

1 **Request for Funding**
2 **City of Lynnwood Community Forestry Education Grant**

3
4 **Point of Contact:** Kris Dudak
5 Director, Trinity Lutheran Preschool
6 6215 196th St. SW
7 Lynnwood, WA 98036
8 425-771-5393
9 kris@trinitylutheranchurch.com

10
11 **Project Name:** Trinity Lutheran Schools Outdoor Education

12 **Summary:** Trinity Lutheran Schools (including parents and community partners)
13 endeavors to collaborate with the City of Lynnwood and Nature Explore to design and
14 construct an outdoor learning environment to educate and connect children with the
15 natural environment.

16 **Project Description:** Educators and mental health professionals world-wide are
17 becoming concerned that many of today's children are becoming increasingly
18 disconnected from the natural environment. Research shows that children need
19 connections with the natural world as a regular part of their healthy growth and
20 development. Disconnection from nature is leading to increases in problems such as
21 childhood obesity, dislike and even fear (often media induced) of the outdoors, and
22 increased reliance on behavior regulating medications.

23 Trinity Lutheran Childhood Schools are proposing to partner with the City of Lynnwood
24 and Nature Explore to design and install an outdoor learning classroom to educate and
25 connect children with the natural environment.

26 Trinity educates children aged 6 weeks through grade 6, and has an enrollment of
27 approximately 200 children between the Child Development Center and the Preschool.

28 Nature Explore is a collaborative program of the Arbor Day Foundation and Dimensions
29 Educational Research Foundation, 501(c) 3 nonprofit organizations. The mission of this
30 comprehensive, research-based initiative is to help children and families develop a
31 profound appreciation and engagement with the natural world, where nature is an
32 integral, joyful part of children's daily learning.

33 The City of Lynnwood created a comprehensive urban forestry program in 2004,
34 including a grant program aimed at encouraging citizen involvement in creating and

1 supporting a sustainable urban forest. The intention of this program is to encourage
2 projects that promote tree preservation and protection, planting, care and maintenance
3 of existing trees, and education on urban tree issues.

4 Trinity is proposing to retain the services of Nature Explore to design an outdoor
5 learning environment. This area will incorporate numerous examples of native trees,
6 and educational opportunities related to care, identification, sustainability, and
7 appreciation. Design will also incorporate opportunities related to the water cycle,
8 drainage, and connection with streams.

9 This grant will assist in funding the design elements, materials, construction and
10 installation. Partnerships with the City, Nature Explore, the Trinity Lutheran Parish,
11 parents, and other community partners will make this idea a reality. It is our intention to
12 begin construction / installation as soon as possible following a completed design.
13 Construction may be phased as necessary with available funding.

14 **Tangible Outcomes:**

- 15 • On-site design consultation with Nature Explore
- 16 • Completed design for outdoor learning environment
- 17 • Implementation plan
- 18 • Construction and installation

19 **Educational Objectives:**

- 20 • Tree and plant identification
- 21 • Understanding the benefits and importance of trees
- 22 • Develop an appreciation for the natural environment
- 23 • Understanding the water cycle
- 24 • Learn what happens to the water when it rains
- 25 • Make connections with the built and natural environment

26 **Budget:**

- 27 • Trinity: \$16,298
- 28 • City of Lynnwood \$9,000.00
- 29 • Volunteer / In Kind (estimated) \$3,000

30