sale, giving the 2,117 leftover plants to partners. The Urban Lands Team also worked with two **partner groups** to plant **364 native plants** through our Planting with Partners program.

Our Urban Technical Assistance team received **134 new requests** and visited 16 of our established Urban Technical Assistance Sites.

Year in Numbers: Grants

During Fiscal Year 2023-24...

Out of the 48 total **Partners in Conservation (PIC) Grant applications** we received, 26 were approved, awarding a total of \$1,050,000.



Out of the 43 **Special Projects And Conservation Events (SPACE) Grants** applications we received, 37 were approved, for a total of \$88,002.

We funded 5 **Cooperative Landowner Incentive Program (CLIP) Grants** for a total of \$135,132. The total project cost came out to \$181,885.



The Urban League of Portland received \$25,000 to reestablish a community garden in North Portland through one of our **Equity Focused Grants**.

Johnson Creek and Columbia Slough Watershed Councils were each awarded \$85,000 through **Special Partnership Agreements**.

EMSWCD gave nearly **\$1.5M** in grants to **community groups and landowners** this year.



East Multnomah Soil + Water Conservation District FY 23-24 Annual Report

Letter
from our
ED

2023-24
Budget

Staff &
Board

Thanks
to our
Partners

Equity In
Action

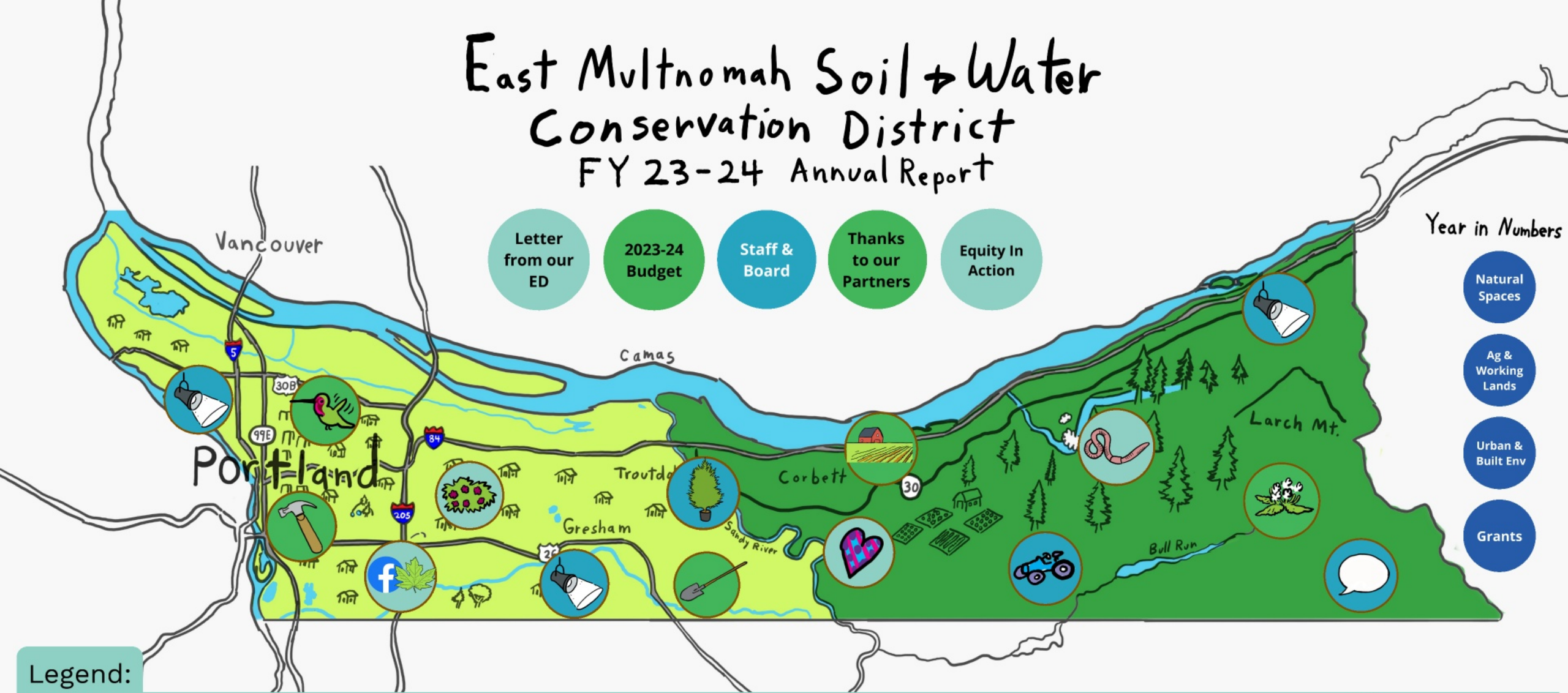
Year in Numbers

Natural
Spaces

Ag &
Working
Lands

Urban &
Built Env

Grants



Legend:

Willamette River Water Quality



Smart Green Roof



Horeb Oromo's New Rain garden



Planting Trees at MHCC



BOLT's Forever Farm



What's in Your Soil?



Columbia River Water Quality



EMSWCD Office Upgrades



Swap Native Plants on Facebook



Play Grow Learn's Community Investment



Local Tool Libraries



Dancing Root's New Forever Farm



Electric Tractor



Down with Garlic Mustard!



Headwaters Farmer Testimonials

