

Benton County Health Department

Community Profile

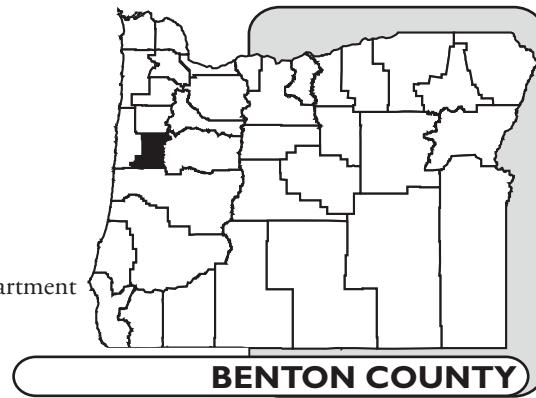
Population 85,300

Location Corvallis

Position Description

Sponsor Benton County Health Department

Supervisor Patty Parsons,
Health Promotion
Program Manager



Assignment The RARE participant in Corvallis working with the Benton County Health Department will work on five projects.

The first project will be to conduct a community health assessment for South Corvallis. The RARE participant will collect secondary data, conduct two community focus groups, present information to community members and facilitate community meetings.

The second project will be design planning for Lincoln School outdoor facilities. The participant will coordinate the planning of a community meeting using a Charette planning model. The participant will also be responsible for convening stakeholders, contracting the facilitation team, scheduling the event and assisting in development of a written report.

The third project will be to convene stakeholders to research a location for a community garden. The RARE participant will work with the City's Parks Department and local school district to develop a garden site, recruit volunteers and recruit garden stewards.

The fourth project will be working with the Corvallis Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee to advocate for improvements in bicycle and pedestrian paths. The RARE participant will gather information on local policy systems, convene stakeholders, attend Capital Improvement Project meetings and work with city/county/state transportation advisors.

The last project will be an at-home and neighborhood based food production program. The RARE participant will assist Ten Rivers Food Web volunteers in coordinating community meetings and educational events.

Benton County Health Department

RARE Participant



Joshua (Mac) Gillespie

Mac grew up outside of Philadelphia and attended Cornell University, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Rural Studies. After college, Mac served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Panama. As a volunteer, Mac taught soil conservation, agro-forestry, and organic farming techniques to small farmers. Mac previously worked as a canvass director and organizer for groups such as MoveOn and the Fund for Public Interest Research.

Mac works with the Benton County Health Department in Corvallis, Oregon. Mac's first project is to conduct a community health assessment for South Corvallis, which entails collecting secondary data, conducting two community focus groups, and presenting information to community members and facilitate community meetings.

The second project will be design planning for Lincoln School outdoor facilities. Mac is coordinating the planning of a community meeting using a Charette planning model, and is responsible for convening stakeholders, contracting the facilitation team, scheduling the event and assisting in development of a written report.

Mac is also working with the City's Parks Department, local school district, and community stakeholders to develop a garden site, recruit volunteers and recruit garden stewards.

Mac is working with the Corvallis Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee to advocate for improvements in bicycle and pedestrian paths. Mac will gather information on local policy systems, convene stakeholders, attend Capital Improvement Project meetings and work with city/county/state transportation advisors.

Mac's final project is to assist Ten Rivers Food Web volunteers with an at-home and neighborhood based food production program.