

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. Now the hostel will add more stormwater management technologies to further benefit watershed health.

Project Description

The Hawthorne Hostel Rainwater Demonstration Project will capitalize on the hotel's high visibility to raise awareness of the impact of development on watershed health and to showcase actions 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

Major Benefits

Roof runoff will flow to a stormwater planter that sits atop two 3,000-gallon cisterns. The hostel will use the water to flush toilets and for irrigation. Overflow from the cisterns will water plants on the living wall and will flow into a vegetated swale. The sides of the cisterns will also be the canvas for a community mural.

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



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

Costs

The City will spend about \$98,000 on this innovative system. About three-quarters of the money will come from the Portland Watershed Investment Fund, a general fund resource initiated by City Commissioner Sam Adams 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, Hostelling International, Northwest Service Academy-AmeriCorps, and community members.

Timeline

Construction is expected to begin in January and will be completed by June 2007.

Additional Information

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Hawthorne Hostel
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www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=34598
for more information on sustainable stormwater management in Portland.

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