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**The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council  
Awards More Than \$1 Million of Grant Funds to Eight Organizations Dedicated  
to Getting Youth to the Outdoors**

*Two Initiative grants and six Infrastructure grants given to promote outdoor accessibility to youth and offer leadership opportunities to economically disadvantaged and underserved youth*

San Mateo, Calif., January 6, 2011 – An organization that hopes to counteract the physical, economic and cultural barriers many urban youth experience, a Bay Area city’s first naturalistic bay front park, a safe play area in a urban area, and an environmental curriculum to engage urban youth are just a few of the projects awarded Initiative and Infrastructure Fund grants recently announced by the Stewardship Council.

Eight organizations have been awarded \$1,165,393 through the Initiative and Impact Funds to support efforts to make outdoor spaces accessible and safe for youth and families.

**The Initiative Fund** is designed to support ventures that eliminate frequently-cited barriers to connecting young people with the outdoors. Grantees will create initiatives that demonstrate their ability to reduce local and/or regional barriers and that will have a ripple effect in their community and region. In this grant round two organizations were awarded a total of \$131,500.

**The Infrastructure Fund** is designed to support park and recreation projects that address physical barriers to getting youth outdoors. In this grant round 69 organizations requested \$11,050,708 in funds. Six organizations were awarded a total of \$1,033,893

The Stewardship Council is in its sixth year of grant funding. In this time period, the Council has awarded more than \$10,010,500 to 142 organizations, allowing Stewardship Council funds to help connect more than 250,000 youth to the outdoors. By providing funds to youth development organizations and programs, the Council is committed to connecting youth to the outdoors, and hopes to positively transform young people academically, personally and socially.

The following is a list of **Initiative Fund** awards:

**Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy** was awarded \$75,000 for the Finding Urban Nature (FUN) Guide: Train the Trainers curriculum guide to help counteract the physical, economic and cultural barriers many urban youth experience. Through partnerships with local organizations, the guide aims to encourage middle and high school students to engage in outdoor recreation while learning about San Francisco's seven unique urban watersheds and neighborhood nature areas.

[www.parksconservancy.org](http://www.parksconservancy.org)

**Yosemite National Park** was awarded \$56,500 for their Break Down Cultural Barriers initiative. By aligning program curriculum with the needs and concerns of the Central Valley youth, this initiative aims to address cultural and socio-economic concerns that prevent youth of diverse backgrounds from connecting to the great outdoors. Set in Yosemite National Park, this initiative aims to harness the community's skills, talents, ideas, and assets to engage in meaningful dialogue about the environment, and build relationships so that culturally relevant collaboration can inform program development.

<http://www.nps.gov/yose/index.htm>

The following is a list of **Infrastructure Fund** awards:

**City of East Palo Alto** was awarded \$200,000 for their Cooley Landing Park Project Cooley Landing, East Palo Alto's first naturalistic bay front park, where local partners can offer a wide range of youth and environmental programming that includes nature and history education; music, poetry, and arts; and job training. This project significantly increases park space in East Palo Alto from 16 to 25 acres and provides a unique outdoor environment compared to existing local area parks.

[www.cooleylanding.org](http://www.cooleylanding.org)

**City of Fort Bragg** was awarded \$154,618 for their Fort Bragg Community Skate Park in the City of Fort Bragg, in partnership with Mendocino Coast Recreation & Park District (MCRPD). The Community Skate Park will provide a much needed safe and appropriate alternative for youth of Fort Bragg to get outside and support physical fitness.

[www.fortbragg.com](http://www.fortbragg.com)

**City of Santa Rosa** was awarded \$189,000 for their Bayer Neighborhood Park and Gardens Nature Play Area and Trails to create a nature-based, play area with an access trail to become a part of a safe route to school. In partnership with local community programming, the creation of a path and play area will provide an accessible and safe place for children to play and connect with their environment.

[www.santarosarec.com](http://www.santarosarec.com)

**Feather River Land Trust** was awarded \$90,275 for their Learning Landscapes project, a regional collaboration in the Upper Feather River Watershed that uses local schools as the site and gathering place for youth to access and learn about the natural areas near their classrooms to promote engagement and stewardship. This project will enhance the infrastructure of nine Learning Landscape outdoor classrooms in four regional communities.

[www.frlt.org](http://www.frlt.org)

**Pogo Park** was awarded \$200,000 for their involvement of the community residents to rebuild Elm Playlot located in the heart of the Iron Triangle neighborhood in the Richmond community, which is home to over 5,000 children and young people. The Elm Playlot aims to serve as a safe, and engaging outdoor "commons," to draw local residents out of their homes to strengthen community ties and connections to the outdoors.

[www.pogopark.org](http://www.pogopark.org)

**The Trust for Public Land** was awarded \$200,000 for their Boedekker Park and Clubhouse in the Tenderloin, San Francisco's most dense and diverse neighborhood that is currently without a safe outdoor space for children to play. The Trust for Public Land, in partnership with the City of San Francisco, will rebuild the playground and clubhouse according to an extensive community-driven design plan, making it a more accessible and welcoming place for children and youth to be outdoors.

[www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)

The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council) is a private, nonprofit foundation. Established in 2004, its mission is to protect and enhance more than 140,000 acres of watershed lands, and invest in efforts to improve the lives of young Californians through connections with the outdoors. The Stewardship Council brings together the expertise of leading conservation, natural resource management, business, and public officials to undertake this historic conservation effort for California. A unique and collaborative endeavor, the Stewardship Council's Board of Directors unites a broad range of interests to guide the development and execution of a Land Conservation Program and a Youth Investment Program to benefit current and future generations of Californians. Our core values are collaboration, stewardship, discovery, sustainability and leadership. For more information about the Stewardship Council please visit the web site: [www.stewardshipcouncil.org](http://www.stewardshipcouncil.org).

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