

# Duwamish Valley Healthy Communities Project: Fact Sheet 2

March 2013

## Taking Action for a Healthy Community!

### Five grants awarded for environmental health projects in South Park and Georgetown

In March of 2013, the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/TAG (DRCC) awarded Healthy Community Grants to five organizations for environmental health work in the Duwamish Valley. As cleanup proceeds at the Duwamish River Superfund Site, DRCC is striving to ensure that other local environmental

health threats are also addressed. Funding for DRCC's Healthy Communities Project comes from EPA's Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program. For information on how the grantees were selected and what they will do, read on!....



*DRCC's Paulina Lopez guides residents in a community health mapping session*

## Issue Identification and Prioritization

In the spring and summer of 2012, DRCC, Just Health Action (JHA), and Antioch University conducted outreach to identify issues of concern to community members, including nearly 200 multilingual surveys of Duwamish Valley residents and workers (in English, Spanish, & Vietnamese), and "mapping sessions" with approximately 300 South Park and Georgetown residents.

Residents were then invited to prioritization workshops in the fall of 2012 in Georgetown and South Park. Data from the surveys and mapping sessions was shared with residents, as well as preliminary results from a Cumulative Health Impacts Analysis

being conducted by DRCC and JHA, which compared socioeconomic conditions, environmental exposures, and health status in the Duwamish Valley to other parts of Seattle. Workshop participants discussed the data and ranked their environmental health concerns, as well as identifying if the concerns were best addressed at the local, state, or federal level. Identified community priorities included:

- increased tree canopy and green space;
- trash and graffiti removal;
- crime prevention through environmental design;
- stormwater pollution prevention;
- noise abatement; and
- diesel emissions reductions.

*Thank you to our many project partners, including Just Health Action, ECOSS, Georgetown Community Council, South Park Neighborhood Association, South Park Information Center, Seattle Parks & Recreation, MLK Jr. Co. Labor Council & Worker Center/AFL-CIO, Sea Mar Community Health Centers, Puget Sound Sage, UW School of Public Health, UW Dept. of Environmental and Occupational Health Science, UW Superfund Research Program, Antioch University Seattle, Institute for Neurotoxicity and Neurological Disorders, Seattle Public Utilities, King Co. Dept. of Natural Resources, Public Health of Seattle & King County, WA Dept of Ecology, WA Dept. of Health, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, Port of Seattle, CleanScapes, Loki Fish Company, and all of our Duwamish Dollars participating merchants!*

## Request for Proposals

DRCC requested proposals for projects from local organizations to address the South Park and Georgetown communities' prioritized health concerns. Eligible projects also had to:

- result in measurable improvements in clearly defined environmental health indicators;
- involve the affected community in project planning and implementation;
- be completed within one year of the date of the award.

In addition to the projects described below, DRCC will also administer \$2,000 in mini-grant funds to help jumpstart three additional projects identified as priorities by highly impacted and vulnerable community groups – Vietnamese elders, Latino youth, and homeless residents. These projects will:

- assist with establishment of a “Friends of Desimone Park” volunteer group, to allow members of the community to maintain the park for the elders and grandchildren who use it, and to coordinate community

events and activities for all residents of the area;

- design a teen- and family-centered outdoor play area for Duwamish Waterway Park; and
- assist with food safety and sanitation needs at the Nickelsville homeless encampment.

These projects will continue through 2012. To get involved or volunteer with any of these projects, contact DRCC or the host organization directly, and help us build a healthy Duwamish Valley community!

## Project Selection

Community members were invited to review and select projects for funding, resulting in a Selection Committee of ten residents and volunteers. The committee scored all proposals using a uniform rubric, then met to discuss the proposals and consider additional factors, such as the location and distribution of proposed projects, range of priorities addressed, and who would benefit from each project, before determining which projects to select and allocating the available funding.



Paul Joseph Brown

Five Healthy Community Grants were awarded:

- 1. South Park Area Redevelopment Committee:** \$9,000 for tree planting in association with the South Rose Greenstreet Project, which is reducing polluted runoff to the Duwamish River. The project increases local tree canopy, purifies the air, provides shade, and creates bird habitat.
- 2. Puget Soundkeeper Alliance:** \$9,000 for removal of trash and debris from the Duwamish River and surrounding streets, and for local stormwater pollution prevention activities.
- 3. Solid Ground:** \$8,000 for Marra Farm's Lettuce Link Youth and Community Leadership Program, increasing access to healthy food and greenspace. The grant will fund a Greenhouse Coordinator, family work parties at the farm, youth-directed cooking workshops at Concord Elementary School, outdoor cooking classes, and a community-led chicken cooperative.
- 4. Forterra:** \$8,000 for urban forest restoration in Westcrest Park, including removal of invasive plants and cultivation of native plants by community volunteers. The project will create local greenspace, purify the air, prevent polluted runoff, and buffer noise.
- 5. Providence-Regina House:** \$4,000 to support the neighborhood food bank and to provide plant starts for home gardens to food bank clients and other community members.