

This project will involve a comprehensive evaluation, the development of expert recommendations, the creation of a detailed restoration plan, and the implementation of that plan to restore and protect Tickle Creek Park & Trail. In alignment with the grant mission to advance equity, well-being, and resilience for all communities in Oregon, this initiative seeks to promote investments in trees and green infrastructure that will benefit the Sandy community for generations.

Tickle Creek Park & Trail, nestled in the heart of Sandy, Oregon, spans 71.65 acres, with nearly 5 acres dedicated to hiking, biking, and walking trails. This cherished community space, enriched by the natural beauty of Tickle Creek running through its core, has long served as a hub for recreation, community bonding, and immersion in nature. However, years of severe storms, the loss of vital cedar trees, and ongoing stream erosion have taken a toll on this beloved area. The park is now in desperate need of restoration to preserve its ecological integrity and ensure it continues to provide a meaningful outdoor experience for future generations.

The project aligns with program goals by supporting urban and community forestry assessment, planning, and prioritization. It will also enhance culturally responsive outdoor recreation and community-building initiatives by engaging underserved youth and disadvantaged populations in the restoration process. Through fostering partnerships with local nonprofits, the project will build capacity and contribute to a resilient urban and community forestry network.

The project will be executed in two phases. Phase one involves a thorough evaluation of Tickle Creek, with a consultant providing expert recommendations and a detailed restoration plan. This evaluation will focus on enhancing the park's biodiversity, improving stream health, and ensuring long-term resilience against future environmental challenges. The plan will emphasize the expansion of urban and community forestry tree production, planting, and maintenance, ensuring that Tickle Creek becomes a model for sustainable green infrastructure.

Phase two will focus on the implementation of the restoration plan, which includes planting native trees and vegetation, reinforcing stream banks to prevent further erosion, and creating a more sustainable and resilient open space. The project also supports urban and community forestry workforce development by providing opportunities for local residents to engage in hands-on conservation work.

In conclusion, the Tickle Creek Park & Trail Restoration Project is a crucial initiative for the city of Sandy, that not only addresses the immediate environmental needs of the park but also strengthens the community by fostering partnerships and engaging underserved populations. By securing funding for this project phase 1, we will support urban and community forestry monitoring, adaptive management, and lesson sharing, ensuring that Tickle Creek Park & Trail remains a vital, thriving part of Sandy, Oregon, and a place where nature and community continue to flourish together.