

Note: This is a document for internal guidance. This is not meant to be a marketing document.

Gray Family Foundation

Our Purpose, or why we exist:

To enhance the opportunities for Oregon's people to have rich and full lives.

Our Primary Goal/Mission

Engage the people of Oregon to become active stewards of their natural and built communities.

Vision

We seek an Oregon:

- Where people work together to actively shape communities that are robust, resilient, and sustainable.
- That is inclusive, equitable, and diverse.
- Where multi-disciplinary knowledge informs decisions and enables people to think through solutions to complex problems.
- That is known for the wealth of its communities and natural areas.

Core Values

Practicing

- **Place-based** – Oregon focused
- **Holistic thinking** - Projects relating to arts, culture, food, health, native ecology, education, housing, transportation, politics, energy, environment and climate should be connected to each other. Our actions are part of world systems.
- **Humility** - Our resources give us great responsibility and we don't have all the answers

Aspirational

- **Knowledge-based** - Using knowledge to guide actions - We like to encourage learning
- **Collaborative** - We collaborate with others and we encourage collaboration among diverse groups
- **Inclusive** - Inclusive of all Oregonians (urban, rural, all races and ethnicities, all socio-economic levels)

Theory of Change

Problem: There's an Oregon myth to the effect: "it'll always be the same no matter what I do or don't do..." or "the rain keeps it green so I don't have to worry about it." Most of us don't currently understand the context and consequences of decisions big and small. This lack of understanding, or lack of empowerment leads to very few people then taking action to enhance our natural and built communities.

Our Solution:

We see the need to keep people connected to and knowledgeable about what keeps communities healthy. This begins by helping more of our children grow into community stewards by getting them outside, understanding the natural systems that sustain us. It also calls for programs that support people in developing the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to understand the consequences of action (or inaction) and then to subsequently get educated, engaged and empowered to stand up and take action.

Strategies:

1. Champion accessible, experiential education programs (formal and informal) that encourage integrated understanding of community and natural systems.
2. Inspire action to enhance our natural and built communities (political action, personal behavior change, and civil discourse).
3. Explore bigger opportunities that hold the potential to enhance the capacity of existing community stewards and create new community stewards.