

OCRf Project Proposal Form

Thanks for your interest in applying for a grant from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. More information, including information on the Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee's program priorities, available funds, and guidelines for preparing your application are available online here: <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRf/committee.asp>. Questions can be referred to the Department of Fish and Wildlife via email: odfw.ocrf@state.or.us or by phone: 971-719-1192.

Email address *

renee@forestparkconservancy.org

Project Information

Project Title *

Forest Park for All

Project Overview *

Please provide a short summary that could be used to describe your project on the OCRF website. (2000 character max)

This project promotes equitable access for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color), LGBTQ+ and low-income communities by breaking down barriers to nature and outdoor recreation and ensuring safe and equitable access to the mental, physical, healing and spiritual benefits that nature provides. Together, in collaboration and partnership, Forest Park Conservancy and Love is King (LIK) will create a network of Volunteer Ambassadors, that through proper training, will set the foundation of a culture in Forest Park, and over time, public lands throughout the region, where individuals can bring their whole selves to their interaction and experience with nature and strengthen and diversify the community of stewards dedicated to caring for and protecting our public lands for generations to come. Ambassadors represent people of all colors that are activated, inspired, and empowered to help raise our collective awareness and recognize and interrupt harmful behavior with love, empathy, respect, and a true sense of personal responsibility without discrimination. Forest Park is a unique, 5,200-acre urban forest with 80 miles of trail all within city limits, providing an urban wilderness experience to its multiple user groups and considered a "gateway" to other parks, natural areas and state and National Forests around the region. For many people who have historically not felt safe in more remote outdoor spaces, Forest Park is considered a "stepping stone" to larger, more remote public lands. This project builds upon that connection by using Forest Park as the foundation for creating a larger community of trained Volunteer Ambassadors, that can recognize and interrupt anti-racist, harmful behavior and create a safe and welcoming environment everywhere they volunteer or visit.

Primary Contact Person *

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Lead Organization *

Forest Park Conservancy

Mailing address *

833 SW 11th Ave Suite 800 Portland, OR 97205

Lead Organization Federal Tax ID

94-3103055

Geography/Ecoregion *

Consult the Oregon Conservation Strategy Ecoregions: <https://oregonconservationstrategy.com/ecoregions/>. Check all that apply.

- Blue Mountains
- Coast Range
- Columbia Plateau
- East Cascades
- Klamath Mountains
- Nearshore
- Northern Basin & Range
- Willamette Valley
- West Cascades

Project Location (City) *

Portland

Project Location (County) *

Multnomah

Project Start Date

MM DD YYYY

02 / 27 / 2021

Project End Date

MM DD YYYY

12 / 29 / 2023

Funding Amount Requested *

300000

Total Project Cost *

440000

Project Description

Tell us about your project.

Project goals and objectives *

Please describe the project goals and objectives. (2500 character max)

Project Goals and Objectives:

Goal 1. A volunteer network that is inclusive, culturally responsive, and well trained to educate and help facilitate conflict resolution through love, empathy, respect, and a true sense of personal responsibility without discrimination.

Objectives:

- a. Train ambassadors utilizing a series of workshops, specifically developed to educate volunteer ambassadors, leaders, staff, and board members about the racist and exclusive history of the environmental movement, and how we can change that by creating antiracist, inclusive cultures where racist, harmful behavior is recognized, interrupted and conflicts resolved through love, empathy, respect and a true sense of personal responsibility without discrimination.
- b. Volunteer Ambassadors and other FPC volunteers in leadership positions will be required to take Love is King's implementation training, which teaches volunteers how to solve conflict in the field safely, using respect, empathy, understanding and love.

Goal 2. Create a regional network of organizations, agencies, and land managers that are committed to providing safe and equitable access, raising our collective awareness around racism and discrimination in nature and the outdoors, and increasing literacy around diversity, equity, and inclusion at all levels of the organization.

Objectives:

- a. Develop a model outlining the partnership, training requirements and specific curriculum that can be used as a template and replicated by other organizations and land managers around the state.
 - b. Create a framework for hosting culturally relevant events that build awareness around and celebrate diversity, equity and inclusion in the outdoors
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Outcomes and Measuring Success *

Please describe the expected outcomes of your project and how success will be measured. (2500 character max)

Outcomes and Measurables:

Outcome 1. The training and partnership model developed by FPC and LIK has been replicated throughout the region by partner organizations and agencies, and this regional network of Volunteer Ambassadors is self-sustaining, utilizing the "train the trainer" model.

Measurables:

- a. Year1: Work with Trailkeepers of Oregon (TKO) to replicate the program in the Gorge and other places around the state where TKO has a volunteer ambassador program.
- b. Year 2: hold a series of 3 workshops to train at least 20 additional organizations to increase participation in the regional network of volunteer ambassadors.

Outcome 2. A network of Volunteer Ambassadors that are promoting equitable access and creating a safe and welcoming experience for everyone, everywhere they volunteer or visit, where individuals can bring their whole selves to their interaction and experience with nature.

Measurables:

- a. Year 1: Train 100 ambassadors that are active in the program in Forest Park
- b. Year 2: Train 150 ambassadors that are active in the program in Forest park and 200 additional ambassadors throughout the state.

Outcome 3. Forest Park is a safer, more inclusive place where users and volunteers reflect the changing diverse demographics of the region.

Measurables:

- a. Year 1: Increase the diversity of FPC volunteers and people participating in FPC programming by 10%
- b. Year 2: Increase the diversity of FPC volunteers and people participating in FPC programming by 20%

Project Narrative *

Please describe your project in full. (8000 character max)

Forest Park is located at the center of a large and growing metropolitan region, and acts as a “gateway” or introduction to the region’s rich network of city and state parks, and State and National Forests. State and National Forests around the Portland/Vancouver region comprise approximately 3,876,343 acres. With the changing demographics of the Portland metro area, increased impacts of climate change and gentrification negatively affecting minority communities, Forest Park is a unique asset to help address diversity, equity and inclusion as well as environmental justice. It’s unique because of its size, location and the amount of ecological, social and economic benefits it provides to Portland communities

However, equality and equity doesn’t exist for BIPOC communities. More specifically, they do not have safe and equitable access to the physical, mental and spiritual health benefits that nature and the outdoors provides, Forest Park included. Together, in collaboration and partnership, Love is King (LIK) and Forest Park Conservancy will develop a replicable model for a network of Volunteer Ambassadors that promote an equitable and safe space in Forest Park, where people from all walks of life regardless of their race, class, gender, disability, sexual orientation, culture, religion and ethnicity are guaranteed the freedom to roam in nature with the assurance of a welcoming and safe experience.

Together we can create a network of Volunteer Ambassadors, that through proper training, will set the foundation of a culture in Forest Park where individuals can bring their whole selves to their interaction and experience with nature in Forest Park and ultimately, strengthen and diversify the community of stewards dedicated to ensuring a healthy, resilient Forest Park for generations to come. Ambassadors represent people of all colors that are activated, inspired, and empowered to help raise our collective awareness and recognize and interrupt harmful behavior with love, empathy, respect, and a true sense of personal responsibility without discrimination.

This project promotes equitable access for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color), LGBTQ+ and low-income communities by breaking down barriers to nature and outdoor recreation and ensuring safe and equitable access to the mental, physical, healing and spiritual benefits that nature provides. Together, in collaboration and partnership, Forest Park Conservancy and Love is King (LIK) will work with partner organizations and land managers create a network of Volunteer Ambassadors, that through proper training, will set the foundation of a culture in Forest Park, and over time, public lands throughout the region, where individuals can bring their whole selves to their interaction and experience with nature and strengthen and diversify the community of stewards dedicated to caring for and protecting Forest Park and our public lands for generations to come.

Ambassadors represent people of all colors that are activated, inspired, and empowered to help raise our collective awareness and recognize and interrupt harmful behavior with love, empathy, respect, and a true sense of personal responsibility without discrimination. Forest Park is a unique, 5,200-acre urban forest with 80 miles of trail all within city limits, providing an urban wilderness experience to its multiple user groups and considered a “gateway” to other parks, natural areas and state and National Forests around the region. For many people who have historically not felt safe in more remote outdoor spaces, Forest Park is considered a “stepping stone” to larger, more remote public lands. This project builds upon that connection by using Forest Park as the foundation for creating a larger community of trained Volunteer Ambassadors, that can recognize and interrupt anti-racist, harmful behavior and create a safe and welcoming environment everywhere they volunteer or visit.

In preparation for this program, FPC, coordination with Trailkeepers of Oregon (TKO) have created a series of three anti-racism workshops that are relevant, replicable and can used as a regional template to educate volunteer leaders, staff and board members about the racist and exclusive history of the environmental movement, and how we can change that by creating anti-racist, inclusive cultures where racist, harmful

behavior is recognized, interrupted and conflicts resolved through love, empathy, respect and a true sense of personal responsibility without discrimination. Workshops focus on three main topics: 1) Building an Inclusive Culture 2) Systemic Racism, Antiracism, and Privilege 3) Allyship & Interrupting Harm. In addition to these workshops, volunteer ambassadors will also have the opportunity to participate in trainings hosted by Love is King, centered on teaching ambassadors how to implement this work in real life scenarios through respect, empathy, understanding and love, without conflict.

To promote equitable access and provide more opportunities for all people to connect with and have safe, enjoyable experiences in Forest park, FPC and LIK will co-host two hikes each month in on various topics that build awareness around and celebrate the diversity, heritage and history of different cultures, as well as the leaders who have had a profound impact within those cultures and communities. For example, in February, we co-hosted a hike led by writer James Mills, who talked about the life of Mathew Henson, the first African American explorer to reach the North Pole and in March, we co-hosted a hike about the amazing Mayo Angelou, led by a local African American poet and author.

We need be steadfast and ensure Forest Park and all our public lands, are restored, protected and resilient, as we face the most dramatic climate change impacts the world has ever seen. We also know that healthy, resilient ecosystems and healthy resilient communities are inextricable linked. So as we look towards the future and the changing demographics of our region, we need to ensure that both the users and stewards of our public lands reflect these demographic changes and that people from all walks of life have equitable access, feel connected to and are actively stewarding and protecting these magical places.

Conservation & Recreation Advisory Committee Program Priorities *

Which of the Program Priorities does your project address?

- Conservation - Habitat restoration and improving habitat connectivity related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and evolving science
- Conservation - Science, research, and monitoring directly related to implementing the recommendations in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, especially through community science activities.
- Recreation - Opportunities to engage and expand the number and diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.
- Recreation - Opportunities to introduce Oregonians to wildlife-associated recreation
- Recreation - Educational materials and opportunities related to responsible recreation, ecology, and wildlife conservation for kids and adults in multiple languages.
- Recreation - Research or planning that supports responsible recreational opportunities
- Recreation - Enhancement or restoration of trails and access to waterways in a way that preserves or enhances sensitive habitat or that resolves impacts related to informal or dispersed recreation in sensitive habitat

Program Priorities Narrative *

Please describe how your project advances the above priorities, including any connections you see to the Oregon Conservation Strategy. (1500 character max)

This project directly addresses the lack of diversity in Oregon's outdoor users and provides not just opportunities for increased engagement by a diverse set of community groups, but a roadmap for other organizations and land managers to use, to promote increased diversity of Oregon's outdoor users.

More specifically, this project addresses the most critical component, which is creating a safe and welcoming experience by raising our collective awareness around racism in the outdoors and promoting education to help identify and facilitate conflict resolution through love, empathy, respect and personal responsibility.

Additionally, this project provides opportunities for all people to connect with and have safe, enjoyable experiences in Forest Park and other public lands, focused on numerous topics from wildlife and ecology to culturally specific hikes that build awareness around and celebrate the diversity, heritage and history of different cultures, as well as the leaders who have had a profound impact within those cultures and communities.

For projects that address a conservation priority, what are the primary taxa that will be affected?

- Birds
- Mammals
- Reptiles
- Amphibians
- Fish
- Plants
- Invertebrates
- Other:

OCRf Funds *

Describe the specific elements of your project that will be supported by the OCRf funds requested in this proposal. (1000 character max.)

OCRf funds will go towards implementing our volunteer ambassador program, including training and implementation, as well as fund our monthly events and opportunities focused on providing BIPOC communities a safe and rewarding experience in the outdoors.

Partners *

Identify partner organizations that will be actively involved in the project and describe their roles

Forest Park Conservancy and Love is King will co-lead this project and collaborate and coordinate on all aspects of the program. During year two, Trailkeepers of Oregon will join the partnership as another partner organization in the project. Forest Park Conservancy and Trailkeepers of Oregon are currently working in partnership to complete and implement a training template for three anti-racism workshops for volunteer ambassadors and other volunteer leaders, staff and board members.

Timeline *

Please identify the key milestones towards completing the project and achieving results.

1. Train ambassadors utilizing a series of workshops, specifically developed to educate volunteer ambassadors, leaders, staff, and board members about the racist and exclusive history of the environmental movement, and how we can change that by creating antiracist, inclusive cultures where racist, harmful behavior is recognized, interrupted and conflicts resolved through love, empathy, respect and a true sense of personal responsibility without discrimination. 2. Develop a model outlining the partnership, training requirements and specific curriculum that can be used as a template and replicated by other organizations and land managers around the state. 3. Create a framework for hosting culturally relevant events that build awareness around and celebrate diversity, equity and inclusion in the outdoors. 4. Train 150 ambassadors that are active in the program in Forest park and 200 additional ambassadors throughout the state. 5. Hold a series of three workshops to train at least 20 organizations and land managers to increase the network of participating partners and increase the number of public lands where access is more equitable and people from all walks of life feel safe and welcome.

Other information

Please provide any additional information you'd like the Committee consider, including links to project website or other media.

Past Projects/Experience

Describe two projects completed by the Lead Organization in the last 5 years and the results achieved

Project 1

1500 maximum characters

In 2020, FPC launched the Green Jobs Training and Internship Program. This program provides participants with relevant hands-on professional experience to support them in their pursuit of a career in the environmental and natural resources field. The Internship invites young adults from BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) communities to gain hands-on experience and shadow experienced professionals while earning a living-wage and developing a professional network through a 12-month paid internship. Gained experience in included, trail maintenance and construction; habitat enhancement and restoration work, restoration treatment site monitoring and data collection; volunteer leading and training; work with landowners to coordinate and plan stewardship activities on private land; program reporting; conservation easement monitoring; developing and leading outdoor education and outreach curriculum; assisting in creating marketing and communication materials and content; and more; participated in over 30 hours of training, mentoring and networking, including financial literacy and education and career financial training; resilience and affinity equity workshops; introduction to ArcGIS; and through a partnership with a local non-profit, Elevate Oregon, the Interns have lead the planning and implementation of a nature education program to support STEAM curriculum for 7th and 8th grade students from Park Rose Middle School.

Project 2

1500 maximum characters

FPC is leading a 20-year initiative, the Greater Forest Park Conservation Initiative (GFPCI) to restore and protect 15,000 acres that include the 5,200 acres of Forest Park and the surrounding public and private forested property. The GFPCI will help offset the impacts of climate change and rapid urban development on the region's ecologically critical habitat. The Initiative addresses the serious threats facing the greater Forest Park ecosystem: habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation; invasive species; urban growth; and climate change. So far, the GFPCI partners have successfully restored 3,600 acres of land inside and outside of Forest Park, freed over 33,000 trees from invasive ivy, planted 120,000 trees and shrubs, engaged 20,000 volunteers and collectively invested over \$4 M in the landscape

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