Neighborhood Partnership Program Recipient Stories

Project Name: Storm drain marking program
Recipient: Eagle River Watershed Council
Award Amount: $5,075

Project Purpose and Description: Help prevent nonpoint source pollution that enters local waterways, untreated through our storm drains by engaging youth groups to use spray paint to stencil, in both English and Spanish: “No Dumping, Drains to River.” It is anticipated that the storm drains will need to be repainted in the future, which presents an opportunity to continue to engage other youth in the project, increasing education on this issue. This effort was coupled with door-to-door education of storm-drain pollution concerns by the youth in local neighborhoods.

Comments from Neighborhood Partnership Program Recipient or Community Member:
“The Watershed Council is very thankful to have received the Eagle County Neighborhood Partnership Program grant. Not only was the application process very smooth and easily accessible, the grant allowed us to develop and carry out a new program in our community that otherwise would not have happened in 2017. The program allowed us to reach a greater audience in educating the community about nonpoint source pollution entering our waterways via our storm drains, an issue that has been shown to be critically important today and directly tied to river health in Eagle County. All of our volunteers felt a great sense of pride and stewardship for their local neighborhoods, where they likely pass by the storm drains they stenciled daily. The project also allowed for the volunteers to interact positively with their neighbors and educate them about an important issue—and their visits were very well received! Most of the youth volunteers were met with encouraging residents thanking them for spreading an important environmental message. The Spanish-speaking community in Two Rivers was especially appreciative of the pamphlets and stencils being translated into Spanish. The Watershed Council plans to continue and grow this project in the future, spreading and reinforcing this important message as it becomes a more familiar program within our valley.”

Photos:
Local Girl Scouts Stencil and hand out pamphlets in downtown Avon.
An SOS group stencils and hands out pamphlets in the Miller Ranch community in Edwards.

The Gurrola Family and friends stencil in Two Rivers, Dotsero
Project Name: Community Bed Gardens
Recipient Name: InteGreat!

Award Amount: $1,454

Project Purpose and Description: Four raised garden beds were constructed to enable a community garden at Lake Creek Village and Riverview Apartment communities. This provides opportunities not only for residents, but also Early Head Start families. The community gardens will be supported by Colorado Mountain College Sustainability program students.

Photos:
Project Name: Willits Playground Renovation
Recipient Name: Sopris Meadows HOA
Award Amount: $12,000

Project Purpose and Description: Update and replace existing playground equipment in the existing Willits neighborhood to assure access and fun by a diverse age range, and to increase community gathering spaces and other amenities. The design was a cumulative effort between the HOA, surrounding neighborhood and Town of Basalt.

Conclusion: The finished project was a total success, families, and residents had had the opportunity to use and enjoy it the playground space since the first day that the project was finished. The new equipment playground promotes a variety of activities for children from all age groups. The project has fulfilled its purpose, and the playground has become a meeting and gathering point for residents and surrounding neighborhoods.

Photos: