

Hawthorne Hostel Rainwater Demonstration Project



Situated in Portland's popular Hawthorne district, the Hawthorne Hostel is a notable landmark to both Portland residents and visitors. In 2001, the hostel installed an ecoroof with a \$5,000 grant from the City of Portland's Community Watershed Stewardship Grant Program and countless volunteer hours. In 2008, the hostel added more stormwater management technologies to further benefit watershed health.

Project Description

The Hawthorne Hostel Rainwater Demonstration Project raises awareness about the impact of development on watershed health and showcases actions that citizens and businesses can take to promote healthy watersheds.

Project elements include:

- Rainwater harvesting for reuse
- Stormwater planter
- Living wall
- Swale planted with native plants
- Pervious path and boardwalk

Major Benefits

Roof runoff flows to a stormwater planter that sits atop two 4,000-gallon cisterns. The hostel uses the water to flush toilets and for irrigation. Overflow from the cisterns will water plants on the living wall, then flows into a vegetated swale for infiltration onsite.

These stormwater management techniques help reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs) to the Willamette River by keeping rainwater onsite and out of the sewer system. The reuse system will conserve



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fresh water, and the swale will allow rainwater to soak into the ground and recharge groundwater supplies.

Costs

The installation of this innovative system cost approximately \$100,000. The project was funded by the Portland Watershed Investment Fund, a general fund resource to implement high-priority projects that provide immediate and lasting improvements to watershed health in Portland.

Partners

The City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, and Hostelling International

Timeline

June - September 2008.

Additional Information

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www.portlandonline.com/bes/sustainablestormwater
for more information on sustainable stormwater
management in Portland.

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