



Annual Reports

**Recipient shall submit to ODFW a report annually on the following, as applicable:**

**1. How the Project is Promoting Equitable Outcomes, if applicable.**

With the support of ODFW grant we have successfully co-created with neighbors publicly-facing pollinator habitat gardens that are ready to support native pollinators and stormwater management in the Johnson Creek Watershed, and improved tree canopy throughout the historically disinvested Lents and outer SE Portland through culturally-specific hands-on activities.

Lents is a historically underinvested neighborhood in SE Portland. Today, Lents increasingly experiences the firsthand effects of climate change and social, racial and environmental injustices exacerbated by it: a higher rate of diesel pollution due to the I-205/Foster corridor and industrial traffic within Lents; increase in the number and severity of heat events due to the amount of paved roads, new concrete housing and commercial developments in the town center (Lents recorded 122 degrees fahrenheit at its town center during the June 2021 extreme multi-day heat events); dangerous air quality rates, exacerbated by the depressed geographical landscape which allows particles to settle more densely - all adversely affecting BIPOC and immigrant communities of our neighborhood at higher rates, while at the same time stressing the natural environment of our neighborhood and the Johnson Creek Watershed where the larger portion of Lents is located. Lents has, overall, less intact and connected green spaces, tree canopy and heat-capturing/alleviating green infrastructure, and places for residents to experience cooling respite than the surrounding Portland area.

Our OCRF funded project helped plant and cultivate stewardship of 6 new community-informed pollinator gardens throughout the greater Lents area featuring over 600 drought tolerant and native understory plants, 5 trees, stormwater management and community-minded designs. This work is a continuation of our Pollinator Habitats program which since 2015 has created over two dozen collaborative gardens on public property, front yards, apartment building complexes, and, most recently, at Lent Elementary School within our Green Wall framework for green infrastructure projects to reduce air quality, noise from the freeway and heat on its campus.

In 2023, 5 of 6 OCRF plantings directly benefited our Latino/a/e/x neighbors, and the 6th planting was installed directly across from local Kelly Elementary school, home to the Russian immersion program, with over 50% minority enrollment. 2 of the plantings were collaboratively

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installed west of I-205 and 4 - east, expanding our footprint, engagement and investment over the freeway barrier into yet more historically marginalized counterpart of our split neighborhood. Our plantings feature rain gardens, meadowscapes and street trees, enhancing biodiversity, and building community in shared climate-informed knowledge and environmental stewardship.

Through our project we addressed the environmental and social challenges that impact both people and nature in a way that is reflective of the communities we serve. Our staff Community Director and Latina Community Lead have consistently made our programming directly available to Ukrainian, Spanish and Russian speakers, and have cultivated a new partnership with the Somali American Council of Oregon within our pollinator garden projects. The engagement achieved through our Pollinator Habitats is one layer of our interconnected programs focused on accessible resource and skill sharing and building community.

With the OCRF grant support, we successfully expanded interconnected urban pollinator habitats, canopies, and food-producing greenspaces, continuing to transform the under-resourced areas of our neighborhood and grow collective resilience to climate change. Simultaneously we connected our community members to free resource and learning hubs, such as our Community Tool Library, Gardening Aid, and the Malden Court Community Orchard, while engaging them in environmental restoration and stewardship, primarily in the Johnson Creek Watershed Floodplain.

## **2. How the Project is Engaging with the Community, if applicable.**

Over the duration of our project our outreach for the pollinator habitat sites was focused on our neighborhood Latino/a/e/x community, and merged with the Somali community for the new and growing partnership. Through the work of our Latina Community Lead, Angelica Cortes, we have been directly engaging with the neighbors around learning opportunities, including on the benefits of pollinators to their and local food growing efforts and overall ecology and watershed health.

Over the grant period, our Latina Community Lead continued direct outreach to Spanish-speaking households, connecting qualified residents, by location and socio-economic factors, to receiving free pollinator gardens in their immediate community. The size of our plantings ranged between 150 and 450 sq ft for 6 habitats. Recipients actively participated in the design process, received maintenance guidance and support. Our plantings were inclusive of the immediate participants' relations and surrounding neighbors through multilingual English-Spanish door-to-door outreach and consistently bilingual multicultural representation and instruction. Other language-speaking communities were invited and supported through direct collaborations with our volunteer and local nonprofit partners, such as our recent partnership with the Somali American Council of Oregon.

Six identified households and sites were selected based on their locations to other pollinator habitats, schools, community gardens and orchards, as well as their household's resources and capacity to undertake such projects on their own. In 5 out of 6 plantings we worked directly with our Latino/a/e/x/ community members. We will continue to engage with their immediate communities over the next few years for ongoing advice and hands-on education happening through maintenance and pollinating insect observations with our summer youth interns.

Thus, our project's impact will continue beyond the grant period, as we foster hands-on learning and ongoing community building within the diverse immediate communities through these new habitats, bringing together community members and facilitating a sense of shared responsibility for the environment and each other.

Summary of the site locations:

#### 1st Pollinator Habitat Planting Site:

- 5728 SE 99th Ave, Portland, OR 97266
- Lents neighborhood - East of I-205
- 0.4 miles from Rain Garden and Pollinator Habitat at Beyer Court Apartment Complex
- 0.7 miles from Lents Community Garden
- 0.5 miles from school Community Garden at Oliver Lent Elementary School
- 1 mile from Kelly Elementary school garden
- 1.2 miles west from Zenger Farm (on the same side of I-205)

#### 2nd Pollinator Habitat Planting Site:

- 12111 SE Schiller St, Portland, OR 97266
- Lents neighborhood - East of I-205
- 0.8 miles from Gilbert Heights Park Community Garden
- 0.7 miles from Furey Community Garden
- 1.1 miles North from Zenger Farm

#### 3rd Pollinator Habitat Planting Site:

- 12505 SE Cora St., Portland OR 97236
- Powelhurst neighborhood - East of I-205, East of Lents
- 0.25 miles from the Gilbert Heights Community Garden
- 0.4 miles from our 2nd Pollinator Site on 12111 SE Schiller St, Portland, OR 97266 (OCRF, March 2023)
- 1.6 miles northeast from Zenger Farm (on the same side of I-205)
- 1.5 miles north from Leach Botanical Garden
- 1.4 miles east from Ed Benedict Community Garden

#### 4th Pollinator Habitat Planting Site:

- 10304 SE Liebe St., Portland OR 97266

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- Lents neighborhood - East of I-205
- 0.25 miles from the Gilbert Heights Community Garden
- 0.8 miles from our 1st Pollinator Site on 5728 SE 99th Ave, Portland, OR 97266 (OCRF, March 2023), on the same side of I-205
- 1.4 miles west from our 2nd Pollinator Site on 12111 SE Schiller St, Portland, OR 97266 (OCRF, March 2023), on the same side of I-205
- 1.5 miles northwest from Zenger Farm (on the same side of I-205)
- 0.4 miles east from Lent Elementary school garden and our Butterfly Garden
- 0.7 miles south from Ed Benedict Community Garden
- 0.9 miles east of Rain Garden and Pollinator Habitat at Beyer Court Apartment Complex
- 1.2 miles east of Lents Community Garden

5th Pollinator Habitat Planting Site:

- intersection of SE 90th Ave and Cooper St., Portland, OR 97266 - directly across from Kelly Elementary School (Russian-immersion program).
- Next to the Kelly Elementary school garden
- 0.4 miles north of the Malden Court Community Orchard
- 0.6 miles south of 6th Pollinator Site on 5835 SE 89th Avenue (pollinator corridor)

6th Pollinator Habitat Planting Site:

- 5835 SE 89th Ave, Portland, OR 97266
- 0.7 miles west of our 1st Pollinator Site on 5728 SE 99th Ave, Portland, OR 97266 (OCRF, March 2023)
- Lents neighborhood - West of I-205
- 0.8 miles southwest from Rain Garden and Pollinator Habitat at Beyer Court Apartment Complex
- 0.5 miles south of Lents Community Garden, on the same side of I-205
- 0.9 miles southwest from school Community Garden and our Butterfly Garden at Oliver Lent Elementary School
- 0.3 miles north of Kelly Elementary school garden
- 1 mile north of our Malden Court Community Orchard (on the same side of I-205)

Thank you for this incredible opportunity to make a long term impact on our community and environment in the greater Lents neighborhood of SE Portland!